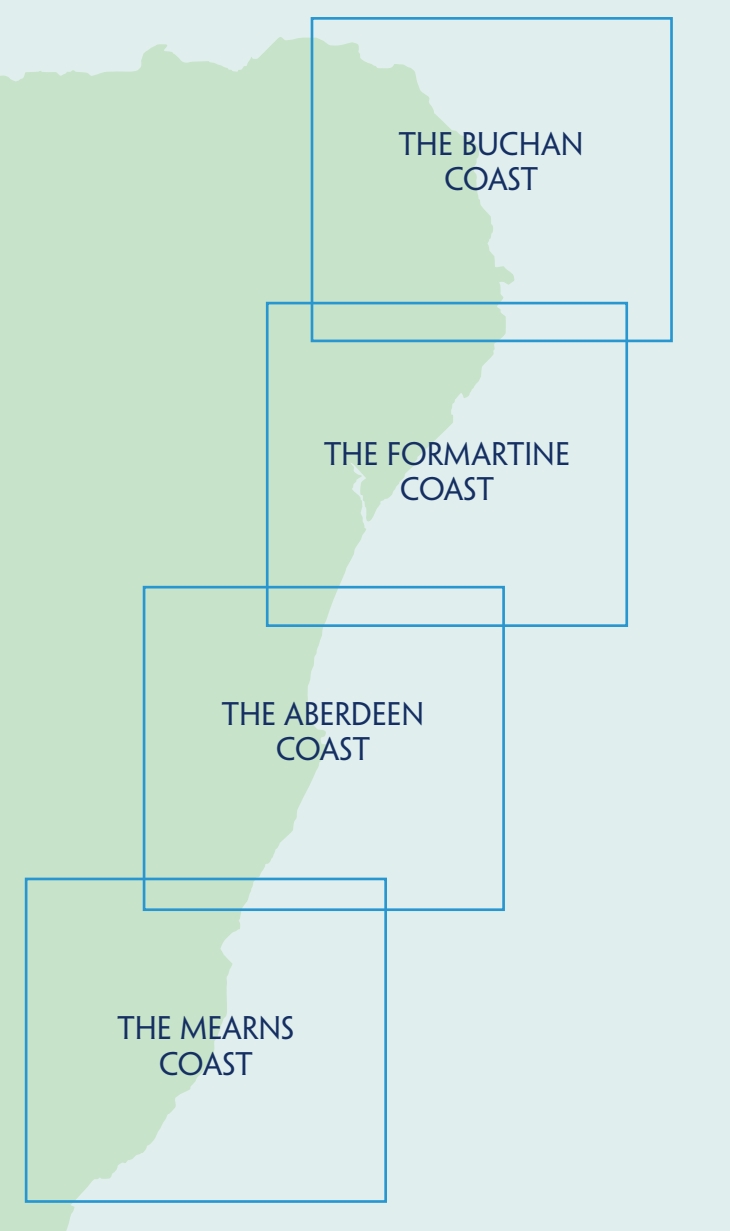




EXPLORING THE MEARNS COAST

1st Edition © 2022

THE DISCOVER MAPS SERIES



Through our Discover maps project, we are creating a new and unique series of 4 maps covering the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast. These maps will contain a wealth of interesting information about the coast; including the people, history, environment and activities that make the North East of Scotland special.

We are looking to include memories and short stories of residents and visitors who have spent time in the area.

- Do you have memories of a favourite place?
Have you seen anything special, interesting or just the mundane, but is an important memory to you?
Have you worked on or around the coast or even just remember some favourite holidays or pastimes?
Do you know of any tall stories that might be true or just legends that continue to grow?

