

Recorded walks of the SFC: collated by Gordon Drummond

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Sorted by distance, length, and hilliness (Distance over about 40 min by car, length over 5 miles, and arbitrary assessment of slopes)

page	Place	Length	Height				
				1	Local	Long	hilly
39	Distant	Long	f/h	2	Local	Long	hilly
22	Distant	Long	flat	6	Local	Long	hilly
46	Distant	Long	flat	8	Local	Long	hilly
48	Distant	Long	flat	10	Local	Long	hilly
70	Distant	Long	flat	14	Local	Long	hilly
4	Distant	Long	hilly	18	Local	Long	hilly
5	Distant	Long	hilly	19	Local	Long	hilly
7	Distant	Long	hilly	20	Local	Long	hilly
12	Distant	Long	hilly	27	Local	Long	hilly
13	Distant	Long	hilly	31	Local	Long	hilly
21	Distant	Long	hilly	32	Local	Long	hilly
23	Distant	Long	hilly	41	Local	Long	hilly
36	Distant	Long	hilly	43	Local	Long	hilly
38	Distant	Long	hilly	50	Local	Long	hilly
47	Distant	Long	hilly	60	Local	Long	hilly
49	Distant	Long	hilly	71	Local	Long	hilly
72	Distant	Long	hilly	79	Local	Long	hilly
56	Distant	Short	flat	16	Local	Short	flat
59	Distant	Short	flat	24	Local	Short	flat
28	Distant	Short	hilly	25	Local	Short	flat
3	Local	Long	flat	26	Local	Short	flat
11	Local	Long	flat	42	Local	Short	flat
15	Local	Long	flat	45	Local	Short	flat
17	Local	Long	flat	55	Local	Short	flat
33	Local	Long	flat	63	Local	Short	flat
34	Local	Long	flat	64	Local	Short	flat
37	Local	Long	flat	73	Local	Short	flat
51	Local	Long	flat	76	Local	Short	flat
52	Local	Long	flat	82	Local	Short	flat
53	Local	Long	flat	9	Local	Short	hilly
65	Local	Long	flat	29	Local	Short	hilly
66	Local	Long	flat	30	Local	Short	hilly
74	Local	Long	flat	40	Local	Short	hilly
77	Local	Long	flat	57	Local	Short	hilly
78	Local	Long	flat	61	Local	Short	hilly
81	Local	Long	flat	80	Local	Short	hilly
				83	Local	Short	hilly

Thursday 10th November 2011

Blackford, The Braids and Mortonhall

Meeting Place: 10 Wyvern Park Edinburgh EH9 2JY. There is limited free parking in our drive and in Wyvern Park. Any overflow would have to be meter parking in Dick Place. Let me know if you plan to bring your car and I shall check there is a space.

Walking distance: 7 miles

Duration: 4 hours including stops

Directions: Wyvern Park is a cul-de-sac off the west end of Dick Place. From the Meadows, take Marchmont Road south. Cross Grange Road/Strathearn Road onto Kilgraston Road. Dick Place is the first left and Wyvern Park first right between pillars. If you come by bus, No 41 stops on Kilgraston Road just past Dick Place (Monkwood Court bus stop 200 yards after Marchmont Crossroads). Nos 5 and 24 stop at Marchmont Crossroads.

Walk details: This is a walk of moderate difficulty with several short climbs, some with steps. Much of it is on quiet paths through deciduous woods behind the main roads of south Edinburgh. They are mostly good stony paths but very muddy in a few places (which can be bypassed if necessary). There is some walking on roads. We walk down the road to Blackford pond then through Hermitage of Braid and up to Braid Hills' golf course. We skirt round this, use a short stretch of Braid Road then climb gently up a good path to Mounthooly and then Mortonhall. We return skirting the east boundary of Braid Hills' golf course, taking a path down to Liberton Brae which we take for a very short distance to Blackford Glen and Hermitage of Braid. From there we return through the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital.

Roger Kellett

Wednesday 25th April 2012

Peebles Circular Walk via Cademuir Hill

OS Maps: Landranger Map - sheet 73

Grid Ref: NT 251 402

Meeting Place: Large car park on south bank of the Tweed in Peebles

Driving directions: From Hillend take the A701, then the A703 to Peebles. Go right along the High Street. At the far end, turn left over the Tweed Bridge and then left into the car park where there are facilities.

Driving time: Approximately forty minutes.

Walking distance: 8 miles, climbing 700 feet

Duration: Four and a half hours including stops

Walk details: There is some road walking to start with, but the walk is mainly on tracks and grass – rough in places. After ascending the hill, we drop down on a track to the Manor Water and then make our way back along the south and the north bank of the Tweed to the car park. This is a pleasant and fairly strenuous walk with good views.

Sadie Nuttall

Thursday 17 May 2012

Glasgow's "Dear Green Places"

Meeting Point: The lounge at Sherbrooke Castle Hotel [Postcode G41 4PG]

Walking distance: Total distance 7.5 miles. Return fare on subway £2.40.

Driving time: Please see attached sheet.

Driving directions: Please see attached sheet.

Walk details: Despite being a large industrial city, Glasgow is blessed with numerous parks, many of them very large. Many of these were donated to the city by prominent Victorian benefactors, of whom the most influential was Sir John Stirling Maxwell MP [1866-1956] the 10th Baronet of Pollok. Most of our walk will be on his former lands.

We will start our walk in the "Avenues" in Pollokshields, down some of Glasgow's finest streets, with some very impressive Victorian houses, to Maxwell Park. We will continue into Pollok Country Park, seeing the Highland Cattle, the Burrell Collection, and Pollok House, although we may not have time to visit [unless the weather is poor]. Then on to Bellahouston Park, site of the 1938 Empire Exhibition, and currently of the Palace of Art and the House for an Art lover [based on Charles Rennie McIntosh's prize winning 1901 design]. Lunch is planned in the walled garden, then a short walk to the subway at Cessnock where we will cross under the Clyde to Kelvingrove Park for the best views of the City and University, returning on the subway and a short walk back to our start.

W S Hislop

Tuesday 19 June 2012

Lamington and the Cowgill Reservoirs

OS Landranger Sheet 72; OS Explorer Sheet 336
NS 978 309

Meeting Point: Lamington Old Church carpark
Walking distance: Approximately 7 to 8 miles
Duration Four hours

45 minutes from Fairmilehead

Driving directions: From Edinburgh take the A702 towards Biggar. In Lamington, approximately six miles past Biggar, take the **inconspicuously signed second right** to the old church and primary school. The car park is immediately after the turn and just before the cemetery. From Glasgow it is probably best to take the M74 south and leave at junction 13 (Edinburgh). At the junction with the A73 keep right on the A702. Lamington is about six miles from the motorway and the car park turn is on your left as you enter the village, just after the 40 mph limit sign.

Walk details: This is a moderate walk on paths and tracks, muddy in places. The longer route adds a short but steep climb over rough moorland. The country is mainly open but with some cover from hedges and small, chiefly conifer, plantations. There are free public toilets at the Abington services and (paying) by the old town hall in the centre of Biggar.

There is a steady gentle climb for about a mile from the car park to Cowgill Loch. At this point there is an optional diversion over rough moorland to the summit of Lamington Hill (492 m), with fine views from the top in good weather towards Biggar and the Clyde valley. The route continues along a well-defined but often muddy track through a pretty glen, around Cowgill Lower Reservoir to the dam at the head of Cowgill Upper Reservoir. There are no convenient paths or tracks around the Upper Reservoir. We return largely along the same route.

Malcolm Merrick

Wednesday, 18th July 2012

Innerdownie, White Wisp, Tarmangie

OS Maps: OS Landranger; Sheet **58**; Harvey- Ochil Hill

Grid Ref: NN 972 052

Meeting Point: Glensherup Car Park to start the walk

Walking distance: Approximately 13 Km

Duration: 4.5 hours

Driving time: One hour from Barnton

Driving directions: Drive north up the M90 to Exit 6 signed Kinross. Head west for 1.5 miles on the A977 and take the right fork and join the A91 in two miles. Drive west to Yetts of Muckhart. Join the A823 [a very complicated corner] and head north for six miles to the TORMAUKIN HOTEL on your right where coffee is available. Glensherup Car Park is two miles beyond the hotel, on the left.

Walk details: The first section of the walk, to Innerdownie [610 m], is a steady uphill pull, initially on forestry roads and then onto grassy paths after a short muddy section. The three tops are on grass paths along a ridge. We then contour round on the paths to the north side of Glen Sherup and can return via Ben Shee, if it's a nice day, or through the woods to Glenquey reservoir.

Donald Macleod

Thursday 16 August 2012

Whitehope Law

OS Maps: OS Explorer Map 337

Grid Ref: NT 336 428

Meeting Point: B709 between Whitehope and Glentress Cottages

Walking distance: Total distance 7 miles (there is a longer option) Ascent about 350 m.

Driving directions: From Edinburgh, take the A7. The road bypasses North Middleton (signed ¼ mile on the left) and then passes between two bus stops. Very soon after this, take the next right B7007 signed Innerleithen (the sign is partly obscured by foliage) and continue south and SSW up and then over the Moorfoot Ridge. Just beyond Garvald, the road is joined on the left by the B709 (NT 355 505). Continue straight on until you pass a low white building labelled *Glentress*. After about ¼ mile more, park on the right hand side of the road: there are two or three narrow metalled patches. (I hope to be there first!)

From Glasgow Drive to Peebles and continue east on the A72 towards Galashiels. In Innerleithen, drive slowly through the town until you pass the Bank of Scotland on the left: at this point there are a number of unhelpful tourist signs and the important sign is utterly obscured by foliage. Turn sharp left here, just *before* the main road takes a slight right bend over an inconspicuous bridge. Drive north up the B709, cross the Leithen Water at the golf course, and continue for about 2.7 miles to see a prominent white bridge on the left and a small group of white houses labelled Whitehope. After another ¼ mile, park on the left hand side of the road.

Walk details: Through a metal gate, cross a field and a footbridge over Glentress Water. A steep zig-zag path ascends 80 metres and then reduces in gradient towards the peak of Winside Hill (434 m). A gentle ascent leads to the peak of Whitehope Law (623 m) which on good days gives excellent views of the surrounding hills. We then descend to the west, into Leithenwater forest, by Williamslee Burn, Leithen Water, and past Whitehope back to the B709.

The first part of the walk is steep: the rest is not so bad! Boots are needed and poles will help. there is no reception in the Leithen Water valley for at least two networks.

Tuesday 11 September 2012

Glen Finglas and Loch Venachar

OS Maps: Landranger 57 - Stirling and the Trossachs

(The good well-marked paths we use are recent and do not appear on this map).

Grid Ref: NN 551 063

Meeting Point: Little Drum Car Park on the A821 overlooking Loch Venachar just before Lendrick Steading.

Walking distance: Approximately six miles; ascent 200 metres.

Driving directions

To Callander by preferred route (via M9 to Stirling from Edinburgh.) Through Callander then A84 towards Strathyre. Left at Kilmahog onto A821 "Trossachs Road" signposted *Aberfoyle*. After two to three miles you pass the Harbour Café and Boat Hire on the left. Little Drum Car Park is approximately one mile further, on the left. There are three car parking spots on the loch-side before Little Drum which is clearly marked and is free. It takes about one hour and 15 minutes from the Newbridge Roundabout (start of M9) to the car park, so leaving after 9.00 am should be possible for those coming from Edinburgh.

Walk details: The walk is largely in the policies of the Woodland Trust Scotland which is conserving the area. The walk is on well-made paths apart from a short distance uphill on the access road to Glen Finglas reservoir. After walking along the side of Loch Venachar to Brig o' Turk, we join the access road for the short uphill section. We can make a short detour to view the dam and visit the spot where Millais painted his famous portrait of John Ruskin viewing "nature" from a rock in the Finglas Burn (shortly after completing the portrait, Millais eloped with Ruskin's wife - Effie - to the satisfaction of all concerned!) From the reservoir we take an undulating path traversing the hillside eastwards and then descend back to the car park.

Michael Sudlow

Wednesday 10 October 2012

Capelaw and Allermuir hills

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 344 - Pentland Hills, Penicuik and West Linton (some paths not shown)

Grid Ref: NT 212 675

Meeting Point Bonaly Country Park Car Park, on the left at the end of Bonaly Road (narrow - drive with care! The nearest WCs are at Colinton Shops, on the north side of the junction of Bridge Road in Colinton)

Walking Distance: About six miles; overall ascent about 350m, time about 334-4 hours

Directions: To Colinton, in south-west Edinburgh, preferably approaching from the City down Colinton Road, then its continuation Bridge Street, and forking left at the shops up Woodhall Road. Take the second road on the left (Bonaly Road) and continue to its termination at the car park - about 20 minutes from the West End of Edinburgh.

The walk is in the Bonaly Country and the Pentland Hills Regional Parks. It starts up the made-up track walk, ascending to Bonaly Reservoir, then if dry, west along the north shore of the reservoir, and then south-east, on emerging from the trees, following the plantation to a gate. We then skirt the north-west side of Capelaw Hill, and (just short of the col, and of a Pentlands Paths green marker post) turn east up a well-marked track which wends its way east to a false summit and then north-east to the true summit (marked by a double metal post) at 454m. It then continues winding down to the col between Capelaw and Allermuir Hills (crossing a style or a gate, and then a made-up track) and ascends to the trig point at Allermuir Hill summit (493m). On a fine day, the views are spectacular from both! We re-trace our steps down to the col and style/gate, and skirt Capelaw north and then west to Bonaly Reservoir, and then re-trace the track down to the car park. All paths are sound underfoot, and of mild-to-moderate severity, wet only in places. Sticks are advised, but not essential. It can be very windy on the tops!

Neil Davidson

Thursday November 8 2012

Corstorphine hill and Cammo estate

Meeting Place: At gate on Corstorphine Road, opposite the top of Balgreen Road.

Buses from town: Numbers 12, 26, 31

Buses back to town from Cramond Brig: Numbers 41 and 43

Walk details: We cross Corstorphine Hill to Queensferry Road, then take a woodland path to Barnton. After a picnic stop at house/garden in Braehead Road, we will walk a circuit of Cammo Estate, then take a path down river to the Cramond Brig Inn for the AGM.

Eiona Conacher

Tuesday 26 March 2013

Gladhouse Reservoir and the Moorfoot Hills

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 73

Grid Ref: NT 292 528

Meeting Place: South Tip of Gladhouse Reservoir

Walking distance: 12 – 14 km

Duration: Approximately 4 to 5 hours including stops

Driving time: Approximately 30 minutes from Hillend. Please try to arrange car sharing as parking is not unlimited.

