

Lothian Transect Route. Leg 5

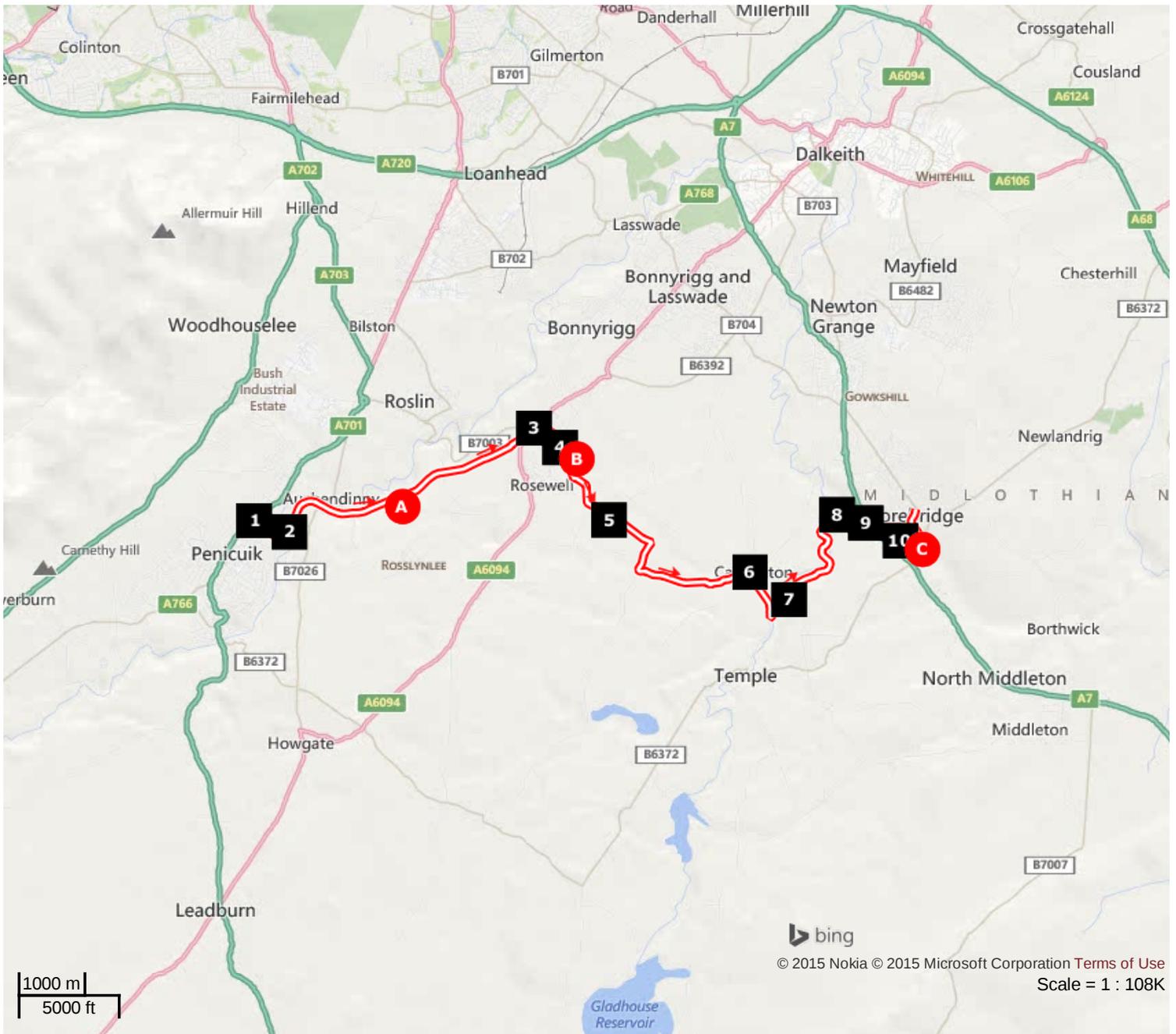
Starts at Beeslack High School

3 hours 28 minutes | 10.4miles 16.8km



ID: 0.7076 | Developed by: Roy Thompson |

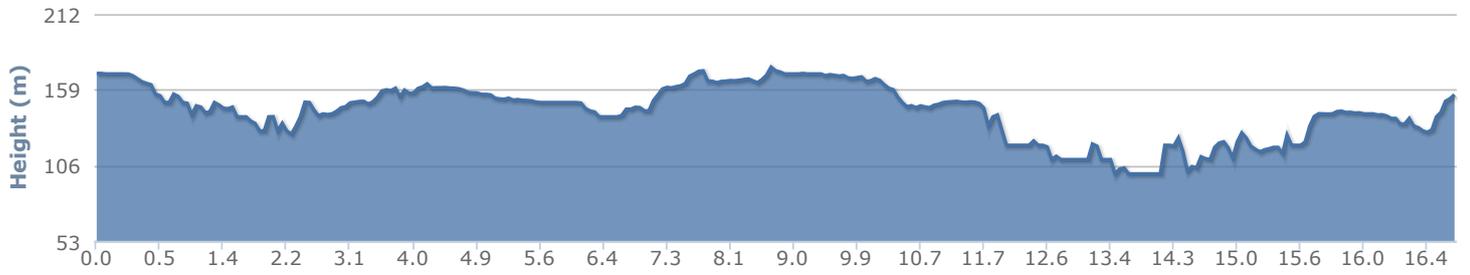
Mauricewood to Gorebridge. Fifth Leg of a 90-mile walk across the whole of the Lothians, using quiet footpaths, country parks, disused railway lines, river banks, tracks and the occasional minor road.



