

Out and about in *Midlothian*

Key Points of Interest

Dalkeith School campus

Birds eye view of fields and the Pentlands from disused railway line

Final meanders of the Esk through Musselburgh to the sea

Introduction

Walk down the Esk from Dalkeith to Musselburgh and the sea. This walk is almost entirely on tarmac but most is actually in parkland, then countryside on a disused railway line and ends on the Esk riverbank.

Route Details

Start in Dalkeith at the junction of Newmills Road and James Lean Avenue. Follow the blue cycle sign for route 1 & 196 along James Lean Avenue. In 200 metres, turn left onto a new tar path along a large grass park ending beside a graceful timber pedestrian bridge. Turn right, up the pavement past a roundabout. Look for a blue cycle sign for Whitecraig (left).

Cross Salters Road and follow the green sign ahead for Musselburgh through the Dalkeith School Campus and onto the disused railway line to Whitecraig. At Whitecraig turn left (blue sign cycle route 1 & Musselburgh). At the other end of the village turn right at roundabout (cycle route 1). In ½ mile turn left signed Musselburgh down towards the river Esk. Follow the path down the riverbank to a minor road (2 miles). Continue on



River Esk, Musselburgh



North Esk Pedestrian bridge, Dalkeith

the minor road. In 300m just before it ends, on left climb steps up to the main road. Cross directly across to a walled path on the right bank of the Esk. Continue downstream around the end of the first stone bridge then under the second one. Continue by the river until it reaches the end of the houses and the sea. Return by the same route. Alternatively, buses are available from Musselburgh to Dalkeith.

At the end of the walk you will see signs for the John Muir Way. At this point, the John Muir Way heads west to Helensburgh beyond Glasgow or east to Dunbar, the birth place of John Muir. From Dunbar the John Muir link path heads down the North Sea coast to Cockburnspath and the Southern Upland Way which ends in the far south west of Scotland.

Walk or Cycle

Dalkeith to Musselburgh

Distance: 12¼ miles / 19.7 km
(Can be halved using bus return)

Ascent: 400 ft / 120 m

Time: 5¼ hours (walk)

Terrain – Low level • All tarmac along disused railway line and river bank • Almost all off road with short section on quiet roads •

Map: No 66 Edinburgh

Start point:
Junction of Newmills Rd and James Lean Ave., Dalkeith

Gr: NT 346 735

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: N 55.89250
Long: W 03.06023

Public transport: Yes

Car Parking: Yes

Refreshments:
Yes - in Musselburgh and Dalkeith

Route: Ian Brown

Photos: Ian Brown

