

4

SOUTH FROM GULLANE BY OLD RAILWAY TRACK*Distance: 3 miles. Duration: 2 Hours. Moderate Level, challenging underfoot at times.*

At the Old Smiddy (centre main street Gullane) the oldest building in the village, walk South down the surfaced road (Saltcoats Road) between the Children's golf course on your left and Gullane golf course on your right. At the steading homes (formerly Saltcoats Farm) turn right onto John Muir Way and follow the path until you come to a junction. Follow the path left onto what was the track bed of the former Gullane branch line of the Old North British Railway. The gravel path to the right continues as the John Muir Way. The track-bed can become quite overgrown in the summer. Along the track look left for a view of the remains of the historic Saltcoats Castle dating from 1530.

Continue along the track all the way to the iron railing blocking the way across the Peffer Burn. Climb over and continue along to reach a bridge on its way to/from Aberlady Station but the track has been lost under cultivation. Turn left and walk along the field edge to gain the surfaced road East of the bridge. Walk East along the narrow, but sometimes busy road, to reach the farm of West Fenton. Turn left at the junction and walk up the road towards the East end of Gullane. Some 200m beyond a small wood and windmill on the right, turn left and walk through the pedestrian entrance to West Fentoungait housing. Walk straight ahead through the housing continuing onto Muirfield Drive. Walk up Muirfield Drive to the A198 in Gullane. Turn left on the footpath and walk straight down the main street back to the Old Smiddy.



5

GULLANE HILL & BENTS*Distance 1.5 miles, Duration: 1.5 - 2 hours, Moderate level, Challenging underfoot at times.*

Starting at the Old Smiddy (centre main street) cross over main road and turn left following the footpath westwards crossing over Sandy Loan to reach the ruined Church of St Andrew on your right. Inside the Churchyard is a stone cairn and plaque giving details of this historic site. Continue alongside the main road, walk beyond the large white Gullane Golf Clubhouse on your right. Continue along this west Links Road parallel to the first tee of Gullane No.1 golf course. Where the road ends at a gate, bear right and walk up the fairly steep grassy slope. There is rough grass on the left and houses with walled gardens on your right. At the top of the slope where the wall ends turn right and follow the path through the rough grass to reach the top of Gullane Hill. There is a millennium cairn here complete with brass direction indicator. You will see a stone and slated tower known as the Roundel dating from at least the mid 18th century. It was used to host meetings by an exclusive golf club. Continue following the green post way markers (with white arrows and destination names) to reach bench seating where there are superb views of Gullane Bay and over the Firth of Forth: The Forth Rail Bridge, The Forth Road Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing. Walk down the main broad path bearing left and to the West. On the right is a rockier outcrop and may be worth exploring as there is a seated memorial (sheep pen style). Views extend to the South and the Hopetoun Monument on Byres Hill, to the West over the Golf Course to Arthur's Seat above Edinburgh and to the East, Muirfield Golf Course, North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock. From the main path continue beside the golf course fairway. Do not take any paths to the left as these cross the golf course. Please keep to the waymarked route. Bear right and follow the track towards Gullane Bents and it's car park. 'Bent' is an old word for grassland by the shore where cattle may be grazed.

Continue on the track along Marine Terrace (known locally as The Promenade) if not visiting the Bents. Turn right at Marine Road and head down to Goose Green and beyond to the main street. Cross the road back to the Old Smiddy.

6

BICKERTONS WAY AND THE POSTMANS WALK*Distance: 2-3 miles, Duration: 1 - 1.5 hours*

This is a short but interesting walk through parts of Luffness Estate. From Aberlady Post Office head East along the main street and cross over at the bend of the road into The Gardens. Do not go into the cul-de-sac but head straight onto the grassy path alongside a house. At the field gate bear right up a path and walk through a wooden gate. This is Postman's Walk with a wall on your left with fields beyond and to the right. There are good views from this path over Aberlady Bay and to the Hills of Fife. Continue for 1/2 mile approx until two former fishponds (commonly associated with medieval religious houses) and the remains of a Carmelite Friary which was in existence from 1336. At the junction take a right onto Bickertons Way, or Strip, as it is known. There are woods to your right and open fields to the left where you can see a former Water Tower within. This clear path will exit after 1/2 mile or so onto the main road so please take care. Turn right noting there is no footpath alongside the main road for 1/4 mile. Continue on past Aberlady Mains Cottages and House and bear right down Haddington Road. This will lead you back to the crossing between The Gardens and the main street and Post Office.



7

THE JOHN MUIR WAY ABERLADY TO DIRLETON*Distance: 4.5miles. Duration: 3-3.5hours.*

The John Muir Way is a long distance walking route stretching the breadth of Scotland but with primary significance in East Lothian with Dunbar being the birthplace of this historic figure. In East Lothian the route stretches from Fisherrow in Musselburgh to Dunglass in Dunbar and can be utilised in circular or linear walks. This walk follows the linear route between Aberlady and Dirleton.

