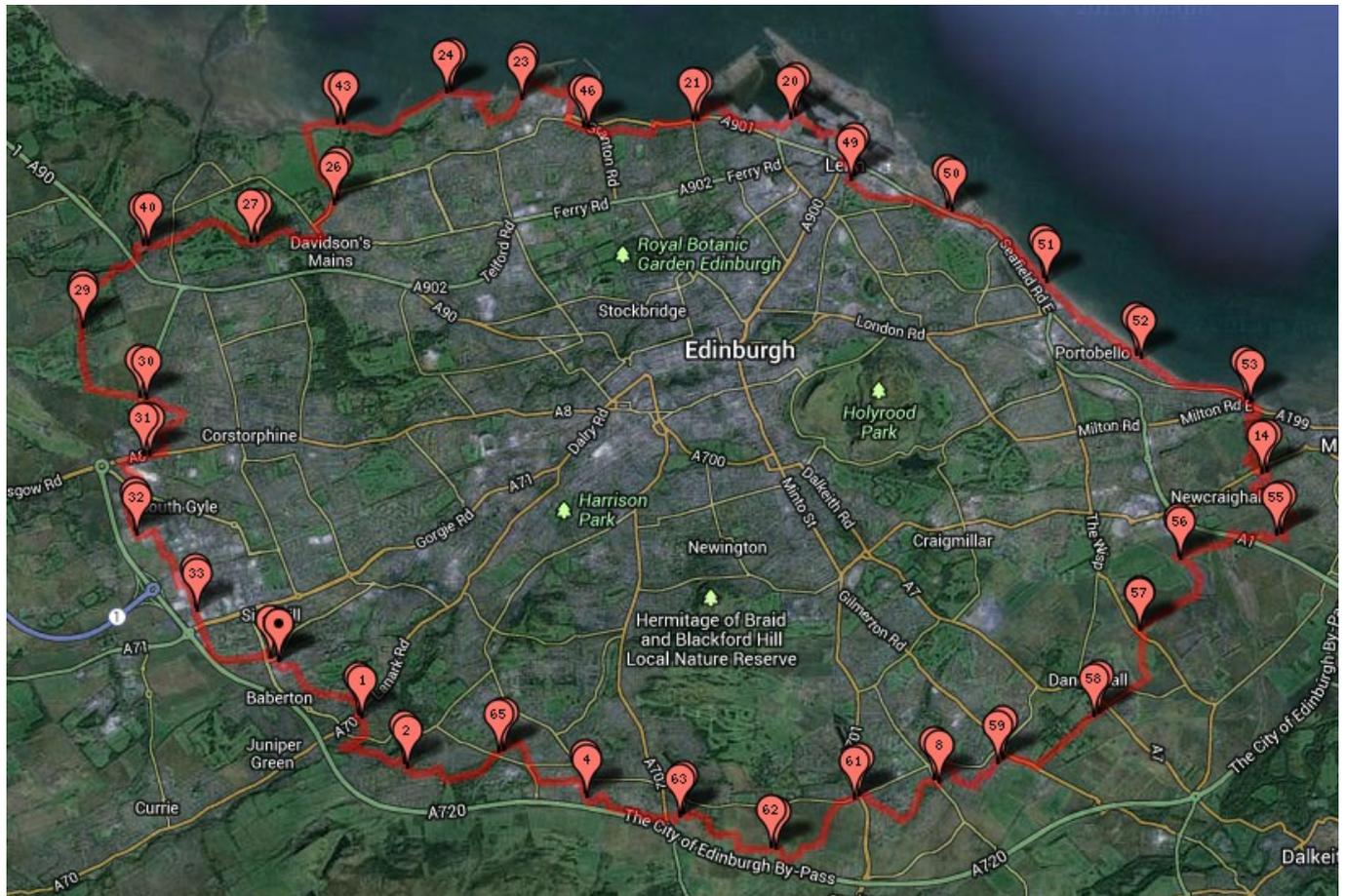


# Stroll around Edinburgh, route description

*Disclaimer. Note: The information given on this website has been provided in good faith, it is intended only as a general guide. You are advised to verify the accuracy of information before relying on it. It is the responsibility of individuals to approach outdoor activities such as walking in urban areas with caution.*



