

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Newburgh Beach & Golf Course Ramble (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

An easy little walk with fine views around and about the coastal village of Newburgh-on-Ythan. The walk takes in the dunes environment, a beach where basking seals in large numbers can be observed, and a gentle circuit around the picturesque old golf course.

Duration: 1.5 hour



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Stagecoach bus service from Aberdeen to Newburgh. Check their timetable. Park in beach car-park (charges now apply). Access from golf course road, at village side of Newburgh Inn.

Length: 3.630 km / 2.27 mi

Height Gain: 35 meter **Height Loss:** 35 meter

Max Height: 17 meter **Min Height:** 0 meter

Surface: Moderate. Initial boardwalk section followed by sandy paths, beach and grassy banks. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to deeply rutted, rough and narrow paths in places. Boardwalk section to/from viewpoint is suitable (900 m return).

Child Friendly: Yes, but only if children are used to walks of this distance.

Difficulty: Easy

Dog Friendly: Yes, keep dogs under close control.

Refreshments: Newburgh Inn, Trellis Cafe, OGV Taproom (in golf club).



Description

This is a short but interesting coastal walk with a minimal overall ascent. Initially, the route heads out into the dunes on a boardwalk a fine viewpoint with an information board. From there we go further into the dunes system before making for the beach at the mouth of the River Ythan where you are likely to see many seals basking on the opposite side. We then walk inland along the beach, eventually reaching the golf course, and walking around the perimeter of the old 9-hole course, and into the village of Newburgh-on-Ythan. The origins of the village date back to 1261 when a charter was drawn up establishing a settlement there. The village developed as a centre for salmon fishing, and, by the 1850's, as a busy small port. In 1828, Newburgh became the first port in Scotland to have a Lifeboat Station (passed on the walk, but now closed). Up to the late 1950s Newburgh remained an active port with quays and a mill. Close by, across the estuary, the Forvie National Nature Reserve (see our [Walk SCO-006](#)) is home to the largest colony of eider ducks in the UK, and one of the largest UK populations of migratory Antarctic terns. Up to 1,000 seals, from the Grey and Common species, haul up on the beaches of the Reserve. This draws human observers to Newburgh beach, and viewing the seals is a key anticipated feature of this walk. Newburgh Golf Club was founded in 1888 and the attractive original 9-hole course was laid out on the undulating links between the Foveran Burn and the River Ythan.



Waypoints

(1) Start at beach car-park below golf clubhouse

(57.31335; -1.99827) <https://w3w.co/online.scaffold.tagging>

From the beach car-park take the rough road going south-east towards the sand dunes, with the golf course on your right. Soon, the track becomes a black boardwalk. Follow this boardwalk as it rises through the undulating dunes and gorse to a viewpoint and information board (about seals).



(2) Continue on past end of boardwalk

(57.31005; -1.99579) <https://w3w.co/boxing.inched.tasks>

In about 450 m from the car-park, re-trace your steps a short distance from the viewpoint and information board. With your back to the info board go left to continue along the path, with gorse bushes on your left and a fence and field on your right. (443 m)



(3) Left to head for beach

(57.30838; -1.99449) <https://w3w.co/scrabble.picture.later>

In 200 m from the boardwalk and information board, turn left at a large post on the corner of the field on your right. Follow the sandy path down into a grassy dip in the dunes and then ascend the dunes on the other side as you make for the beach (there is more than one path available). Soon you will be looking down on the beach. Descend to the beach from here and walk towards the sea. (650 m)



(4) Looking over to seal beach

(57.30879; -1.99097) <https://w3w.co/paradise.demanding.client>

In 400 m, or so, you will be on the beach. It is likely that you will see (and hear!) seals resting on the beach across the mouth of the estuary. Particularly in low tide situations there may be hundreds of seals - and not a few human observers, some with high-end camera equipment. When you are ready, go left along the beach, walking inland, up the mouth of the estuary. Continue past the old lifeboat shed and continue along the beach, heading towards a golf-course shelter clearly visible on a headland in front of you. (883 m)



(5) Off beach at bench - then right for shelter

(57.31564; -1.99261) <https://w3w.co/brick.tips.saved>

In 900 m, with the golf course shelter closely ahead of you now, leave the beach by a wooden bench and walk along the grassy bank towards the shelter where you may wish to stop and take in the views of the golf course, the estuary, and all around. (1.8 km)



(6) Veer right through gorse to shoreline path

(57.31617; -1.99190) <https://w3w.co/violinist.plant.venturing>

In 100 m, at the golf course shelter, veer right through gorse to take a shoreline path that continues up the estuary, with the golf course on your left. When walking along the perimeter of the golf course please take care and show appropriate consideration towards golfers, both out of politeness, and for your own safety from flying golf balls! (1.9 km)



(7) Veer left at 16th tee-on headland

(57.31975; -1.99491) <https://w3w.co/protected.level.eggs>

In 400 m, or so, you will have arrived at another headland where the Foveran Burn washes into the estuary over a wide, muddy creek. The golf course teeing ground on this headland is marked for Hole 16. Veer left here to follow the Foveran creek inland for a short distance. (2.3 km)



