

# ROCKCLIFFE TO SANDYHILLS

- **Linear coastal path, steep and close to cliffs in places, with steps and stiles**
- **The path goes through fields of farm animals.**
- **19km/12 miles (return)**
- **Allow a full day, 8 hours**
- **Minor road, shingle, earth and grass paths**
- **Strenuous**
- **Walking boots recommended**

The Rockcliffe to Sandyhills coastal path has been described as one of the best in Britain, with stunning views across the Solway to Cumbria and the Isle of Man as well as along the Galloway coast.

**START** from the council car park at the top of Rockcliffe village, head downhill and turn left at the coastal path signpost. Follow the road to its end and follow the path which continues along the coast. The first major landmark is Castle Point about a mile further along. Here there is a topograph point showing landmarks.

From Castle Point and on along the clifftops there are terrific views of nesting seabirds in spring and summer. Fulmar, razorbill, cormorant and peregrine falcon can all be seen perched on rocky ledges or flying along the coast. You will also see a cairn which marks the spot where the crew of a schooner climbed to safety in 1866. Their sinking boat finally went down at Rascarrel.

About 3 miles along the coast from Rockcliffe, the path descends steeply into the hamlet of Port O' Warren. Climb the wall at the stile and turn left along the minor road, until you see the sign for Portling. Follow the road to the right. A short distance further, you will see the sign for the clifftop path on your left.

As you approach Sandyhills you will have an excellent view of the Bay and on towards Southwick.

Exit the fields through the kissing gate. At the bottom of the wooden steps keep left to the footbridge across the burn.

Crossing the footbridge bear left around the edge of the bay passing the caravan park. Mid way along the beach you will find an exit to the A710.

You can catch a bus on the A710 at Sandyhills if you don't have the energy to walk back to Rockcliffe. Walking on the main road is not recommended. Alternatively retrace your steps – the view is completely different in the opposite direction!



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