## Leg 1 Wester Hailes to Kaimes

Begin the walk at Wester Hailes Plaza by entering Westside Shopping Mall. The Plaza is well served by Lothian buses. Take the escalator up to the higher level of shops, turn left, and exit through the double glass doors to pass alongside Lidl's car park and onwards over a pedestrian walkway bridge. [If the Mall is closed follow along its left hand side, through into Murrayburn Place and up the steep steps.] A few metres on, at the 3-way joining of paths, turn right up the broad path. Pass beneath two bridges (rail then road) to curve gradually leftwards to cross high above Clovenstone Rd. Keep straight, ignore paths to left and right, aim towards the blue "medium-rise" flats. Pass alongside a primary school to the right. Join Clovenstone Park Rd. Cross and turn right beyond the blue flats into Clovenstone Drive.

Cross to discover a path through trees which leads up to Lanark Rd. Go right along the pavement. Cross with care at a traffic island into leafy Spylaw Park Rd. At the first corner go right. Spylaw Ave. leads to the busy Gillespie Rd. Bear a few paces right, cross with care, and head diagonally down the rough track to the Water of Leith. Turn left to follow cycle path<sup>75</sup> over the river. At West Mills do not re-cross the river, but take the short road up to the right, and immediately proceed left to climb West Mills Rd. Cross Woodhall Rd into Bonaly Rd. After a few metres turn left into Grant Avenue. Soon afterwards turn right into Castlelaw Rd. At the top a snicket winds through to the “bungalow-land” of Bonaly Crescent. Go left here, and left again into Laverlockdale Cres. Turn right at the end, through entrance gates into the wood-fringed Dreghorn Loan. Carry through, over a stone bridge, to the old polo field (in 2014 now a housing estate entrance). Slightly ahead, to the left, a path dives into woods. Once over the small wooden bridge follow the Bonaly Burn downstream for 800m. On exiting the woods turn right over an old stone bridge. At the Barracks’ entrance, leave the old road to cross Redford Rd. Here go back, left, a few paces to turn down into the mock-Tudor housing development of Gallollee. Follow through, to encounter a path, and steps, leading left downwards to Bonaly Burn. Do not cross, but go 150 m right to take another path to the right, which leads up, for 400m, to Redford Rd. Cross at the pedestrian lights, go slightly left and immediately right, up steps, into Dreghorn Gardens. Bear left. Next turn right, up Dreghorn Dr. At the top, steps and a snicket lead through to a long, straight, level MOD path that heads left to Hunter’s Tryst. Pass in front of the Supermarket (cafe, toilets). Cross New Swanston road; here a path leads down and leftwards, towards the noise of the by-pass. At the end of the open space a short snicket funnels through into the housing of Tryst Park. The road curves back uphill. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> right to reach Swanston Rd. Go right a few yards between houses and alongside a short pleasant hedge. Cross over into Caiyside. Curve down towards the busy by-pass. Follow Caiyside round, alongside the by-pass, to the bitter end, to exit by a footpath that leads up to Swanston Dr. and the Biggar Rd. Cross with care; a snicket leads into Winton Park. Carry on straight ahead, still parallel to the by-pass, either on the footpath or pavement. Pass to the right of housing. Then go immediately left into Winton Gardens. Walk directly away from the by-pass up Winton Drive. Turn right to stroll on, past the secluded, 70’s housing of Winton Loan. Our route bends gracefully right and then left around the A-listed mansion of Morton House. Carry on past delightful cottages and a nursery; keep a look out for the old Belvedere.

