

Castle O' Burrian and the Bay of Tafts



A short 1.2km (.75m) walk, to the Castle O' Burrian to view puffins
or a longer 5.5km (3.4m) circular walk to Stanger Head and the Bay of Tafts



Puffin



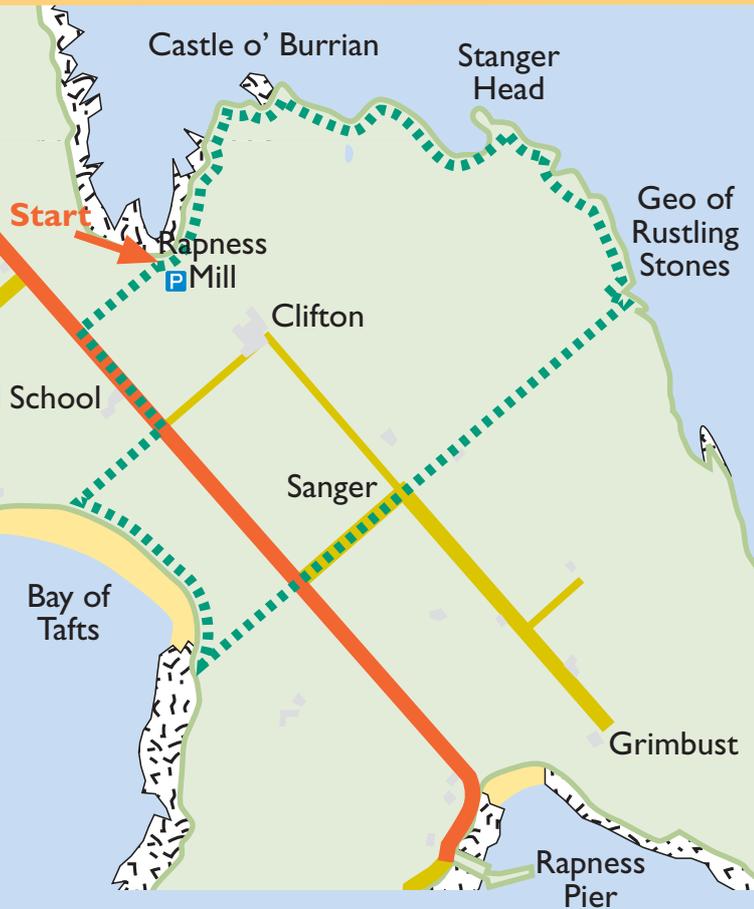
Wild Angelica

Rapness Mill, built about 1850, was powered by a large waterwheel to grind beremeal and oatmeal.

The Castle o' Burrian is well known in Orkney as one of the best and easiest places to see puffins close up. Here, between late April and mid August, as many as 200-300 birds nest on the stack and can be viewed from the adjacent cliffs. Building remains on the top of the stack are said to have been an early Christian hermitage.

Stanger Head is an impressive headland and at high tide, with a good swell, the sea penetrates two small windows in the cliff, spurting out as waterfalls. Razorbills, fulmars, guillemots, kittiwakes and shag are summer residents and the cliffs are decorated with a rock garden of sea pinks, sea campion, sea mayweed and wild thyme. The Geo of Rustling Stones, a

Castle of Burrian



narrow break in Rapness Crag, is covered with wild angelica in late summer and primroses in the spring.

The farmland track has gorse or whin along its bank and in August, purple heather, blue devil's-bit scabious, pink lousewort and tiny eyebright all grow here. Sanger Mill is an old windmill used for threshing oats and bere barley with a kiln to dry the grain ready for grinding at Rapness Mill.

Having reached the Bay of Tafts, you have just walked from the North Sea to the Atlantic. Near the water's edge there are usually small waders such as ringed plover, dunlin and sanderling. In summer there is a wonderful display of sea rocket in mauve and white, with a heady perfume.

