

Geocache Description:

A walk around the grounds of Hopetoun House, a historic house and grounds. The geocache course is only available when the grounds are open and an admission fee applies. All waypoints and the final cache are located on or near the path. The path is not entirely wheelchair accessible, but could be done with an off-road style pushchair.

Hopetoun House is the 300 year old home of the Earl of Hopetoun. It is now owned and managed by an independent charitable trust. The house and grounds are open to the public from Easter to the last weekend in September. An admission fee for the grounds and house applies, please get a ticket before you begin. Access to the grounds (but not the house) is required to complete this cache. Out of season, it may be possible to arrange a visit by contacting the Ranger on ranger@hopetoun.co.uk. Please put "Geocache" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Entrance Kiosk

The Hopetoun Hop starts at the entrance kiosk at the west end of the visitor car park. Please pay your admission here. Have a look at the map on the south side of the kiosk. In the map key, how many kilometres is the sea walk trail? **This is A.**

The East Facade

Cross the road to the sign indicating "Pedestrian Walkway". Walk west along the avenue of lime trees until you reach a signpost pointing to the house entrance. Turn north and walk across the front of the house. The east façade (front) of the house was extended and enlarged by William Adam in 1720. The Hope family coat of arms is visible in several places. How many dots are on the shield? **This is B.**

If you are in need of fortification or other relief, the toilets and the Stables Tearoom are on the north side of the house and well sign-posted.

Ranger Centre

Turn left around the north side of the house. The Ranger Centre is tucked in beside the old stables. If it is open, please stop in and have a look around and sign the visitors book.

The Eagle's Eye

Continue all the way around the house till you are facing east. Walk through the gate ahead of you. Look up and to your left to see the eagle. It came from the Hope family's former home in Ceres, Fife. There is text in the wall below the eagle. Craighall was demolished in 195? **This is C.**

The Bowling Green

Turn south now, and walk across the gravelled path along the west front of the house. You'll get a better view of this from across the pond. Please respect the privacy of the Hope family, who occupy the south wing. Cross the Lime Avenue to see the bowling green. Take the gravelled path skirting the bowling green to the wide path heading south up the hill. You will pass between two urns. How many winged mermaids are on the urns in total? **This is D.**

The Spring Garden

Follow the path to the top of the hill. Turn around for a good view of the south side of the house. Turn right along the path heading west-south-west, to enter the spring garden. After a short walk, on your left you will see a 20th century sculpture of Salome in an alcove. This feature is known as The Pulpit and was originally part of a parade at the side of the bowling green. It was moved to its present location by William Adam. On the pediment there is a crest bearing two coats of arms. This represents the union through marriage of the Hopes and the Annandales in the early 18th century. Look at the crest. It is different from those on the house. How many anchors are on the shield?
This is E.

The Pond

Continue along the main path as it curves north again and crosses the Lime Avenue. The trees will open up to both sides for the main vista from the house to the estate deer park. Stop here for a moment to admire the beautiful west facade of the house. The majority of this facade is the work of Sir William Bruce. Walk down to the pond and look for an edging stone with text. Please keep hold of small children near the water. On what day in July 1999 was the stone laid? **The answer is F.**

Sea Views and Red Deer

Walk back up to the main path. Opposite the house is the estate deer park, home to a herd of fallow deer. Turn right (north) along the main path to continue. Keep right at the orienteering post marked with the number 10. Alternatively, if you want a longer walk, head down the slope to Hope's Walk, which will take you out to the former site of Abercorn Castle, then head back along the path skirting the north deer park. Both the straight main path and the longer loop will take you to an open grassy area overlooking the north deer park, home to a herd of red deer. The stag is often visible resting near the wall or in the shade of the trees. The fence at this point is ornate, with curled black supports that look a little like treble clefs. How many of these are there?
This is G.

The Cache

There is a bench here, a convenient spot to sit down and work out the cache co-ordinates.

A =
B =
C =
D =
E =
F =
G =

The geocache is at 55 59.G (A-E)(B+C) W 003 27.(E+F)(A*D)(A+F).

Please replace carefully and ensure it is well hidden for the next seeker. When you are finished, continue along the sea view trail back to the house to complete the loop.

Additional Hints:

Orgjrra gur ebbgf bs n ynetr gerr, pbirerq ol n fgbar naq fgvpfx.

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H||J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

(letter above equals below, and vice versa)