



Ordnance  
Survey

# EDINBURGH, PENTLANDS AND LOTHIANS

## Outstanding Circular Walks

Pathfinder® Guides



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walking  
guides

# Threipmuir and Harlaw Reservoirs

**Start** Threipmuir Reservoir

**Distance** 3½ miles (5.5km)

**Height gain** 130 feet (40m)

**Approximate time** 1½ hours

## GPS waypoints

 NT 166 639

 NT 178 643

 NT 181 652

 NT 176 644

**Parking** Threipmuir car park on the left of the road running south from Balerno

**Route terrain** Reservoir paths; woodland

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 65 (Falkirk & Linlithgow), Explorer 344 (Pentland Hills)

*Besides being a lovely stroll along the shores of two man-made lakes, this walk also serves to give the newcomer an understanding of the geography of the Pentland Hills. Bird-lovers will find a variety of species both on the water and in the woodlands that fringe the reservoirs.*

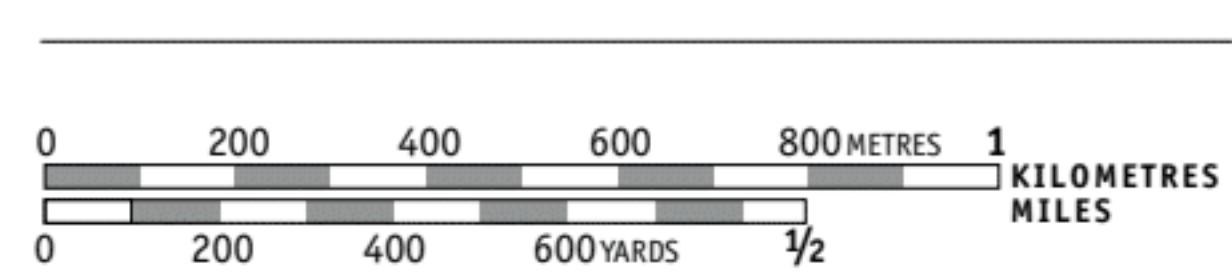
 From the car park go past the noticeboard and turn left along a track signposted to Harlaw. Keep ahead at the

*Harlaw Reservoir*

gate where the drive on the right goes to Easter Bavelaw, the farm on the other side of Threipmuir Reservoir. Once by the shoreline the track runs in a straight line relatively close to the water. There



sandy bay at Hummell Rocks **B**. On the cliffs ahead are a group of large cement blocks, anti-tank devices built during



Bear right **A** along a clear, grassy path for the ascent of Arthur's Seat. At first the path climbs steadily through the valley, making directly for the blunt, prominent bulk of Arthur's Seat; later the going becomes steeper. Follow the path as it veers left, climbs a series of steps, then continue ignoring all turn-offs until you reach the one that turns sharp right to ascend to the summit beside a chain link fence. Keep on this well-paved path to the triangulation pillar and view indicator **B**. From here you have grand views along the Firth of Forth to the coasts of Lothian and Fife. Closer to hand is the Old Town dominated at one end by Edinburgh Castle and at the other by the Palace of Holyrood and the award-winning design of the Scottish Parliament building.

Start the descent by retracing your steps to where the path bends sharply to the left. Here leave the outward route by keeping ahead in the direction of Dunsapie Loch below, descending easily along a broad, smooth, grassy path to



*Dunsapie Loch*

reach the road that encircles the park, opposite a car park and just to the right of the loch. Cross the road and, in the right-hand corner of the car park, turn right along a path that skirts the base of the hill on the left. At a fork, take the

*Arthur's Seat and Edinburgh from Allermuir Hill*



# Gamelshiel Castle and Whiteadder Water

**Start** Western end of Whiteadder Reservoir

**Distance** 4½ miles (7km)

**Height gain** 855 feet (260m)

**Approximate time** 2½ hours

## GPS waypoints

-  NT 646 642
-  NT 645 646
-  NT 649 648
-  NT 642 671
-  NT 638 657

**Parking** Small car park on left after crossing bridge at western end of Whiteadder Reservoir

**Route terrain** Rough mountain moorland

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 67 (Duns, Dunbar & Eyemouth), Explorer 345 (Lammermuir Hills)

*Only two walls remain of Gamelshiel Castle, which stands in a remote position below Spartleton Hill in the Lammermuirs. Although little is known of its history, its stones speak eloquently of centuries of hardship and suffering. After the castle the route follows a track that strikes northwards across lonely moorland. The return is via the The Herring Road, a footpath close to the delightful Whiteadder Water.*

 The road between Gifford and Duns (B6355) crosses the northern arm of the Whiteadder Reservoir over a causeway and at the eastern end of the

*The crumbling walls of Gamelshiel Castle*



latter there is a small car park and a gate across a track which heads north.

