

## Prehistory

We know from historical findings that people have been living in this area for at least 10,000 years. Findings include:

- A single stone remains from a Neolithic stone circle at Dubford;
- A Bronze Age stone 'cist' burial was found during house building at Scotstown; and
- A new Bronze Age site has recently been discovered at Murcar.



Mike Chalmers

## Seaton Park

Seaton Park was once the central part of Seaton Estate, which dates from the 17th century. The park, focused round the now demolished Seaton House, was home to a horse racing course in the early 20th century. Today a Second World War pill box can be found on a north facing bank next to St Machar's Cathedral.

Seaton Park offers a range of habitats for wildlife. The short cut grass attracts pied wagtails hunting for insects. Along the river there are feeding opportunities for grey heron stalking fish from the bank, dipper perching on rocks, hunting for caddis larvae and goosander diving for fish.



Karen van Eeden

Above: Seaton Park

Top: Persley Walled Gardens



## How to get there

**A956** Danestone – First Bus Service 1 Red Line  
Ashwood – First Bus Service 2 Red Line  
Dubford Park and Ride Service 40  
Tillydrone – First Bus Service 19  
Hillhead of Seaton – First Bus Service 20

### Aberdeen Cycle Map

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/cyclemaps](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/cyclemaps)

### For more information contact:

[www.firstbus.com](http://www.firstbus.com) Tel: (01224) 650000

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk) – search for cycle map

Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service  
(01224) 897400

Aberdeen Greenspace Trust Limited:

[www.aberdeengreenspace.org.uk](http://www.aberdeengreenspace.org.uk)

Station House Media Unit (shmu) [www.shmu.org.uk](http://www.shmu.org.uk)

Photographs as credited courtesy of River Don SURF Aberdeen Project.

Main cover picture: David Brazendale. Top row pictures left to right:

Andy Coventry, Kirsty McAbery, Mike Stephen, Sinclair Laing.

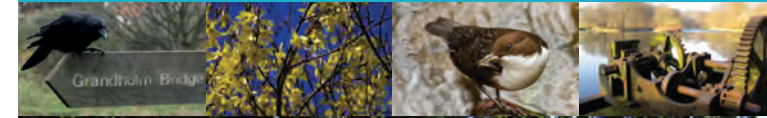


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# BRIDGE OF DON

Paths around North Aberdeen





Ian Talboys

# Scotstown Moor and Donmouth Local Nature Reserves

## Scotstown Moor

Scotstown Moor, also known as Perwinnes Moss, contains the remains of a children's camp from the early 20th century where children from the industrial city were given access to the country side. There are also large remains of a Second World War radio direction finding station. The name Scotstown means a place where English was once spoken; with Gaelic and Pictish becoming out dated, English was the main language of the area. Danestone as a place name means 'the stone' which marks the boundary of the Dean's lands, the Dean being a senior official of St Machar's Cathedral.



Ian Talboys

Above: Scotstown Moor

Top: Northern Marsh Orchid



Otter



Heron

Andy Coventry

Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve is a popular site for joggers and walkers with or without dogs.

The southern part of the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest chosen for its wetland plants. It is home to the rare black bog rush as well as familiar species such as sundew, cotton grass, marsh cinquefoil, ragged robin and northern march orchid.

In the spring the song of a number of Warblers can be heard including Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Whitethroat.



Willow Warbler

Ian Talboys



Karen van Eeden

## Donmouth Local Nature Reserve

The reserve consists of sand dunes and mudflats that form part of the small estuary of the River Don.

The rich feeding brings in a wide selection of wading birds, gulls and terns especially in spring and autumn.

One of the most common is the sanderling a bird which feeds on the tideline running along the sand.

Both grey and common seals can be seen hauled out on the sands or on the island above the road bridge.

## Brig o' Balgownie

Built between 1314 and 1318 by Richard Cementarius, the first provost of Aberdeen, the Brig o' Balgownie was for centuries the only route to the north out of Aberdeen. Byron during his childhood in Aberdeen was familiar with the bridge and he refers to the salmon pool below it in his poem Don Juan. The setting is appropriately dramatic and Romantic with the open estuary to the east and the tree-lined gorge to the west.



Karen van Eeden

Brig o' Balgownie

# BRIDGE OF DON

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## East Woodcroft

Just across the road from Scotstown Moor is East Woodcroft. Most of the site is rough grassland with remaining woodland from the original estate planting. The Glashieburn flows along its southern edge providing habitat for snipe and woodcock.

In autumn and winter redwings and fieldfares, migrants from Scandinavia, stop to feed on the rowan berries.



*Fox*

Andy Coventry

## Mills on the Don

Further along the River Don the important industrial mining history of the area can be seen. Once home to a great variety of mills, the area is best known for Woodside Works, which dated from the late 18th century and latterly was home to a paper mill. Also very significant was Crombies Mill at Grandholm.

Crombie woollen goods are famous throughout the world, during the First World War their great coats were in high demand. The oldest part of the Grandholm Mill buildings survives within a modern residential development.

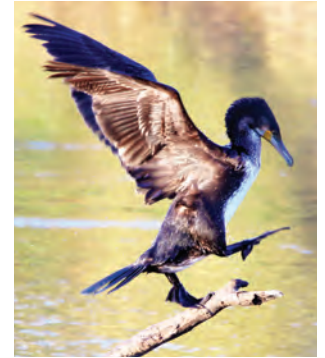


Sinclair Laing

## Wallace Tower

In the park the so-called Wallace Tower, a 1590s townhouse built by Robert Keith in the centre of Aberdeen was moved here in the 1960s during city centre redevelopment.

Close to the Wallace Tower is the impressive Tillydrone Motte. Its name suggests it was a medieval castle mound, but recently archaeological findings have shown it to have been first a Bronze Age burial cairn and later a 2nd century AD defended settlement.



*Cormorant*

Andy Coventry



*Donmouth*

Vicky Mitchell



*Mill lade workings*

Andy Coventry



*Wallace Tower*

Hugh Mullady

