

# Lothian Transect Route. Leg 4

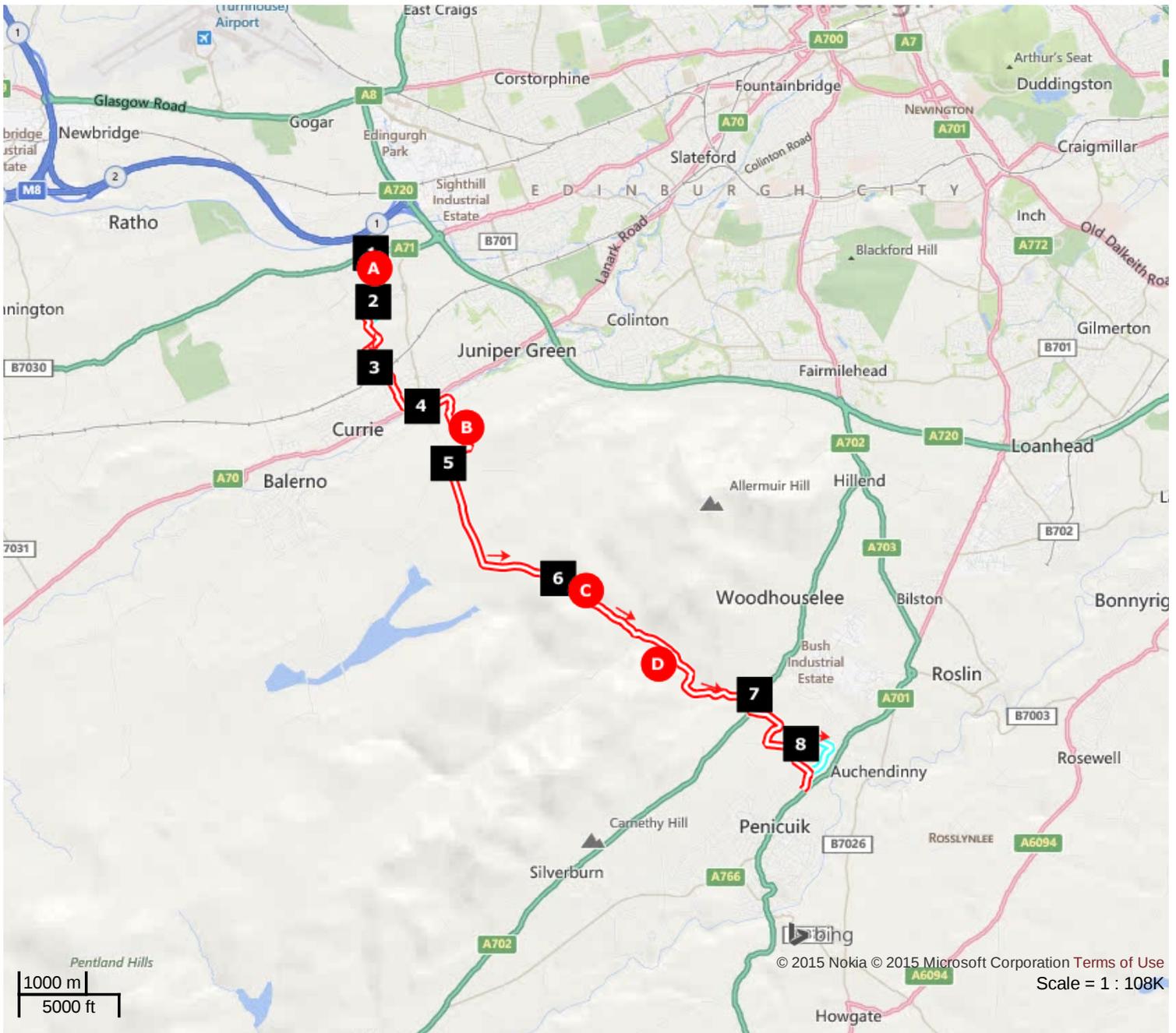
Starts at Long Hermiston

3 hours 13 minutes | 9.7miles 15.7km | Moderate



ID: 0.7075 | Developed by: Roy Thompson |

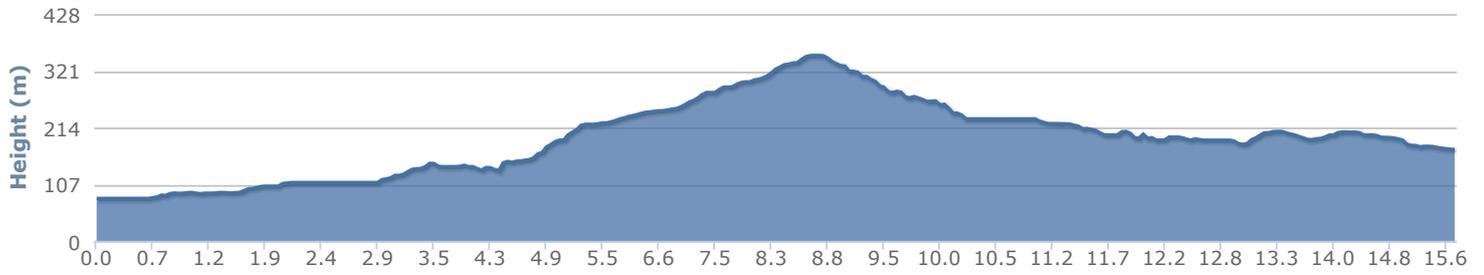
Long Hermiston to Mauricewood. Fourth Leg of a 90-mile walk across the whole of the Lothians, using quiet footpaths, country parks, disused railway lines, river banks, tracks and the occasional minor road.



— Main Route    — Alternative Route    H Point of Interest    4 Waypoint

Distance: 15.62km    Ascent: 369m    Descent: 276m

## Route Profile



\*move mouse over graph to see points on route

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity. We work to safeguard the footpaths, countryside and other places where we all go walking. We encourage people to walk for their health and wellbeing. To become a member visit [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

## **Starts at**

North entrance gate to Heriot-Watt University at Long Hermiston

## **Ends at**

Beeslack High School, Mauricewood, nearr Penicuik.

## **Getting there**

Walk start: Long Hermiston: First Bus 27/28 from Edinburgh. Bus stops immediately adjacent to the North entrance to Heriot-Watt Univeristy at Long Hermiston

Walk end: Beeslack High School is well seved by Lothian buses numbers 15, 37, 40, 47; also the Edinburgh-Galashiels First Bus 62.

## **Route instructions**

**[1]** Start Leg 4 by entering the grounds of Heriot-Watt University at the “A listed” North Lodge. Set off through the old gardens of Riccarton House along the combined foot and cycle path. You cross a road and then, after passing the recycling centre (on your right), turn right through an underpass to go along ‘The Walk’. Ascend the first set of steps (blue railings) to the left, and cross along the board-walk beside the ornamental loch. Once over, turn back sharp-right to find the half-concealed entrance to a lochside path. At its end, turn left up the cross-path, then open and go through a ‘rustic’ double-door (triangular windows) on your right.

If the door happens to be locked, then take the circuitous alternative route around the outside of the building. Follow left, keeping the building on your right. Go right around to the main entrance. Either enter here, or more straightforwardly carry on around the outside of the building (with eventually extensive playing fields on your left) to rejoin the main route where Cameron Smail Rd. meets the playing fields.