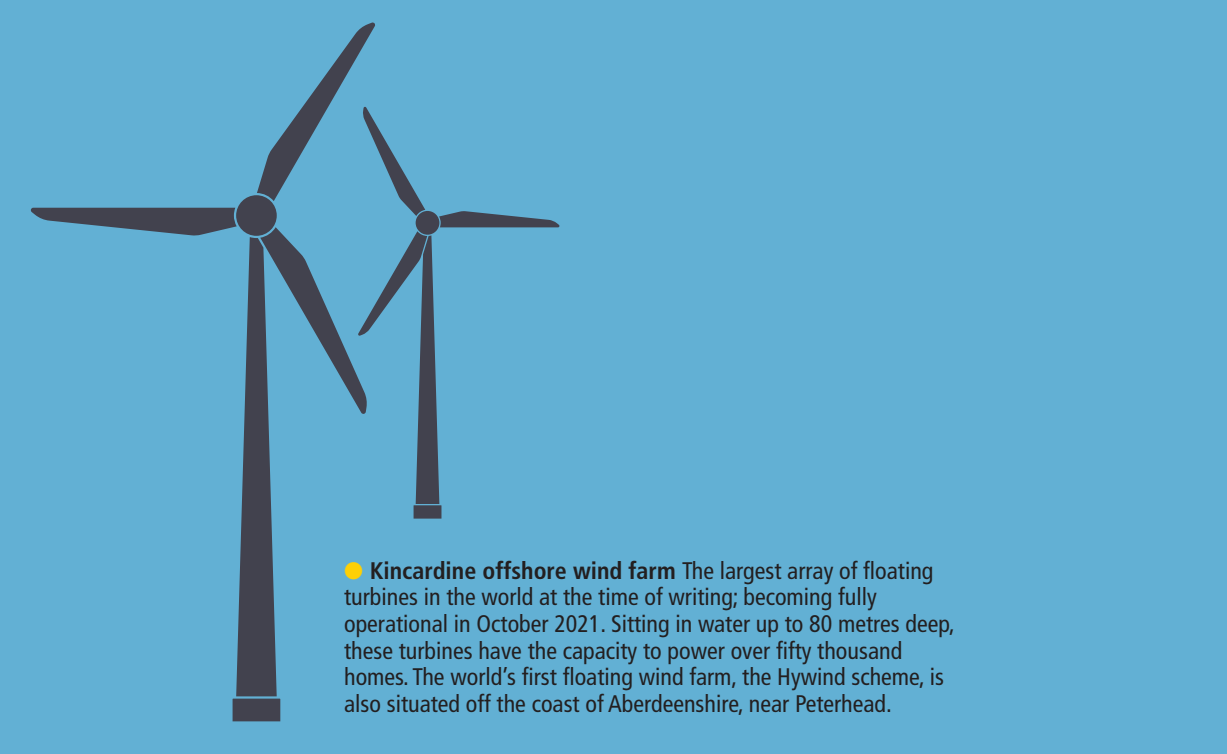
If so, we would love to capture some of your thoughts for posterity on our maps. We hope this project will continue to grow and become a social story of the area and its people.

Any information provided will be anonymised and may be edited by EGCP. Thank you in advance for helping us create these truly original maps. Please contact us at discovermaps@egcp.org.uk

KEY

- People & Culture
History
Nature & Environment
Memories
Golf Course
Forest
Park
Outdoor Garden
Railway line
Old railway line/walk
Highland Boundary Fault
Walk A (see details on reverse)
Walk B (see details on reverse)
Additional walks There are many walks around Aberdeen representing the heritage and nature of this region. Here are just a few popular locations.

Main map area containing geographical details, place names, and various informational callouts about local history, nature, and landmarks.



Kincardine offshore wind farm The largest array of floating turbines in the world at the time of writing, becoming fully operational in October 2021. Sitting in water up to 80 metres deep, these turbines have the capacity to power over fifty thousand homes. The world's first floating wind farm, the Hywind scheme, is also situated off the coast of Aberdeenshire, near Peterhead.