Becoming ever more lane-like, the route turns right towards a pair of tall electricity pylons. This quiet, deserted track winds on through farmland, and alongside a short wooded strip, for 1.5 km before exiting onto tarmac at a converted steading. Walk up Broomhills Rd, passing old farm cottages. Cross Frogstone Rd. Turn left for 60m. Go right into Mortonhall housing estate. Head diagonally right through open trees to cross a small grassy space. Then proceed left down Mortonhall Park Dr., and quickly turn right into Mortonhall Park Bank. Go half-left across grass, before the mid-rise flats, to discover a short secluded alley behind housing. At its end turn right. Ahead a grassy strip leads to the main A701 (Penicuik) Road. Turn left along the pavement to finish Leg 1, of our stroll, at the entrance to Morton Hall Crematorium by the Lothian 37,47, 67 bus stop.

## **Leg 2 Kaimes to Queen Margaret University.**

Continue the walk by entering the grounds of the Toby Carvery. At the far right hand side of the Carvery (beyond the picnic tables) an ancient stone structure (The Balm Well) is encountered. Our route exits the Carvery grounds by continuing east. With your back to the Balm Well bear half right. Negotiate car-parking spaces and unkempt tress/shrubs, to cross an abandoned track, and to find a rough path. (To the left it runs to the back of the Howden Hall Police Station) but we follow it to the right to a gap in an old green security fence. Go through the fence and emerge onto Rae's Cres. Follow it to the left to soon turn right along St Katherine's Cres. On reaching a small patch of grass take the path on the left. Follow on, directly ahead. Cross Captain's Dr. into St. Katherine's Loan. Take it to the red post-box. Here head half-right across grass. Continue ahead to reach, on the left, Gracemount Leisure Centre with its cafe and toilets. Exit the Leisure Centre; follow around left through its car-park. Cross the busy Captain's Rd., at a pedestrian island, to proceed ahead along Southhouse Terrace. At the Park take the path, left ("Leading to Lasswade Bank"), and then go half-right to zigzag down to a play area beside Burdiehouse Burn. Keep left. A path almost immediately rises right, up to a gate in the railings beside Lasswade Rd. Cross. Proceed right for 100m between houses and a thin grassy strip. A broader patch of grass with sparse tree plantings leads left, beside Gilmerton Dykes Dr., to a 3-way junction. Once across the junction turn right, at railings, up Kilngate Brae. Ignore the combined cycle and footpath, to take the snicket to its left, alongside more railings. At its end keep straight-on and up to reach Gilmerton Dykes Rd. Here, turn left, cross, and pass pleasant new housing

schemes on your right. At the roundabout, keep on ahead to encounter a secluded, narrow, old alleyway at Ravenscroft Place. Follow the alley along the backs of houses of old Gilmerton, and the Bowling Green, to reach a cross snicket which we take to the right. We pop out on Ravenscroft St. Turn left past delightful old cottages, the old Post Office, and church to reach the main road. Here our route goes right along Drum St. (the main road). But a short detour left can be made to see the unassuming, traditional, mining cottage (16 Drum St.) that forms the entrance to Gilmerton Cove, where an underground warren of passageways and hand-carved chambers is located beneath the streets of Gilmerton. Follow the busy main road towards Dalkeith. Pass the Abbey Lodge Hotel to reach the entrance gates of the Drum Estate. Pass through the gates and follow the drive which stretches straight ahead. Our route now proceeds, more or less dead-straight, for some 2 km, all the way to Danderhall bing. We pass the Adam designed house, overgrown curling pond, and numerous fields of the Drum Estate to reach, in about 1km, the estate gatehouses. Bearing slightly left, a green door allows us to leave the estate. Cross over the Old Dalkeith Rd at a traffic island, to keep straight ahead, into Danderhall and Newton Church Rd. A further ½ km brings us to a roundabout. We continue straight over and along a path. Beyond houses and the 1<sup>st</sup> field, we take a path up onto the old bing. Head up, through trees, to its grassland summit plateau, marked by an old coal wagon. Follow along the summit by heading towards the hills of distant Fyfe. Soon descend right towards a gap in the fringing trees, and a gateway. With extreme care cross Millerhill Rd. Go left, past cottages, along the dirty pavement to escape (right) down a quiet country lane. Pass various pleasant farm cottages and under electricity pylons to eventually reach a marked left-turn. Our next bing lies directly in front. Reach it by leaving the road, half-right, to immediately turn left, beside old farm buildings, and sharp left again to clamber up a short slope onto the bing. Ignore any access notices. Navigate your way over the levelled, rubbly top. Head towards the bings far left-hand end. Keep left of new fencing. A rough track leads to the far exit of the bing amongst scrubby trees, by a telegraph pole. On gaining the tarmacked road turn right. We see two minor roads. Follow the left-hand road (with views towards the chimneys of Cockenzie power station). Keep ahead, over the railway bridge. Don't be put off by the dour ambience of the municipal dump, keep going until a lane swings left, and down, in woodland beneath the A1 dual- carriageway. Beyond the concrete underpass, follow a tarmac path right to Queen Margaret University. To enter

