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Pettico Wick Skelly Hole

Hopes Heugh
Nunnery Point

Lighthouse

Mire Dean

Mire Loch

Kirkhill

Black Gable

Horsecastle Rocks

Nature
Centre



All Ability
Path

Starney Bay

Wuddy Rocks

St Abbs



Discovery Trail



Lighthouse Loop



Mire Loch Loop

St Abb's Head



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St Abb's Head

Coastal trails

Description

Formed by active volcanoes, St Abb's Head is the best known landmark along the magnificent Berwickshire coastline. The sheer cliffs, offshore stacks and narrow gullies all provide scenic beauty and a habitat for some outstanding wildlife. The Discovery Trail and its two loops explore one of the finest sections of coastline in the east of Scotland.

Grade

Moderate, but care required on the cliff tops

Terrain

The coastal paths have steep slopes which also have sections of tarmac road. The Mire Loch Loop may be muddy after wet weather. There is an all ability path from the car park to the viewpoint symbol on the map.

Distance

Discovery Trail 2 miles / 3.2km
Lighthouse Loop 1½ miles / 2.4km
Mire Loch Loop ½ mile / .8 km

Time

Discovery Trail 1-1½ hours
Lighthouse Loop 45-60 mins
Mire Loch Loop 30 mins

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 24

Facilities

Parking
Suitable for picnics
Nature Centre



The Trust is supported by



DISCOVERY TRAIL

Leave the car park and go down towards the Nature Centre; call in here for a short time for an introduction to the reserve. The path then follows the edge of the fields and wood before spectacular coastal views are revealed. The viewpoint at the end of the all ability path is a great place to pause and admire this view. Passing the White Heugh cliffs you can see hundreds of sea birds during the spring and summer. You then descend steeply down the hill to Horsecastle Bay. Carry on until Kirkhill is on your right, where you have several choices. You can turn left and continue following the Discovery Trail past the head of the Mire Loch and up the Mire Dean (look out for hares and yellowhammers on the farmland here) and back to the car park. Or you could take the Lighthouse Loop and /or the Mire Loch Loop.

LIGHTHOUSE LOOP

This loop can be accessed from the Discovery Trail and will take you to the seabird nesting sites around the lighthouse. Take care here especially in wet, stormy weather as the slopes can be slippery. The cliffs have simple but colourful vegetation that tolerates severe exposure and salt spray as well as dry summer conditions. These plants, such as sea campion and scurvy grass, tend to have thick, fleshy leaves that help to reduce water loss in this harsh environment. The rocky grassland has a rich variety of wild grasses and flowers, forming a colourful display in summer and providing a home for many different creatures. Rock-rose, wild thyme, thrift and purple milk-vetch are widespread and small copper and common blue butterflies fly on sunny days.

MIRE LOCH LOOP

The Mire Loch is a beautiful tranquil place contrasting with the wind-swept and rugged cliffs. It is especially lovely when the gorse is in bloom. Depending on when you visit this small loch a range of unexpected birdlife may be seen. In spring it hosts exhausted migrants on their way north from their winter habitats. Following harsh weather, 'falls' of songbirds, warblers and many other species of birds seek the calm of the Mire Loch. Swans are present all year round.