

Lothian Transect Route. Leg 7

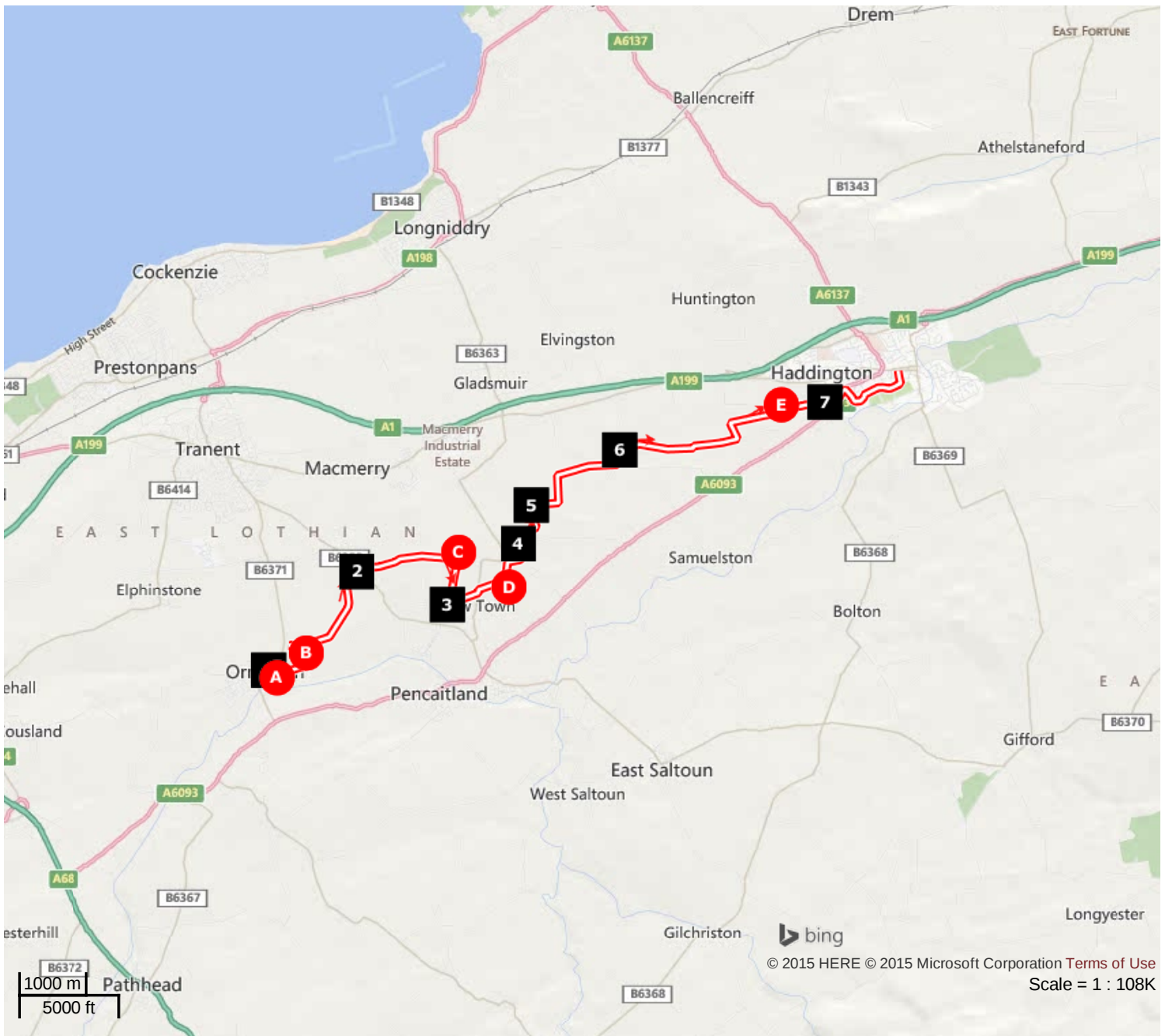
Starts at Ormiston

3 hours 13 minutes | 9.7miles 15.7km | Leisurely



ID: 0.7078 | Developed by: Roy Thompson |

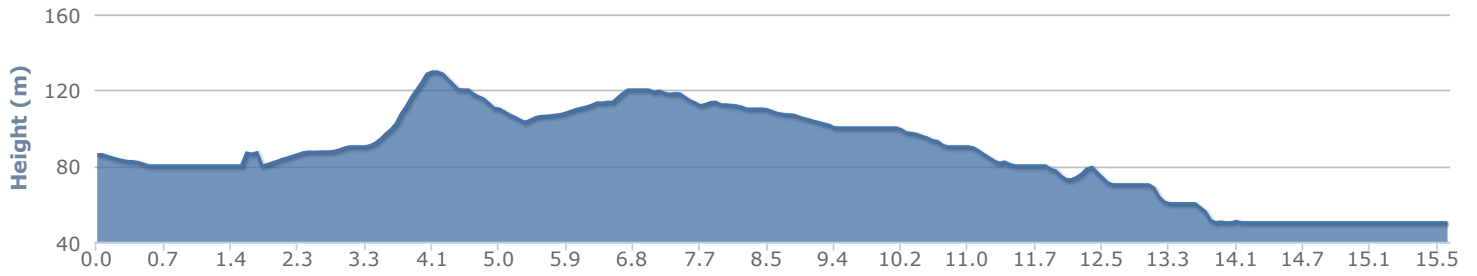
Ormiston to Haddington. Seventh Leg of a 90-mile walk across the whole of the Lothians, using quiet footpaths, country parks, disused railway lines, river banks, tracks and the occasional minor road.