the campus go slightly to the right and then amble through the grounds – passing Halls of residence – to the main entrance (toilets within) and bus stance (Lothian 30,45).

### **Leg 3 Queen Margaret University to Leith.**

We continue the stroll around Edinburgh by leaving the main entrance to Queen Margaret University, and wading towards the red and white automatic barrier used by the buses. Keep ahead to cross the railway bridge and then turn immediately left along the John Muir Way. This bush-lined footpath runs parallel to the railway for a good stretch. Eventually when housing, to the right, ends the path swings right around its outer edge. Keep on along the bush-lined path to go under a high electricity power-line. Soon, at a path junction, find a rough path to the left, which leads through to zinc-cladded industrial units. Very briefly go right, then immediately left, on a narrow path, to pass between two units. Emerge onto the main (A6095) Musselburgh Rd. Go left. Cross over, when clear of traffic, and then, at the roundabout, go right through the ornamental gates into Newhailes. Keep ahead. Past the car park on the left, is the visitor centre and stable block (cafe, toilets). The well-stocked garden centre is also worth a visit. Resume the walk by going half-right passing a picnic area and across the front of Newhailes House. Keep-onwards to follow a path into trees, to pass a shell grotto. The path stays in the woods, eventually swinging right to reach the Brunstane entrance to the Estate. Exit the Estate grounds and turn left. Do NOT cross the Burn. Instead follow it upstream. Follow the riverside all the way to Brunstane Station, crossing under the East Coast Main Line about half way along. Turn right. Pass the cul-de-sac of Daiches Braes. Take the next street to the right (Brunstane Dr). Follow as it swings left to reach the main road. Use the handy traffic island to go straight across and into Joppa Quarry Park. Exit, beyond the play park, at the far-right onto a foot-bridge across the railway. Once over go left along the pleasant Joppa terrace. Swing right at its end. Keep on right. In a few paces, at the cross roads go left and along the curvaceous Argyll Cres. This ends at a T-junction. Ignore the rough alleyway ahead. Go left and swing right along Hope Lane North. Pass a children's play area. Just before the Lane end bear left, through metal half-barriers, onto 'The Christian Path'. Exit by a huge electricity pylon and turn right along the cobbled Brighton Place. Take the next left, the delightful (Georgian) West Brighton Cres. Towards the end, go right into Rosefield Park. Follow its right hand edge. Exit by the play area. Keep ahead into Rosefield Av. Walk directly ahead towards the magnificent Old Portobello Town Hall, passing more

Georgian houses and the library. At Portobello High Street turn left. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> right, Bridge St., noting the brown memorial plaque to Harry Lauder. Follow Figgate Burn to the coast and go left along the promenade. Keep ahead to the far end, and onwards on the combined footpath/cycleway alongside the busy road. At the railway bridge take the footpath leading straight on. At its end turn left over the level-crossing. Turn left, at the main road to retrace a few of your steps, and cross the busy main road at the pedestrian lights. A few paces up Seafield Street rise to the right onto a disused railway line. Follow the disused line right, above Seafield Cemetery, all the way to Leith Links. Descend half-left and follow the right-hand edge of the Links to bowling greens and tennis courts. Exit the Links. Keep ahead over the intricate traffic island of John's Place, and ahead along Queen Charlotte Street. Keep ahead over Constitution Street, noting the old Town Hall and octagonal tower near the junction, to your right. Follow cobbles to a grassy/play area. Bear right along Water Street. Ahead lies Lamb's House (Leith's oldest building) with its Dutch gables. Turn left, just before Lamb's House, along Burgess Street. Go right at the river to cross over the bridge at Sandport Place. Pass the Roseleaf Pub. Turn right, down Dock Street, towards the twin spires of St. Ninian's Church. Immediately before the former church, pass the one remaining gateway to the old Citadel. At the foot of Dock Street go left to Tiso's and the end of stage 3 of this stroll around Edinburgh. [Tiso's has a café and toilets as well as outdoor gear, and is convenient for Lothian Bus 22.]