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

Distance: 16.69km Ascent: 320m Descent: 335m

Route Profile



*move mouse over graph to see points on route

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Starts at

Beeslack High School, Mauricewood

Ends at

Gorebridge

Getting there

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

Walk end: Lothian buses 3, 29. [Lothian 29 is quickest into the town centre.] 2015 will see the reopening Gorebridge railway station.

Route instructions

[1] At the Beeslack pedestrian underpass take the side road leading downhill, away from the main road, towards Aaron House. Beyond the playing/tennis pitches proceed right into trees. The path leads down to the Penicuik-to-Dalkeith Walkway, along the former Edinburgh to Peebles railway line.

[2] Turn left along the old railway. Follow it for three miles to Rosewell, passing through tunnels and past old station platforms.

[3] On reaching the outskirts of Rosewell cross the A6094, go left on a short path alongside the main road. At the junction turn right into Gorton Rd. Quite soon take a snicket, on the left by houses, through into Gorton Place. Find a path, which leads across washing greens into Victoria St. to meet the main road at Lousia Square. Turn right. Then opposite Gorton Rd., in the centre of Rosewell, steer left into the park.

[4] Head across, diagonally-right, and exit through a hedge into Whitehill Rd. Follow the road to the left as it crosses the Dalhousie Burn and winds around the magnificent Whitehill House. Carry on, turning right at The Old Dairy, and then left to pass the entrance to Thornton Farm. A rough track leads straight on. Take it, and after a few tens of paces follow the footpath (right) into woods to shortly reach a high wall.

[5] Step through the high boundary wall. Go sharp left, along the far side of the wall, and then right along a long, straight path through agricultural land and over a stile. At the minor road ignore the footpath sign opposite. Go right along the road, past cottages and Parduvine farm. At the road-junction you carry straight on. A footpath soon leads off left. Cross the stream just below the small confluence and set off downstream. [If in spate; instead carry on 100m along the road, go left along the farm track, here a gate leads into our field.] You are heading towards the distant houses at Carrington. Go through two gates, keeping to the left-hand edge of fields, to pass through a dilapidated kissing gate. Keep on following the left-hand field boundary as it winds gradually onwards (eastwards, besides a deep ditch) to eventually join the minor road into Carrington.

[6] At Carrington Kirk, turn right along the road to Temple. When the road starts to descend, look for a low fence (and broken stile) on the left. Once over the fence, bear down, left, and contour along and gradually descend through overgrown trees to reach a conifer plantation. The path leads downwards crossing more stiles to eventually reach the R. Esk at an attractive bridge.

[7] Ignore the bridge, take the riverside path, to the left, downstream. The path winds along, and up and down. After a mile, cross the Esk, keep going downstream and, after a weir, cross the tributary stream of the R. Gore. Take care here, as you need to turn immediately right to follow the tributary upstream.

[8] Head upstream following the Gore. Soon the rumble of traffic crossing the new Shank Bridge carrying the A7 high overhead is to be heard. Go under the viaduct, then immediately climb steeply up left. The aim

is to use the viaduct to cross high above the R. Gore. On reaching a cross-path, take it horizontally left. On reaching the main road turn left again. Follow the pavement to cross high above the river.

[9] Once over the viaduct, pass a low stone plinth to bear gradually left across a small patch of scrubby ground, and enter trees, at a footpath sign. Walk onwards above, and then alongside, the R. Gore. Proceed upstream. Eventually exit right, up wooden steps, above the brick walls of the old gunpowder works to trace alongside a field edge.

[10] Step left into a playing area. Cross slightly diagonally to a left-hand corner, by buildings. Exit left, and head back, sharp left again, into John Bernard Way and then Glenview Place to find a path (or equally good, steps) which lead down to Powdermill Brae. Turn left, cross the bridge over the R. Gore followed by the bridge over the refurbished Waverly railway line. Go up Station Rd. and into Main St. Leg 5 of the Lothian Transect ends in the centre of Gorebridge, at Hunter Square.

Additional 'Point of Interest' information

A. Former Edinburgh to Peebles railway line. The old line forms part of the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway - a 9.5 mile route passing through many of Midlothian's historic towns and villages. The railway, like most railways, was built mainly for the transport of goods. There were three paper mills (sadly, now new housing estates) en route. The line also served the gunpowder mills in Roslin Glen.

B. The village of Rosewell grew-up around the coal-mining industry. In 1846, the population was just 133 people, but by 1881 it had risen dramatically to 2129. This rise was due to many Irish immigrants coming over to find work and escape the effects of the Irish potato famine. This influx led to Rosewell becoming known as 'little Ireland'. Life was undeniably hard in the early days. There was no electricity or running water. However, a comparatively good class of brick-built housing was provided and these Miner's Cottages remain to today. It is relatively unusual to see brick-housing in Scotland; most bricks were made by the coal board and they were not of good enough quality to be left exposed to the elements, hence the ubiquitous Scottish harling of brick-built houses.

C. Stobhill Gunpowder Works (Scotland's first gunpowder mill). In 1794, the mill started operations on the banks of the Gore Water. The construction of the gunpowder mill was a major work of engineering. The Gore Water was diverted, four dams were built and a complex system of lades and culverts took water from these dams to operate ten water wheels which powered the various mills. Besides supplying blasting powder for mines and quarries at home, gunpowder was sold to the Government during the Napoleonic War. Blast walls, pits, lades, blast recesses, a mill pond dam and drying building remains are still discernable, although faint.

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*



Railway tunnel
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Entering Carrington village
Photo taken by: Mrs C.L. Thompson

