

## WALK MORE – FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

The British Heart Foundation recommends we take 30 minutes of moderate exercise a day on 5 or more days a week to benefit our health.

Did you know that walking regularly can

- keep your heart strong
- help to reduce your weight
- help you to sleep better
- help to reduce stress
- reduce your blood pressure
- make you feel good



*Try to make walking part of your normal day.*



## WALKIN' HADDINGTON

Would you like to walk more for exercise or pleasure? Need the motivation of a regular group?

For more information please call East Lothian's *Paths To Health* Co-ordinator on **01620 827608** or Email: [aadams@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:aadams@eastlothian.gov.uk).



## SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

Know the Code before you go ...  
Enjoy Scotland's outdoors – responsibly!

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions;
- respect the interests of other people;
- care for the environment.

Find out more by visiting:

**[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)**

or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



Photograph of Grey Heron © Duncan Priddle



## MORE INFORMATION

Further information about walks around Haddington can be obtained by phoning East Lothian Council on **01620 827419**.

Printable copies of this and other leaflets are available on **[www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)**. Any comments or suggestions about this leaflet or the walks can be left on the feedback form on this web site.

This leaflet is also available on **[www.haddingtoncc.org.uk](http://www.haddingtoncc.org.uk)**

This leaflet may be available in large print, audio and community languages on request. Please contact **01620 827199** or **[www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)**



traveline  
public transport info  
0870 608 2 608

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport information can be obtained from the Traveline by phoning **0870 608 2 608**.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This leaflet was produced and funded by The Royal Burgh of Haddington & District Community Council and East Lothian Council. Historical information was provided by David J. Motherwell.



# Walks around HADDINGTON





## WALKS AROUND HADDINGTON

This leaflet highlights four walks around Haddington, and is intended to encourage you to explore the area. The paths shown in this leaflet are a great way to discover Haddington and the scenic surrounding area, which is rich in history and wildlife. These paths can form short, circular routes, and longer paths link into the surrounding countryside.

## HADDINGTON

Haddington lies just off the A1, 18 miles east of Edinburgh. The market town of Haddington was declared one of the first Royal Burghs in Scotland in around 1137 to promote trade and industry in one of the richest agricultural counties in Scotland. Many of the buildings in the main streets date from the 18th and 19th centuries. St. Mary's Church, the largest parish church in Scotland, dates from the late 14th century.



## PLACES OF INTEREST

REFER TO THE AREA MAP (OVER) FOR OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST.

**1 The Nungate Bridge:** This 12th century bridge has stood firm against the many devastating floods in the last 800 years. The bridge was also the place of execution in the county and the hanging hook can still be seen.

**2 Ruin of St Martin's Church:** This was built as a chapel for the nearby Cistercian Nunnery in around 1160.

**3 St Mary's Church:** The largest parish church in Scotland, a gothic building started in 1375, consecrated in 1410, but not entirely completed until 1487. The church was in a ruined state for over 400 years until it was restored in 1971.

**4 John Knox's birthplace:** A memorial stone and an oak tree mark the spot where John Knox, the famous Scottish reformer, is reputed to have been born.

**5 Poldrate Mill (formerly East Mill):** An oat mill belonging to the Church but taken into the possession of Haddington Town Council in 1538.

**6 Bowling Green:** Oldest Bowling Green (1709) in Scotland, beside the Nungate Bridge.

**7 Town House:** The new Town House (Tolbooth) built to a plan by William Adam in 1748, comprised a Council Chamber, Jail and Sheriff Court. Assembly Rooms were added in 1788 and the new Town Clock added in 1835.