Fowlsheugh seabird city with up to 130,000 inhabitants. Fulmar More closely related to albatross than gulls, these tube-nosed flyers glide over the oceans. The tube nose gives them an extraordinary sense of smell enabling them to find scraps on the ocean. They have benefited hugely from the fishing industry and were not present in Britain two hundred years ago but are now very common. Fulmars lay one egg a year and have a powerful method of defence: by spraying foul oily stomach contents several metres. This is unpleasant to humans but can clog the feathers of other birds, stopping them from flying, and ultimately leading to their demise.
Puffin Puffins nest in burrows at the top of the cliff and can best be seen in the evening when they loiter at their entrance. Puffins are similar in size to a starling, much smaller than people think. The colourful beak is tinged to allow them to catch and carry fish, so they can be seen heading to the cliff top with up to 12 fish for their young, known as pufflings. While puffins are declining in some regions, they seem to be increasing at Fowlsheugh.
Kittiwakes These elegant gulls give the cliffs their soundtrack which can be heard even before you get to the cliffs.
Razorbills Razorbills look like gullmots; but have darker plumage as well as a larger stronger looking bill. They tend to be more spaced out on the cliffs than the tight colonies of gullmots and can dive to around 100 metres, but most fish catching is done at around 20 metres. Razorbills and gullmots are important for other species as they dive below shoals of fish forcing them to the surface where other birds can attack.
Gullmots These tend to live on the steepest parts of the cliff almost shoulder to shoulder. While they do tend to squabble, they work together to keep gulls and other predators away from the eggs and chicks. Once a chick is large enough it will leave the cliffs in the late evening by jumping into the water and swimming away with its father who will stay with it for much of the winter. Some gullmots have a white line around the eye, these are known as bridled gullmots.
Shags Living just above the waves these large birds are stunning with shiny iridescent feathers and startling gold eyes.
Greater Black Backed Gull They will steal eggs, prey on young birds or even adults.

Large circular inset map of Stonehaven area with detailed callouts and numbered points of interest.





## East Grampian Coastal Partnership

### Walks introduction

Walking routes have been added to this map to encourage those who would otherwise just use the public to browse over a coffee table. There is so much to see and do around the coast, only a taste of the area is possible in these walks. The route way marks on the front and narrative instructions on the reverse of this map should be sufficient to find your way around but it is always advisable to have an accurate map to hand and plan your day with care, especially being mindful of weather conditions and public transport timetables.

### Walk A

#### Stage 1

##### Stonhaven Walk

Distance: approx. 8.5 miles

Max elevation: 508 feet

Time: approx. 3.5 hours

This walk takes in gullies, gullies beaches, a great off walk and many surprises in the returning wooded section. Allow 3.5 hours if you include a visit to Dumnotter Castle.

#### Stage 2

Start outside the community-run open-air swimming pool on your left. This art-and-architecture was first opened in 1934, featuring heated, filtered seawater, as it does to this day. The pool operates annually between May and August. With a bit of careful planning, you could even visit the pool with a midday swim followed by a few naps during the summer. Stop to have a look through the gate on the southern wall of the pool before continuing to the beach.

#### Stage 3

Start outside the community-run open-air swimming pool on your left. This art-and-architecture was first opened in 1934, featuring heated, filtered seawater, as it does to this day. The pool operates annually between May and August. With a bit of careful planning, you could even visit the pool with a midday swim followed by a few naps during the summer. Stop to have a look through the gate on the southern wall of the pool before continuing to the beach.

#### Stage 4

Turn right, past Auntie Betty's ice cream and the Bay Fish & Chips. Outside Molly's Café Bar you will find an FOG beach clean box. If you have the time, borrow litter pickers and black bags to do a mini beach clean. The new building is Stonhaven & District Men's Shed, whose members suggested this walk. Come and buy sweeps and other items from a great walk, but the people of Stonhaven have taken this to the next level by creating a quirky sculpture along the coast.

Today the Meams coast features artists, fishermen, holiday homes, great walks, and awe-inspiring scenery. Stonhaven, famous for Dumnotter Castle, is also the home of the infamous deep-fried Mars Bar, while St Cyrus Nature Reserve features some of the most unique flora and fauna in Scotland. In between are the fishing villages of Catterline, Gordon, Johnshaven, still working away and presenting their seafood to the public at their pubs, fishermen and the most recent addition, a "lobster shop". Turn off at Stonhaven and follow the A92 to discover these hidden gems.

## THE MEAMS COAST

Map design © 2021 East Grampian Coastal Partnership

### Kincardineshire's history is full of rebellious folk from Finella, the Pictish assassin and David Barclay, who murdered the local sheriff by boiling him alive in a cauldron on Garvock Hill, to the hardy fisherfolk who risked their lives daily to reap the harvest of the sea. Meams' author Lewis Grassic Gibbon described his fellow countrymen as "the last of the old Scots folk".

