

WALK TITLE: Hopeman cliff walk

DISTANCE: 5.5 - 6 miles

OS GRID REFERENCE: NJ146698

LANDRANGER /EXPLORER SHEET: 423

Public transport available. Parking Available. Route waymarked Toilet. Cafe. Picnic Areas. Moderate walk

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This is a lovely dune and cliff walk in a most picturesque part of Moray. Although this walk is an out and return walk there are a couple of variations which can be made to increase the distance walked. You can start at Burghead and walk to Hopeman or instead of turning back at the end of the walk you can continue on to Lossiemouth.

GETTING THERE: There is a bus from Elgin to Lossiemouth, Hopeman and Burghead which passes at the top of Hopeman main street. You will need to walk down to the beach and harbour area.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION: Travelling by car, drive down towards the harbour in Hopeman before turning right at the harbour following the Moray Firth Trail signpost. There are a series of small car parks on the east beach. Begin the walk at the last car park and head past a the brightly coloured beach-huts before a signpost ('Coastal path') indicates the route. Ignore a turning on the right for the Braemou Well and follow the path along the shore passing just left of one of the greens of the Hopeman golf course. Just past this the path begins to rise and climbs up steps and around a small bay. At the top it joins a gravel road leading to the Clashach Quarry, turn left along this. At the entrance to the quarry, the path leaves the track and passes to the right of the quarry. From the path you get a good view down into the quarry on your left. The path continues on through gorse bushes for some distance along the cliff tops. From time to time there are gaps in the gorse which allow you to see the cliffs and small bays along the way. One of these has and a wooden fulmar sculpture which marks a viewpoint above the quarry, with a beach far below. Further on there is a good spot for watching the nesting fulmars on the sandstone cliffs. Follow the signposted path up to the coastguard lookout, and then turn-left at the junction going down to the coastguard tower. From here the path continues above the clifftops with views out to the Moray Firth. You may see Dolphins. In the distance you will see Covesea Lighthouse and the path passes a bay with a sea-stack and on past another sandy bay with a second stack which is tapered at the base, has an arch

right through the bottom and is standing on two separate legs. This is the point at which you would return to Hopeman. You can continue along the path, past the lighthouse, down onto the beach and on to Lossiemouth.