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

Distance: 15.63km Ascent: 85m Descent: 121m

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

Starts at

Ormiston. Centre of village, near market cross.

Ends at

Haddington

Getting there

Walk start: Ormiston Lothian Country Bus 113 (every 30 mins) on the Western General to Pentcaitland route.

Walk end: From Haddington. Good bus service run by several companies. Buses typically every 20 mins or less.

Route instructions

[1] From the centre of Ormiston walk east along Main Street, passing the 15th century Mercat Cross (on its traffic island). Turn right down Cross Loan, then left along Hillview Road. Follow this through fields, to go left at a cross track. This old Pencaitland railway passes behind an imposing modern grain-store, and markers of old mines (photo) to quickly reach an old Y-shaped railway junction. Branch right to cross the small Puddle Burn, and soon take a footpath to the left. Follow the footpath for 1 km through the sinuous woodland strip. At the B6355 cross and continue directly ahead. In a further $\frac{1}{4}$ km, at a junction of paths, continue straight on, along the woodland strip of the Winton Estate.

[2] Follow the path around the edge of the Winton Estate. After another $\frac{3}{4}$ km follow the Estate track as it swings right. Pass a small wooden hut with a circular doorway (see photo). Finally exit the Estate woods in a further $\frac{1}{2}$ km, at a path junction, where a good track leads left to Newtown.

[3] Pass cottages on the right to arrive at the Community Hall. Cross the commuter 'rat run' of the dreadful B6363, by going left and immediately right to gain the pleasant minor road into Boggs Holding. At the red telephone box (i.e. in 300 m) turn left. After another 200m, and a few paces before reaching the B6363, take the woodland strip to the right. This leads through to another minor road, which you follow left to a road junction and the entrance to Hodges farm.

[4] Walk up towards Hodges farm. Swing right in front of it and onwards past Nursery Wood. Follow the farm track to the left which leads into Butterdean Wood. Almost immediately find a narrow woodland track that traces along the right-hand edge of Butterdean. Soon swing left to follow a streamlet, and then on passing the back of a nursery, Alba Trees, exit the Butterdean plantation over a stile.

[5] Follow the broad avenue along the northern edge of the nursery. At its end your route continues, by and large, on this same eastward heading all the way to Haddington. On reaching the minor road continue directly ahead for a further 400m. A minor crossroads is reached. Here head left (temporarily northwards) for 200m. A footpath (right) allows you to resume your easterly course for a long stretch, 1.5 km, along the edge of fields and in shelter belts. On emerging onto a minor road, go left passing new houses. Soon turn right, in woods.

[6] A good, well made, track leads (eastwards once again) towards Letham Mains. Keep on ahead. Beyond the Mains, the path basically follows Letham Burn all the way to the outskirts of Haddington. Just before Clerkington housing estate cross the burn at a small footbridge. Keep ahead, and slightly right, to join a main road.

[7] At this road junction, with the main A6093, bear left towards Haddington. Cross the A6093. Ignore Long Cram to find, sharp right, a broad grassy swath just beyond Acredales. Take this grassy avenue to its

close, where a vennel (narrow passage) leads left into a small housing enclave. Cross Wellside Rd. to pass through yet another vennel and take a footpath that follows around the northern edge of the playing fields at the back of the Knox Academy. Ever eastwards, your route leads on to a vennel, passing St Mary's Primary School and more playing fields on the right. At the entrance to Nelson Park turn left (Nelson Park Road) to disgorge into the hubbub of Haddington Town Centre, and the end of Leg 7.

Additional 'Point of Interest' information

A. Ormiston: The first planned village in Scotland, founded in 1735 by John Cockburn (1685–1758), one of the initiators of the Agricultural Revolution, using strict guidelines for its appearance. Cockburn put housing for artisans and cottage industries (spinning and weaving) around the original mill hamlet. A brewery and distillery were established in 1726. The Hopetoun Arms hotel, established in 1739, was originally a coaching house - the first on the stage coach south from Edinburgh to London. Ormiston later became a mining village.

B. The Ormiston Coal Company worked a number of small pits, eg Meadow (see photo) & Winton 1949-62 (the last pit working in the village). But there are many geological faults in the area, which made the winning of coal both difficult and expensive. Smaller places such as Ormiston tended to retain rural connections, so here (unlike in many other Lothian villages) the demise of the coal industry did not result in a devastated community.

C. Winton Estate Previous owners of the estate included William the Lion (reigned as King of the Scots from 1165 to 1214).

D. Boggs Holdings were set up during the early 1930s to help reduce the high unemployment of the interwar years. In the old days forty two families made their living from hens, pigs, soft fruit and vegetables. Several had a cow to produce their own milk and butter. After the Second World War a lot of soft fruit - mainly strawberries - were grown. Today few holders make their living totally from the property as the Holdings are fast becoming a commuter area.

E. Letham House. 17th Century mansion. Enjoy the fields round about while you can, as nearly 400 new homes could soon be built as ambitious development plans for the general Letham Mains area were lodged in 2014.

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*



Winton estate junction of paths
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Winton hut
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Winton estate path junction before Newtown & Boggs Holdings
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Meadow pit
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson