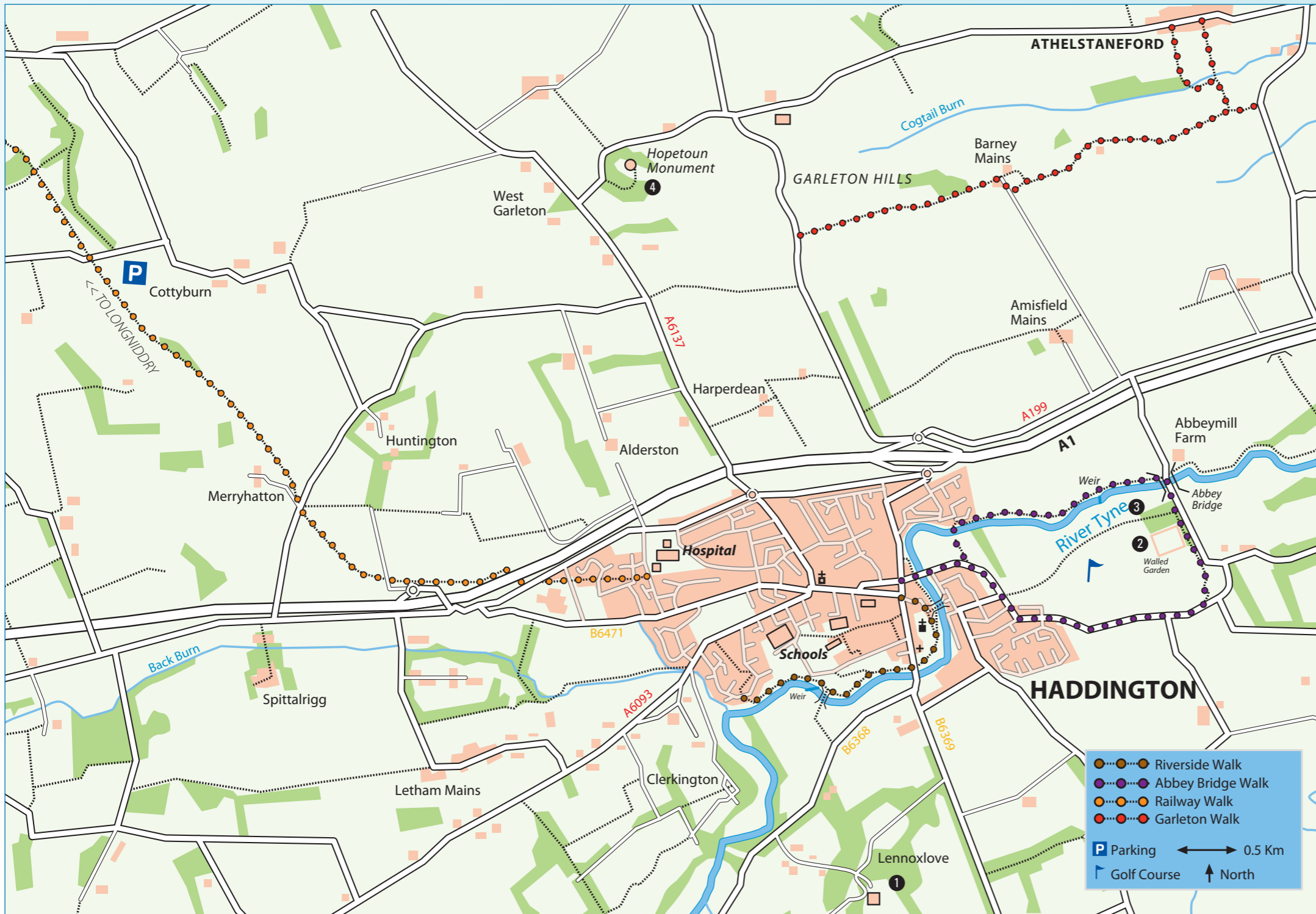
**8 Lady Kitty's Garden and Doocot** built in 1777 as a memorial garden to Lady Catherine Charteris, the wife of the 7th Earl of Wemyss.

**9 Haddington House and Garden (The Pleasance):** A walled garden created by Haddington Garden Trust, based upon layout and plant species which would have been typical of Scotland in the period around the 17th and 18th centuries.

**10 The Corn Exchange (1854).** As East Lothian was an important grain growing district, Haddington needed a corn exchange. When the assembly rooms were built in 1788, it was built on pillars so that the corn merchants and farmers could conduct their business under shelter. In 1854 a new corn exchange was custom built with a high glass roof, hardwood floors and booths for the dealers and farmers along the walls.

**11 Monument to the Marquis of Tweeddale** in front of the Sheriff Courthouse (formerly the royal palace of Haddington).

**12 Ferguson of Raith Monument:** Memorial pillar with statue of Robert Ferguson of Raith (1767-1840), a Member of Parliament elected in 1835 for the Burgh of Haddington.



## PLACES OF INTEREST

**1 Lennoxlove:** built by the Giffards of Yester as a tower house in the 14th century, now the seat of the Duke of Hamilton, Scotland's premier Duke. Lennoxlove contains the death mask of Mary Queen of Scots.

