



walks



LOCATION: WESTRAY

ROUTE: WESTRAY WEST COAST WALK



DISTANCE

8.5km



GRADE

3



DURATION

3.5hrs

A classic among Orkney's coastal walks, this route takes in the dramatic Atlantic-facing cliffs of Westray, with its sea-carved rock formations and seabird colonies.

Route guide

- 1) Start at the small car park at East Kirbest (HY 4280 4376)
- 2) Walk west along the vehicle track for 150m, passing close to derelict farm buildings, before moving onto grass to pass discreetly along the fence line in front of the renovated cottage of West Kirbest to reach a wooden gate (HY 4249 4377)
- 3) Pass through the gate and follow the grassy track before passing over a wooden stile (HY 4237 4377). Follow the faint route along the top of a low escarpment to reach another wooden stile (HY 4209 4377)
- 4) Follow the coast around the headland of Inga Ness. After crossing a wooden stile in a dry-stone dyke (HY 4202 4455), look for a small wooden stile over a fence immediately on your right. Cross this and head diagonally across the field to go uphill to the obvious summit of Fitty Hill (HY 4298 4487)
- 5) Follow the fence line directly west to return to the coast (HY 4213 4486)
- 6) Turn right and follow the coast north for around 3.5km. 150m after passing the deep inlets of Bis Geos (HY4141 4781) you'll reach a large wooden stile directly ahead of you (HY4104 4788)
- 7) Turn right here to instead cross a small stile leading onto a grassy track for the final 200m to the small car park at Backarass and the end of the walk (HY 4119 4819).

For further details and mapping information, find the walk on [Orkney.com/walking](https://orkney.com/walking)

Make sure you follow our guide to being a responsible visitor:



Pick up litter, taking it home with you or using any bins provided.



Keep your dog under strict control around farmland and livestock, and clean up after pets too. Don't take your dog through fields with young livestock in them.



Avoid lighting fires or BBQs on moorland or in the countryside, and if you do have a BBQ or bonfire on a beach, please clean up afterwards.



If possible, stick to designated walking and cycling routes when you're out exploring, and be respectful of private property.



Use gates where they're provided and, if they're closed when you find them, close them again after passing through.



Avoid disturbing any natural flora, fauna or wildlife habitats.

It's always worth reading up on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code before you explore Orkney too.