#### **Leg 4 Leith to Barnton.**

Continue the stroll around Edinburgh: on exiting Tiso's (41, Commercial St.) turn left along the frontage of the old passenger terminal of North Leith Railway Station; and then left again, behind the terminal, into Citadel Place. A snicket and steps lead up to Couper Street, as Bethany House towers above. Go left, and then half-right across Coburgh Street onto the Water of Leith. Turn right upstream. Keep to the riverside path as it bears sharp left away from the old railway line we have been following. Follow the Water of Leith walkway signs. The path emerges into an old industrial state. Signs direct us right and left back down to the riverbank. The walkway crosses and re-crosses the river. It emerges onto Newhaven Road. Go right for a few paces. Cross and take the steps down, at the far side of a bridge, to re-join the railway path. At the base of the steps, keep ahead. The path turns slightly up to the right. Here we turn sharp right along Victoria Path, an old branch line that leads straight through to

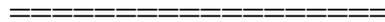
Victoria Park. Keep ahead, along the route of the old railway as it sweeps gently left, through the Park and down through an underpass. Keep left at a junction with yet another old railway path. Keep on ahead, then right at the 5-ways junction. This path (the former East-Coast Main Line) leads through the magnificent Trinity Tunnel and down to the coast. Cross the road-junction, using the pedestrian light, to swing left (still keeping along the course of the old railway) between a grassy strip and the embankment. In a while, beyond bus shelters, as the picturesque East Cottages are approached, cross (at the pedestrian lights) and enter Wardie Steps. Turn right to walk through the delightful Wardie Steps and Square. On re-emerging into Lower Granton Road, turn left, cross, and walk on to Granton Square (public toilets). Turn right along Lochinver Drive, with the harbour water on your right. Turn left, just before the Port Authority Gates, behind flats. At the time of writing (2014) it is possible, at the end, to bear half-right across scrubby land and through to new roadways in the Waterfront development area. On reaching the roads, bear half-left to pass to the right of a modern looking (7-storey) apartment and walk right around it, following its water features. Exit the housing development area, by heading directly inland, up Chestnut Street. On reaching West Harbour Road, near the Old Lighthouse, go straight across and swing gently to the right up Waterfront Avenue. Keep ahead, and reach the imposing iron gates to Caroline Park House. Turn right to follow a footpath, past the far side of the house, down towards the coast. At the main road turn right, to soon cross over, into a car park and the start of the Cramond promenade at Granton Point. Follow the promenade left for a long stretch (1.5 km). Once past The Globtrotter Inn, up-above, turn up left through trees and grass to reach, and cross the road. A track ahead leads straight on through Silverknowes golf course, to pass beneath the club house. Go around its right hand side, to continue on up and, inland, to the roundabout. Cross and follow the tree-lined avenue ahead, Silverknowes Rd., inland towards shops. Cross, just before the shops, to the old Silverknowes farmhouse and take a snicket to the right. On exiting go left, right and 2<sup>nd</sup> left along Silverknowes Dr., admiring the clean white-harled walls, red Rosemary roofs and neat privet hedges of Edinburgh's garden suburb. Turn right beside a grassy patch to join cycle path #1 which follows along Silverknowes Terrace. We now keep on along this general direction (and cycle path) all the way to the end of Leg 4. Keep half-left (in 200 m) along the cycle path. Go straight over at the pedestrian light. Follow the cycle path signs as Barnton Av. sweeps, right-left-right-left,

to eventually lead between golf courses and on ahead along Barton Av. West to reach the end of Leg 4, at the Barton-Cramond Road (and 41 bus stop).