Walk up this track to a sheepfold (marked as Sheep Wash on the map). Fork right here  to follow the Hall Burn up to the castle  whose

crumbling walls frame a typical view of the Lammermuirs with Mayshiel Farm in the distance.

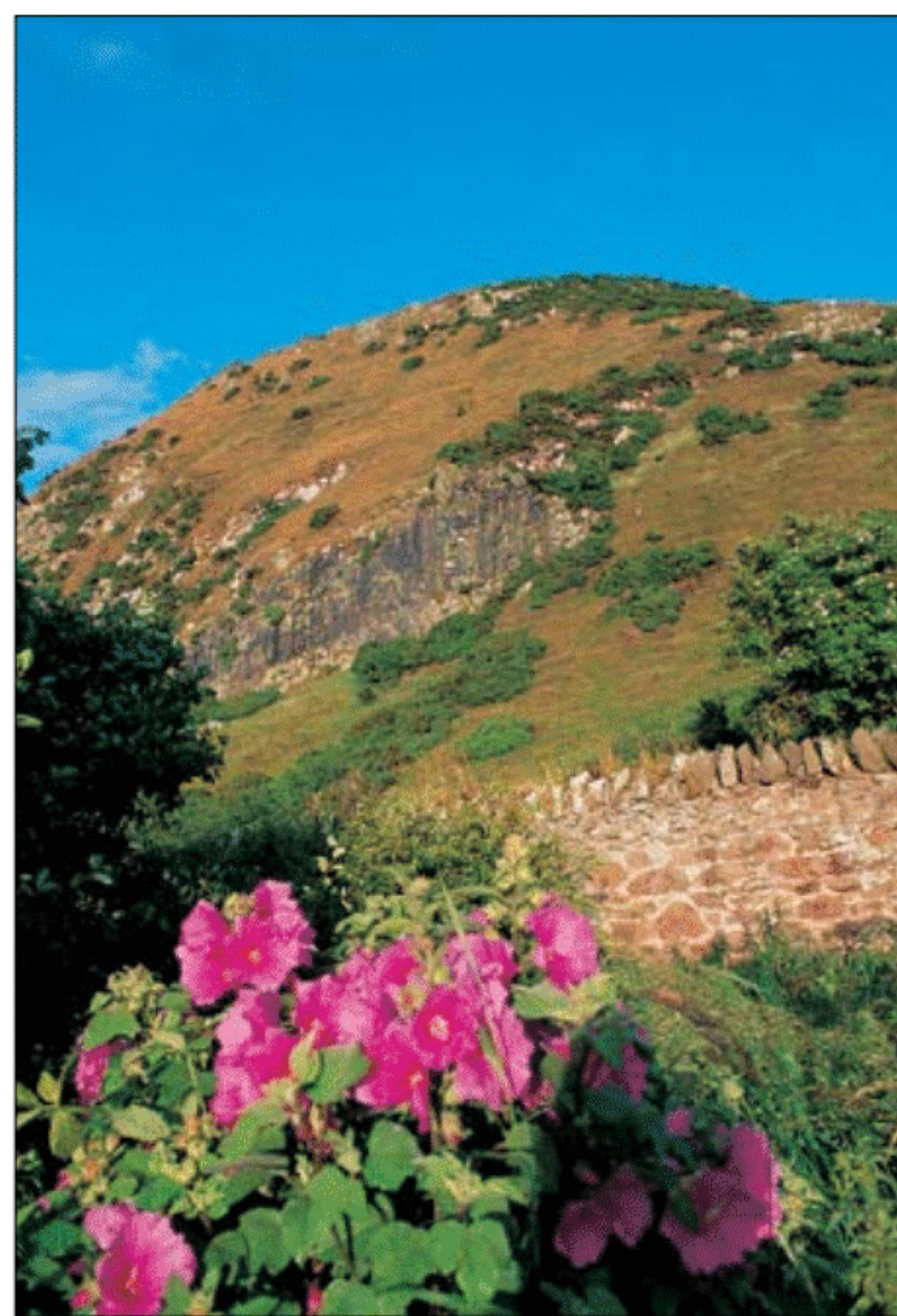
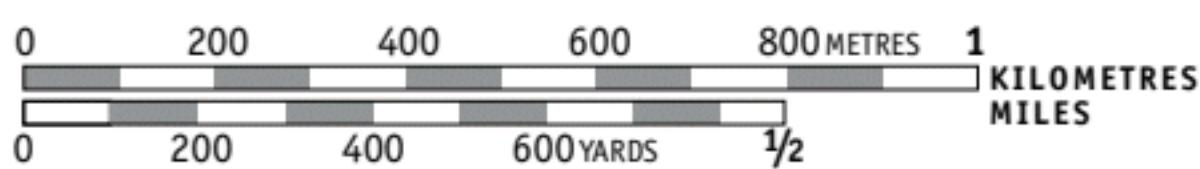
Not surprisingly, the castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and believed to be a simple tower house dating from the 14th century.