Driving directions: From Hillend drive towards Peebles on the A703/A701. At the Leadburn Junction continue on A 701 towards Peebles. After about 4 km take a sharp left turn at Waterheads. There are two sharp bends uphill at the start then a reasonably straight minor road for approximately 4 km. Turn right on a narrow but tarmac lane and continue for 1 to 2 km to the south end of Gladhouse where there is off- road parking for 5 or 6 cars facing the loch.

Walk details: From the car park we follow the course of the River South Esk into the hills. Close to the head of the glen we ascend to a boundary fence along the ridge of the Moorfoots. We continue on the ridge to Torfichen Hill from where it is possible to descend on a good path west towards Gladhouse reservoir and back to the car park. Total ascent approximately 350 metres.

In adverse weather conditions there is a shorter low level walk available - around Gladhouse - on tracks and quiet lanes.

Mike Sudlow

Probably April or May 2013

Roman road from West Linton to Garvald, back by Nether Cairn.

OS Maps: Explorer sheet 344

Grid Ref: NT 142 523

Meeting Place: Near (but not in) golf club entrance. Space is not copious!

Walking distance: 14 km: gentle going, total ascent 110 m.

Duration: Approximately 4.5 hours including stops

Driving time: Approximately 20 minutes from Hillend. Car sharing advisable as parking is not unlimited.

Driving directions: From Hillend, drive south towards Biggar on the A702. In West Linton, having passed the Gordon Arms on the left, cross the bridge and immediately take a right turn : two road ends are facing , take the left one (Medwyn Road) and drive about 0.5 m to see the Golf club signed as a left turn. Park before or after the opening of the golf club road which opens to the right.

Walk details: Past some transplanted Bronze age burial chambers, to the Roman Road built by Agricola's forces in ~AD80. We cross a restored bridge over West water, and pass restored buildings at Hardgatehead, leaving Mendick Hill to the right. After Ingraston Farm we come to Sandy Hill, then a riding school, to meet up with the road via a narrow path between the houses lining the road. Turn right, and after a short tramp along the road we turn right onto the Garvald road, which leads to Garvald and then Medwynbank. A short climb alongside a narrow V shaped valley leads to the Nether Cairn, then North Slipperfield farm, and the road though the golf course back to the cars.

Facilities: There is a single person toilet in a narrow road to the South East of the Monumental column in the main street of West Linton. The Olde Toll Tea House a little further on near the church has tasty homemade cakes but only limited seating accommodation

Gordon Drummond

Tuesday 18 June 2013

Lammer Law

Explorer Sheet 345

Total distance approximately 12 km, about 4 hours.

Start from Tollishill - NT 518 580

Journey: from the Edinburgh bypass (Sheriffhall) about 21 miles (40 minutes) to Tollishill

Take the Edinburgh Bypass (A720) East then A68 south. After the long descent from Soutra Hill, turn left at roundabout onto A697 - signposted Coldstream. The Carfraemill Hotel is immediately on the left. They serve coffee etc, and provide the last toilet stop! Skirt round the far side of the hotel taking a single track road to the left, signposted Tollishill. After ½ mile there is a sign for Hillhouse but keep right at this fork. After another 1 ¼ miles the road becomes unfenced. Turn left here, ignoring an unmade track up to the right. After a further ½ mile turn sharp right up a metalled single track road climbing steeply. The track ends in a small parking area just past a white house (Tollishill Farm).

The walk starts on the ancient Haddington to Lauder Way which is a wide bridle path with gentle gradients across open moorland. After 4½ km there is an excellent panoramic view over East Lothian and the Firth of Forth. At this point we turn off for 200 m up a rough path (not steep) through the heather to the top of Lammer Law (527 m). If the weather is good we could have lunch at the top. Those who want an easier walk can return by the same route; otherwise we cut across open moor descending gradually into the Kelphope Valley. This part is on a rough grassy path through heather and could become muddy. Boots essential. We then follow a bridle path along the valley and back up to Tollishill Farm.

Roger Kellett

July 2013

Innerdownie /Glen Sherrup (Ochils)

OS Maps: OS Landranger; Sheet 58; Harvey – Ochil Hill

Grid Ref: NN 972 052

Meeting Point: Glensherup Car Park to start the walk

Walking distance: Approximately 13 Km

Duration: 4.5 hours

Driving time: One hour from Barnton

Driving directions: Drive north up the M90 to Exit 6 signed Kinross. Head west for 1.5 miles on the A977 and take the sharp right fork and join the A91 in two miles. Drive west to Yetts of Muckhart. Join the A823 [a very complicated corner] and head north for six miles. Pass the TORMAUKIN HOTEL on your right Glensherup Car Park is two miles beyond the hotel, on the left.

Walk details: The first section of the walk, to Innerdownie [610m] is a steady pull uphill, initially on forestry roads and then onto grass paths after a short muddy section. The three tops are on grass paths along a ridge which can be very windy. We then contour round the north side of Glen Sherup, with more muddy stretches, and return via the Glensherup reservoir. A shorter alternative is available retracing a short section of the first stretch of grass path and then returning via the Glenquey Hill paths. The last section of this path can be very muddy.

Donald MacLeod

August 2013

Tweedsmuir, Upper Tweed valley

OS Maps: OS Landranger; Sheet 52; Upper Clyde Valley

Grid Ref: NT 1126

Meeting Place: The Crook Inn car park

Walking distance: Approximately 10 Km

Duration: Approximately four hours

Driving time: 45 minutes from ring road

Driving directions: Take the A701 south from the ring road. You may prefer to take the B7026 via Auchendinny and Howgate, re-joining the A701 at Leadburn.

Tweedsmuir is eight miles south of Broughton. The Crook Inn is in the right.

Plenty of car parking space. (Unfortunately it is not open for refreshments or conveniences – yet).

Walk details: The walk will start on the A701 for about ¼ mile to Hearthstanes, then cross River Tweed. The walk is largely by farm or forest tracks, winding up the Hearthstanes valley along a route to Broadlaw, then turning left off that track through Glenheurie Rig. It continues at the edge of the forest on the slopes of Great Knock and Little Knock. There are good views up the Tweedsmuir valley. The route will then leave these tracks to descend quite steeply over somewhat rough ground to Polmood valley. Sticks may be helpful in the descent. The walk then continues on tracks to Polmood, crosses the A701 and completes the walk to the Crook Inn along a short section of the old Talla railway line.

You are welcome to refreshments after at Oliver House in Tweedsmuir and there is a good Laurelbank Tearoom in Broughton en route back to Edinburgh

Duncan Davidson

Tuesday 10th September 2013

Heriot and the Borders Rail Link

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 345; Landranger Sheet 73

Grid Ref: NT 394528

Meeting Place: The Macfie Hall, Heriot

Walking distance: approximately 8 to 9 miles

Duration: 4 hours

Driving time: 30 minutes from Edinburgh City Bypass

Driving directions: From Edinburgh take the A7 towards Galashiels.

Approximately twelve miles from the bypass turn right on to the B709 signed to Heriot (there is little warning of this junction). Follow the road for about 1.5 miles. The Macfie Hall is on the left behind a stand of trees and just before the main part of the village. The entrance is just beyond a slight curve in the road and is easily missed. The toilets in the Hall will be available in the morning.

Walk details: This is a moderate walk mainly on farm tracks, and could be muddy in places. Apart from a short fairly steep section at the start and a short fairly steep descent near the end, the terrain is undulating rather than hilly. The route takes us over farmland heavily stocked with sheep and cattle. Some of the herds included a bull, but all were placid. The mid-section runs parallel to and has a good view over the construction work on the Borders Rail Link. This part of the walk is unavoidably on an un-numbered minor road. The rest is on farm tracks and farm roads with many good views.

Malcolm Merrick

Wednesday 9 October 2013

Limekilns and Broomhall Estate in Fife

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 65 – Falkirk & Linlithgow - Dunfermline

Grid Ref: NT 075834

Meeting Place: Car park by the old pier in Limekilns

Walking distance: Approximately five miles

Duration: Approximately three hours

Driving time: Approximately 40 minutes (from Edinburgh)

Driving directions: From Edinburgh, cross the Forth Bridge on the A90. Then take the first exit A985 west through Rosyth for about two miles. Take left turn, Dunfermline Road, to Limekilns. After half a mile, turn right at the promenade for a quarter of a mile, to the Car Park on the left at the old pier

Walk details: This is an easy autumn stroll on tracks and minor roads with negligible gain in height; initially east along the sea front from the pier, then skirting Limekilns on the Windy Law Heritage Path through the countryside via Douglas Bank cemetery and Bellknowes to the Broomhall Estate. Passing Broomhall House, there are views over the Forth from the adjacent escarpment. Leaving Broomhall Estate we return to the coast road west of Limekilns and thence back to the Car Park.

Roger Wild

Thursday 27 March 2014

South-East Edinburgh to Fisherrow Harbour

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 350

Meeting Place: Outside the Commonwealth Pool on Dalkeith Road

Walking distance: 9 miles but walkers can leave at 5 or 7 miles to return early by bus. Ascent negligible.

Duration: Approximately 4-4½ hours including stops

Driving time: No suitable parking is available. Those driving from outwith Edinburgh could use the park and ride at Newcraighall (50p per day) and take the no. 30 bus to the Commonwealth Pool. Buses every 12 minutes; 15 minute journey.

The Commonwealth Pool is served by the following buses 2, 14, 30, 33, and 86. At the end of the walk we can return to the Commonwealth Pool or Newcraighall Park and Ride by the 30 bus.

Walk details: We walk into Holyrood Park and join the Innocent Railway path. We follow this and then the Niddrie Burn and Brunstane Burn. Just before Eastfield we cut through the grounds of New Hailes house and cross Newcraighall Road (possible to finish here) and follow the path to Queen Margaret University. From here we follow the railway and then the River Esk Walkway to the outskirts of Musselburgh (another possible finish) where we walk along the bank of the Esk to its mouth then the promenade to Fisherrow Harbour. Most of this walk is on Tar Mac footpaths away from main roads although we do have to cross roads at several points. One patch could be very muddy in which case we can divert for 200 yards through a housing estate.

Facilities: Toilets and snackbar at Commonwealth Pool and New Hailes House.

Roger Kellett

Wednesday 23 April 2014

Minchmoor

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet – 73

Explorer Sheet -337

Grid Ref: NT 331 345

Meeting Place: In the car park at Traquair village hall (NT 331345). This is just off the B 709 about 2 Km south of Innerleithen.

Walking distance: About 11 Km (7 miles)

Duration: About four hours

Driving time: Traquair is 30 miles from Edinburgh city centre. Drive to Peebles then East on the A72 to Innerleithen where you turn South on to the B709 signposted to Traquair. At the Traquair crossroads turn left at the Southern Upland Way sign and the village hall is almost immediately on your left.

Walk details: The walk begins on the SUW and there is quite a stiff pull up for about 2½ Km but after that the gradient is easier as it takes a zigzag track shared with mountain bikes through a mixture of forest and open hillside. The summit of Minchmoor is reached after 400 m ascent at about 5 Km. From here there are extensive views of the hills in all directions including The Cheviot (56 Km). The return route is by the SUW at first but then by a pleasant detour by the valley of the Fingland Burn. Mostly firm surfaces but with some muddy patches.

Facilities: Several tea shop options in Innerleithen and Peebles.

Bruce Ogilvie

Tuesday 20th May 2014

North Eildon Hill and the South Bank of the Tweed

OS Maps: Explorer sheet 338 Grid Ref: NT 547 339

Meeting Place: The car park outside the old Railway Station, Melrose, at
10:30, 20th May

Space is not copious!

Walking distance: 9.7 km: an initial climb of 465m, steps moderating to a steep path, getting easier as we go, but also a steepish descent. It always seems to be muddy. Sticks are helpful. There is also a bit with nettles! If the hill looks too daunting for some, there is a convenient rendezvous and car park where we could join up at 12:00 before we start the river walk, see below.

Duration: Approximately 3.5 hours including stops.

Driving time: Approximately 45 minutes from Edinburgh. Car sharing advisable as parking is not unlimited.

Driving directions: Drive S down the A68, through Earlston, and after another 3m, at the roundabout at Old Melrose Lodge, take the second exit, A6091 for Melrose. After 1.5m, turn right "Melrose local services". At the Market Square (stone monument) turn sharp left and then immediately right up the hill to park outside the Station which is now an Italian restaurant and nursery.

Walk details: We walk south up the B6359 to join St Cuthbert's way which passes between two houses, and then up a long flight of steps (the steepest part of the ascent!) and then a progressively easier path to the col between the Mid and North Hills, turning NE to the Roman Signal Station on North Hill. Descending to the E, we cross the cemetery road and take a broad track to the subway under the A6091, pass through the edge of Newstead, to take the path along the Tweed as far as the Chain Suspension Bridge with a short walk through Melrose back to the Station.

If any members wish to meet the Hill party's descent, then just before the turn into Melrose, turn left off A6091 "crematorium and cemetery" and drive just past "Oakendean House" where there is parking, just before the road is blocked.

Facilities: There are toilets in Abbey Road which goes N from the Market Place.

There are several smallish cafes in Melrose that may be roomy enough on a weekday!

Gordon Drummond

Thursday 26th June 2014

Dunslair Heights, Peebles

OS Maps: 'Tweed Valley' OS Outdoor Leisure No 44

or 'Peebles & Innerleithen' Explorer Sheet No 337 Map Ref - NT 253 409

Meeting Place: We meet at the foot of Venlaw Hill Road under a big sign 'VENLAW', up a slight rise, just off the east (left) side of the Edinburgh Road on entering Peebles from the north. The Honda Showroom is opposite, on the west (right) side of Edinburgh Road.

Travel by car: Take the A703 south out of Edinburgh, about 50 minutes to Peebles. The big, 'Pay & Display' Eastgate Car Park, with public toilets, to the west (right side) of the Edinburgh Road, entering Peebles from the north, may be congested because of the Thursday market. Small side streets south of the Honda Showroom can offer a limited amount of parking. Car sharing is advised.

Travel by First Bus X62: A limited stop bus leaves Waterloo Place (Stop ZH) at 08.50 am, Salisbury Place (09.05 am) and Nether Liberton, after Lady Road, (09.16 am) etc. It arrives at Peebles at 10.01 am. Request the bus to stop just beyond the Renault and Honda Showrooms at 'March Street opp'. Then walk back 150m on the same side of the road to our meeting place. Always check bus times.