Today the Meams coast features artists, fishermen, holiday homes, great walks, and awe-inspiring scenery. Stonhaven, famous for Dumnotter Castle, is also the home of the infamous deep-fried Mars Bar, while St Cyrus Nature Reserve features some of the most unique flora and fauna in Scotland. In between are the fishing villages of Catterline, Gordon, Johnshaven, still working away and presenting their seafood to the public at their pubs, fishermen and the most recent addition, a "lobster shop". Turn off at Stonhaven and follow the A92 to discover these hidden gems.

### Timeline

### The Meams

### 520 – 400 million years BC

Mid Ordovician to Mid Devonian periods, the Highland Boundary Fault is formed, marking the geological border between the Grampian Highlands and the Central Lowlands.

### 995 AD

Lady Finella, daughter of the Monarch of Kincardine, kills Kenneth I, King of Alba, after he has her sex enslaved. She is remembered in Finella near Lauriston Castle.

### 1242

Kinross Church consecrated by David de Bernham, Bishop of St Andrews

### 1315

First written record of Gordon fishing village, originally known as Gordon, and still pronounced this way by locals.

### 1421

David/Gregor Barclay, Laird of Mathers, and fellow conspirators kill Sheriff Melville to death on the Garvock Hill, onwards – Johnshaven developed as a fishing town.

### 1600s

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### 1651

Removal of the Scottish Crown Jewels from Dumnotter Castle to Kinross Hill by Charles II.

### 1708

Parliamentary constituency of Kincardineshire established.

### 1716 – 14

February, James Stuart "the Old Pretender" visits Hercules Scott of Brotherton before leaving Scotland for the last time, staying in a family property in Larvick.

### 1750

Robert Scott of Dumnotter, MP for Forfarshire, erects a huge lime-kiln at Millhaven as a commercial enterprise producing limebricks for local farms.

### 1754

Robert Scott (above) yields the first trap-net for catfish. He was a keen breeder of "Angus Doddies", a forerunner of the Aberdeen Angus cattle breed.

### 1778

Meal riot at Inverhaven: after a poor grain harvest, word got out that local merchant, Robert Napier was sending a cargo of grain to 80 miles. Five women from Johnshaven, Berne and Gordon commandeered the ship which Napier had hired. When Napier arrived with his grain, they threw stones at him and the carters, ultimately forcing the ship's captain to go to Johnshaven harbour after a day's delay. Two of the women were jailed and then banished for life.

### 1790s

Fishing village of Millhaven progressively washed away by sea surges.

### 1803

George Brand of Lauriston takes over East Mathers lime-works, employing 40 men, also built a new pier at Seagraves.

### 1819

Gordon's new harbour built, designed by Scottish engineer, Thomas Telford. Known as the "Old" or "New" Harbour. The wharf was expanded in 1842, and refurbished in 1967, still providing berths for local inshore boats.

### 1860

Montrose to Inverberie Branch Railway authorised. Running for 12 miles, the single-track branch connecting Montrose and Berne.

### 1865

North Water Viaduct completed, a major feat of engineering consisting of 12 rubble built arches carrying the railway to Montrose over the North Esk River near Kinburne. The viaduct also marks the border between Kincardineshire and Angus counties. On 1 November the Montrose to Inverberie Branch runs its first passenger train.

### 1867

Dumnotter Castle near Johnshaven was rebuilt in Scots Baronial style.

### 1881

Meams to Inverberie Railway absorbed into the North British Railway.

### 1890

The Maggie Lure lighthouse of Gordon; built by James Mowatt, served by Elyona.

### 1897

Torbear Lighthouse built by engineer, David A. Stevenson, cousin of author Robert Louis Stevenson. It was powered by paraffin lamp and a clockwork mechanism for 75 years before being electricity.

### 1920 – 21

December, Johnshaven Lighthouse Disaster: the Danish schooner, Fredensborg, taking the lives of local fishermen, John and James McKay, and two of the Danish seamen.

