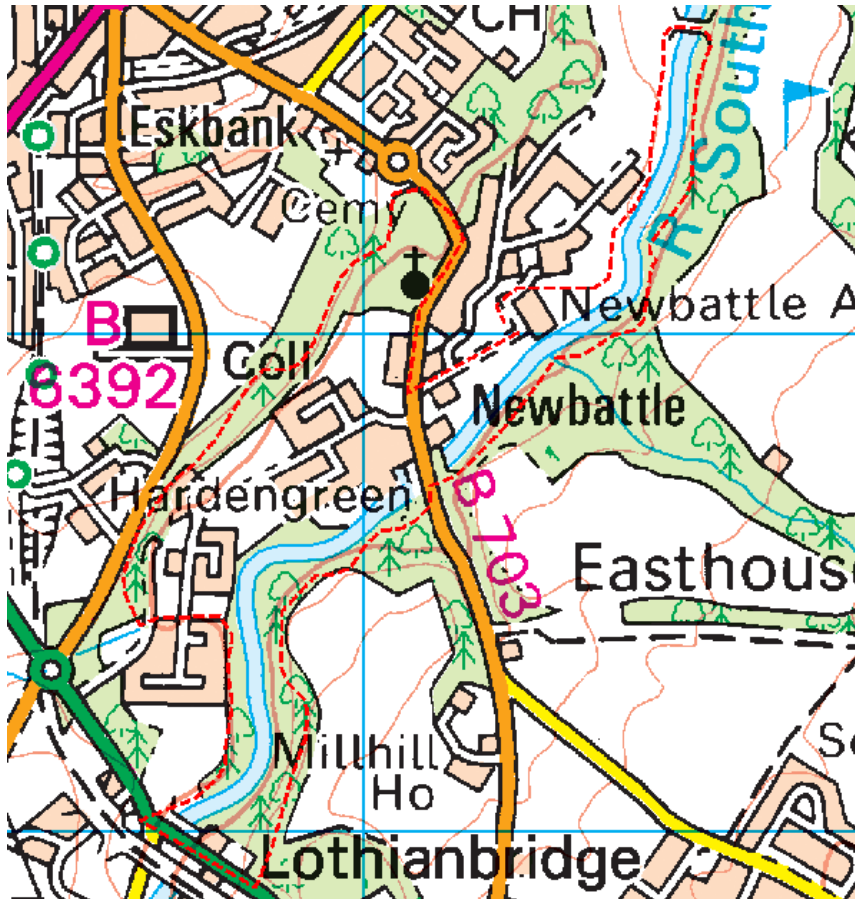


Out and about in *Midlothian*



Introduction

A great river valley walk mainly through woodlands but includes stunning built heritage and a beautiful designed landscape.

Start from the car park at Newbattle Abbey College and walk up the main drive in a direction away from the College towards the main road. Cross the road and turn right along the pavement. Walk along the pavement for around 200m until you see a roundabout about 50m away. At this point there is a gap in the wall next to the entrance to the cemetery.

Take the upper path through the woodlands keeping to the top of the slopes with a wall visible to your right. Follow this path for approximately 1km keeping to the flat area at top of the slopes to the left. After 1km or so, the path begins to descend and you will reach a large grass open space within a housing area. Cross the open space heading towards some trees around



Newbattle Abbey College Grounds

200m away. Here you will reach the river path. Turn right along the river path. This area has quite few paths but as long as you keep heading upstream along any of these paths you will reach the A7 after about 400m.

At the A7 turn left along the pavement going past the public house/restaurant for approximately 200m until a gap in the wall marks the beginning of a path. Take the main path which after around 200m runs fairly close to a field. (If the path take you near steep drops on your left, turn right immediately across the vegetation until you meet the main path again). Continue along the path for around 600m keeping to the right of any wooden bollards that mark sheer drops to the left until you reach some steep steps. Go down the steps and then straight ahead along the path until you meet

Key Points of Interest

Newbattle Abbey College
Former home of the Marqueesses of Lothian

Maiden's Bridge
Later 15th Century single span arched bridge over the South Esk



Newbattle Abbey College

the main road.

Turn left along the road taking the roadside pavement until you reach the bridge over the river. Cross the road at this point taking the path along the right hand bank of the river. Take great care if you take the path with steep drops to the left. Shortly, you will see Newbattle Abbey College to your left where you started. Continue along the path for around 1 km until you reach the historic Maiden's Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn first left taking the path along the river. Follow this path until you reach a large open space. Veer right towards the right hand side of the rear of the college (as the riverside path is sometimes closed). Keep away from buildings to allow people adequate privacy. Once at the front of the college, you will be near to your start point.

Walk

Newbattle Woods Circular

Distance: 3.5miles / 6km

Ascent: 236ft / 72m

Time: 2.5 hours

Terrain –

Off road path • Mainly low level • Tarmac • Sometimes muddy . Main road •

OS Map: No 66 Edinburgh

Start point: Driveway outside Newbattle Abbey College.

Gr: NT 33250 65955

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: 55.882099
Long: -3.0685808

Public transport: Yes

Car Parking: Yes

Refreshments: Lothianbridge

Routes: DS/JK

Photos: JK