The Walk: The Club climbed this hill in 2006 when we were eight years younger! It is strenuous (8.7 miles, 14 Km) with a total ascent of about 1440 ft (440 m) taking 4-5 hours. It is mainly on un-metalled roads, tracks through deciduous and coniferous woods, and with one steep grassy descent. Leki poles are advised as there may be slippery mud and grass. We climb up the NW side of Venlaw Hill, and then descend to Shieldgreen Centre. A very long steep ascent (Tower Rig) next takes us up through pine woods. We then turn SE up to the communications mast on Dunslair Heights, 1968 ft (600 m), Map Ref NT 287 436. Next, a long welcome descent beckons. We can *either* go down to the road which takes us past the Holiday Village to the A 72, Peebles-Innerleithen Road near the Hydro, *or* we can descend further to cross the bridge over the Soonhope Burn and, after a very short but steep ascent, gain the road taking us back to our starting point.

Jim Gray

Wednesday 23rd July

Dollar, Innerdownie & Glen Quey

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 366; Landranger Sheet 58

Grid Ref: NS963994

Meeting Place: Castle Campbell upper car park

Walking distance: approximately 11 miles with a total ascent of 1400 ft

Duration: 5 hours (excluding stops)

Driving time: 60 minutes from Barnton junction

Driving directions: Leave M90 at junction 4 and follow B914 through Saline, where it becomes the B915. At junction with A91 in Dollar turn right, then take 4th left (East Burnside) and follow signs to Castle Campbell. There is also a lower car park on the right. *The road from the lower to the upper car park is badly pot-holed.*

Walk details: This is a fairly demanding walk on good paths but with some muddy patches. From the car park we ascend 400 ft in about 1.5 miles to the saddle between Hillfoot and Saddle Hills to enter Forestry Trust land, then descend towards the Glenquey reservoir, before tuning south west on to a Forestry Trust path which is not on the OS maps. (At this point there is a low level alternative to Burnfoot and Glen Devon.) The FT path is a grassy track through young deciduous woodland which climbs 1000 ft over about 2 miles before following the ridge of Innerdownie. There is a fairly steep descent towards Burnfoot until we meet the Three Reservoirs track, when we turn right on a fairly level or downhill route leading eventually back to the car park.

Malcolm Merrick

Tuesday 12 August 2014

Wanlockhead, Lowther Hills

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 329 - Landranger Sheet - 71

Meeting Place: Car Park, Wanlockhead Village

Walking distance: 8 Miles (about 4 - 5 hours)

Journey time: One hour from Fairmilehead. Take A702 via Biggar to Abington, then B797 over the A74(M) via Leadhills to Wanlockhead. The large car park is adjacent to the Mining Museum in the centre of the village, where toilets open 24hrs a day are sited adjacent to a café. This café opens at 11.00 am, but I have arranged a 10.00 am opening for our group.

Walk details: This is a walk on undulating terrain taking in a loop of the Southern Upland Way in a clockwise direction, giving fine hill and moorland views of Conrig Hill and the distant Lowther peaks. It begins at Meadowfoot, about one mile's drive from our meeting place. Those wishing a shorter walk can re-trace their steps, possibly from the ruined building at Cogshead and return to the café and have refreshments there, or at the fine Wanlockhead Inn nearby whilst awaiting the return of the full circuit walkers for a visit to the Lead Mining Museum - which is well worth a visit for those of us who still have the energy!

Richard Denison

Thursday 11 September 2014

Lomond Hills Fife

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet – 59 or Explorer Map 370 - Glenrothes

Meeting Place: Craigmead car park (off minor road between Leslie and Falkland)

Walking distance: Approximately 13 km (plus 2 if we include East Lomond)

Journey time: One hour from Barnton roundabout.

Driving directions: Take A90 and then M90 across the Forth. Leave the M90 at Junction 2A to join the A92 to Glenrothes. On entering Glenrothes on the dual carriageway take the left exit at a roundabout to join the A911 towards Leslie. Go straight ahead at the several roundabouts through Glenrothes. Shortly after entering Leslie (approx 100 yards past the Town sign there is a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights. In a further 100 yards turn right down a narrow lane which is not marked by any road sign, (however on the side of the stone building at the turnoff there is a brown sign indicating Lomond Hills and Falkland.) This road winds uphill to reach the Craigmead car park on your left (4 to 5 km from Leslie). The entrance is just before the road descends steeply to Falkland. There is a brown signpost just beyond the entrance. The large car park is well maintained and has toilets and picnic tables.

Walk details: This is a walk on good paths and tracks with a short distance on a quiet country road. There is a steep descent from the summit of West Lomond for a short distance and a short rough and possibly muddy section towards the end. The walk is approx 13 km with a height gain of around 300 m.

From the car park we first ascend West Lomond - good path with gradual ascent apart from a very short final stretch to the summit (total "up" 200 m.) We then descend steeply to Glen Vale before a circuit of the three reservoirs on level or downhill paths. There is a final ascent back to the road leading back to the car park (100 m)

If there is time and you so wish, we can ascend East Lomond on the return limb of the walk. This will add 2 -3 km and a further climb of 100 m.

Mike Sudlow

Tuesday 14 October 2014

East Linton to Dunbar

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 67

Meeting Place: East Linton

Walking distance: 6 or 7 miles

Duration: 3 – 4 hours

Journey time: Half an hour from the Sheriffhall roundabout at the east end of the Edinburgh By-pass. Continue East along the by-pass to take the A1 South for Berwick. Leave A1 at Haddington, taking A199 to East Linton. Take B1377 into East Linton. Do not go into village. After going under the railway bridge, turn right past the Linton Arms Hotel on left. Sharp right on to the bridge over the River Tyne and there is parking 100 yards on the right.

Walk details: John Muir was born in Dunbar in 1838 and emigrated to America with his family at the age of 11. A devoted naturalist, he persuaded President Theodore Roosevelt to establish America's first National Park in Yosemite in 1903. He died on Christmas Eve 1914. I thought it would be fitting to celebrate this centenary by walking a short attractive section of the John Muir Way following the River Tyne from East Linton to its estuary near Dunbar. This is an easy, low level, autumn stroll, initially through agricultural scenery and thence to the coast via sand and mud flats. There is a regular bus service for our return to East Linton, either from Belhaven [6 miles] or from Dunbar main street [7 miles].

Roger Wild

Thursday 6 November 2014

Cockleroy, Torphichen and Beecraigs

OS Maps: Landranger 65

Grid Ref: NT006 746

Meeting Place: Cockleroy Car Park, Beecraigs Country Park, by Linlithgow

Journey Details: Leave the M9 from Edinburgh at Junction 3 towards Linlithgow. Turn right at the mini roundabout at the Star and Garter Hotel and go along the High Street for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Look out for a sign to "Linlithgow Academy, Donaldson's School and Beecraigs Country Park" on a lamp-post outside the Black Bitch Inn on your right. Turn left up the road opposite; proceed out of town and up the hill. Near the top, pass the two signs pointing left to Beecraigs and continue till there are trees on both sides. The sign to Cockleroy Car Park is on your right.

Walk Details: We start with a moderately steep walk up Cockleroy Hill, return down and then go for a gentle walk past Kipps and Lochcote to Torphichen where we can lunch at the Prefectory. We then walk back via a lovely country road, visiting the Korean War Memorial en route to Beecraigs.

John Hunter

Tuesday 24 March 2015

Granton, Cramond and Cammo

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 66

Meeting Place: Junction of Craigleith Crescent with Ravelston Dykes

Walking distance: 9 km plus optional extensions

Driving directions: This walk involves the use of the Lothian 38 Bus to get to the start at Granton. The return is again by bus along the Queensferry Road.

Craigleith Crescent connects Ravelston Dykes to Queensferry Road. I suggest we take the 38 bus from the stop on Craigleith Crescent, 40 to 50 metres past the junction with Ravelston Dykes and opposite the entrance to Craigleith View. There is good, free, on street parking close to the bus stop on both sides of Craigleith Crescent. We should take the bus timed to leave the stop at 10.11. Please allow time to put on boots etc to be ready to board the bus. It is about 20 minutes to Granton from the stop. If you wish to take a different route please contact me in advance as meeting up will be difficult.

Walk details: We start the walk close to the Granton Gasholder (now a listed building, I believe). We walk down to the foreshore past Caroline House and join the path along the Forth to Cramond. If the tides are favourable and the causeway clear we can make a detour to visit the island which is accessible on foot at certain times (it is approx one mile each way). We then follow the path up the river Almond to Cramond Brig and beyond towards the Airport. We can enter Cammo Estate by a side entrance and visit the old water tower and adjacent hill (more an artificial mound!). We then return to Barnton junction and either proceed on foot via Barnton Park and Corstorphine Hill to our starting point, or take the bus along the Queensferry Road to Blackhall/Craigleith.

Michael Sudlow

Wednesday 15th April 2015

Portmore Loch and Dundreich Hill

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 73; Outdoor Leisure Map 44

Meeting Place: The walk will start from the quiet lane parallel to the A703, at the Scots Pine Restaurant, half a mile north of Eddleston on the Edinburgh to Peebles road. The restaurant normally opens at 10.30am

Walking distance: Approximately 11 km

Duration: Approximately four to four and a half hours

Driving time: Approximately 30 minutes from the bypass at Hillend. The Scots Pine Tearoom and Restaurant is just off the main road between Peebles and Edinburgh on the A703.

Walk details/Route: The walk covers approximately 11 km through the lovely grounds of Portmore House and circling Portmore Loch before a relatively short but steep climb up a grassy slope to Dundreich Hill – the highest hill in the Moorfoot Hills at 622 m. This climb is the only section of the walk not on paths. The views from the top on a clear day are stunning with exception of a windfarm to the south south-east. I estimate the walk will take 4 to 4½ hours.

The walk is very flexible with an easier option by going through the grounds of Portmore House and round the Loch before avoiding the hill and returning to the cars by a low level route, saving approximately 1 to 1½ hours. The paths can be muddy underfoot in some relatively short sections.

Donald Macleod

Tuesday 23 June 2015

Bracklinn Falls and Callander Craig

Starts in Callander.

On entering Callander take a right turn signposted to Bracklinn Falls. The turning is opposite the entrance to The Roman Camp Hotel on the left. (If you reach the junction with the A81 -- a left turn signed to Glasgow, you have gone too far along the main street of Callander!

From the right turn continue up the hill following signs to Bracklinn Falls or Callander Golf Course. After a few hundred yards you see the entrance to the Golf Club straight ahead. The road swings left and then almost immediately right and continues up hill. You pass a car park on the left as you continue uphill; after another 200 yards you see a car park on the right. There is a sign pointing to the falls along a level track just –below the car park. There is space for a number of cars but if it is full you can use the lower car park which you passed

Walk details: From the car park we follow the track to the Bracklinn Falls by a new bridge and head upstream on a good path. We cross the river by a farm bridge and head back on a narrow road with Callander Craig - a rocky outcrop above the town - on our right. We ascend on a narrow path stony in places to the summit. We descend steeply at first through pleasant woodlands and back briefly uphill on the road to the car park.

Mike Sudlow

Wednesday 15th July 2015

Stobo and Manor Valley

OS Maps: Explorer 336

Grid Ref: NT 18270 37854 (X 318270 – Y 637854)

Meeting Place: Entrance to Easter Dawyck Farm, Stobo

Walking distance: Approx 8 Km (with 270m ascent)

Duration: Approximately four hours

Driving time: Approximately 50 minutes from the A701 on the A720 city bypass

Driving directions: Route 1: Take the A701 from the A720 city bypass south to Broughton. After going through Broughton, turn left onto the B712 to Stobo. The rusty sign to Easter Dawyck is on the right after a very straight road. Turn right and there is parking soon after turning.

Route 2: Alternatively, take the A702 south from the A720 city bypass. At West Linton, turn left through the village onto the B7059 to link with the A701 going south. At Romanno Bridge turn left on the B7509 (signposted Peebles/A72), then left onto the A72, then right over a bridge onto the B712 to Stobo. About 200 yards after a sign to Stobo Kirk there is a rusty sign on the left to 'Easter Dawyck'. There is hard standing parking soon after the turnoff to the left.

Walk details: The walk starts along part of the John Buchan way, and is a steady uphill walk from Stobo with views of the valley, then down to the Manor Valley at a group of farm buildings, the Glack. We will turn right up the valley along the quiet main road for about 1½ miles, then right through a forest walk at Hall Manor. This is another steady climb between Whitestone Hill and Hunt Law. Finally, then there is light as we emerge to look down to the Stobo valley again, passing the site of the 'Dead Wife's Grave'. A steady descent takes us up back to the valley and a final gentle walk along an abandoned railway line beside the River Tweed to the parked cars.

Duncan Davidson

Thursday 13 August 2015

Tinto Hill, Southern Uplands (Fallburn Car Park)

OS Maps: Landranger 72 (Map of Upper Clyde Valley, Biggar & Lanark)

Grid Ref: NS 965374; nearest postcode ML12 6PD

Meeting Place: Fallburn car park near Thankerton

Walking distance: Walking distance approximately 8 Km (490 M ascent from Wiston)

Duration: Approximately four hours including lunch

Driving time: Allow 40 minutes to reach Biggar from Fairmilehead, where a fine coffee stop at the Gillespie Centre Cafe, 74 High Street [in a prominent church conversion], may be of interest before the final 10 minutes' drive to our meeting point. This is a linear walk.

Driving directions: All cars to meet at the Fallburn car park near Thankerton - (A72 Glasgow road just south of Biggar, under the railway line at Symington before it joins the A73.) Continue to car park 2 Km on left hand side of the road at Fallburn – the disused Tinto Hill Cafe marks its entrance – then half the cars are left there and the others take us all to Wiston – (retrace A73 south for about 7 Km to the B7055 to Wiston. Drive to Wiston Lodge and park the cars at or close to the Primary School layby there).

Walk details: All then walk to Tinto summit with its rewarding panoramic views, using tracks which may be indistinct, steep, and (if rainfall has been recent) muddy. Lunch at the top. Take the easier walk back down to the cars parked at Fallburn, retrieve cars from Wiston, and, if wished, return to the Gillespie Centre as we re-enter Biggar. The walk is less than six miles in total and we should allow four hours including lunch for walking time. Previous refreshment possibilities near our start at Thankerton and Tinto are no longer in business.

Richard Denison

Tuesday 1 September 2015

Cademuir Hill and the Tweed

OS Maps: Landranger 73 (Peebles, Galashiels & Selkirk)

Explorer 337 (Peebles & Innerleithen)

Grid Ref: NT 251402

Meeting Place: Kingsmeadows Car Park, Peebles

Walking distance: 12.5 Km (8 Miles) with ascent of 345 metres

Duration: Four hours walking time

Driving time: Take the A701 from Edinburgh towards Peebles (A703 beyond Leadburn). It is 18 miles from the Edinburgh Bypass to Peebles, and this should take about half an hour

Driving directions: Turn right at the roundabout on entering Peebles and pass West along the High Street. At the far end of the High Street, turn left over the Tweed Bridge, and Kingsmeadows car park is on your left.

