

**SUBJECT TITLE: KINCRAIG CHAIN WALK, KINCRAIG POINT, FIFE.**

**Subject:** A scramble round a rocky headland with fixed chains for aid. The route passes caves and basalt columns. On the headland above there are remains of wartime fortifications.

**Warning:** This is a LW excursion. There are no escape routes. The only ways off are to retrace ones steps or continue. Whilst easy climbing, some of the sections are quite exposed. This is no place to discover you don't have head for heights.

**Chart No:** 734      **Lat/Long:** 56° 11'.2 N 002° 52'.0W

**OS 1:50,000 sheet number** 59      **Grid Ref.:** NT 466997

**Subject description:** This traverse of Kincaig Point should be the highlight of the Fife coastal path. In fact it receives little publicity.

From the West, walking up to the second raised beach level the path branches off to the first chain. At the East end the route terminates on the shore below the golf course.

There are seven chains counting the first up and down as one. The chains can be trusted, made of stainless steel, in perfect condition (2003) they are attached to the rock with expansion bolts. It is recommended that an OS map and one of the guides listed below be consulted beforehand.

**Approach by sea:** Off lying rocks mean this headland is best given a wide berth.

**Directions by land:** Elie is on the A917 coast road. From Elie take the road West to Earlsferry and leave the car there. Walk to the East end of the Chain Walk or take the track and path over the golf course and round the back of the Point to the West side.

**Anchoring / Mooring:** The most convenient base is Elie harbour, taking the ground on the visitor's berth. One can do the walk while waiting for the tide. Bilge keelers can take the ground in shell bay. Settled weather is needed for this as the sand is hard as a pavement. The wash from a passing tanker can give the boat a fearful bumping as she settles. Alternatively one can anchor off Shell Bay or in Largo Bay avoiding the gas pipeline anchoring exclusion zone. A crew is advised so that the dinghy is not left unattended.

**Other local information:** Facilities at the Shell Bay caravan site including Calor gas.

**References / weblinks:**

1. A series of excellent photographs and description of the chain pitches can be seen on the V-G website: <http://v-g.me.uk/Trips/T0647/T0647CW.htm>
2. "The Fife Coast" by Hamish Brown, Mainstream Publishing 1994.

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