

# Quartermile Route

**AIM:** To stroll around the Quartermile complex. Observe (i) the tasteful renovations of the Edinburgh Futures Institute, (ii) the thoughtful blend of the new architectural builds of Foster and Partners juxtaposed and inserted between the renovated, old, hospital wings, and (iii) Sir Robert McAlpine's affordable housing component of the overall Quartermile masterplan at Wharton Square. Finally, to make a return, via the Meadows, to the starting point - Starbucks on Middle Meadow Walk.

**GETTING THERE:** The Quartermile complex lies a ¼-mile (south) from the centre of Edinburgh. One easy way to reach the starting point, of the stroll, is to take a bus (e.g. 2, 9, 23, 27, 35, 45, or 47) to the Lauriston Pl.-Forest Rd.-Teviot Pl. road-junction and then to walk down Middle Meadow Walk, for 100 yards, towards the Meadows. The route begins at Starbucks - the first cafe on the right.

**FOOTWEAR:** Good shoes. Good, firm surfaces throughout.

**ROUTE:** A clockwise, circular (1-mile) route.

- Leave Starbucks (32 Simpson Loan) and turn left onto Porters Walk. [**Locality 1: see highlights & background information**].
- The Edinburgh Futures Institute [**2**] is to your right.
- After 60m take the second left into a typical side street. The Residence Inn is on your right.
- Walk down the street. At the T-junction with Simpson's Loan [**3**] turn right. Pass the main entrance to the Residence Inn. After 60m take the second right and walk forwards to Lister Square [**5**].
- Cross diagonally to a distinctive brick tower set at a slight angle [**6**].
- Pass beyond the tower, cross the road and walk uphill along the right-hand side of the glass panelled building by following Nightingale Way.
- Before reaching Lauriston Place, bear left, still following the building edge. Pass the Q1 entranceway [**6**], and still following around the outside of the Q1 building reach and descend a stepped ramp down to Nightingale Way.
- Turn right. In 80m pause to view (at 11 o'clock) the impressive 11-story corner of the Wharton Square development. Keep ahead, turn left down Chalmers Street. In a few more paces take steps up and enter the octagonal courtyard (a public/private space) [**8**].
- Exit the development the way you came in. Turn left and walk along the outside edge of the Quartermile complex down to the Meadows [**9**]. Turn left along the combined cycle and walkway. On reaching the complex, 6-way, path junction of Middle Meadow walk turn up left and to return to Starbucks and the starting point of the stroll.



Better (semi-interactive & zoomable) map available on plotaroute:

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2524575>

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