Start the walk at a convenient spot on the A198 in Aberlady eastwards passing the Parish Church. It takes the form of a woodland path alongside the A198 before joining the path by the bowling green and past the Church. Continue eastwards round to the Sea Green and continue on past Aberlady Nature Reserve car park, past historic Luffness House on your right. Just before reaching Luffness New Golf Club go through a gate and take the gravel path behind the Golf Club house. This route will skirt the golf courses of Luffness and Gullane as it makes it's way to Saltcoats Farm Steading houses and the village of Gullane. Turn left at the signpost at Saltcoats and take the road or grass verge between the Children's Golf Course on your right and Gullane golf Club on your left. Continue East out of the village towards Dirleton on the A198. Follow this roadside footpath to arrive at the West Lodge of Archerfield Estate and go through the signposted wooden gate. Continue East when you will then reach the East Lodge at Dirleton. Many walks available throughout the Estate.

8

A WALK ROUND GULLANE*Distance: 2.5 miles. Duration: 2.5 hours, allowing for places of interest.*

From The Old Smiddy (oldest building in village) cross over main road, turn left following the footpath going west until you reach the ruined church of St Andrew on your right. Continue alongside the main road passing Gullane Golf clubhouse on your right. Continue along West Links road. Turn right into Hummel Road then left up Whim Road to find a short lane out onto Gullane Hill. Look out at the panoramic views over the Firth of Forth. Bear right and pass through a gate onto Hill Road. At the bottom of Hill Road turn right onto Sandy Loan continuing on beyond St Adrian's Episcopal Church. Turn left to Goose Green and walk round clockwise. Leave Goose Green by lane in South East corner leading to Hopetoun Terrace. Turn left walking towards Erskine Road. Turn right into Erskine Road then right again walking to the end of Midleshot Road. Turn left and walk up main street. Cross two Broadgait's & Muirfield Park. At Duncur Road turn left and head towards Greywalls (designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1901 with gardens attributed to Gertrude Jekyll). Walk back down Duncur Road turn right. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn into Muirfield Drive then right into Muirfield Station. Walk through the estate and along a short lane at the last house. Turn right then left into Hamilton Road. Walk past the Medical Centre, Day Centre and tennis courts. Cross the road and head towards West Links Road. Turn right opposite kids golf course. Cross over to your left to return to The Old Smiddy.

9

GULLANE TO ABERLADY BY COAST & DUNE PATHS*Distance 1.75 miles. Duration: 1.5 hours*

This walk gives superb views across the Firth of Forth and the Coastline West of Gullane. **Please note that no dogs are allowed on the Nature Reserve at Aberlady Bay.** From the

West side of Gullane Bents car park go through a gate with a rough track beyond. Walk keeping left at Y junction. Uphill from this junction look for a green marker post on the right. Turn right and follow the path above the beach. Beyond the cliff top path bear right down a shell path in front of the medal tee of the 12th hole. Please ensure no golfers are disturbed before you proceed. The path passes through concrete anti-tank blocks and descends towards the beach. Do not follow the obvious track to the left as this leads onto the golf course. Turn left and walk up the well defined track. At the top keep right and walk down towards the Bay. There are only a couple of signposts at junctions in the track so do not make any left turns. If NOT accompanied by a dog you can proceed through the nature reserve, past Mar Loch and across the wooden footbridge over the Peffer Burn to reach the main road (A198). Turn left out of the car park and return to Gullane via the footpath alongside the main road. Turn right if you wish to head into Aberlady.



3

CIRCULAR WALK FROM ABERLADY ALONG COUNTRY ROADS & FIELD TRACKS

Distance: 3.5miles, Duration: 2hours, Easy.

Walk east along the main street beyond the Post Office. Follow Haddington road until junction where you turn left at the bend walking straight past Aberlady Mains House and cottages. The footpath gradually turns into a rough track by a fairly busy road so take care. Follow road until you come to Luffness Mains Farm, enter the surfaced farm road between two large trees. Follow this road to the left of the farm units until you are heading for the cottages of Luffness Mains. These cottages are traditional East Lothian cottages complete with drying greens on the opposite side of the road. Beyond the cottages the surface turns to a broad rubble track. Swing left and head across open fields until you reach a junction of similar tracks. Turn left and walk beside a stream heading towards woodland. Just inside the wood pass to the right of a large farm building and turn right. Large reservoir on right, please keep dogs and children away from edges. Continue on to reach the surfaced road linking Aberlady with West Fenton and Fenton barns. Turn left and walk to a T junction at what is locally known as The Avenue. Return to Aberlady by A198 coast or inland via the Avenue then retracing route.