**[2]** Your exit is almost directly in-front through a similar ‘rustic’ door, on the far side of the corridor. If time permits the ‘bridge link’ corridor, to the right, leads to a cafe and toilets. Having crossed through the building corridor you carry on ahead. Soon, bear right, near an old ice-house, then (beyond the ice-house) fork left to skirt the sunken garden with its curling lawn and ornamental trees, below to your right. Keep on ahead. Turn left at the far corner of the Library (where the lawn ends) and follow Cameron Smail Rd. gently uphill (across ‘The Freeway’) to the playing fields. Here cross at the zebra and proceed along the left-hand side of the line of trees ahead, with the playing fields on your left. On reaching the far end of the fields go right into trees. A broad path is found. Follow it right. Just before the minor is reached, bear left along a narrow, informal path. This roughly parallels the road to soon emerge onto it. Turn left along the pavement. At a pronounced left-hand bend cross carefully into the car park of Currie Hill Station.

**[3]** At the station take the pedestrian bridge and cross the line. Exit the station and immediately make a sharp 180 degree left turn, to follow a ‘commuter path’ over open ground. The path rises diagonally to the left. On reaching a road turn right uphill. Bear slightly right to continue uphill by following a path (hedge on your right, grass to the left) then straight on along back streets (Palmer Rd, Pentland Pl). Make a short right-left dog-leg at Forth View Cres., to take steps up into a small shopping area, and so reach the main Lanark Rd West. Once over the pedestrian crossing, turn left along the pavement. Beyond the old Currie library (red sandstone building on your left), and toilet block on your right, bear right down an old snicket. At its base turn right to head across the bridge over the Water of Leith towards Currie Kirk.