### 1934

Stonhaven open air pool approved to the public. It was built to competition standard, being 55 yards long. The pool to this day still contains filtered, heated seawater which takes two and three-quarter hours to fill. The pool is now open to the public as a community enterprise.

### 1948

Anna Katherine Scott, last occupant of Dumnotter Castle dies aged 80 leaving the estate to her niece.

### 1950

Charles Alexander who purchased Brotherton from Miss Scott's niece, sold the castle to the devotions of Lathallian School, Fife, which was destroyed by fire.

### 1951

Glasgow-based artist, Joan Eardley visits Catterline for the first time and falls in love with the Meams coast. Local art teacher Anne Stimppe helped her to buy the Watchie, an old coastal watchhouse as her studio.

### 1962

2.1 miles of coastal route St Cyrus designated a National Nature Reserve

### 1966

23 May, Montrose to Inverberie railway line closed.

### 1976

1.1 mile stretch of coastal rocks at Fowlsburgh was designated by the RSPB as a nature reserve for sea birds including gulltitts, kittiwakes, puffins, kittiwakes.

### 1989

Stonhaven Folk Festival established.

### 1996

Kincardineshire is absorbed into Aberdeenshire during the division of Grampian into administrative authorities.

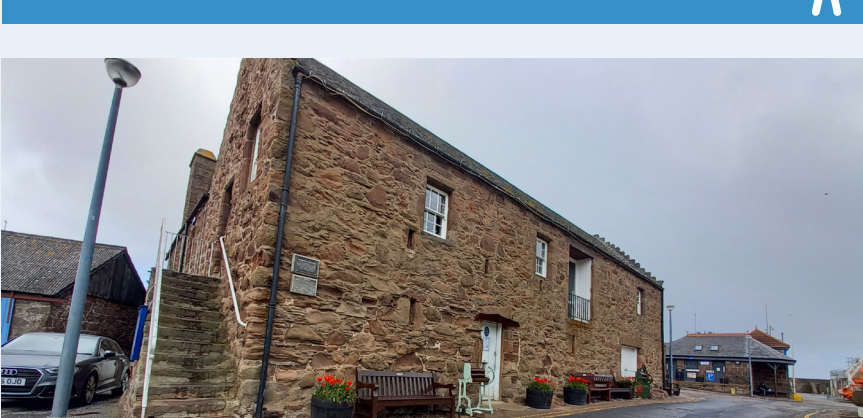
### 2003

Pneumodermis nevadensis, one of the oldest air-breathing organisms in the world was first discovered at Cairn Harbour by Mike Newman an amateur fossil-hunter and local art-builder. This is an ancestor of the mollusc.

### 2007

Torbear Lighthouse decommissioned and sold privately.

### Walk A



#### Stage 4

Pass through the car park and public toilet blocks (take chance for a gale while waiting to reach the harbour. Turn right and proceed past the large sandstone building, which is the old Harbour, constructed in the late 16th/early 17th century as the spruce and cobbler in the autumn. After a few minutes Collieston Hill rises to the left. This is the old road to Dumnotter Castle.

Visible from the harbour is the Clocktower. This was originally built in 1790 but extended to its current size in 1824. It was a useful addition to the town with a large bannister helping the fishermen predict the weather and avoid going out to sea in major storms. It was installed four years after a surprise storm sank eight Stonhaven boats costing £12,000. Entry to the tower is free.

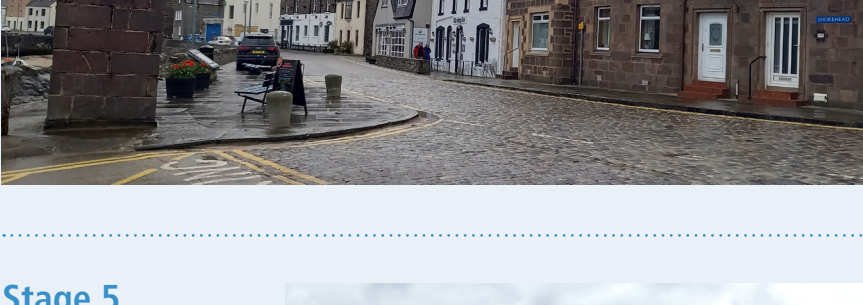
As the top of the path you get a great view over the harbour with boats, paddleboarders and swimmers to be seen all year round. At the other end of the path you can see Gannon Point where the Highland Boundary Fault enters the sea, having entered Scotland at the way from Aron on the west coast. This volcanic fault — formed between 520 and 400 million years ago, marks the geological border of the Highlands and Lowlands. To the north, the "Dalriadan" rocks of granite, and to the south, the Old Red Sandstone which reaches down into Angus. Most of the buildings in the Meams are built from it, in stark contrast to Aberdeen's hard, silvery granite which sparkles with mica.