### **Leg 5 Linear from Barnton to Wester Hailes.**

From the junction of Barnton (Av. West) and Whitehouse Rd. follow cycle route #1 down Brae Park Rd. Keep left at a Y-junction. On reaching a grassy meadow follow its left-hand edge to reach the River Almond. Turn left upstream. Pass beneath the A90 overpass. Keep on upstream to exit right between housing. On emerging turn right. Beyond the housing, on the right, the road bends gently left and soon a gateway leads left into Cammo Park. Study the map at the entrance gate. Our route keeps up high, and exits through the far right-hand corner through the area named High Park. Keep right at a path junction. Follow paths, with trees on the right. Keep going to find a wall gap. Exit to encounter a golf course (over the wall to your right) and a meadow (to your left). Follow a rough path alongside the golf-course wall. The path (possibly wet where it crosses a small dip) continues ahead to join an old lane, which is followed to disused gates. Bypass the gates to escape onto Craigs Rd. Turn left, 600m leads over the brow of a slight rise to the busy A902, Maybury to Barnton Rd. Cross and carry on straight ahead until Craigmount High School is reached. Turn right passing play areas with the school on your left. Bear right. The path drops left through housing. Exit and turn left to follow along N. Gyle Loan for a few paces. Go right, straight down Dechmont Rd. At the main road, cross it using the pedestrian lights. Go right a couple of paces to find the entrance to Gyle Park. In the park bear half-left and pass the entrance to the David Lloyd Centre. Pass exercise machines. Keep ahead, diagonally across the Park. Aim for a 1970's housing scheme. Enter the scheme. Once well inside, go right to exit at the far right-hand end. Turn left onto the platform of South Gyle Railway Station. At the far end of the platform, rise up and cross over the railway. Once over the railway bridge descend steps to the right. Go through the station car park and follow alongside the railway (heading out of town). Trees lie to the right, housing to the left. After 100m a path goes to the left. Take this all the way through to S Gyle Rd. Turn right, to cross over and soon (2<sup>nd</sup> left) find S. Gyle Rd. Make a small detour through this pleasant vernacular housing scheme. Bear right, within the scheme, to pass through archways and eventually re-emerge to the right. Resume walking along S. Gyle Rd. (We are still heading for the Gyle shopping centre). Bear right and then left along Gogarloch Rd. Find a snicket that heads right through to Gogarloch

Syke. Keep ahead along a path that leads back to the main path alongside the railway. Follow the main path left, across grass, to find the side entrance into the Gyle Shopping Centre. Pass through to the main entrance. Gyle Ave. leads out to the entrance roundabout. A handy underpass (to the left) gets us past this busy junction. Keep ahead. Cross over right onto Lochside Ave. to walk along the far side of the water features of the Business Park. At the far end (the 3<sup>rd</sup> lochan) re-cross the stream and tram tracks. A paved footpath leads between modern office blocks. Turn right at its end, and follow the footpath and road as they weave to Edinburgh Park Station. Cross the line (use stairs, or even better, the goods lift). Cross the tram track and road into Hermiston Gait Retail Park. Keep ahead along the pavement with shop-outlets on the left. A snicket leads left, between Decathlon and Tesco's. (There are handy toilets inside Tesco's). Turn right up Cullins Rd. Cross scrubby ground to join the canal tow-path when it comes in from the right. Follow the Union Canal beneath Cultins and Calder Roads, and onwards for 1.5 km, to pass beneath Wester Hailes Rd. Almost immediately turn back up a ramp, or steps. On reaching Wester Hailes Rd turn left over the canal. The end of the walk is now clearly visible. Bear left across grass. Cross at the pedestrian lights into Wester Hailes Plaza, and the end of our 35 km stroll around the outskirts of Edinburgh.



### Background notes for the whole walk

and thoughts on Edinburgh's urban sprawl can both be found at:

<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/thompson/Blog/>