Walk details: We walk South through the town and then South West on to Cademuir Hill, following the John Buchan Way at first. There is a moderate pull up to the summit and then along the ridge of the hill (407 M) with extensive views in all directions. There are remains of Iron Age Forts on the top. We then descend steeply to the Manor Water where there is a good location for a lunch stop. We then walk North to Barns Tower (16 century but recently restored) and then return to Peebles by a path alongside the River Tweed, partly on the line of the former Symington – Peebles railway. There is an option for those so minded to walk through the Neidpath Tunnel - otherwise along the river below Neidpath Castle. On return to Peebles there are many options for refreshments.
The whole walk is on decent paths or hard surfaces. If you wish to go through the tunnel please bring a good torch.

Bruce Ogilvie

Thursday 8 October 2015

Garleton Hills, East Lothian

OS Maps: Landranger 66 (Edinburgh, Penicuik and North Berwick)

Grid Ref: NT 535 773

Meeting Place: Main Street and small car park opposite primary school at Athelstaneford. No facilities.

Walking distance: 10 km; height 186 metres

Duration: Three to four hours including lunch

Driving time: Maximum - half hour from Edinburgh Bypass

Driving directions: Take A1 to Haddington. Then A199 for East Linton. After two miles take B1347 (left) for East Fortune. After one mile take B1343 (left) to Athelstaneford.

Walk details: Another gentle autumn stroll in East Lothian, with one or two points of interest. First walk south and then west, climbing gently on farm tracks to vantage point near communications masts on the top of the hill. We pass ruins of Barnes castle and the site of an Iron Age fort on the way. Descend to a road, cross and pass an old quarry. Climb again across fields to the Hopetoun monument on Byres Hill. There are 360° panoramic views from the top of the monument (132 narrow dark steps, not for the faint hearted!), probably a suitable place for lunch. Descend to road and return to Athelstaneford on farm tracks and through woods on Kilduff Hill. The walk finishes at the church, behind which is located the Scottish Flag Heritage Centre which is worth a visit for those who have not already done so. I am told it is open until the end of October.

Roger Wild

Wednesday 11th November 2015

Union Canal, Rough Castle, and the Antonine Wall

OS Maps: Explorer 349 (Map of Falkirk, Cumbernauld and Livingston)

Grid Ref: NS 893796; nearest postcode FK1 1YR

Meeting Place: Callendar Park car park

Walking distance: Approximately 10 Km, with minimal changes in altitude.

Mostly even paths but one or two short possibly muddy stretches.

Duration: Approximately five hours including lunch

Driving time: Allow 30 minutes to reach Callendar Park from the start of the M9.

There are toilets available in the park. Callendar House tearoom opens at 10:00 and welcomes muddy boots.

Driving directions: Take the M9 from Edinburgh to Falkirk. Leave the motorway at Junction 5 and take the left of three lanes and then the first exit (if you were travelling west on the M9) on to the A9 for Falkirk. At the next two roundabouts, take the second exits to stay on the A9. At the third roundabout, take the first exit, B805 to Laurieston. After a short length of dual carriageway, take the third exit at the roundabout, sign-posted for Falkirk, and pass under a railway bridge. At the next roundabout, take the second exit (straight on). There are now several mini roundabouts: continue to the next real roundabout, and take the first exit for Callendar Park, then the second right for the car park.

Walk details: We walk up through Callendar Park and then on a short stretch of road past Falkirk High station, and descend to the Union canal (completed 1822). We cross to the south at the first bridge and wind our way through wooded countryside and scrub-land to enter Rough Castle, a small but well preserved fort on the Antonine wall (completed AD 144). We then traverse the wall to enter Scottish territory, turning east to reach the Falkirk wheel (completed 2002) which forms the junction of the Union Canal with the Forth and Clyde Canal (opened 1790). This is a suitable place for lunch, refreshment, and toilets. We then walk up to the north bank of the canal, and return along the towpath.

Gordon Drummond

2016

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Dalmeny, South Queensferry, Cramond Brig Walk

OS Maps: Landranger map Sheet 65

This is a linear walk from Dalmeny Village to South Queensferry and then along the Forth through the Dalmeny Estate to Cramond Brig and the Cammo Estate.

We will take the Stagecoach 40A bus from Cammo Road, Barnton to Dalmeny where the walk starts.

Walking distance: Approximately seven or eight miles. No significant height gain.

Duration: Approximately five hours depending on stops.

Driving time: All driving within Edinburgh

Driving directions: On-street parking on Cammo Road (close to the Queensferry Road end if possible). Cammo Road is the first left-hand turn off the Queensferry Road beyond the Barnton intersection (junction of Queensferry Road and the Maybury Road). It is a sharp left turn approximately 250 metres beyond the Barnton intersection (formerly "roundabout") just after the Queensferry Road bends to the right (and the traffic begins to accelerate as the 30 mph restriction is about to end). I advise keeping in the inside lane after the intersection. Please bring your bus pass or change for the bus.

Walk details: We will take the 40A Bus from Cammo Road to Dalmeny. The bus stop is 20 to 30 metres past the turn-off to Cammo Road. Walk left at the junction of Cammo Road with Queensferry Road – the stop is obvious.

I hope we will catch the 40A bus which is timed to arrive just after 10.20 am. It is a ten minute journey to Dalmeny. *Do not* take the 40 bus which bypasses Dalmeny on the outward route to South Queensferry.

You can also take the bus from the centre of Edinburgh. It is timed to leave Edinburgh Bus Station at 9.55 am and stops at the West End (Queensferry Street) at 10.07 am. If you wish to take the bus all the way, I would recommend catching an earlier bus and getting off at Cammo Road to join the group before the final leg of the journey.

At Dalmeny we can admire the church which is a fine example of Romanesque architecture. We walk on a disused railway line path to Dalmeny Station and the rail approach to the Forth Bridge. We descend to the main street of South

Queensferry along a path which was once a railway line to the VAT 69 Distillery. I hope we will find somewhere for coffee in Queensferry. From there we follow the riverside path through the Dalmeny Estate to the River Almond and take a quiet estate road to Cramond Brig. If time allows we can walk further up the River Almond and make our way back to the cars via the Cammo Estate.

Mike Sudlow

Thursday 14 April 2016

Cupar, the Moor Road, Hill of Tarvit and Ceres

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 59

Meeting Place: Fluthers Car Park, East Burnside near East Bridge, Cupar

Walking distance: 13 kilometres / 8 miles; ascent 180 metres

Duration: Approximately five hours including stops

Driving time: Approximately one hour and five minutes from Edinburgh

Driving directions: M90 Forth Road Bridge, take exit 2A on to A92 towards Glenrothes. Beyond Glenrothes at the Melville Lodge Roundabout, turn right on to A91 (signposted Cupar/St Andrews). Fluthers Car Park (free, long-stay with toilets) is at the end of the Main Street not far from Cupar Station.

Walk details: This circular walk is on footpaths, farm roads and a short stretch on a minor road. From the Fluthers car park we walk past the railway station and take the road to Ceres. At the edge of town past the golf course we follow the Moor Road on the right towards Ceres. This is a gentle slope but is muddy especially at the top. Before descending to Ceres we turn right at a way marker and follow the path along the edge of the fields to Whitehill Farm from where we descend on the farm road towards Hill of Tarvit Mansion. This National Trust property should be open, including the tea room

From here we climb a short but steep slope to the summit of Hill of Tarvit, descending back to the house and gardens for a picnic lunch. We leave the NTS property by the main gate and follow a farm road down towards Craighrothie, crossing the burn by a packhorse bridge adjacent to the ford. Bearing south east, we follow the old footpath and Waterless Road into Ceres where we re-join the Moor Road back to Cupar. As some sections of the Moor Road are likely to be wet and MUDDY, walking poles may be useful.

Claire Benton

Wednesday 11 May 2016

Abbotsford Circular Trek

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 73 - Map of Peebles, Galashiels & Selkirk

Start Point: Tweedbank Railway Station

The 9.24 am train from Waverley arrives at Tweedbank at 10.21 am. We propose boarding it at Shawfair Station at 9.38 am. The car park is free, is immediately adjacent to the platforms, and tickets can be purchased by a credit card swipe machine on the platform, or on the train from the ticket inspector at no extra cost. Off peak fares apply on this train.

The train is just two carriages but there should be no problem with seats for us all.

Bear in mind there are no toilets at the station, so ensure you are comfortable before leaving the train!

Walking distance: 7+ miles – 150m height gain involved – mostly on waymarked paths and minor roads.

Duration: Approximately four hours including stops

Walk details: The walk is based on the one described by Robin Howie in *The Scotsman* shortly after the opening of the Borders Railway. We will do a circular anti-clockwise route via Abbotsford, Cauldshiels Loch, and Rhymer's Glen. Sturdy footwear and walking poles are recommended, as the section around Cauldshiels is on an indistinct track and could be muddy. A coffee and toilet break will be taken less than two miles into the walk at the Abbotsford Visitor Centre. Part of the day's walk uses the waymarked Borders Abbeys Way. Those wishing a shorter walk can simply return to the railway station after visiting Abbotsford and its grounds. Trains return to Edinburgh every 30 minutes from Tweedbank.

Richard Denison and Tim Hargreave

Thursday 16th June 2016

Glen Ogle Trail

OS Maps: Explorer 365 / OL 46

Meeting Place: _____ NN 593 237 - The walk will start from the public car park in Lochearnhead.

Walking distance: _____ Approximately 10.5 km - Ascent 402 m

Duration: Four hours

Driving time and route: _____ Approximately 1 ¼ hours from the Newbridge roundabout at the start of the M9. Take the M9 towards Stirling and turn onto the A84 westbound and follow this through Callander to Lochearnhead. At the centre of the village turn right onto the A85 signposted Perth. After 200 yards there is a police station and the car park on the left. As you enter the car park, watch out for the free-range hens! There are fairly primitive toilets at the car park. There is a possible coffee stop (Golden Larches) 2 ½ miles before Lochearnhead on the left at Balquhiddier Station.

Walk details/Route: This is a mixed walk. The first section is a 30 minute steep climb on an eroded path through woodland. The path is stony so that boots and poles are advised. We reach the old railway which is now a well-maintained wide track, part of the Carlisle to Inverness cycle track and of the Rob Roy Way. We follow this up Glen Ogle at a hardly discernable gradient for 5km. There are primroses and wild flowers and interesting remains of the railway including an impressive viaduct which we cross. There are views across the valley to Loch Earn, the Ogle Burn and the old viaduct of the railway to St Fillans. As we approach the head of the glen we turn off to follow a track back down the glen, partly at the bottom of the glen and partly through sheep grazing on the eastern slopes. This is mostly flat, through rough grassland and can be very boggy. Again watertight boots and poles are advised. If it is too wet or if preferred, there is always the option of retracing our steps back along the railway. It is worth noting that there is one quite difficult stile on the return through the valley which is effectively a sturdy section of wooden fence to climb.

Roger Kellett

Tuesday 19 July 2016

St Mary's Loch / Riskinhope Hope

OS Maps: Explorer 330 / Landranger maps 73 and 79

Grid Ref: NT242206

Meeting Place: St Mary's Loch Sailing Club Clubhouse

Walking distance: 1. Low Level - 13K; 2. High Level - 10K

Duration: Approximately four hours including stops

Driving time/route: Approximately 1.25 hours from the city bypass via

Auchendinny to Peebles on the A703, turning left at the Peebles roundabout onto the A72 for Innerleithen. In Innerleithen take the first right signposted for Traquair [B709]. Carry on to the Gordon Arms Hotel in approximately 10 miles and turn right onto the Moffat road [A708]. At the west end of St Mary's Loch turn left and just past Tibbie Shiels Hotel [closed], enter the sailing club grounds and park at the clubhouse where toilets and refreshments will be available.

Walk details: There is a choice of two walks, splitting the Senior Fellows into two groups.

1. Low Level - 13Km; No climb; 4 hours. A good track along the south side of St Mary's Loch to Dryhope Tower. Return the same route as a full circuit of the loch involves using a busy roadside verge.
2. A High Level walk is also feasible on the day if the weather is suitable and any of the Senior Fellows are interested. 10Km; total climb 300m; 4 hours. A good path but one boggy section of a couple of hundred metres. Walk to Riskinhope Farm, ascend 200m on a hill path for 2 km to join the Southern Upland Way at 244175. Return via the SUW passing Riskinhope Hope followed by a shorter second climb of 100 m to Earl's Hill.

Points of Interest: The statue of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, looking over the loch; Dryhope Tower on the walk; St Mary's Church Yard on the hillside above the road between Cappercleuch and the Gordon Arms Hotel.

Donald Macleod

Wednesday 17 August 2016

Broughton Heights

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 72 / Explorer Sheet 336

Grid Ref: NT 119374

Meeting Place: Walkers' car park just beyond Broughton Place

Walking distance: 9K

Duration: About four hours including stops

Driving time: Approximately one hour

Driving route: Broughton is 28 miles from the centre of Edinburgh. Take the A701 via Leadburn and Romanno Bridge to Broughton. 50 metres before the Broughton 30 mph sign there is a sign to Broughton Place on the left. Take this narrow road up the hill through a farm steading and past Broughton Place to a walkers' car park (signposted).

Walk details: This is not a long walk but is moderately strenuous with some steep sections although these are not long. There are hard tracks and firm grass with only a few mildly muddy sections. We will climb Broomy Side, Green Law and Pyked Stane Hill (571m), and then Clover Law on the return. There are very good long distance views from the tops to the Pentlands in the North and Broad Law in the South. Total ascent 565m. There is no mobile phone signal at the car park but there is a signal on most of the walk.

There is a good tearoom (Laurel Bank) in the village of Broughton.

Bruce Ogilvie

Thursday 1 September 2016

A Pentland Ramble

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 66

or Harvey Superwalker XT25 - 1:25,000 - Pentland Hills)

Grid Ref: NT166638

Meeting Place: Threipmuir Car Park (Opposite Red Moss Reserve above Balerno)

Walking distance: 11Kms with 300m ascent

Duration: Approximately four hours, not including stop for lunch

Driving time: Approximately 30 mins from Murrayfield/Haymarket

Driving directions: Take the A70 route towards Lanark (the Lang Whang) out of Edinburgh through Juniper Green and then Currie. Leaving Currie there is a sign on the left "Balerno". Half a mile beyond this the road forks at traffic lights. Take the left fork leaving the A70. After 350 yards, take the sharp left turn to bypass the centre of Balerno. You pass Malleny Gardens on the left and continue on the main road uphill into the Pentlands. There are brown road signs indicating Threipmuir. The road narrows and you pass the "Animal Rescue & Rehoming Centre" on the left. Continue uphill, and after the road clears the woodland you reach a T-junction. Go straight ahead ignoring a right turn. The large car park is on the left just before the public road ends.