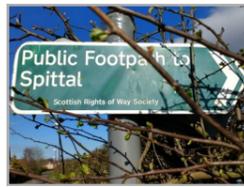


2

ABERLADY TO SPITTAL BY PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Distance: 1.5miles, Duration: 1.75hrs each way. Moderate level challenging underfoot at times.

Start opposite Aberlady Church, walk past the school and follow the road out of the village along Kirk Road, continue left at the bend beyond the houses and within yards there will be a gate opening on your right to a field entrance saying 'Public Footpath to Spittal'. Walk along this track with woods on right and open fields on left. Do not proceed beyond the gate (Hungary House) ahead but bear left keeping the open fields to your left & woodland to your right. Continue through woodland ahead & follow the burn, once out of the woodland, keep the burn to your right. Cross a small sturdy wooden footbridge and follow the path to the left edge of the field curving right at the top. Head towards a linear copse of oak trees in the next field. You can walk the single path formed through the trees. Once at the top of the track/path follow the "Right of Way" post until you come out at the cottages at Spittal. You will see another green "Right of Way" sign for Spittal to Aberlady. Here you are on the B1377, a busy road without pavement so if you want to return to Aberlady you will need to retrace your steps.



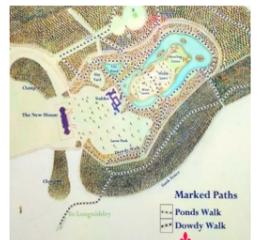
1

THE PLEASURE GROUNDS OF GOSFORD WEMYSS & MARCH ESTATE

Distance: 3miles. Duration: "your choice"

The 'Pleasure Grounds' to the east of Gosford House are open to the public to walk in. An annual or day permit must be purchased in advance from the Wemyss & March Estate office at Craigiellaw (during office hours) or from the Gosford Bothy Farm shop (signposted off the A198 on the western outskirts of Aberlady). The permit comes with an information leaflet containing a map of 2 routes. The Ponds Walk & The Dowdy Walk, which highlights some historical background and also places of interest such as a Mausoleum, a boat-house, a curling house, an ice house and ponds. Information boards also stand at the entrance to the grounds next to the Bothy.

Dogs are allowed but must be kept on a lead to protect the wild life within the grounds. Follow signs to Gosford Bothy where at the entrance you will find an information board. Pick your routes to follow. Wemyss and March Estates welcomes walkers but ask that a permit is purchased and visitors stick to the marked paths and respect the rights and privacy of those who live and work on the Estate.



10

GULLANE TO DIRLETON BY COAST & YELLOWCRAIG

Distance: 6 miles Time 3.5 hours

From Gullane Bents car park head east on the red gravel track. Beyond a small wood the path narrows and crosses a stream and becomes a sandy path through an area of buckthorn. Keep right at the junction and after crossing a small footbridge follow the path beside the golf course. Continue along fenced path. The path comes into more open ground looking over Muirfield Golf Course and club house. After passing a large green storage facility the track continues towards a larger wood. Either follow the wide track as it bears left towards the shore, or straight ahead along a track towards the dunes. After passing the house known as Marine Villa, the island of Fidra is seen offshore. It is believed that this was the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Treasure Island'. The author spent holidays in North Berwick travelling there by boat along the coast and it is said he wrote most of his work there. Opposite Fidra turn right and walk inland towards Yellowcraigs car park. At a gate turn right and follow the route of the signposted John Muir Way. Continue along the well-used path through the woodland strip eventually heading across a wide field track towards Dirleton. Enter Dirleton near Church and village green. The main route back to Gullane is through Archerfield Estate following the signposted John Muir Way at the East Lodge on your right as you walk up towards the village green. If time allows visit Dirleton Castle and gardens.

SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

Know the code before you go...

**Enjoy Scotland's
Outdoors - Responsibly!**

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly.

Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **Take responsibility for your own actions**
- **Respect the interests of other people**
- **Care for the environment**
- **Find out more by visiting:**

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage Office.

DOG WALKING

Access rights apply to people walking dogs as long as their dogs are kept under proper control.

Updated by Anne Frost with help from enthusiastic walkers and Sponsored by Gullane Area Community Council 2018
Images by Margaret Langan-Fortune

10 WALKS around Aberlady, Gullane, & Dirleton



The 10 walks in this publication are to be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The coast and countryside linking the 3 villages is rich in both history and wildlife. There are stately homes, fortified houses, ruined castles and historic buildings of all kinds.

Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve and Gosford (Wemyss & March) Estate are home to ducks, geese and wading birds. The offshore islands of Fidra and the Bass Rock are important sites for nesting seabirds. Golf is a most important element in the life of all 3 villages with many offering golf courses of championship standard.

Where appropriate these walks have been agreed by local land owners, estate factors and golf course managers. We thank them for their suggestions.

Walking in the countryside and by the coast is a healthy way to spend leisure time. Fresh air and exercise are good for both body and mind.

N.B ALL DISTANCES & DURATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE