



## Introduction

**Walk from near Dalhousie Castle passing old Cockpen Church (founded c.1148) then up the secluded valley of the South Esk and Arncliffe Estate to Temple. The return passes Arncliffe House with fine views of Midlothian's farming landscape.**

# Out and about in *Midlothian*

## Route Details

Start on the side road on the bend of the road between Dalhousie Castle bridge and Butterfield industrial estate. Walk up the side road and through a gate (50 metres). Pass old Cockpen Church hidden in trees on left and along an old road.

Further on, the road has areas of old subsidence. Beware the cracks and changes in level. Further on the track reaches a large expanse of open grassland, site of long demolished Prestonholm House and jute mill. Follow the track then faint path gradually up to the left until on high ground. Continue up between fence and wall to reach the farm track, Povert Road. Turn right. At the public road, turn right then down under a low bridge then ahead through gate into Gore Glen Woodland Park.

In 50 metres, turn right over stone bridge. From here, it is 3 miles to Temple following the river South Esk. Walk through woodland following the river, right over another bridge then gently right and up. Continue high above the river before descending to a large meadow. Continue upstream over a bridge, then on up river avoiding the vehicle track steeply up to left. At a grass track T-junction, turn right, back down towards the river.

At a Y-fork cross small stone bridge (right) to follow the river. After the high road bridge turn left up steps. Turn right before additional smaller steps ahead. Continue down then up through conifer woodland eventually climbing to a wall and door opposite Temple church. Visit the church cemetery and its interpretation board (history of the area and the Knights Templar).

Return by the same route until the small stone bridge and Y-fork. Turn right then in 50 metres turn left uphill. At the top after a small wooden gate, turn right on mown grass path. At the centre of the meadow turn left to Arncliffe House. Walk

round the right side of the house then left to its front. Continue past the house then diagonally right towards a field and avenue between tall lime trees. After the trees, a track descends right to the river. Continue downstream by your outward route.



*Ancient Oak , Arncliffe Estate*

## Key Points of Interest

**Views** across the Lothians then tranquil valley of Arncliffe estate

**Temple Church** and it's connections to the Knights Templar

**Arncliffe House** — An imposing William Adam, Palladian style mansion house, completed in 1750



*Arncliffe House*

## Walk

**Old Cockpen Church to Temple and Arncliffe**

**Distance:** 9¼ miles / 15 km

**Ascent:** 500/ 150m

**Time:** 4 hours

**Terrain** – Open grassland • Estate vehicle track • Some marked paths • moderate ascent • muddy in places

**Map:** No 66 Edinburgh

**Start point:** Small side road on bend of road (B704 ) between Dalhousie Castle and Butterfield Industrial Estate.

Gr: NT 327 634

**For Sat Nav users:**

Lat: N 55.85912  
Long: W 03.07530

**Public transport:** No

**Car Parking:** Yes

**Refreshments:** No

Route: Ian Brown

Photo: Ian Brown