

Cocklawburn Nature Walk

At the Pot-a-Doodle Do farm café there are information panels which tell you about the plants and wildlife you can find on the Nature Walk. Have a coffee and study the panels before setting out. Follow the road signs to Cocklawburn Beach. As the road goes down towards the beach there is a layby on the right hand side. That is the starting point of the walk. Should the layby be full there is more parking further on.



The walk is 2.5 miles (4km) and it will take a couple of hours. It is half on road and track, half on the beach. Take care on the beach.

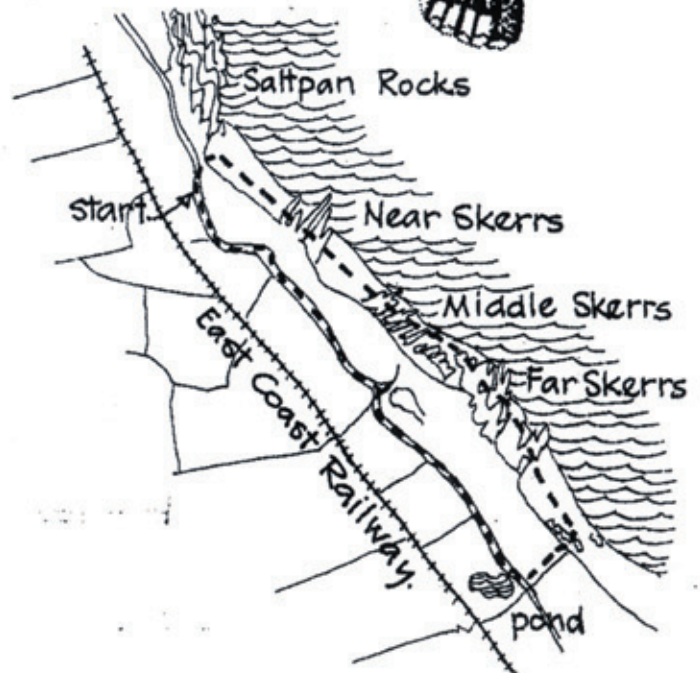
Follow the road South as it twists and turns along the coast. On reaching the old lime-kiln mound take the track to the right and go through the gate and over the cattle grid.

The stone track is fenced on both sides and it is part of a S.U.S.T.R.A.N.S. cycle route.

S Skylarks and Meadow Pippits are found here. Eventually you reach a large fishing pond on the right, home to red and blue damsel flies. Just before a gate across the track climb a stile in the left hand fence and walk up to another stile on the skyline. In Springtime the fine grass is dotted with Cowslip and Bird's-foot Trefoil. Wild Orchids can be found in wet areas. Butterflies in the dune area are Painted Ladies, Peacocks and Red Admirals.

Follow the narrow path down to the beach. If the tide is high you must walk along the dunes, above the beach, as the rocky headlands are impassable. The headlands can be tricky, especially when covered with seaweed. When wet the surface can be very slippery. In contrast the firm sand of the beaches is ideal for walking.

Turn left to follow the beach back North. At sea Scoter and Eider Duck can often be spotted. The local name for the Eider is Cuddy's Duck, relating to its association with St. Cuthbert. At the water line Dunlin and Sanderling scuttle among the debris.



Carefully negotiate the rocks at Far Skerr, Middle Skerr and Inner Skerris. A bit of scrambling is required, but each headland is followed by a rewarding stretch of smooth sand.

On arrival back at Cocklawburn Beach walk along the sand and find your way back to the starting point.

