



You can also access the trail at [www.midlothian.gov.uk/loanhead-heritage-trail](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/loanhead-heritage-trail) on your smartphone.

For more information on the **Coal Authority** go to [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority) on the internet.

Further information about **Mavisbank House** can be found on the internet.

Thanks and gratitude are also extended to the **Coal Authority** for permission to use their photographs, **Loanhead Library, Midlothian Council, Ageing Well, Loanhead and District Community Council** and the many local residents and businesses who have supported the creation of the Loanhead Heritage Trail.

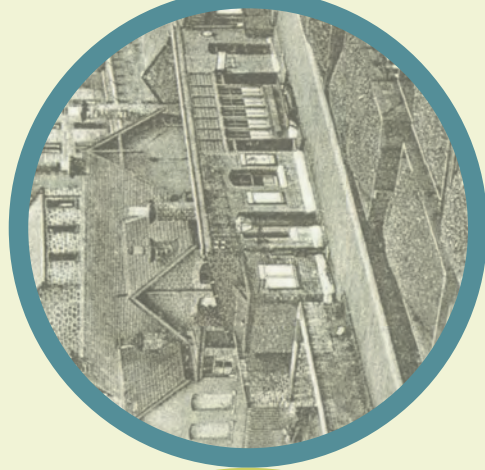
Thanks also goes to local resident **David Adams** for his kind permission to use personal photographs.

Thanks goes to local historian **Alan McLaren** for his invaluable assistance and kind permission to use extracts and photographs from his book, *Loanhead, The Story of a Barony, a Burgh and a Community*.

## Acknowledgements

- **Coal** was mined in Loanhead from the 16th century until the closure of **Bilston Glen Colliery** in 1989.
- **Dryden, Burghlee, Ramsay** (formerly **Loanhead**) and **Bilston Glen** were all collieries providing local employment.
- **Shale mining** and its associated works at **Straiton** was a major employer of labour in the area, with the numbers and origins of the workforce having a significant impact on the development of Loanhead.
- **Loanhead Foundry** is known to have operated for over 150 years from the 18c, producing machinery for local businesses.
- **Paper making** was a significant source of local employment over many decades at the **Springfield, Polton** and **Kevoock** mills.
- **Loanhead Railway Station** opened in 1874 enabling the carrying of **coal, goods** and **people**. The passenger service was withdrawn in 1933, with the last coal train running in 1991.

- **Wm Hunter (Hunters Coaches)** was established in 1880 providing a **horse and cart to drive miners to Rosewell** in the morning, **transport coal** during the day and the return journey for the miners at night. **Motorised vehicles** were introduced from 1921.
- **MacTaggart Scott & Co Ltd, marine and hydraulic engineers**, was founded in 1898, providing many skilled jobs in the local community.
- **Candle making** was a long established occupation in Loanhead, with one local company producing cakes of **paraffin wax for miners cap lamps**.
- Loanhead was previously twinned with **Dalum in Denmark** (which had a **paper mill**) between 1963–1971. Since 1995 Loanhead has been twinned with **Harnes, France**, a former **coal mining** town.



# LOANHEAD HERITAGE TRAIL

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NORTH

## Key

Start/Finish of Heritage Trail



Heritage Trail



Trail extension



Heritage Trail bench



Trail extent: approximately 8km (4.5 miles), 2 hours duration, depending on pace. The trail can be walked in sections.

A701 to Edinburgh

Loanhead Road

Straiton Nature Reserve

Multi-user path

Houses in this area were built with stone from Straiton Quarry



Part of this area was known as *Killrig*, which may have arisen from encounters between Scottish and English forces



Sir Walter Scott and his wife *Charlotte Charpentier* had connections with the parish *Lasswade/Loanhead*



'Westbank', birthplace of Sir William MacTaggart

Pony, man and boy sculpture by local artist Alan Herriot



Horses, used to pull the public coach, were stabled here



The *Coghorn* is the work of sculptor George McCulloch

Fountain Green

High Street

Mayfield Court Lane

Mayfield Crescent

The Loanhead Mining Memorial was unveiled in 2008



Ramsay Law Park

Former site of Ramsay/Loanhead Colliery



Loanhead Fever Hospital  
1890 – 2013, demolished

Loanhead Leisure Centre

Edgefield Road

Canmore Ct.

George Drive

Fountain Green

Mayburn Ave.

Engine Rd.

Clerk St.

Station Road

Spittal Gdns.

Hunter Ave.

Lasswade Road

Mavisbank House (ruin)



Designed by Sir John Clerk, 2nd Baronet, with architect William Adam, the foundations were laid in 1723, with building work completed by 1728. Access is difficult. There is no access from Loanhead. A wooden gate just off the narrow riverside path at Polton gives access only to agile walkers.

Site of former Burghlee Colliery

Multi-user path to Roslin

A701 to Penicuik

Dryden Ter.

Dalum Loan

Mayburn Walk

Fountain Place

The Loan

Loanhead Memorial Park

Park View

Burghlee Ter.

Church St.

Polton Road



Former Bilston Glen Colliery