Follow the road east to the obelisk path towards the war memorial.



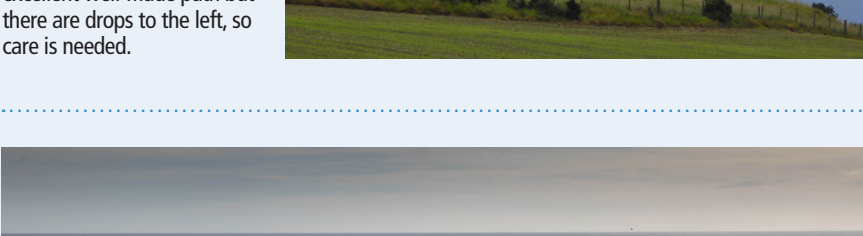
#### Stage 10

After explaining head to the north east corner of Market Square and onto Alexander's Road before crossing and following Bechgarle Lane to the beach. Turn left and retrace your steps along the path over the bridge and past the Men's Shed. There are hopefully lots of options for a snack as there having completed the walk!



#### Stage 5

It is worth the short detour to visit the memorial, originally built to commemorate those who served in the First World War. Then, during the Second World War, it was used as a memorial to those who served in the Second World War. It is a great walk, but the people of Stonhaven have taken this to the next level by creating a quirky sculpture along the coast.

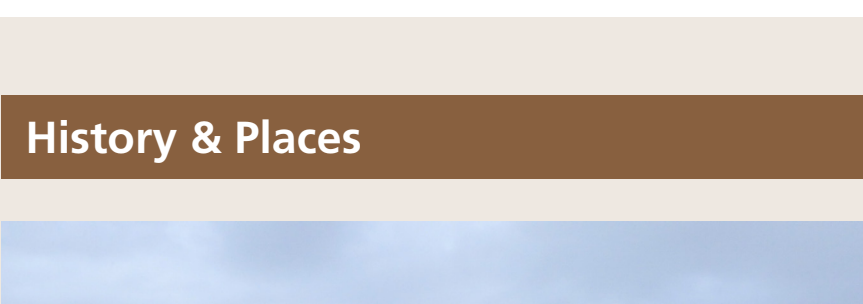


In addition to coastal flooding, flooding events on the river have first reported in 1829 and continued on an intermittent basis until the 1980s, after which there have been regular occurrences, some of which have caused the evacuation of residents and businesses. As Stonhaven has developed and expanded, flood protection measures have also had to evolve against a background of climate change and rising sea levels. Stonhaven Flood Protection Scheme (FPS) is a £10 million project funded by Aberdeenshire Council. Assigned to protect homes and businesses which have previously been badly affected by flooding events. The FPS includes: the construction of a new sea wall, the reconstruction of culverts, culverts, and alterations to five bridges along the Carron and its tributaries as it flows through Stonhaven to the sea.



#### Stage 6

Once you reach the first of the 219 steps that lead down to the castle you have a choice, take the steps down to the beach or follow the castle (enter the replant). The main walk continues inland, heading up a track to the castle car park, before turning right onto the main road, then left onto a small rarely used farm track, inland and west from Meams of Dumnotter. You follow the farm track for just under a mile and the views are good.



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Incoming Cels from Ireland struggled for power with the native Pictish folk descended from the Neolithic, and iron-age farmers. Comprising of the Irish people "tin" or "ceann" and the Pictish "Cathlan", Kincardines means "headland of the Pict". The very name Ceann or sheffer, due to an early administration. Meams, or Moineire, is the Gaelic for a stewards or garrison, and the leaders of such areas were "moirners", meaning "great chiefs".

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