



Sea Walk Trail - - - -

- 1** The cannons used to be fired on the Earl's birthday. On the left sits the Ceres Eagle brought from the old Hope ancestral home in Fife.
- 2** To the right of the pet Cemetery are a group of neatly planted Larch trees; originally this was the nursery.
- 3** The dead wood of the Sweet Chestnut provide a great source of food for insects. Beefsteak fungus grow on the old root plate in late summer.
- 4** You may see the Hopetoun Red Deer herd in the North Deer Park. They have 10 acres to graze, so they may be visible at post 9. Bordered by the south shore of the River Forth, the area is classified as a Special Protection Area for its variety of wildlife.
- 5** This area was planted with native trees for the original designed landscape as well as the Yew hedge along the North Deer Park path. Turn right after post 5 past Western Hemlock trees exported from America. The native Yew specimen tree on the right is over 550 years old.
- 6** Birds found here include the Goldcrest, Blue tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit and Chiffchaff, look out for Nuthatch as they hop up and down the trunks of trees.
- 7** The mound here marks the ruins of Abercorn Castle, levelled by William Adam at the start of the 18th century. Three Cedar trees were planted, and the fourth is a European Larch.
- 8** Look over the river Forth to Rosyth shipyard, which provided anchorage for the grand fleet during WW1. Old gun mounts are visible on the ground between here and post 9, dating back to WW2.
- 9** Blackness Castle is visible up the coast. The Red Deer are often here. There are approximately 30 deer but only one stag to avoid any fighting during the rutting season in autumn.
- 10** A great place to spot woodland birds in early spring, as well as Roe deer.
- 11** Walk along Hopes walk past Rhododendron, Laurel and Foxgloves. The path here can be uneven.
- 12** Look out for the Sarawa Cypress trees, an exotic conifer species. The Limestone wall on the left provides an ideal habitat for a range of small herbs and naturally growing hops.
- 13** View the South Deer park from the HaHa and look out for the Fallow deer.
End of walk

Spring Garden Trail - - - -

- 1** In spring, Daffodils and Snowdrops carpet the Bowling Green paths. The urns here were added by the 3rd Marquess.
- 2** The Thunderbolt Burn runs through here to the Walled Garden providing irrigation to the kitchen garden. Water Forget-Me-Not and mint grow in the burn and on the bank Pieris and Rhododendrons flower in mid-summer. Follow the path and look out for the Copper Beech and the Cherry tree.

- 3** Here is one of the specimen trees, a Cedar of Lebanon, planted by the second Earl, making this tree over 250 years old. Opposite is a Holm Oak, an evergreen Oak. During Spring, Periwinkle cover the ground.
- 4** The Giant Redwood here is another a specimen tree, with it's fibrous insect resistant bark. Carry on further down the path to another tree, the Morinda Spruce, which has a fascinating Hopetoun history. In 1822 the seeds were brought back from the Himalayas. This is the first specimen planted and grown successfully in the UK. The tree is

named after the man to do this, James Smith, Hopetoun's head gardener at the time.

- 5** Look out for Bluebells and blue Alpine squill just off the woodland path.
- 6** The Pulpit, was part of a larger portico in the William Bruce House design and the statue of Salome is by John Skelton. The tree behind post 6 is a deciduous conifer, the Dawn Redwood, gifted to the 3rd Marquess by the Duke of Northumberland. Further along the path to the right is a large standing dead tree which provides a great habitat for fungi and roosting/nesting location for bats and owls.

- 7** Standing atop the HaHa there are views across the South Deer Park, home to the herd of Fallow Deer.
- 8** Exit the Woodlands to the Rhododendron shrubs. Look out for fungi on the back lawns in late summer/autumn. With over 200 species recorded here, it is an internationally important fungi lawn.
End of walk