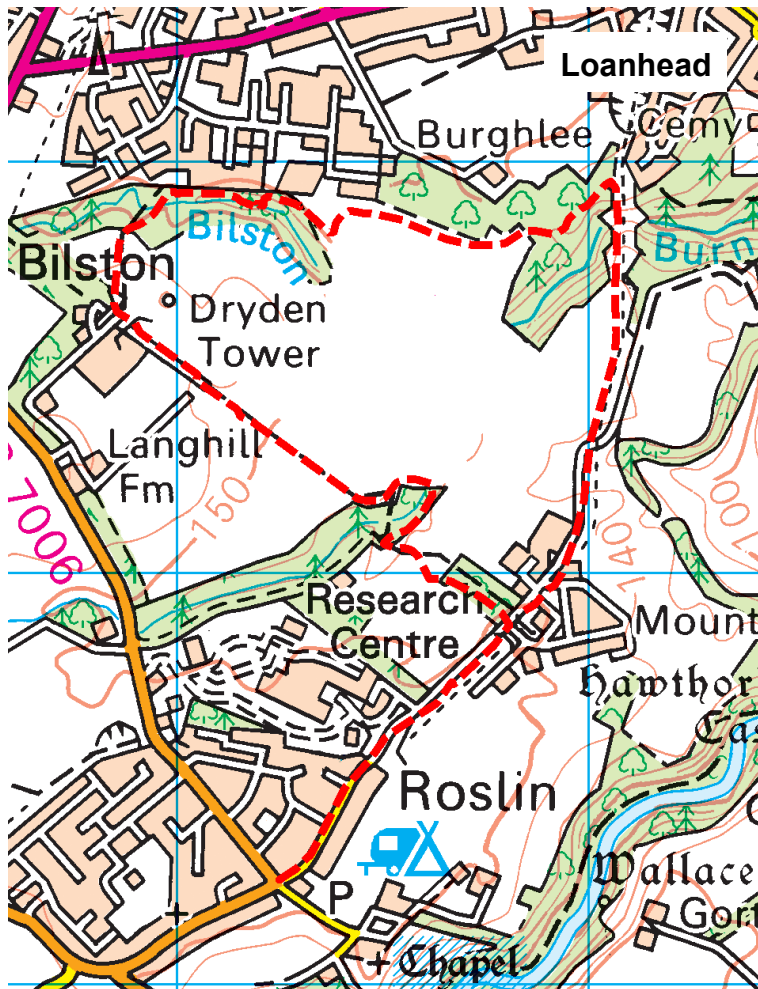


# Out and about in Midlothian



## Introduction

Walk from the historic village of Roslin along the former railway line which ran between Mauricewood (Penicuik) and Loanhead. Cross the restored Bilston viaduct. Return by paths and woodland of former local coal pits. Enjoy extensive views across Midlothian.

## Route Details

Part of this route will be muddy after heavy rain. See the end for a dry and clean alternative. Starting beside the Original Rosslyn Inn, walk ½ mile along Manse

Road passing the Battle of Roslin memorial to reach Dryden Farm and a 2-way split. Take the right hand tarred cycle path (with metal hoops) signed Loanhead etc for ½ mile to reach and cross the Bilston Glen viaduct. 20 metres after the bridge turn left along the overgrown disused Loanhead Colliery (Burghlee pit) railway sidings. (Note - part way along this flat siding and woodland is a sign to the left for Roslin, explore it another day).

In ½ mile from the viaduct, two paths rise up to the left (the 2nd is less muddy), then continue right, to reach a green sign for Bilston. At the top of the rise (left) there are big views all round including the Pentlands and the slender Dryden Tower peeking over the trees.



Dryden Tower and distant Pentland Hills

Now on a wider track continue around the back of Bilston Glen industrial estate then onto a smaller path which descends to the Bilston Burn. Turn right up the vehicle track and follow signs for Roslin left over a small stone bridge then left again up a double fenced path to pass Dryden Tower (a folly). Continue down between double fence. At the end turn right for 10m then left down a long grassy track. Continue onto a narrower path gradually descending left for 300m until a 3-way sign. Turn right for Roslin on a small path across a small hollow and up to a line of trees bordering fields. Turn right to reach a 4-way junction. Turn left uphill for Roslin. This rejoins the outward route beside the Roslin battle memorial. Turn right to reach your starting point in ½ mile.

**Alternative clean wet weather route** for walking or cycling with great views across Midlothian (**5 miles return**). This route is entirely on a tarmac pedestrian/cycle way.

Start as above until across the Bilston Viaduct. Continue on the tar path through Loanhead. Further on, just before the City Bypass, turn left to visit Straiton Pond. Return by the same route.



Cycle path and Bilston Viaduct

## Key Points of Interest

Memorial to Battle of Roslin 1303

Wide views all round Midlothian  
Restored Bilston railway viaduct

Opportunity to add a  
Visit to Roslin  
Chapel



Common Spotted Orchid

## Walk

Roslin Bilston Loanhead circular

Distance: 3¾ miles / 6 km

Ascent: 150 ft / 45m

Time: 1¾ hours

Terrain –

Tarmac path • Beaten earth paths • • Two sections muddy after rain (Alternative route available) • Short sections can be overgrown in summer •

Map: No 66 Edinburgh

Start point:

Corner of Main St and Manse Rd, Roslin

Gr: NT 273 633

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: N 55.85743  
Long: W 03.16154

Public transport: Yes

Car Parking: Yes

Refreshments: Yes

Route: Ian Brown

Photos: Ian Brown