Walk details: From the carpark we cross the causeway at Threipmuir reservoir and walk up Beech Avenue towards Bavelaw Castle (home of Sir Derrick Dunlop for many years). We follow the track towards Nine Mile Burn until we reach the bealach at the foot of West Kip. There is a short steep climb to the summit (100 m). We follow the main Pentland ridge for less than 1km to East Kip. (From here we have the possibility of ascending Scald Law, adding 2km and 100 m ascent to the walk). From the foot of East Kip we descend on rough paths towards the house at the west end of Loganlea Reservoir. Passing the waterfall on the Logan Burn we walk through the Green Cleuch towards Bavelaw Castle and on to the starting point.

Terrain: Mostly on good paths but can be wet and muddy in places. One steep section to the West Kip Summit of less than 0.5 km. Boots advised.

Mike Sudlow

[List of walks](#)

Thursday 13 October 2016

Pressmennan Wood Walk, East Lothian

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 351; Landranger Sheet 67

Grid Ref: NT 624 726

Driving time: Allow 45 minutes from Sheriffhall Roundabout on the Edinburgh Bypass

Driving directions: Take Bypass to A1 and A1 south to Dunbar roundabout at the end of the dual carriageway. Take third exit B6370 to Stenton and then follow sign for Pressmennan Wood (left turn off the B6370 in Stenton – Stenton Loan). After one mile, take signed left turn along ½ mile of track to the car park. Plenty of room to park but no facilities.

Meeting Place: Pressmennan Wood car park

Walking length: Approximately 5K (2-2½ hours including lunch-break) on good but muddy tracks.

Walk details: A short autumn stroll in colourful, largely deciduous woodland which should be fine even if the weather proves inclement.

Roger Wild

Wednesday 2nd November 2016

Janet's Brae, Glentress and Eshiels Woodland walk

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 73

Grid Ref: NT 251401

Driving time: Allow 50 minutes from A701 from the Edinburgh City Bypass

Driving directions: Heading south from the City Bypass, follow the A701 (Straiton Road) out of Edinburgh. At the Gowkley Moss Roundabout, take the 2nd exit and stay on the A701. After 0.4 miles, bear left onto The Brae/B7026. Carry on for about three miles to a roundabout, and continue straight onto the A6094. After another 1.9 miles, turn left onto the A703 to Peebles. In Peebles turn right onto the High Street, turn left at the end and cross the bridge over the Tweed, turn left and find the large Kingsmeadow car park on the left.

Meeting Place: Kingsmeadow car park

Walking length: Approximately seven miles (2-2½ hours plus lunch-break) on good tracks

Walk details: The walk starts on a riverside path by playing fields, crosses the A72, and after 150 m, turns left. We soon start up Janet's Brae, walking steadily through woodlands to join a good forest path, passing good views of the Tweed valley and a historic Roundhouse. We will proceed to the Buzzard's Nest Car Park, in the heart of the very macho Glentress mountain biking centre. The route then descends through a woodland path, passing below the Glentress visitor centre to the A72, but only for about 100 m, before walking down to the Eshiels woodland. The path then leads back to Peebles.

Duncan Davidson

Thursday 16 March 2017

Crossing the Forth

Meeting Place The Railbridge Bistro, South Queensferry foreshore for coffee to begin
To get there Park at village foreshore at old ferry terminal near rail bridge, or train
to Dalmeny and take 10 minute stepped footpath to meeting place.

Walk Information fifecoastalpath.co.uk (Official Guide)

OS Maps None necessary

Walking distance 4-10 miles (exit options on walk)

Duration 4-5 hrs including 45 mins for lunch

Walk details

This walk is a leisurely start to our new season. Original plan was to walk to Fife on the new Queensferry Crossing Bridge OR walk on the east walkway on the current Forth Road Bridge and cross to North Queensferry, with sights of interest highlighted on our stroll. At the Ferrybridge Hotel in that village, light lunches may be bought by those preferring not to eat their packed snacks outside on the nearby pier in uncertain weather. From this point, we take the Fife Coastal path, again highlighting points of interest, to Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay, and Aberdour.

Terrain Mostly good tracks. No special footwear.

End of walk exit point Option 1 North Queensferry 4 miles

Option 2 Inverkeithing 6 miles

Option 3 Dalgety Bay 7+ miles

Option 4 Aberdour 10 miles

all these points terminate in rail transfer back to Dalmeny

Richard Denison

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Howe of Fife Walk

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 370 / Landranger Sheet 59

Grid Ref: Car park shown clearly in both OS Maps

Meeting Place: Car Park in Heatherhall Wood, near Ladybank, Fife

Walking distance: About six miles, almost all on nearly level ground

Duration: Approximately five hours, including stops

Driving time: Approximately 35 – 40 minutes from north end of Forth Bridge

Driving directions: Leave the M90 at Junction 2a (signed to Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes) on the A92 and stay on this road till you are north of Freuchie. The road goes straight down a gentle hill then curves to the left before crossing a bridge over the River Eden. Take the left fork onto the B937 just after the bridge, and go along it for about half a mile, then take the first road on the left (signed to Shiells, Dunshalt and Auchtermuchty). The Car Park is 50 – 60 yards on the right in the trees.

Walk details: We walk north through the woods to Giffordtown where we take the Coffin Road to join the B937 for half a mile to reach Birnie and Gaddon Lochs Nature Reserve, which we will go round before lunch. We then walk along a path (which can be muddy and slippery) through some scrubland to a minor road where we turn east until we reach, and cross, the A92. We then walk, mainly through trees, around the edge of Ladybank Golf Course, and make our way back to the car park via the north edge of the town, a path beside Edensmuir Wood and Heatherhall Wood.

John Hunter

Tuesday May 16 2017

Primrose Hill and Loch Katrine

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 57, 1:50,000 (or any walkers' map of the Trossachs)

Start Grid Ref: NN495071

Meeting Place: Loch Katrine Car park (large car park at east end of Loch at jetty/ steamer terminal, with adjacent gift and coffee shops, (and if you are unlucky a welcoming piper!) Note: there is a car parking charge of approximately £5.00

Walking distance: 11Kms with 300m ascent

Duration: Approximately four hours not including a stop for lunch

Driving time: Approximately 1hr 30 mins from Murrayfield/Haymarket

Driving directions: From Edinburgh, join the M9 motorway towards Linlithgow and Falkirk. Continue on the M9 towards Stirling and then Dunblane. Leave the M9 at junction 10 and join the A84 towards Doune and then Callander. Continue on the A84 through the main street of Callander. About a mile after leaving Callander at Kilmahog turn left onto the A821. Pass Loch Venachar on your left and then Loch Achray. At the west end of Loch Achray continue straight ahead for less than a mile to the pier and car park at Loch Katrine. (Do not follow the A821 round the west end of Loch Achray or you will end up at Aberfoyle.)

Walk details: From the carpark we join a private road alongside Loch Katrine with the steamer terminal on our left. We proceed along the north shore of the loch for 2Km and then follow a way-marked path uphill though wooded terrain to a track heading west parallel to the lochside. We follow the waymarks for a mile or two and then descend back to the lochside and return on the private road back to the steamer terminal/carpark. Excellent views of the Trossachs Hills and Ben Lomond on a clear day.

Terrain Mostly on good paths but can be wet and muddy in places. There is one steep uphill section on an uphill track when we leave the private road and a similar steep descent on the way back.

Mike Sudlow

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Tentsmuir Forest, Fife

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 371; Landranger Sheet 59

Meeting Place: Morton Lochs car park

Walking distance: 7.5 miles

Duration: Approximately 4½ hours, including stops

Driving time: Approximately 1 hour 30 mins from Forth Road Bridge

Driving directions: M90 North. About six miles from bridge (just after Amazon warehouse) take A92 towards Glenrothes/Kirkcaldy. Stay on A92 beyond Kirkcaldy. Follow Glenrothes/Tay Bridge signs through several roundabouts until you reach A92/A91 junction. Take A91 (signs for Cupar and St Andrews). Pass through Cupar and then Dairsie. At next roundabout, take A914 to St Michaels. At crossroads go diagonally across onto B945 ("Tayport"). Ignore the first "Tentsmuir Forest" sign and continue for another mile to an unmetalled road on the right (small sign for "Morton Lochs" on the left of the road). Take this road to Morton Lochs car park.

Walk details: See website -

http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/pdf/rec_pdfs/TentsmuirLeaflet.pdf for information and map. From Morton Lochs we shall take the track heading SE to junction 7, then to Junction 6 and East, via Junction 3, to Junction 5. Turn South to ice house and from there divert slightly East onto the beach path and head South to the Tentsmuir car park for lunch stop.

After lunch, we head back North to Junction 2 then North-West, via junctions 8 and 7, retracing the final mile to Morton Lochs.

The total distance (7-8 miles) is longer than most of our walks but there are NO HILLS! All the tracks are firm to hard, other than the beach element which is firm but sandy.

Most of the time we shall be in mature woodland but there is the chance (particularly from the beach) of spotting ospreys, sea-eagles, otters, red squirrels and seals (no guarantees!)

Michael Steel

Wednesday 19 July 2017

King's Seat Hill (648m), from Dollar (Clackmannanshire) Walk

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 366; Landranger Sheet 58

Meeting Place: Lower level Car Park (free) – Dollar Glen

Walking distance: 7.5 miles plus 1,000 feet climb (extended walk possible - 9 miles with optional bus return).

Duration: Approximately 5 hours, including stops

Driving time: Approximately 45 minutes from Forth Road Bridge

Driving directions: M90 North. At Junction 6 (Kinross and Kinross services) proceed west and just after the services make a right turn onto the B918 which after a mile and a half joins the A91. Follow the A91 for approximately 12 miles through Yetts of Muckhart to Dollar. In Dollar follow the Brown signs for Dollar Glen and Castle Campbell. Immediately after the main road crosses Dollar Burn make a right hand turn onto the road that runs uphill alongside Dollar Burn (there is a brown sign for Dollar Glen, Castle Campbell). Drive up alongside Dollar Burn to the T junction at the top and turn right (east) across the bridge and then take the road up to the left and after about 30 metres take a sharp left (easy to miss) following the brown sign Dollar Glen and Castle Campbell. Continue up the narrow road between houses for about 500 metres until the sign for the Car Park on the right. This is the bottom of two Car Parks. Do not drive up past the sign which says "Pedestrians only" to the top car park although you are actually allowed to do so!

Walk details: The main walk is a summer walk up King's Seat Hill 648m. There is a fine view of the Forth Valley from the top. For those who do not wish to climb to the top there is a lesser option of Bank Hill 346m, and for those who wish a longer walk there is the option of descent down to Tillicoultry instead of back to Dollar. There is a wet / poor visibility option of a walk along the bottom of the valley.

The choice of walks depends on the weather and inclination Assuming the weather is good I anticipate most will come on the Option C walk and at the top we can take a vote as to whether anyone wants to continue with Option D.

Option A - short walk; weather good. We will walk down into Dollar Glen and then follow the Burn of Sorrow up to the entrance of Castle Campbell. Entrance to the castle is free for members of the National Trust for Scotland or Historic Scotland (both membership cards work). For those who wish to tour the Castle

there is the opportunity to buy coffee. Please note that although the distance up and down is short (¼ mile) the walk up and down from the Castle is steep both by the road or by the path.

Option B - ascent of Bank Hill 346m and back to Dollar. The path up to Bank Hill is the same as the path up to King's Seat but much shorter (1/4 mile) and half the height of King's Seat.

Option C - Main walk King's Seat 648m; weather good. For those who wish to continue on the main walk we now walk up to the summit of Kings Seat Hill (648 metres). Picnic at a suitable place. We then return the same way back to Castle Campbell. The lower part of the ascent is steep. The first cairn one sees is not the top but is a bit of a surprise. From the car park to the top takes about 2 hours.

Option D - longer (quite a lot longer) walk; weather good. Instead of descending back to Castle Campbell we continue over the top of King's Seat and make a long descent (2 miles) to Tillicoultry. The final part of the descent is spectacular and steep. The descent from the top of King's Seat to Tillicoultry takes about 2 hours. In Tillicoultry there is an option to call a taxi to go back to Dollar (Tilly Taxis 01259 759070 or 07935 988880) four miles approx. Depending on the time of arrival in Tillicoultry another option is to take the 15.21 Bus from Tillicoultry (Dollar Bus Stance, Murray Square) back to Dollar (Bus Pass). Or there is a 4 mile walk back along Glen Devon Way and the Jubilee Way. The complete walk via Tillicoultry without bus or taxi makes a long day out with arrival back at the Car Park at about 16.30 and a total distance of about 10 miles plus steep climbs and descents.

Option E - Bad weather - rain or mist - low level walk. We proceed down from the Car Park down the Burn of Sorrow into Dollar and then walk along the Glen Devon way to Tillicoultry where we can have coffee/sandwich and then back along the Glen Devon way and then taking the Jubilee Way. 3.5 miles each way.

Tim Hargreave

Thursday 24th August 2017

Cloich Hills from Newlands, Romanno Bridge (Scottish Borders) Walk

OS Maps: OS Explorer 336 / Landranger 72 Explorer

Meeting Place: Parking area almost opposite Newlands Kirk

Walking distance: 7 miles /11.3km

Duration: Approximately 4-5 hours, including stops.

Driving time: Approximately 40 minutes from the Edinburgh ring road (A720).

Driving directions: From Edinburgh ring road, take the A701. Approximately 0.4 m after the Gowkley Moss roundabout keep left to take the B7026 through Auchendinny, continue to the Leadburn junction, cross the A703 to continue on the A 701. At Romanno Bridge, turn left on the B7059. After two miles the Newlands Kirk/Church is on the left and the car parking area beyond on the right.

Walk details: This is a circular, largely Tweed Trails way-marked route through Borders Hills, well grazed by sheep. There are fine views down Lyne Valley, then of Broughton Heights, later the Pentland Hills and an interesting hill fort on Whiteside Hill (368m).

[see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49989/whiteside-hill>].

Duncan Davidson

Thursday 14 September 2017

Water of Leith Walkway and Union Canal - Balerno to Fountainbridge

Meeting Place: The Balerno High School bus stop on Bridge Street, Balerno. This is a one-way walk so you are advised to arrive by bus. Take Lothian bus 44 from Princes Street or Haymarket (Dalry Road). The meeting place is just after the bus turns left off Lanark Road West towards Balerno. The journey takes about 50 minutes and the service is every 10 minutes.

