

## Kirkliston to Cramond

Last leg of a 4-part route down the full length of the valley of the River Almond.

Starts Kirkliston. Quarter hourly bus (38) from Edinburgh. Also buses 63 and 600.

Varied walk: banks of R. Almond, beside the airport runway; woods, estate; coast. Distance: 14 km

Walk begins at bus stop on Kirkliston High St. adjacent to The Square beside the old Parish Church.

Find a narrow snicket, behind black safety railings, next to a whitewashed cottage (2 doors right of the cottage with the 'Amulree' wall plaque). Follow the snicket as it doglegs left and the right towards the river. You emerge from Cobblers Close onto Wellflats Rd. Bear right. After a few paces go straight over the old railway path. After a few more paces, at the Y-junction, take the right-hand road straight ahead with a neat, brown fence on the right. The road looks to be ending but keep straight ahead along a really narrow pathway between houses, with a high fence on the right. This alleyway leads to the river bank. Carry on along a most pleasant stretch of river bank until you come to a bridge. Cross over.

Turn sharp left to follow reasonably close to the riverside. Keep to the thin footpath on the low levee, rather than the field edge. Soon you come to the strange set of buildings of Hallyards. Walk straight ahead, keeping to the left of buildings. There are all sorts of strange containers, old vehicles and trucks. Keep going until your way appears to be blocked, or partially blocked. Bear left along a track which heads back towards the river bank. Ignore an incongruous, quite good-looking wooden gate and fence. Instead go to the right of it possibly through a gateway that you'll have to open, possibly through more open ground, and so reach a good track beside a large field. The river is on your left. Easy walking leads along the riverbank.

The path comes to woods and swings left well before the airport fence. Walking up to the fence doesn't help. Instead keep following the riverside path. Aim for the tall rotating radar devices. The path takes you right alongside the first radar device. Pass to its left where you can step through low bushes and pop out next to the the radar building fence. Follow the broad road towards the next building and on through to a minor road which leads to Boathouse Bridge without difficulty. This is a popular spot for 'plane spotters'.

Cross the bridge and at the roundabout take the minor road to the right. At a left-hand bend a finger post points along a footpath which leads back towards the river and the airport runway. Follow the path and after a few paces climb up onto the levee. Turn left and follow the levee for a long stretch with corn fields on your left.

On the next stretch the levee path can be rather overgrown. Nevertheless keep on along the path, eventually passing underneath the railway viaduct. 100 m after the viaduct turn left up a track leading towards Craigie Woods. The track dog-legs left and right to approach a minor road. Turn right along the road for a few paces to cross over to a low mound which needs to be surmounted in order to reach the fingerpost and footpath leading into the woods.

Stay on this path right through the woods. The path follows close to the left-hand edge of the woods. Eventually it divides. Keep more or less straight on, perhaps rising slightly right as the track starts to slope uphill. Eventually crest a rise and pass a house well below and to the left. At this point you want to keep going just a little bit further, to drop down to a finger post and to exit the woods.

Follow the minor road down to the right. At the T-junction go left. This minor road runs through trees to reach a pavement and a give way sign. Pause! Beware! Take extreme care! Traffic will be hurtling uphill on the slip road. At an opportune moment cross over to the pavement at the far side of the slip road. Go left across the bridge over the main A90. After a few paces drop down to cross gingerly over the next slip road and reach the entrance lodge of the Dalmeny Estate.

Ignore any no entry signs (they are for cars). Follow the estate road into the woods to come upon the Dolphinton/Cockle burn. Follow the track beside the river heading roughly eastwards. Ignore a bridge on the right. Instead keep on ahead, through a gate to reach farm buildings. Continue straight on with the farm buildings on your left. Eventually swing round left to pass in front of the Farmhouse and bear right along the farm track for 50 m to reach a T-junction.

Turn left and in 200 m turn left again at a second junction. In 100m drop down to the edge of the golf course and follow it and the river to its mouth on the Forth. The shore hereabouts is made up of banks of white cockle shells. To reach the mouth of the Almond, return upstream 100 m to a bridge and coastal path. Cross and follow the coastal footpath, left, through woods. At the junction with the road coming straight down from Cramond Brig go directly ahead on a very narrow path in trees. Where possible make your way down onto the beach. Turn right to easily reach the walk end at the mouth of the River Almond.

To get to Cramond Brig Hotel and the nearest bus stop walk back along the beach for 300 m to a point where a track joins. Follow the track inland to reach the Cramond Brig Road. Turn left for the Cramond Brig Hotel and buses into Edinburgh. (Service 43 runs every 20 mins Mon – Sat daytime, every 30 mins Sun daytime)