(8) Veer left again for village

(57.31998; -1.99572) <https://w3w.co/aquatic.blatantly.chugging>

In 100 m, veer slightly left, away from the creek, to take a lightly defined path through the grassy meadow at the edge of the golf course. Keep following this path until it joins another path, closer to the edge of the Foveran Burn creek. Continue walking along this path through the grassy humps and gorse bushes, with the golf course to your left, towards the green bridge you will see ahead of you that crosses the burn to the village. (2.4 km)



(9) Cross green bridge and straight on for Main Street

(57.31780; -2.00131) <https://w3w.co/spout.pink.instincts>

In 400 m you will have arrived at the green bridge. Cross the bridge and go straight on towards Newburgh Main Street where you should turn left to walk through the centre of the village. (2.8 km)



(10) Left for bridge by 30 mph speed indicator

(57.31616; -2.00334) <https://w3w.co/light.smirking.tolls>

In 400 m from the bridge, with a grassy open space on your left, just before a metal post with an electronic speed warning indicator, leave the pavement and go left along a narrow path to cross the small pedestrian bridge that will take you over the Foveran Burn again onto the perimeter of the golf course. (3.2 km)



(11) Carry on taking path at edge of golf course

(57.31555; -2.00135) <https://w3w.co/broads.fluffed.remaking>

In 100 m, or so, passing the golf greenkeeper's sheds on your right, carry straight on through a x-roads of paths. Take care of any golfers on your left as you proceed along the path towards the car-park where you started the walk, with the golf clubhouse slightly above you on your right. (3.3 km)



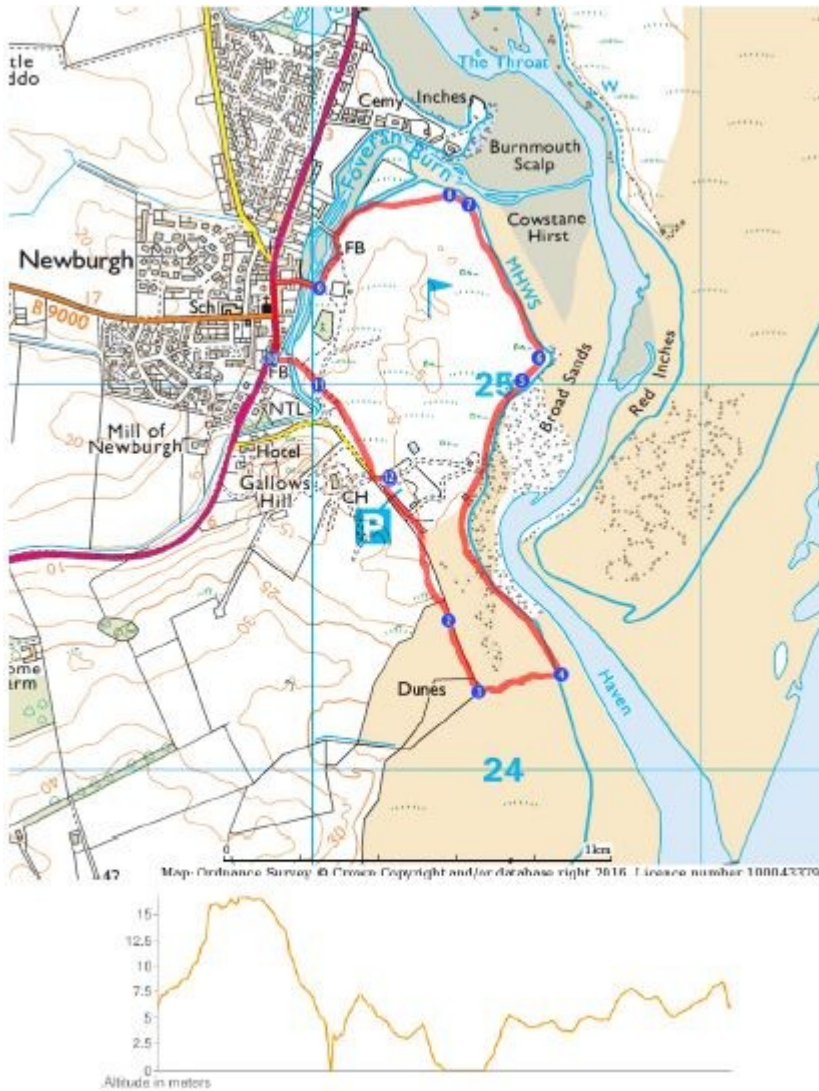
(12) Finish walk back at car-park

(57.31338; -1.99832) <https://w3w.co/online.scaffold.tagging>

In 300 m you will have arrived back at the car-park where you started the walk. (3.6 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on OutdoorActive](#)

[Access Walk on OSMaps](#)

[Access Walk on AllTrails](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)