



WINTON

The Winton Walks Route Guide

Please enjoy the Winton Walks
They combine old and new
routes that take you through
woodlands, along riversides
and fields, and past buildings
which mark the rich heritage
of the Winton Estate, the village
of Pencaitland, and its surrounding
countryside. There are short walks, long walks,
flat walks and bumpy walks,

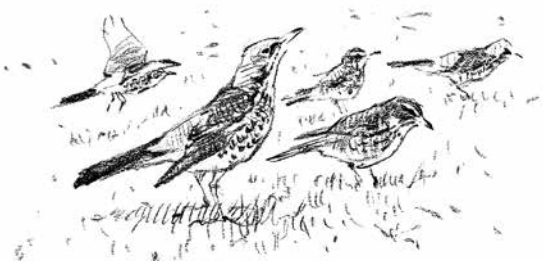


some with views and some
hidden in the trees,
some for the dog and
some just for the
owner! All the route
descriptions,
excepting the New
Winton Loop, begin
from the Sinclair
Bridge in Pencaitland.



I hope you enjoy the
beauty of this place.

Francis Ogilvy, Winton Castle



River Loops

3 miles (5km) in total: ½ - 1 ½ hours

Three linked loops follow the Tyne. All follow the flow of the river from the stone (Sinclair) bridge below the church. The bridge, built c1510, has the shield of the Sinclair family on the south side.



Sinclair Bridge

Riverside Walk

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 as you head towards Winton Castle. Alternatively, a meander up the path beside the Tyne with a view of Winton Castle (when the leaves are off the trees) will end up at the same place. A wooden bridge, known as the Willow Bridge, over the Tyne allows a return route on the east bank known as Washing House Brae. There is a further loop up the bank which rejoins the lower path near the Sinclair Bridge.

Glebe Stroll

Downstream from the Sinclair Bridge, a path follows the riverbank below the Glebe Wood, planted in 2000 as a community woodland. Passing below the manse walled garden and on to the bridge, the route splits; steps lead up to the back of the Primary School, but the **Figures of Eight** route (see below) follows the river. The **Glebe Stroll** leaves the woodland at the Glebe houses following the pavements past the school entrance and on to the main road. It then turns left towards the church and down the hill, back to the Sinclair Bridge.

Figures 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 on the right hand side of the Gifford Road just past Spilmersford Farm. The small wetland in the middle is for wildlife and birds.

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. 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 to the Sinclair Bridge.



Norman's Pool

Village Circular

1.85 miles (3km) ½ - 1 ½ hours

From the Sinclair Bridge heading east (clockwise when looking at the map) towards Haddington, the fascinating 13th century Pencaitland Church is on the right. Next up the hill on the left are the lodge gates leading to Winton Castle. Most of the stone buildings between these gates and 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 continue 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 on Beech Terrace. Castle View is on your right and the old dovecot on the left. The old cart shed is also on the right before you reach the Village Cross and Spar Shop. The village community hall, named after Trevelyan, sits on the left at the top of the hill above the Sinclair Bridge.



Pencaitland Church



Trevelyan Hall

Ormiston Express

3.2 miles (5km) 2 hours

From the Sinclair Bridge, in the centre of the village facing upstream towards Winton Castle, 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 (a pirnie is a wheel for winding yarn onto bobbins). The wood runs along the south bank of the River Tyne and the path almost entirely follows the high ground.



Kingfisher Bridge

At the end nearest Ormiston village, the path drops down to the river and across the Kingfisher Bridge, along the edge of a small wood and pond, and then turns left towards Ormiston. The path continues by the edge of a field to meet the route of the Old Railway Line where there are three choices: turn left to continue on the **Ormiston Express** path, walk straight on to get to Ormiston village, or turn right to join the **Hamilton Hike** route (red).

The return route to Pencaitland passes the Ormiston Sewage Works on the left and then continues over the Tyne before rising up to the main road. Across the road, it leads on, going behind the Maltings and past what was the car park of the former Pencaitland Railway Station. You can either turn left at the car park and follow the **Village Circular** (blue route) back to the Sinclair Bridge, or turn left later, at the community woodland, to join the **Glebe Stroll** (yellow route).

Hamilton Hike

5.1 miles (8km) 3 hours

Follow the **Ormiston Express** (green route) until it meets the old railway between the Kingfisher Bridge and Ormiston. Turn right here, passing Cefetra, the grain merchant, and the marker for the former Meadow Coal Pit. This follows the route of the former Gifford Light Railway. Then turn right before the Puddle Bridge which takes you onto the route of the former Macmerry Railway. Take the path through the woodland strip on the left – a route known locally as the Sandy Walk – following the Puddle Burn. At a right-angled bend when the hamlet of New Winton comes into view, there is the option to bear slightly left, joining the New Winton Loop (yellow route), or continue to the right, across the main road and up through the woodland of Winton Hill.



Arthur's View

Named after two Winton Estate foresters, Arthur's View looks out to the Firth of Forth and Fife, whilst further on, James' View takes in the Lammermuir Hills from the shelter of a bird roost hut. The path leads down to the main road and continues to the left on the other side of the road, following 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. Once at the foot of the hill, turn right at the War Memorial. You can then either turn left between the park and the old school to reach the Bowling Green car park or continue down the village road back to the Sinclair Bridge.

New Winton Loop

1.8 miles (5km) $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 Castle to replace those of the old Winton settlement houses, near the castle, that were falling down. The trees in the adjacent enclosures are some of the 86,000 planted in 2006, two-thirds of which are broadleaves.

The loop around New Winton can start from the village or from a continuation of the **Hamilton Hike** (red route). To the south – below the houses – it runs alongside the Puddle Burn towards Tranent, crossing into a small wood known as Whiteloch Covert and going 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 on the **Hamilton Hike** (red route), turning right and leading back to the B6355 road.



New Winton

Be Aware of the Outdoor Access Code – www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot

Please stick to the paths for the benefit and safety of residents and wildlife. We have tried to avoid exclusivity on Winton Estate by providing marked routes which blend interest and enjoyment.

However, some estate activities benefit from privacy – principally hospitality within the designated landscape surrounding Winton Castle - 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.** Access rights do not extend to houses and gardens. If you find yourself close to a residential area, including any extended managed land, keep a respectful distance, use a path or track if there is one, and be especially mindful of others 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 livestock 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: Old school reader statue
Below: Kingfisher Bridge; Bird Roost