

# The Winton Walks

## Route Guide



*The Winton Walks combine old and new routes over Winton Estate and around the village and parish. They are short, long, flat, hilly, with views or hidden in the trees, some to enjoy nature and some for adventure for the kids big and small! Assistance in their provision and signage has come from The Community Council, The European Community Tyne Esk Leader+ 2000-2006 Programme and a large number of men, women and machines to whom much gratitude is owed. They are described for the time being as walks since they are not yet constructed to a standard for camel rides and chariots; upgrading for this is a project we shall aim for. I hope that you enjoy the beauty of this place.*



Francis Ogilvy  
Winton House  
August 2006



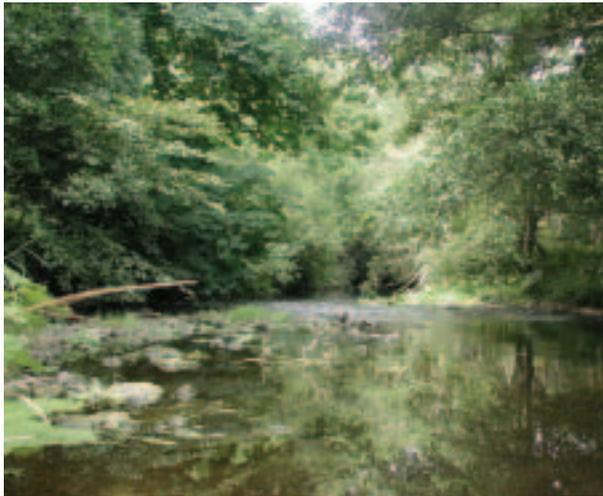
Pencaitland Parish Church



The limekiln (see Figures of Eight)



Trevelyan Hall, Wester Pencaitland



Norman's Pool

### ■ River Loops –

**Water and woodland in harmony**

**Yellow: 3 miles (5km), ranging from 0.6 (1km) to 1.6 miles (2.5km) 1/2 - 1 1/2 hours**

Three linked loops follow the Tyne; good for a nature dawdle – they are described here. All follow the flow of the river from the stone (Sinclair) bridge below the church. The bridge has the shield of the Sinclairs on one side and a date 151(0?).

### ■ The Avenue

Upstream from the Sinclair Bridge across the Tyne, a path crosses the (once) Dry Burn on the left bank of the river leading through the woodland towards Winton House. Alternatively a meander up the avenue of poplar trees with the view of Winton House will end up at the same place. A wooden bridge, known as The Willow Bridge, over the Tyne allows a return route on the west bank known as Washing House Brae. There is a further loop up the bank for views over the Tyne Valley. For younger visitors when at the Sinclair Bridge, the left arch allows passage to the Glebe Stroll beyond.

### ■ Glebe Stroll

Downstream from the Sinclair Bridge, a path follows the river bank below the Glebe Wood, planted in 2000 as a community woodland. Passing below the walled garden for the Manse and on to the gate, the route splits; steps lead up to the back of the Primary School but the Figures of Eight route follows the river. The Stroll path leaves the woodland at the Glebe houses following the pavements past the school entrance and on to the main road, turning left towards the church and down, back to the Sinclair Bridge.

### ■ Figures of Eight (with Pieces of Eight!)

Through the woods behind the school and along the river are two figures of eight-shaped pathways. They can be reached from the **Glebe Stroll**, the **Village Circular** down from the Bowling Green **car park** or from the bus turning circle at the east end off the Saltoun Road. The small wetland in the middle is for wildlife and birds (in the normal meaning!).

A further loop downstream passes along a narrower section to the picnic area at Norman's Pool where the Birns Water and the Tyne converge (*beware pirates at the Pieces of Eight!*). The path then rises to join the road between the old kilns of the former deep limestone quarry and on to the bus turning circle. At the main road, a short stretch to the left leads to pedestrian barriers and the tarred path below Mill Way, completing the circuit back to the Glebe and from there back to the Sinclair Bridge.



Pieces of Eight

Jock's fish on Sinclair Bridge - carved 1950



### ■ Village Circular – Revealing the past

**Blue: 1.85 miles (3km) 1/2 - 1 1/2 hours**

From the Sinclair Bridge heading east (clockwise) towards Haddington, the fascinating 13th-century Pencaitland Church is on the right and the next lodge gates on the left lead to Winton House. Most of the stone buildings beyond as far as the war memorial were once part of the Winton Estate dating from the mid-19th century. After the Winton Arms, turn right at the Granny Shop with the park and bowling green on the left. Beyond the **car park**, a woodland path leads down to the river and the **River Loops**. At the river turn upstream to a metal bridge below the Primary School, then cross the river and on up to and over the main road as far as the last house at the top of Huntlaw Road.