**2 The Walled Garden at Amisfield** was built in 1783 by the 7th Earl of Wemyss. Amisfield House, which was demolished in 1928, stood on the site of the Haddington Golf Clubhouse.

**3 The Summer House at Amisfield** was built in 1755 but had ceased to be used and became roofless by the 1850s. It looks north over the 16th fairway of the Golf Course, and was consolidated as a ruin in 2005 with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



**4 The Hopetoun Monument.** This monument to John Hope, the 4th Earl of Hopetoun (1765-1823) was built in 1824. It stands on top of Byres Hill from where panoramic views can be seen of the county.

*Other points of interest are marked on the town map (over).*



## RIVERSIDE WALK

A picturesque walk around the edge of the town following the River Tyne. This walk passes some lovely old buildings and quickly gets you away from the hustle and bustle of the town along a level path flanked with mature trees. Moorhens, mute swans, mallard ducks and herons are often seen on the river. You may even spot an otter or a kingfisher!

Follow Church Street, at the eastern end of the High Street, past the Nungate Bridge. From here the path continues past St. Mary's Church.



Past the church, continue for a mile (1.5 km) further upstream along the River Tyne. Once at the other end it is possible to return along the roads into Haddington or turn back along the same path.



## ABBEY BRIDGE WALK



A peaceful walk following the River Tyne out of the town. This route follows a level whindust path for a distance of about one and a quarter miles (2 km).

Cross over the Victoria Bridge (by the traffic lights at the east of Market Street) and follow the road past the cemetery.

Turn left down the path along the side of the playing fields and cross the footbridge over the River Tyne. At the other side turn right and follow the road to the whindust path across the grass. This path then continues to Abbey Bridge along the River Tyne. Mallard ducks are common on the river and look out for kingfishers. From Abbey Bridge there is the choice of returning along the same route or crossing the bridge and continuing along the path through Amisfield Park.

The Amisfield Park path passes close to the Walled Garden at Amisfield. The path continues through snowberry bushes and woodland to come out on the road. Follow the roadside path into Haddington. Take care on this section as traffic can drive fast along here.

## HADDINGTON TO LONGNIDDRY RAILWAY WALK

This branch railway line was opened in 1846 and carried passengers and farm produce from Haddington and the surrounding area to Edinburgh. In return the railway transported horse dung from the streets of Edinburgh to be used on the East Lothian farms! The passenger service was closed in 1949, with freight trains continuing until the closure of the line in 1968.

The total distance of the route is four and a half miles (7 km) between Haddington and Longniddry. The route is fairly level with only gentle slopes and a firm surface. There are small car parks at Longniddry and Cottyburn and access can be gained at several points in Haddington.



Photograph of Cow Parsley © Duncan Piddie

This route offers access to parts of East Lothian that can't be reached by car. The hedgerows and woodland along the route offer shelter to a great diversity of wildlife and many wild flowers are established along the embankments, including primroses and cow parsley. Yellowhammers and linnets can be found along hedges and in scrub banks. Grey partridge can be seen in arable fields, particularly in larger coveys in the autumn. Look to the sky and you may see a buzzard or a skylark.

## ATHELSTANEFORD AND THE GARLETON HILLS



This walk offers some of the finest views across East Lothian and the Firth of Forth. The walk starts in the village of Athelstaneford and climbs up the ridge of the Garleton Hills - a total of 2.5 miles (4 km) one-way. It is more-or-less a constant climb and follows field margins and farm tracks. It is best to return to the village by the same route, as the roads are narrow and quite fast in the area. The paths can become a little muddy after wet weather and there are some steps and steep slopes so stout footwear is recommended. It can also be quite chilly on the ridge of the hills in windy weather.

To reach Athelstaneford, take the A6137 north from Haddington for about 1.5 miles (2.5 km) and then follow the signpost to the right. Once in the village the walk is signposted down the side of the Primary School and crosses a field, before dropping down to cross the Cogtail Burn. Around the burn in summer, look out for damselflies and butterflies, and wetland plants such as marsh marigold and cuckoo flower. Follow the field margin up the other side and at the top turn right up the track along the top of the hills. At Barney Mains farm keep left of the house and steading and follow the signs clockwise around the farm and back onto the track up the hill. The walk ends at a stone stile on the Haddington Road and it is recommended to return to Athelstaneford along the same route.