The energetic will be tempted to climb to the

ground taking care to skirt the dense whin and avoid boggy patches.

Go through the kissing-gate and turn right at the road. Pass the entrance to a supermarket and turn right at the main road. Cross the road to take a path **C** waymarked to 'The Glen'. This follows a small burn with a playing field to the left at first. Then it plunges into more dense woodland and continues to follow the course of the burn, emerging into the open by a golf clubhouse. Turn left at the shore and follow the road round to the harbour.

Turn sharp left at the Lifeboat Station **D** towards the Law to pass the Baptist chapel and go down Quality Street to the tourist information centre. Pass this and bear right at Kirk Ports passing the romantic ruins of St Andrew's Church. Beyond this turn left following the sign



*North Berwick Law*

to North Berwick Law **E**. Climb the hill and pass the sports centre and school to keep ahead when the main road sweeps right and thus reach the car park.



SCALE 1:25 000 or 2 1/2 INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM



SCALE 1:25 000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

right-hand path downhill towards a wall, turn right alongside the wall and descend a long flight of steps to a road

**C.** If you wish to visit Duddingston village – a rural enclave with a 12th-century church perched above the loch – turn left. Otherwise, turn right along the winding road above Duddingston Loch on the left and later below the almost perpendicular, rocky, gorse-covered slopes of Samson's Ribs on the right.

Bear right off the road **D** along a grassy path to follow the base of the slopes as they bear right, heading gently uphill towards the prominent jagged outlines of Salisbury Crags, to reach the

0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRES  
0 200 400 600 YARDS  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILES

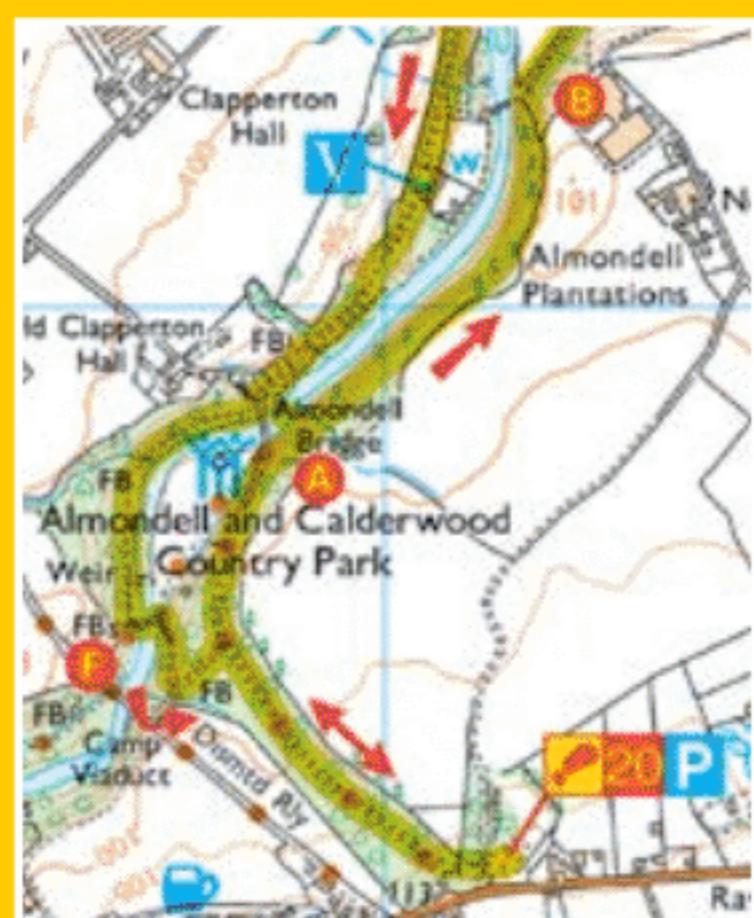
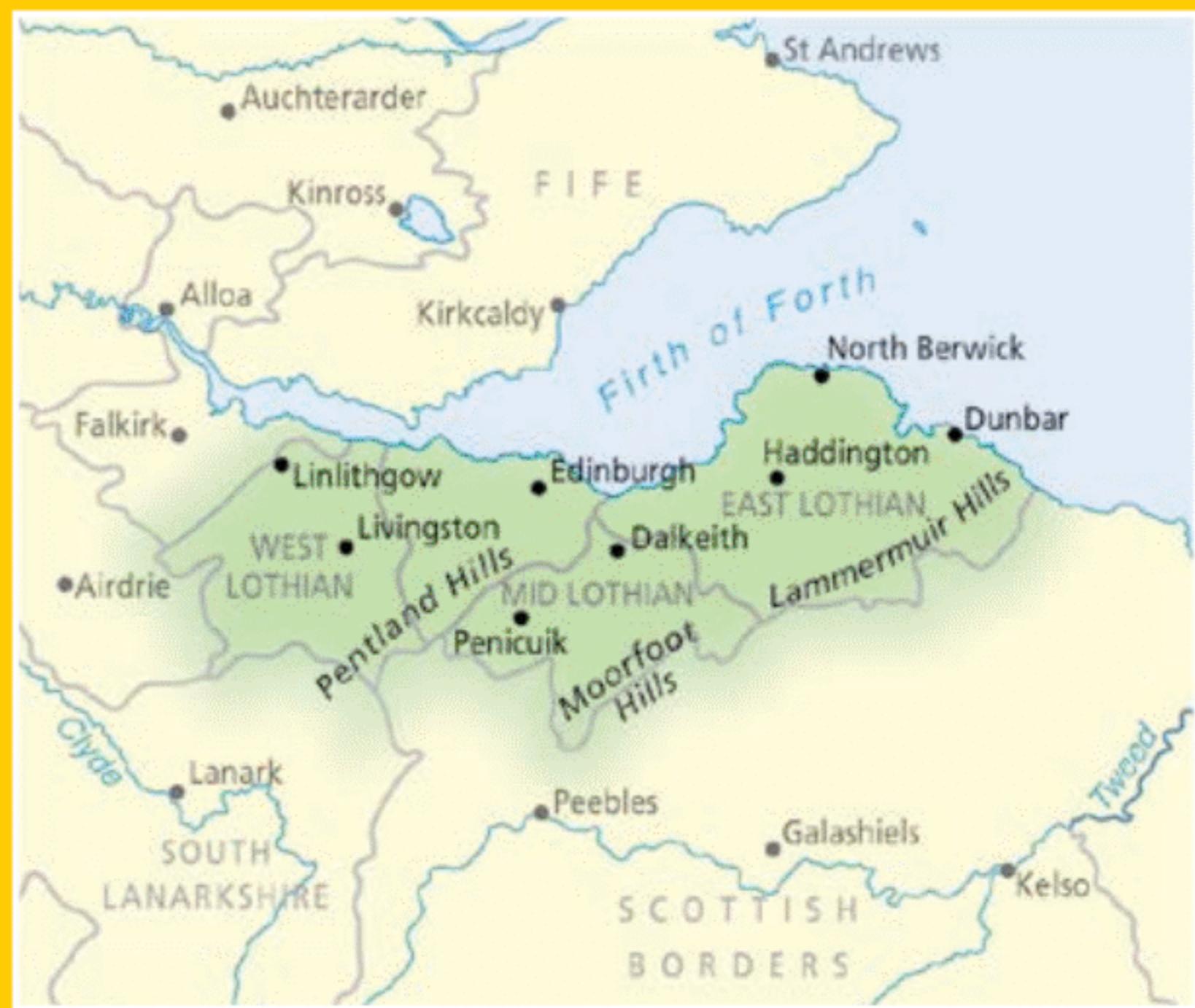
park circular road again. Turn right for a few strides and, where the road bends right, turn sharp left **E** onto a stony track that heads steadily uphill, flattens out and then descends quite steeply across the face of Salisbury Crags. This is the Radical Road, constructed in the 1820s, allegedly to provide work for the unemployed, and from it there are superb views to the left across Edinburgh.

The track reaches the circular road opposite the car park and starting point of the walk.

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