Climb the steps to the railway bridge and along the old railway to the right as far as the Old Station Yard **car park**. Head back down the track to the right past the Maltings to the main road, turning right past the houses built by Arthur Trevelyan in Beech Terrace and Castle View on the right with the old dovecote on the left. The old cart shed is on the right before reaching the Village Cross and the Spar Shop. The Trevelyan Hall is on the left at the top of the hill above the Sinclair Bridge.

## ■ Ormiston Express – The train is back!

**Green: 3.2 miles (5km) 2 hours**

From the Sinclair Bridge in the centre of the village facing upstream towards Winton House, a path on the left leads north along the edge of the wood and later into the Pirnie Braes Wood – named after the bobbin makers who once lived there. The wood runs along the south bank of the Tyne and the path follows the high ground along almost the entire length. The Ormiston Express train along the route has been decommissioned and gives respite along with the Walkers Roost Box!

At the Ormiston end, the path drops down to the river and across the Kingfisher Bridge, along the edge of a small wood and pond, then turns left towards Ormiston. The path continues along the edge of a field to meet the route of the Old Railway Line where there are three choices: Ormiston lies straight ahead; to the left, the **Ormiston Express** route leads back to Pencaitland; to the right is the **Hamilton Hike**.

The return route to Pencaitland passes the Ormiston Sewage Works on the left and then on, over the Tyne, before rising up to the main road. Across the road, it leads on to behind the Maltings and the car park, formerly Pencaitland Railway Station. Thereafter, turn left and follow the **Village Circular** back to the bridge.

Ormiston Express



## ■ Hamilton Hike - leg stretch

**Red: 5.1 miles (8km) 3 hours**

Follow the **Ormiston Express** route until it meets the old railway between the Kingfisher Bridge and Ormiston. Turn right here, passing the grain merchants and marker of the former Meadow Coal Pit. This follows the route of the former Gifford Light Railway; turning right before the Puddle Bridge takes one onto the route of the former Macmerry Railway. Take the path through the woodland strip on the left, a route known as the Sandy Walk, following the Puddle Burn.

Gifford Railway Line



At a right-angled bend when the hamlet of New Winton comes into view, there is the option to continue on and loop round the hamlet, or otherwise continue to the right, across the main road and up to above Wintonhill.

Arthur's View looks out to the Firth of Forth and Fife whilst further on, James' View takes in the Lammermuir Hills. The carved African women mark miles from the

Sinclair Bridge; a theme considering the distance many have as a daily walk for clean water. The path leads down to the main road and turning left once over the road, follows the road from a safe distance in the wood. At the Boggs crossroads, a tarred path straight ahead by the main road leads back to Pencaitland; right and left turns at the War Memorial and bowling green guide back to the **Bowling Green car park** or the **Village Circular** to return to the bridge.

## ■ The New Winton Loop

**Lilac: 1.8 miles (5km) 3/4 hour**

New Winton possesses a charm that is not relative to its size. *It dates back to the mid 19th- century when the original houses were built by Lady Ruthven of Winton House to replace ones close to falling down near to the main house.*

The loop round New Winton can start from the village or from a continuation of the Hamilton Hike. To the south, below the houses and on the far side from Tranent, it runs alongside the Puddle Burn, crossing into a small wood known as Whiteloch Covert and round behind the houses, over the main road and up the old toll road towards Penston. It then turns right along the old Macmerry railway route to rejoin the Sandy Walk.

*The trees in the adjacent enclosures are some of the 86,000 planted in 2006. Two thirds are broadleaves and several of the blocks are visible along the routes.*

New Winton



## Please...

be aware of the **Outdoor Access Code**.  
([www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com))  
and stick to the paths.

We have tried to avoid exclusivity on Winton Estate by providing marked routes which blend interest and enjoyment. Some estate activities, principally tourism within the designed landscape surrounding Winton House, benefit from a degree of privacy and we ask that this is respected. A summary of the Access Code is as follows:

- 1 **Take responsibility for your own actions;**
- 2 **Respect people's privacy and peace of mind.**  
When close to a house or garden, keep a sensible distance from the house, use a path or track if there is one, and take extra care at night;
- 3 **Help land managers and others to work safely and effectively.** Do not hinder land management operations and follow advice from land managers. Respect requests for reasonable limitations on when and where you can go;
- 4 **Care for your environment.** Do not disturb wildlife, leave the environment as you find it and follow a path or track if there is one;
- 5 **Keep your dog under proper control.** Do not take it through fields of calves and lambs, and dispose of dog dirt;
- 6 **Take extra care if you are organising an event or running a business and ask the landowner's advice.**



Top left: look out for this local character.  
Top right: Walker's Roost. Above: Kingfisher Bridge

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