

# Lothian Transect Route. Leg 8

Starts at Haddington

4 hours 12 minutes | 12.6miles 20.3km | Leisurely



ID: 0.7079 | Developed by: Roy Thompson |

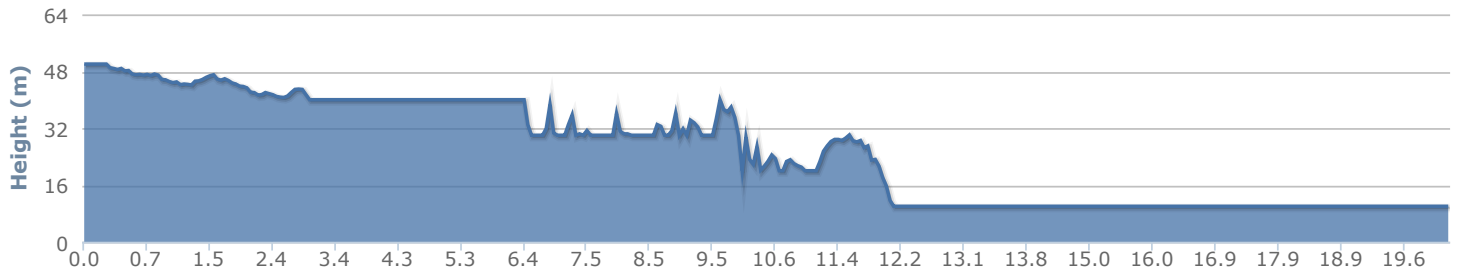
Haddington to West Barns. Eighth, penultimate, leg of a 90-mile walk across the whole of the Lothians, using quiet footpaths, country parks, disused railway lines, river banks, tracks and the occasional minor road.



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

Distance: 20.27km    Ascent: 90m    Descent: 130m

## Route Profile



\*move mouse over graph to see points on route

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## **Starts at**

Haddington, town centre (Junction of Court St., High St. and Nelson Park Rd.)

## **Ends at**

West Barns (East end, bus stop at crossroads of Beveridge Row and Edinburgh Rd.)

## **Getting there**

Walk start: Haddington. Frequent buses (every 20 mins or so, run from Edinburgh). These include First 106/X6/X8, Perrymans and Lothian 104. X6 and Perrymans run slightly quicker services.

Walk end: West Barns. First 106/X6, Perrymans. (Buses typically every hour.)

## **Route instructions**

**[1]** Leave Haddington's central square, at the junction of Court, Market, and the High Streets, by heading south along Nelson Park Road (public toilets on the right). At the end do not enter the Park Gates, but take the vennel to the left, quickly bear right along a passageway that doglegs through to Mill Wynd. Go left here and cross at the next junction. Pass through the ornamental gates, with black railings, into the grounds of St Mary's. Keep straight on, to soon bear slightly left past the church, to exit into The Sands. On arriving at the cylindrical dovecot of Lady Kitty's Garden turn right over the arched, old Nungate Bridge (A).

**[2]** Once across the R. Tyne take steps down to the left. Briefly follow the river to quickly turn right through a vennel into Tyne Court, exit at the far left. Turn right into St Martin's Gate. Follow it away from the river and at its end swing right into Bullet Loan. Pass the ruins of St Martins on your left. At the T-junction go left along Lennox Rd., to soon cross Whittingehame Drive and reach the semi-ornamental West Gates (of the old Amisfield estate) and pass through into the parkland golf course.

**[3]** Follow the driveway straight on, past the club house. Before the car park keep left (ahead) along a rough track, and follow it to its end. An old walled garden (B) lies to the left. Exit the old estate onto a minor road which you follow left to Abbey Bridge. Once over the bridge turn left and drop down to the river bank.

**[4]** Proceed downstream for 5 km to East Linton. Having gone under the impressively lofty A1 bridge, and then the old A199 road bridge, you eventually arrive at the back of housing. Here, immediately before arriving at the lattice-worked railway bridge turn left up Distillery Wynd.

**[5]** At the top turn right along Station Road. Do not enter East Linton but continue along Station Road, over the river Tyne and out along Mill Wynd towards Phantassie. The railway embankment lies parallel on the right. Before the roundabout a marked footpath (which we will follow) leads off to the left. But first go ahead two dozen paces to admire the John Rennie Commemorative baluster (see Information Notes, C). Return to the Phantassie footpath which follows a double dogleg right-left-right-left around buildings and leads you to the beehive-shaped Phantassie doocot. Immediately before the doocot take the right-hand field boundary. This leads to a footbridge bridge over the Tyne.

**[6]** Cross the bridge and follow the John Muir Way downstream. Soon the Way crosses back over the Tyne at a second footbridge. Here the alternative route via a farm shop is recommended. However, if following the main route, keep to the edge of the Tyne. Follow the river downstream and after two fields rise up to the minor road at Tynninghame Bridge. Turn right, you may be able to use a footpath in the field alongside the road. Soon turn left along a quiet lane towards the estuary (D).

At the second footbridge leave the river and take the farm road towards Knowes farm. Dogleg left-right between farm buildings, then (by the partly hidden white entrance gates) go sharp left along the road to the well-stocked farm shop and cafe. Highly recommended. After stocking up do not retrace your steps,

instead just continue along the farm shop road (telegraph poles on your right, more farm housing ahead on the left). At the minor road go left and then at the next junction (in 100 m) go right, thereby joining quiet lane which leads to the estuary.

**[7]** On reaching the embankment, go right then left to follow alongside the shore beside World War II relics. Keep ahead for 2 km. A bridge crosses a stream. Once over bear slightly right. A conifer plantation lies to the left, East Links Family Play Park (E) to the right (the lamma love to be fed - ordinary grass suffices). On re-gaining the coast there is a large toilet block on the left, and car parks to the right.

**[8]** From the toilet block, keep ahead along the John Muir Way. Do not bear inland (through fields), nor out to sea (across sands). On encountering the Biel Water, follow it inland a short distance to cross the footbridge. Walk back alongside the Biel and then carry on along the coast, on a good path, past Seafield Pond (F) and a caravan site. This long, straight section of path ends at Shore Road which you take to the right.

**[9]** Head inland up Shore Rd. to the walk end at the bus stops on the main Edinburgh Road.

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

**A.** Haddington Population: 9,000 At one time (The High Middle Ages) Haddington was the fourth biggest city in Scotland after Aberdeen, Roxburgh and Edinburgh. Haddington Bowling Club derives from the oldest bowling green in Scotland. (Dates from at least 1667; look out for the grass rectangle at the SW end of the 12th century Nungate Bridge. Also, not to be missed, is the *in situ* hanging hook. Look carefully beneath the westernmost arch, as you approach the bridge.)

**B.** Amisfield House and walled garden. Have a look in at the walled garden built in 1783. The Amisfield Preservation Trust encourages visitors. The house itself was a victim of dry rot, demolished in 1928.

**C.** East Linton. Rennie Memorial at Phantassie House. Baluster from Waterloo Bridge. A baluster is spindle made of stone, multiplied they form a balustrade. Rennie was born at Phantassie. His prolific work on canals (Kennet & Avon), bridges (Waterloo, London), harbours & lighthouses (designed Bell Rock), draining marches (Lincolnshire) mark him as one of the greatest engineers of his age. Rennie's masonry bridges are noted for combining solidity with elegance. His masterpiece Waterloo Bridge (opened in 1817). Famously painted (1900) by Monet, also features in the magnificently, unapologetically romantic 1940 Film – 'Waterloo Bridge' starring Vivien Leigh.

The beehive-shaped Phantassie Doocot, with its French style horseshoe parapet, was built in the 16th century to house 500 pigeons.

**D.** Tynninghame Bay. The saltmarshes of John Muir Country Park at Tynninghame Bay attract wintering and migratory birds. It is a spectacular estuary with fringing woods and grasslands and flocks of waders – oystercatchers, curlew, dunlin and redshank. World War II defensive structures including look-outs, dragon's teeth, pillboxes, anti-tank blocks and glider traps (rows of posts out on the sands can still be seen).

**E.** East Links Family Playpark. A farm themed activity, with train safari and animal paddocks for cattle, sheep, pygmy goats, deer, pigs, horses, donkeys, rhea, lamas, wallabys, ornamental chickens, guinea fowl, pheasants and quail.

**F.** Seafield pond, West Barns – site of former 19th century brickworks which shut when the raw materials ran out. Only the ponds remain to mark the site.

## **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*



Llamas in East Links Family Play Park awaiting feeding  
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson



Llama's eye  
Photo taken by: Roy Thompson