Walking distance: 8.5 miles; a few steps in Colinton Dell, otherwise flat.

Duration: Approximately 4 hours, including stops

Walk details: This is an easy walk alongside the river for most of the way using the green wildlife strip afforded by the Water of Leith. It follows the old Caledonian Railway Balerno branch past the site of old watermills to Colinton then we go through Colinton Dell. There is the option of ending the walk at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre on Lanark Road, or continuing along the Union Canal past playing fields and increasing industrialisation to Fountainbridge. (I have abandoned the original plan to follow the Water of Leith from the Visitor Centre to Leith Docks because of multiple obstructions and diversions caused by flood prevention works and the upgrading of Saughton Park.)

Roger Kellett

Wednesday 11th November 2017

The Esk Valley and Peebles railways – Penicuik and Roslin Glen

Meeting Place: From the north, take the A701 through the centre of Penicuik, follow the road round a left hand turn and down the hill towards the bridge over the North Esk. Turn left immediately before the bridge, into a prominent road entering from the left: Valleyfield road. Down a gentle slope, just beyond a band of red paving on the road, there is a small car park on the right, at the start of the walk. If it's full, there is also space to park at the roadside. If approaching from the south, take the A701 from Leadburn, cross the North Esk bridge at the entrance to Penicuik, and turn right into Valleyfield Road.

Walking distance: 8 miles; a few short inclines, otherwise flat.

Duration: Approximately 4 ½ hours, including stops

Walk details: We will first visit the Valleyfield Monument round the corner at the end of Bellerophon Drive and then take the footpath between the Esk and the mill lade, to reach the site of the Valleyfield Paper Mill. Along the old railway, now a cycle track, through Beeslack Woods and Auchendinny, we reach a prominent sign for Roslin Glen. Turn left off the railway track, up the steps, and take the right fork that leads down to the weir and mill lade for the Gunpowder Mills. Taking the track past the old buildings we exit at the Mill gates onto B7003. Turn right and follow the road up, over the old railway, and take the first right signed for Rosslynlee. We pass the old station and at the next crossroad take the road past Rosslynlee Hospital. Reaching Firth Mains, turn right, take the next left down through a valley to emerge on the B7026. Turn right and shortly after left, and the road leads down to a point where we re-join the cycle track to return to the car park.

Gordon Drummond

Thursday 9 November 2017

Cove to Siccar Point Walk

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 67

Explorer Sheet 346

Grid Ref: NT780717

Meeting Place: Cove Car Park

Walking distance: 7 miles. Ascent - three short ascents of 50 metres each

Duration: 4.5 hours

Driving time: Cove is 40 minutes from the junction of the City Bypass and the A1

Driving directions: Leave Edinburgh on the A1. At the roundabout 2.5 miles beyond Torness Power Station, take the second left signposted *Cove and Pease Bay*, then the first left to *Cove*. Follow this narrow road towards the coast. The car park is situated on the right shortly after a sharp right-hand bend in the road.

There are NO toilet facilities in Cove, so consider calling on the way at Asda outside Dunbar (accessed off the Spott roundabout on the A1) or make a detour into Cockburnspath, a 15 minute walk from Cove.

Walk details: From Cove we follow the cliff top path above Cove Harbour to Pease Bay. The path can be muddy and is in places unfenced. Descend by steps to the bridge over Cockburnspath Burn to join the road down to the Caravan Park. Cross Pease Burn and ascend to the right hand bend in the road where we join a path on the left ascending by steps to the cliff top above Pease Bay. We continue east then south on a well-defined path before joining a road to the left towards Drysdale's Vegetable Processing Factory. Watch out for occasional farm tractors bringing in the vegetables and lorries taking them away. At the Siccar Point Car Park we climb over a style into the field, past the ruins of St Helen's Church, towards the stone wall on the seaward side of the field. Follow this wall along the cliff top to Siccar Point.

The best views of the geological features described by James Hutton can be seen by walking inland along the wall then looking back with binoculars.

It is safer not to try to approach Siccar Point directly as the grassy slope is very steep and always slippery.

We return to Drysdale's road and as we head westwards, take the first road on the right down to Pease Bay. We return to Cove along the same cliff-top path and those who wish can visit Cove Harbour.

Boots are essential, walking poles useful because the path may be muddy in places.

Fred Benton

21st March 2018

Temple

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet -345 Landranger Sheet -66

Grid Ref: NT318606

Meeting Place: Carrington Main Street or Manse Road

Walking distance: Approx. 9 km / 5 miles. Mostly tracks, some road, could be muddy, nothing too steep

Duration: Approximately -5hr-- including stops

Driving time: 60-mins from city centre, 25 min from Sheriffhall roundabout

Driving directions: We start in Carrington (very little parking in Temple) Use either the Gilmerton junction (if coming from the West) or the Sheriffhall junction (if coming from the city) from the city bypass to get to the A7. Going south, after the Hardengreen Roundabout, (under a new bridge carrying the Borders railway), look out for the road to Carrington. It is about 0.2 miles beyond the roundabout, just at the start of the railway viaduct, signposted as a small sharp right turn labelled "Carrington" and "unsuitable for HGV".

If you miss this turn, don't worry: keep going down the A7. If you do take the turn successfully, follow the road about 3 miles to Carrington. There is an awkward oblique crossroad after 0.6 miles, where you have to cross the right of way, otherwise it's a direct route. As you enter Carrington, bear right into the main street.

If you missed the turn earlier, keep going down the A7 until you come to a large crossroad sign where the right turn is labelled Penicuik (B6372). This road goes to Temple, but you should not: just before you get there, turn right over a big bridge (signed for Penicuik) and then right again (signed for Carrington). When you get there, turn LEFT into the village.

In Carrington, there should be parking available on the right hand side of the road, past the deconsecrated church. If not, just beyond a sign "Horse Riders: proceed with caution", take a left hand fork called "Manse road" and signposted "Danger, children". More parking spaces are available on the right up this road. We start our walk up this road.

Walk details: Via Redside farm, Redside burn, a short stretch on the B6372, then south of Great Law and Dove Wood to Millbank Cottage: on to Rosebery Reservoir, then Yorkston, and then loop back to Temple Farm and Temple itself. We will visit the old churchyard, and then take a short walk along the South Esk before crossing Braidwood Bridge and walking, mainly by field edges, back to Carrington.

I am afraid there are NO conveniences and NO local caffeine vendors. *Gordon Drummond*

Tuesday 24th April 2018

St. Abb's Head

Start from the National Trust Car Park, St. Abb's

OS Maps: Landranger 67, Explorer 346

Meeting Place: NTS Car Park, grid ref. 913 674

Walking distance: 5 miles plus St Abb's village (0.5 miles) and Coldingham Beach (1.5miles).

Total ascent about 110 metres, one steep descent of 70 metres which can be bypassed by following the lighthouse service road.

Duration: 4.5 hours

Driving time: St. Abb's is about 60mins. (41 miles) from the junction of the City Bypass and the A1.

Driving directions: Leave Edinburgh on the A1 continuing to the Cockburnspath roundabout. One and a half miles after the roundabout turn left on to the A1107 signposted to Coldingham In Coldingham follow the sign to St. Abbs and after 1 mile turn left (on a right hand bend) into the NTS car park. This is free for National Trust members otherwise there is a £3 parking fee. There is an exhibition centre with information about the nesting seabird colonies as well as a small cafe and toilets.

Walk details: We join the path alongside the road to St. Abb's turning left towards the cliff top coastal path around Starney Bay and down steps to Horsecastle Bay. Shortly after passing through a gate we ascend Kirk Hill, past the remains of the 600AD monastery where Aebbe, daughter of Aethelfrith, King of Northumbria was abbess. We continue towards the lighthouse at St. Abb's Head and ascend towards Nunnery Point round the headland. We descend a steep but short slope to Pettico Wick. This bay is surrounded by cliffs of sedimentary rock which contrasts with the harder, pink and purple larva rock of St. Abbs Head. We return along the east side of Mire Loch which lies along a geological fault line but was artificially created in 1901 for trout fishing and wildfowl shooting. Once past the loch, we rejoin the original path back to St. Abb's. The walk can be extended by descending the steps to St Abb's village, the harbour and possibly Coldingham Bay.

Coffee is available at the NTS Cafe or at The Old School Cafe in St Abb's. Walking boots and poles advisable.

Fred Benton

Thursday 17th May, 2018

Cairnpapple Hill and Torphichen

OS Maps: OS Map 34

Grid Ref: NS 987 717.

Meeting Place: At entrance to Cairnpapple Site.

Walking distance: 5.5 miles.

Duration: Approximately 5.5 hrs -- including stops

Driving time: Approximately 50 minutes from central Edinburgh

Driving directions: From the Newbridge/Ratho roundabout, take the M9 towards Stirling. After about 6 miles, take the exit for Linlithgow (A803). As you enter Linlithgow, the road swings right into the High Street. Follow that almost to the end and you come to a rather confusing cluster of minor roads leading off to the left. Look for the one signposted "Beecraigs Country Park" (Brown Tourist Board sign). It is also signposted for Linlithgow Academy. If you miss it first time, continue for 50 yards to the big roundabout at the end of the High Street and double back. The exit you want (Preston Road) is directly opposite the Black Bitch pub.

Follow this road out of Linlithgow and after a mile or so you will enter Beecraigs Country Park. Continue straight through, past a couple of large car parks and a play area until you reach the exit at a T junction on a minor road. Turn Right and look for another Tourist Board sign, within half a mile, pointing left to Cairnpapple Hill. The site entrance is a few hundred yards up that road. There is a layby that can accommodate about seven cars just by the gate and more space for parking on the verge close by.

Cairnpapple is managed by Historic Scotland so bring your membership Card if you have one. There is a charge of £4 for non-members to enter the Cairn but it is a unique and spectacular attraction dating from around 3000BC.

Walk details: The approach to the Cairn is by a steep flight of steps, then a path. We shall return to the cars after the visit of perhaps 20 minutes, then drive about half a mile to the Korean War Memorial Garden on the minor road to Cockleroy. There is another large layby there where we can park for the rest of the day. We shall spend another 20 minutes or so in the garden, which includes a pleasant circular walk of about half a mile.

After that we take a farm road (metalled but virtually traffic-free) via Gormyre farm to Torphichen (about 2 miles) where we shall stop at the Preceptory (the 12th

Century HQ of the Knights Hospitallers and subsequently also HQ of the Knights of St John). The attractive Garden is open and contains many informative story-boards. The building itself is normally open only at weekends. I am trying to organise a special opening for us but am not very hopeful. It too is administered by Historic Scotland. We can eat our lunch in the garden then head North on another farm road for about a mile before striking off East on a farm track (unmetalled) that will lead us along the North shore of Loch cote reservoir back to the Road where we left the cars. We shall have to walk about a mile along this road which carries quite a lot of traffic. There is an adequate (but not wide) verge so it will mean single file walking until we reach the War Memorial Garden again.

Michael Steel

Wednesday, 20th June 2018

Harestanes, Waterloo Monument and Peniel Heugh

OS Maps: OS MAP 74

Grid Ref: NT 645242.

Meeting Place: HARESTANES VISITOR CENTRE

Walking distance: 8km

Duration: ~ 4 HOURS – depending on access to Waterloo Monument

Driving time:~ 1 HOUR from the A720 Edinburgh Bypass turn off for the A68 signposted to Jedburgh

Driving directions: Travel east along the A720 bypass to the exit left signposted for the A68 to Jedburgh. Approximately 4.5 miles beyond St Boswells there is a sign on your left promoting Harestanes. In a few hundred yards there is a sign “Visitor Attractions” on your right pointing to the narrow road on the left leading to Nisbet, Rutherford and Harestanes, B6400.

Walk details: Harestanes is a Countryside Visitor Centre well worth a visit with an excellent café, and a series of interesting craft outlets.

The walk is an easy circuit on woodland paths, which can be muddy, and a stretch on quiet back roads. The route passes Mounteviot House before a gently climb up Peniel Heugh [100m] to the Waterloo Monument.

The monument was commissioned by William Kerr, the 6th Marquis of Lothian, and was completed in 1824. The tower is 48 metres high with a wooden pagoda on the top. The monument has recently undergone extensive repairs and I am assured by the Lothian Estate Office that we will have access to the tower for those who wish to climb it! The 360 degree views from the top of Peniel Heugh are impressive, from the top of the tower they must be amazing.

Scotland’s only victory during Henry V111’s “rough wooing” was the Battle of Ancrum Moor in 1545, fought just to the west of Peniel Heugh, commemorated by the Maiden Lilliard monument.

“Fair maiden Lilliard lies under this
Little was her stature, but muckle was her fame;
Upon the English loons she laid many thumps,
And when her legs were cuttit off,
She fought upon her stumps.”

The return includes 1km along a quiet back road which is crossed by Dere Street and St Columba’s Way.

Donald Macleod

Tuesday 17th July 2018 10.30 am

Lammerlaw from Hopes Reservoir

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 345

Grid Ref: NT558633

Meeting Place: at 10.30 on road to Hopes Reservoir 300 yards past East Hopes House

Walking distance: approximately 13 km, ascent approx 320 m

Duration: Approximately 4-4.5 h including stops

Driving time: Approximately 30 mins from Sherriffhall Roundabout

Driving directions: From Sherriffhall roundabout take the Edinburgh Bypass east (A720) and then the A68 south at the first junction. After 4 miles turn left onto the A6093 signposted Pencaitland and Haddington. At far edge of Pencaitland turn right onto the B6355 towards Gifford. In East Saltoun follow the main road round to the left (Gifford). After 6 miles at the entrance to Gifford (immediately before the 'Gifford' sign) bear right to Longyester. After 2 miles at Longyester farm the road turns sharp left passing the farm buildings on your right. In 500 yards, just after a modern phone box on the right, turn right onto a single-track road signposted 'The Hopes'. After a mile this road descends to a bridge over the stream. Follow the road round to the right past East Hopes House. Continue past a cottage and a water treatment building and park on the left at a large septic tank just before the 'Private Road' sign. (We parked here in 2007 for a different walk).

Walk details: This is a walk along the Hopes valley past Hopes reservoir climbing up Lammerlaw. We approach from East Lothian. The walk starts in a sheep farming area and rises up into an open grouse moor (but before August 12th!). Although the moor is a mixture of bog and deep heather we shall be following a broad well-maintained bridle path apart from the last 1km to Lammermuir summit.

The walk follows the broad Hopes valley through sheep grazing country passing the reservoir on our right. After 5km. there is a steady climb, mostly gentle but steep in places, up to join the medieval Lauder-Haddington road. We follow this path for 1km. then turn left up a track that can get quite muddy to the summit of Lammerlaw where, weather permitting, there should be spectacular views of East Lothian and the coast. We return by the same route. Anyone wanting a more gentle walk can retrace their steps at any point.

Roger Kellett

Tuesday 21 August 2018

Burntisland and The Binnend Village

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet ----- Landranger Sheet 66

Meeting Place: Links Place Car Park, Burntisland town centre (Free)

Walking distance: About 7 miles (walking sticks advised)

Duration: Approximately 4 hrs including a stop for our packed lunches

Driving time: Approximately 30 mins from Barnton roundabout

Driving directions: Follow signs for Burntisland

Walk details:

We will meet for coffee at 10.30am at the Old Port Bar which is at the start of the walk and is bright and cheery. The first 2 miles takes us on level ground to Kinghorn, using the beach if the tide is out. We then briefly use the Fife Coastal path before crossing the A921 to Kinghorn Golf Clubhouse, from which we walk uphill through the golf course on a clear track past Kinghorn loch toward the Mast, reaching the Binn Summit with its fine views (on a clear day!). There is a short cut back to Burntisland before the final steeper half mile to the top; anyone choosing this could visit Burntisland museum or a nearby café in the High Street. The walk after the summit becomes a little more challenging, with a steep possibly muddy descent on a grassy bank with no path in places if the bull is visible, and crossing a wide ditch without a crossing plank, so a walking stick would be an advantage. There was a "beware of the Bull" sign when I did my recce. We finally join the A909 for the final 30 minute pavement return to our cars.

Places of interest on this walk are linked to Burntisland's industrial past and will be paused at as we do our circuit.

Richard Denison

September 2018 cancelled because of adverse conditions

Wednesday 17 October 2018

Another Pentland Ramble

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 66 (or Harvey Superwalker XT25 - 1:25,000 - Pentland Hills)

Grid Ref: NT166638

Meeting Place: Threipmuir Car Park (Opposite Red Moss Reserve above Balerno)

Walking distance: 8 Km with less than 100m ascents - none steep or sustained

Duration: Approximately three hours not including stops for lunch etc.

Driving time: Approximately 30 mins from Murrayfield/Haymarket

Driving directions: Take the A70 route towards Lanark (the Lang Whang) out of Edinburgh through Juniper Green and then Currie. Leaving Currie there is a sign on the left "Balerno". Half a mile beyond this the road forks at traffic lights. Take the left fork leaving the A70. After 350 metres take the sharp left turn to bypass the centre of Balerno. You pass Malleny Gardens on the left and continue on the main road uphill into the Pentlands. There are brown road signs indicating Threipmuir. The road narrows and you pass the "Animal Rescue & Rehoming Centre" on the left. Continue uphill, and after the road clears the woodland you reach a T-junction. Go straight ahead ignoring a right turn. The large car park is on the left just before the public road ends.

Walk details: From the carpark we cross the causeway at Threipmuir reservoir and walk up Beech Avenue towards Bavelaw Castle (home of Sir Derrick Dunlop for many years). We follow the track towards Nine Mile Burn until we reach a bealach at the foot of Hare Hill. There we fork sharp left on a track following but above the Logan Burn. After a kilometre or so the track descends into the Green Cleuch. We bear right and take a narrow but clear path around Black Hill then descending to Threipmuir. We cross the narrow, eastern arm of the reservoir and head towards Harlaw and the Ranger centre. We return along a well-defined track on the side of the reservoirs to our starting point.

Terrain: Mostly on good paths but can be wet and muddy in places. 5 km. Boots advised.

Mike Sudlow

Thursday 8th November 2018 at 10.30 am

Hopetoun to Blackness

OS Maps: Landranger Sheet 65

Meeting Place: New Hopetoun Garden Centre, by Newton EH52 6QZ

Walking distance: About 8 Km over fairly gentle terrain

Duration: Approximately 4 hours including stops

Driving time: Approximately 20 minutes from the Barnton Roundabout

Driving directions: Take the A90 north from the Barnton Roundabout to the Turn off for South Queensferry. At the top of the slip road, turn left on the A904 towards Linlithgow and Bo'Ness. After about 2 miles you will pass through Newton. The Garden Centre is another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on your right; it has a large car park. Morning Coffee will be available from 10 am in the Orangery Tea Room in the Garden Centre.

Walk details: We walk through Hopetoun Woods then into the grounds of Hopetoun House where we join the John Muir Way. We walk first north to near the Forth then west through West Shore Woods to the Picnic area of Blackness Castle where we will have lunch. After retracing our steps for a short distance we will climb a fairly gentle brae through the woods till we reach a gate where we join a path beside a field. This then becomes a farm track which will take us to Midhope and from there we return to the car park.

John Hunter

Thursday 21st March 2019

Water of Leith Walkway Slateford to Leith

Meeting Place Water of Leith Visitor Centre. 24 Lanark Road EH14 1TQ. This is a one-way walk so you are advised to arrive by bus. Lothian buses 34 (from Usher Hall and Princes Street), 36 (Queensferry Street Lothian Road, Morningside Road) and 44 (Princes Street, Dairy Road, Slateford Road) all stop here opposite the Visitor Centre, just southwest of the aqueduct over Lanark Road and the junction with Craiglockhart Avenue.

Walking distance 7 ½ miles one 50 yard climb up a steep road, a few steps otherwise flat.

Duration Approximately 4 ½ hours, including stops

Walk details Two years ago we followed the Water of Leith from Balerno to Slateford, now that the flood defences are complete, we can walk the lower section. It is an easy walk through the centre of Edinburgh using the green wildlife strip afforded by the Water of Leith. We pass through parks and narrow valleys past the site of old watermills and railways down to Leith docks. On the way we pass through Saughton Park, Bell's Mill, Dean Village, St Bernard's Well, Stockbridge, Rocheid Path, Bonnington, Coalie Park, Sandport Place and Victoria Bridge. You may leave the walk at any of these points. If you continue to Leith Docks, there are frequent buses back up Leith Walk.

Roger Kellett

Tuesday April 23rd 2019

The Battle of Pinkie Cleugh September 1547

OS Maps: Explorer Sheet 351- Landranger Sheet 66

Meeting Time 10.15 for Battlefield Briefing by Andy Coulson
 Briefing place Battle field Board no 1 at the free municipal car park at Roman Bridge in Musselburgh

Parking Free municipal car park in Musselburgh on the other side of the main road from Tesco by the east side of the Roman Bridge. In the unlikely event the municipal car park is full there is additional free parking in the street on the west (Edinburgh) side of the Roman Bridge (walk across the Roman Bridge to the municipal car park).

Walking distance: About 8 miles if you do the whole walk – There are two shorter options- see below. For section three of the walk down from Fa'side - Boots with good ankle support and walking poles and ideally machete!! But for those who do not want to do this more taxing section there are two opportunities to break off earlier (see below)

Duration: Approximately 6 hrs including stops for historical briefings and lunch

Driving time: Approximately 20 mins from Cameron toll

Driving directions: Proceed to Musselburgh. Immediately after the A199 from Edinburgh (Bridge Street) crosses the river Esk turn right into Mall Avenue. The entrance to the car park is on the right just past the Roman Bridge and opposite a large Tesco.

Brief Description of Walk

Walk part One

Flat along Esk walkway good path. Short but not difficult path up to St Michaels Kirk maybe muddy depending on weather – it was dry when I did it. Pavement along Inveresk high street to the National Trust Garden at Inveresk Lodge. For those who wish to leave main group there is a short path by the National Trust Garden path (maybe muddy) back down to Esk River Walkway and return to car park. About 2.5 miles for the round trip and about 2 hours if you don't visit the National Trust Garden (If you visit the Garden National Trust Membership cards)

Walk part Two

Along Crookstone road and path (both flat and dry) to Pinkie Memorial stone. 1 mile to the Memorial stone and if you want to leave the walk at this point then one mile back the same way to the National Trust garden and then down the path by the National Trust Garden to the Esk river walkway making a total distance for the round trip of about 4.5 miles and approximately 3 hours.

The complete walk

From the Memorial stone across the bridge over the A1 and then 1.5 miles up hill up a little used country road to Fa'side Castle. From Fa'side Castle 200 metres down a rough path with deep potholes (boots with good ankle support, poles and ideally machete). Then on good paths to Wallyford and through some housing and for ¼ mile along Salters Rd (A6094) to join a path to Musselburgh and then on secluded paths through Musselburgh and Inveresk coming out below Oliver's mound on the main road and briefly along the pavement back to the Roman Bridge and Car park. Distance from the Memorial stone about 5 miles. Time for total walk about 6 hours.

All times are estimated and include time for stopping and historical briefing

The Battle of Pinkie Cleugh – September 1547

We will walk the terrain where the battle was fought between the Scots and the English in September 471 years ago. Henry VIII died in January the same year and England was being run on behalf of the 9 year old Edward VI by the Lord Protector, Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset. He led an army into Scotland to continue Henry's policy of the "rough wooing" of Scotland. It is said that the battle of Pinkie Cleugh was the end of the Age of Chivalry and the first "modern battle" It was a serious defeat for the Scottish army with estimated Scottish losses of 6-15,000 men (English losses estimated at 2-600 only). These losses were equal or greater than those at Flodden which are estimated at 5 – 17,000 (English losses at Flodden estimated at 1500). The wide estimates are because in those times the ordinary soldier didn't really count for much, except of course, to their families. Following their victory, the English army failed to follow up. The five year old Mary Queen of Scots was smuggled to France to escape any more English "wooing" and later was married to Francis 11 Dauphin of France in 1558. Pinkie Cleugh, a battle won but a campaign lost.

Historical details:

Walk part one

We will start off from Roman Bridge going south following the river Esk to join the river Esk walkway. The Scottish army camp was on the higher ground on the Edinburgh side of the river. The Scots army crossed the Roman Bridge to garrison the heights near St Michaels Kirk overlooking Musselburgh. As we walk along the Esk path the Scottish camp was on the other side of the river to our right and St Michaels Kirk and the site of the old Roman fort is up to our left. We then take a short path up to the left to St Michaels Churchyard in Inveresk where we will find Pinkie Battlefield Board no 2 on top of a grassy mound, the site of the Scottish artillery. Andy will explain the disposition of the Scottish army on and around the area and the role and range of the artillery and give a brief overview of the Battle.

We then leave the Churchyard by the same entrance and proceed along Inveresk high street as far as Inveresk House. Just past Inveresk house is Inveresk lodge garden, a National Trust property, which is open all the year round (National Trust Members Free). This is an opportunity for those who want a shorter walk to maybe visit the garden and then return via the nearby path down to the river Esk walkway and back along the river Esk walkway to the car park. I estimate you would arrive back 12 ish

Walk Part two

We leave Inveresk high street just beyond the National Trust Garden and walk along Crookstone road crossing the railway where we will find Pinkie Battlefield Board no 3. Here Andy will explain the general flow of the Battle including pointing out Fa'side castle and Carberry and with an explanation to the cavalry action the day before the Battle. We then proceed further along Crookstone road and then left along the path to The Battlefield Memorial stone and Pinkie Battlefield Board no 4. Andy will talk more about the battle including pointing out the direction of Acheson's harbour (Morrisons Haven) and the role of the English shallow draft galley with its cannon. For those who wish to leave the return is the same way back along Crookstone Road to Inveresk and then taking the first path (near the National Trust Garden) down to the Esk walkway and back to their car. I estimate you should arrive back at 1- 2 ish.

Walk Part three

This is the Hill Walking bit. The descent from Fa'side is down a steep, maybe muddy and potholed path (Boots with good ankle support, walking poles and ideally machete!). The walk back from Fa'side is a different way and the total circular round trip is approximately 8-9 miles. For those who do the whole walk I arrived back at 1600 having taken several false turns so considering

stopping time for battlefield descriptions I estimate return at 1600ish.

After leaving the Pinkie Battlefield Memorial stone we cross the A1 and walk 1.5 miles uphill on a small little used country road to Fa'side castle. Mr Ian Brash (Architect) and owner of Fa'side Castle and Estate has very kindly agreed to allow us to enter his Garden to view the battlefield. Ian, who hopes to be there will tell us about Fa'side Castle.

After leaving Fa'side we descend a path past the Council notice "Be Aware path in poor condition." There is approximately 200 metres of difficult descent. An interesting feature of the path down relates to Dolly the sheep.

Towards the bottom the path improves and there is a bridge crossing over the A1 into Wallyford. We walk approximately ¼ mile through Wallyford housing walking west until we join a path to Musselburgh which runs close to the site the Battlefield as marked on the ordnance survey maps. This path then takes us under the railway and onto Musselburgh and then there are easy to follow off road secluded paths to Lewisvale park where there is a stone marking the English camp (When you see this stone and having walked the rest of the battlefield you may wonder if this really was the site of Somerset's camp). We continue in the park until we find the main road below Oliver's mound and then on the pavement back to the Roman Bridge.

Tim Hargreave

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Berwick-on-Tweed: the Ramparts and the Tweed Estuary

From Berwick-on-Tweed railway station

Walking distance approx. 7.5 miles. Ascent: 103m. Mostly paths and tracks, some road. May be muddy, nothing too steep

Duration Approximately 4½ hours, not including stops

WALK DETAILS: Leave Edinburgh Waverley on the 9.30 am LNER King's Cross service, arriving in Berwick at 10.12.

Parking may be difficult: although there are several long stay car parks and a station car park, they may all be full. (LIB,WIE)

We walk along Railway St. and Castlegate to Scotsgate, there climbing steps up to the Ramparts which surround the Old Town. We head north, turning south-east at Brass Bastion towards the Tweed Estuary and the Russian Gun at Fisher's Fort. We proceed along Wellington Terrace and Quay Walls to the Old Bridge (1634).

There we join the Riverside Walk, passing under the Royal Tweed Bridge (1928) and Royal Border Railway Viaduct (1850). We climb away from the river through woodland towards Letham Plantation, then descend to a long grassy haugh. We join a narrow path alongside the Tweed and just before the A1 bridge (1984), climb the embankment up to the main road, crossing the Tweed on the pavement alongside this busy road. Immediately after the bridge, we turn left up to a picnic area (public conveniences are nearby).

We return towards Berwick beside fields above the river, descending to the riverside under the Railway Viaduct and Royal Tweed Bridge. We cross the Old Bridge back into town and the railway station.

Fred Benton

Thursday 20th June 2019

Priestlaw Hill circular from Whiteadder Reservoir

Meeting Place: 10:15 am at the turn-off to Priestlaw Farm on the B6355, map ref. NT 643642, immediately before a cattlegrid.

Driving time: 45 minutes from the Sheriffhall roundabout. 25 minutes from Haddington.