**[4]** Before arriving at Currie Kirk take the steps up left onto the old railway line. Turn left following the broad riverside path downstream. In a few 100 yards turn right up a signed footpath to Poet’s Glen. A long flight of steep, wooden steps leads up to the minor Blinkbonny Rd. Turn right along the pavement. Just after the

entrance of Braeburn Dr. turn left to enter Poet's Glen. Climb the wooded path upwards all the way to Middle Kinleith. Turn right along Harlow Rd. This quiet, minor road crosses a small bridge and then carries onwards to an open crossroads with extensive views across W. Lothian and Fyfe.

**[5]** At the crossroads take the lane on the left. Follow this straight, broad lane all the way to the Pentlands. After a mile, pass through a gate into the Pentlands proper. Soon bear left, at a path junction and gate, to rise in a mile to the low coll of Maiden's Cleuch.

**[6]** From the Cleuch your path keeps straight on, and down, for a mile to the Glencorse reservoir. Turn left along the road. A short while after the end of the reservoir take the marked path on the right to the 'Old filter Beds'. At the path end, when the minor road is regained, bear right to cross onto a made path, and then wend your way through thin wood to the Rangers Station (toilets). Keep on along the road to pass the Flotterstone Inn.

*The Flotterstone Rangers Station has toilets, useful information boards and handy leaflets.*

**[7]** Keep ahead past the Flotterstone Inn. Very soon, before reaching the main A702, turn right over the old bridge. Bear right along the pavement of the busy main road until a small house is reached on the left. Cross with care to take the track beside the house. Keep right at the first 'Y' junction, then go right again at the next 'T' junction. The track leads through to Belwood Rd. A new housing estate is planned here.

**[8]** Turn left. The minor road bends gently left, then right. If the new estate is still unbuilt, on reaching the 30-mile an hour sign (or before, if feeling adventurous) head right over rough ground, with thin paths, to discover a small streamlet which is followed downstream (left) towards Beeslack. Continue down to a small pedestrian bridge. Cross over the stream at the bridge. Bear left once across. Keep to the footpaths to reach the underpass for Beeslack High School. Here, at the route end, bus stops are found for the homeward journey.

If the new housing estate has been built then keep straight on, along Belwood Rd. Pass housing on your right (ignore the dead ends of Greenlaw Grove & Shaws Cres.) until Stevenson Rd. is reached. Turn right along Stevenson Rd. and continue through to the pedestrian bridge, over the stream, between Breck Terrace and Inkerman Court, where the main route is rejoined.

### **Additional 'Point of Interest' information**

A. The Heriot-Watt Campus is set in 380 acres of beautiful parkland. The University had its origins in 1821 as the Edinburgh School of Arts. Today, with campuses in Scotland and Dubai, it has 17,000 students. The old gardens of Riccarton House are at the heart of the campus. Leaflets and maps of various campus trails (tree, history, art & landscape) are available. <http://www.hw.ac.uk/documents/campus-guidebook.pdf>

B. Poet's Glen. This wooded dell with its scenic riverside path remembers the weaver-poet James Thomson, and his early 19th century poetry in the Scottish vernacular. His cottage still stands at Mid Kileith farm, with "Mount Parnassus" inscribed over the entrance door.

C. Maiden's Cleuch. Scots/northern English *cleuch*, a steep, often rocky-sided gorge or ravine. Here a low pass.

D. Glencorse Reservoir was built between 1820 and 1824 to provide water for local mills and drinking water for Edinburgh. Today however the reservoir is not the primary source of Edinburgh's water, but instead provides a top-up supply when the principal supply from the Southern Uplands runs low.

### **Notes**

**For Background Notes to all nine 'Lothian transect route' walks:**

see Additional Information Notes to "Lothian transect route Leg 1".

### **Acknowledgements**

Developed by: *Roy Thompson*



Walking group near Maiden's Cleuch  
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Glencorse Reservoir  
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Pentlands mud caused by inconsiderate mountain  
biking above Glencorse reservoir.  
Photo taken by: Mrs C.L. Thompson