Driving directions: Whiteadder Reservoir is just under nine miles from Gifford. The fastest route from Sheriffhall is along the city bypass (Eastbound), exit onto the A68, then left onto the A6093 for Pencaitland. Go through Pencaitland and turn right onto the B6355 that takes you through Gifford towards Preston and Chirside. From Haddington: B6369 to Gifford to join the B6355.

Parking is available off road opposite the start of the walk – space for 5/6 cars – and then some 200m along the road towards the reservoir where there is a picnic area.

Walking distance: 11km / 7 miles. Ascent 234m.

Duration: 3 - 4 hours

Maps: OS Maps, Explorer 345, Lammermuir Hills; or Landranger Series Sheet 67.

Walk details: This enjoyable and peaceful circuit follows the route of the old Herring Road from Whiteadder Reservoir to climb up into the Lammermuirs. The easy walk leads to the top of Priestlaw Hill at 428m before returning past the reservoir.

The route may be slightly boggy in places and the path indistinct. Boots with good ankle support will suffice. There is one section of quiet road, of roughly 1¼K, fortunately coinciding with the only sustained climb.

Here is the link to our source: <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lothian/priestlaw-hill.shtml> - that includes an illustrated description of the walk.

Angela Thomas

Tuesday July 23rd 2019

Blairadam Forest

OS Maps: Explorer 367, Landranger 58

Grid ref NT129946

Meeting Place Clentry Car Park, NT 129946

Walking distance 10 miles

Duration 4 ~ 5 hours

Driving time about 30-40 min from west Edinburgh

Drive from Edinburgh over Queensferry Crossing to exit 4 on M90 (to Kelty).

At junction, turn left passing the former Baxter's cafe and shop.

After 150 yards turn right into forest passing a small car park at entrance, and continue for 34 mile to main car park with information boards and parking space.

Walk description Some ascent and one very short steep descent, including Cowden Hill, Nivington Craigs and Dumglow (379m) and Loch Glow. A mixture of open moorland, woodland and some boggy areas. There is one fence to negotiate. Poles and walking boots suggested.

Cafe on completion Dobbies at junction 3 M90 , Fife Leisure Park, Sanderling way if you wish!

Tony Falconer

Wednesday 21st August 2019

Loch Ore Circuit

Maps Landranger 58, OS 153952

Meeting place: Car Park east of Kelty.

Driving time Allow 20-30 minutes' drive time from Barnton traffic junction.

Driving directions Take the M90 from the Queensferry Crossing and leave it at junction 4 for Kelty. Bypass the town centre on the A909, bear left at the junction with B996, then take the unclassified road to the right (signposted Lochore Meadows Country Park) to the car park 200yds on the right at the end of this road

Walking distance 5 - 8 miles.

Walk duration 3-4 hours, incl. breaks.

Walk details Two walk options are planned. The access to Loch Ore and back, with the circuit of the Loch, avoids any hill climbs and is about 5 miles. The cafeteria at the east end is halfway round and is excellent for food and refreshments-plus modern toilet facilities. No special footwear is required for this shorter walk. The extra 2-3 mile extension, for which walking poles and good footwear are recommended, begins at the cafeteria, heads up hill past the Mary Pit across grassy fields to the Ladath Stripe, the former pit route from Ballingry to Harran Hill Wood, to then cross a minor road for the steep ascent of Benarty Wood Hill for views over Loch Ore towards Lochgeily and Cowdenbeath. The descent is down through Hallan Hill to the west end of the loch, and there is a good Bird Hide on the track back to the parked cars, so take your binoculars!

Richard Denison

Thursday 19th September 2019

Devilla Forest, by Kincardine Bridge

Driving directions: The quickest route is along the M9 towards Stirling, but watch for the sign to Kincardine Bridge, which takes you onto the M876 for the last couple of miles. Cross the bridge and head right at the roundabout, on the A985. The (very large) Devilla Forest car park is clearly signed on your left, little more than a mile from the roundabout.

If you want to come along the North shore of the Forth, take the Queensferry Crossing and look for the exit on the A985 for Kincardine. Stay on the A985 past High Valleyfield and the Culross turnoff. The Devilla Forest sign will then be on your Right, about 2 miles further on.

Walking distance: 8 miles. Ascent is no more than 400 feet.

Walk details: This 8 mile route has nothing too arduous. Conditions underfoot vary from gravelled vehicle tracks to single file paths through the woods and while there are a number of gentle hills, the total ascent is no more than 400 feet. The forest offers a wide variety of interesting plant, bird, animal and aquatic life. There are no formal shelter or eating facilities in the forest but a good café in Culross (a couple of miles away) where we can stop for refreshments on the way home.

Michael Steel

Nothing for October that I can find

Wednesday 6th November

Hailes Castle and Traprain Law

OS Maps: Landranger 67, Explorer 351

Grid Ref: NT593771

Meeting Place: car park by train halt on B1377 in East Linton

Walking distance: short: 5.5 km, long: 10.5 km

Duration: 2hr / 3.5 hr (excluding lunch)

Driving time: about 25 min from start of A1 on Milton Road

Driving directions: South on A1 to Abbotsview junction (signed for East Linton):

leave A1 and at the roundabout take second exit for A199 to East Linton. After about 5 miles, take the smaller left fork (B1407) for the centre of East Linton, pass under the railway bridge and continue to take the narrow road bridge over the river Tyne, and then park at the right hand side of the road by the Rail Halt.

Walk details: An interesting walk on a narrow path up the rive gauche of the Tyne, under the new A1, to Hailes Mill and across a bridge to Hailes Castle (mainly 14C)

After that, the short walk returns along the other side of the Tyne on an easy road to the old A1 (now A199) crossing to Lauder place, under the railway, and turn right for the car park.

The long walk takes a track and then a road up out of woods to open road and the foot of Traprain law, which is a short but steep ascent some may wish to take. Then a return to the Tyne past a number of interesting farm buildings to rejoin the short walk, pass under the motorway and railway to return to the car park.

There are several opportunities for coffee in East Fortune.

Gordon Drummond

2020: nothing!

2021

Wed 16th June 2021

Trees and woodlands of West Edinburgh

Meeting Place: Silverknowes golf club car park, bus terminal 27, 29, 37 and 16

Walking distance: 8.25 miles

Duration: 4 hours including a 20-minute stop

Walk details We shall walk from the car park up Lauriston Farm road, visit Lauriston Castle gardens, then along Barnton Avenue, between the Royal Burgess and Bruntsfield golf clubs to Whitehouse Road. Then down Braepark Road to the river Almond and Cramond Brig. After crossing the bridge, we turn left to continue along the Almond walkway to the rapids and the Grotto bridge. Crossing that, we walk uphill to the Cammo estate and wildlife park and walk to the site of the old estate house and curling pond. After walking round the periphery, we return to Grotto bridge and walk back to the Cramond Brig inn where we might get refreshments. We then cross the bridge again and go back along the Almond walkway to Cramond village. This involves climbing the 80-up, 80-down Salverson steps; these can be by-passed if necessary. At Cramond village there is a bistro and a public loo. We then go from the village carpark through the woods by the Mesolithic site and cross the Roman camp by the kirk and through the Cramond woodlands and across the fields to the esplanade as far as the Beach Café where refreshments can be bought if necessary. A final walk up Silverknowes road takes us back to the carpark.

Anthony Seaton

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Muiravonside Country Park, River Avon, Union Canal and Almond Castle

OS Maps: Landranger 65

Meeting Place: Muiravonside Country Park EH49 6LW

(Main Car Park – Entrance Fee £1 payable by Card)

Walking distance: About 8 miles Duration: 5 hours including stops

Driving directions: Take M9 and leave at Junction 4. At top of slip road, turn left and take A801 till you reach a large Roundabout then turn left on to B825 signed 'Linlithgow and Muiravonside Country Park'. Travel about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile then turn right into the Park. The entrance is not well signposted as you drive, but it is about 50m before woods on right give way to fields on both sides of the road.

Walk details: This is an easy walk and consists of 3 loops centring on the point about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the car park where the Avon Viaduct crosses the River Avon, so it is possible to leave at the end of each section.

We start by walking west from the car park onto a wooded track, which leads down to the River Avon. We walk along the riverside path (which may be muddy and slippery so suitable footwear is needed) then up to the site of Muiravonside House and follow the track down to the river, (1st option to leave by turning left back up to car park). The Avon Viaduct is on the right but we carry on up the path ahead and leave the Park. We cross the road past Bridge 49 Café onto a wooded path, which takes us to Muiravonside Church and Almond Castle, then turn back along the towpath of the Union Canal to the Viaduct where there is the 2nd chance to leave by going down steps and back to the car park. The remainder of the group continue across the viaduct and the down steps to turn right and go along the wooded path, which follows the River Avon to Linlithgow Bridge. We skirt the edge of the town and join the towpath of the Canal heading west to re-cross the viaduct then go down the steps, which will lead us back to the car park.

John Hunter

Wednesday 18th August 2021

Neidpath and Hamilton Hill: Roman and drove roads

OS Maps: Explorer 337

Grid Ref: NT 252402

Meeting Place: Kingsmeadow Car Park, Peebles

Walking distance: 5 km + 7 km

Duration: 3 or 5 hours

Driving time: ~ 45 min from Edinburgh centre

Driving directions: Take the A701, then A703, south from the ring road. At the mega roundabout near Roslin, you may prefer to take the B7026 via Auchendinny and Howgate, and then re-join the A703 at Leadburn. On entering Peebles, take the last exit from the roundabout onto the main street. At the end of the main street, turn left, cross the bridge over the Tweed, and Kingsmeadow car park is on the left.

Walk details: A level walk upriver on the south bank of the Tweed to Fotheringham Bridge, with a moderate climb to Manor Sware and a descent to Manor Bridge. Looping back down the rive gauche, we reach Hay Lodge park where we may lunch: the choice is then to return to the carpark (1 km), (possibly safer to continue to the next pretty footbridge and cross to the east end of the car park). The alternative is to climb out of the park, cross the A72, and climb in a clockwise circle, leaving the peak of Hamilton Hill to the left, to join an old drove road that descends to Peebles again. This loop is about 5 km, total ascent about 200 metres, and rewards with excellent views.

Gordon Drummond

Wednesday, 3rd November 2021

Portmore Estate and Northshield Rings

Landranger OS map 75 – Peebles, Galashiels and Selkirk

Grid Reference. 243478

Meeting point: Scots Pine Tearoom and Restaurant.

Walking Distance: 7.5km / 8.0km if we visit the Northshield Rings historic site.

Duration: 2hours 15mins excluding stops. Add 30mins if we visit the Rings.

Driving Time: 20mins from Hillend via Auchendinny to Leadburn and onto the Peebles road. The Tearoom is 1km north of Eddleston. Car parking is available on the lane adjacent to the Tearoom.

Walk Details:

The walk starts at the Tearoom, which opens at 10.00am. The first part of the walk is gently uphill on good paths via the mixed woodland of Portmore Estate to Portmore Loch. The detour to Northshield Rings is in the woods. We circle Portmore Loch and we return to the Tearoom via farm roads and tracks which can be muddy and there are 4 small streams which are easy to cross. The last 1.5km is downhill on a single track road. Boots are best and poles can help.

Donald Macleod.

2022

Wed 16th March 2022

Old railways: now cycle and walking ways

OS Maps: I advise the Spokes Cycle Map of Edinburgh (In all good cycle shops!)

Meeting Place: Silverknowes golf club car park, bus terminal 27, 29, 37 and 16

Walking distance: 10 miles

Duration: 4 ½ hours including a 20-minute stop

Walk details We shall walk from the car park south to the Blackhall path. We join the Roseburn path and then head east along Ravelston Dykes to the Dean Village to take the Water of Leith Path to Stockbridge. Along the south side of the Botanics by the Rocheid Path, and cross Inverleith Road to Warriston Crescent, and regain the cycle orbit on the Goldenacre path. Passing through "Five ways" we plunge through a railway tunnel to take a peek at the sea at Newhaven, and retreat through Trinity to the Ferry road Path which leads us back to Craigleith.

Gordon Drummond

Thursday 21st April 2022

Balerno to Slateford by the Water of Leith.

Map: Streetfinder Edinburgh (Collins,2005). Pages 58, 48, 49, 50, 51, 41.

Meeting Place: Bus Stop in Bridge Road at Balerno just beyond its junction with Lanark Road West

Walking distance: 5.25 miles.

Duration: 3.0 hours

Driving directions: Cars can generally be parked fairly easily in the roads off Craiglockhart Avenue above its junction with Lanark Road. Turn left into Lanark Road at the foot of Craiglockhart Avenue and the 44 bus leaves from the bus stop in Lanark Road every 10-12 mins and takes about 20mins to reach Balerno. The 10.05 bus reaches Balerno about 10.22. Alight at the bus stop just as the bus leaves Lanark Road West and enters Bridge Road. Alternatively, cars could be parked at Balerno with return from Slateford by the 44 bus.

Walk description: The walk starts at Balerno and ends at Slateford at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre where coffee/tea and buns are available and there are good toilets. The walk is on a good path and declines gently. It passes Spylaw Park and Spylaw House (now a hotel). We then continue through the painted tunnel, which is well worth a visit, cross the Lanark Road to the Union Canal and then return via the aqueduct which takes us to the Water of Leith Visitor Centre.

Niall Finlayson.

Wednesday 11 May 2022

Allermuir and Phantom's Cleuch

OS Maps: OS Explorer 344 Pentland Hills

Grid Ref: NT234631

Meeting Place: Flotterstone Information Point (EH26 0PP)

Walking distance: Full walk 9-10 Km, short walk 6 Km, no steep or sustained ascents

Duration: Approximately 3.5 hours not including stops for snacks

Driving time: 10 minutes drive from Lothianburn junction on City bypass

Driving directions: From the Lothianburn junction take the A702 to Biggar, and after approximately 3 miles past the sign to Easter Howgate take the right turn to the Flotterstone Inn. Travel past the Inn to the carpark close to the Flotterstone information Point.

Walk description: From the car park we walk along the single track road towards Glencorse reservoir before turning R following the signs to Castlelaw fort. From the fort we ascend up the edge of Castlelaw Hill (486m) heading towards Allermuir Hill (493m). As we walk down round the edge of Castlelaw Hill there is a shorter walk skirting round the west side of the hill on an unsurfaced track which is easily managed provided it has not been wet. For the longer walk we continue towards the bottom of Allermuir Hill, which may be a suitable spot for a snack break. From Allermuir Hill we skirt round Capelaw Hill (454m) taking Phantom's Cleuch to head back to the single track road running along the north side of Glencorse reservoir. From there we walk back along the road to the car park. Sadly the well regarded café at the car park is not open on Wednesdays but refreshments are available at the Flotterstone Inn.

Richard Logan