

# Dirleton and Yellowcraig Circular

**Start and finish:** Yellowcraig Car Park  
**Distance:** 6km / 4 miles  
**Time:** 1½ – 2 hours  
**Terrain:** Grassy paths and tracks, sandy beach, road.



**Directions:** From the car park follow the path into the wood, next to the bicycle stands, and continue to you almost reach the boundary wall of the plantation. Look out for the steps ascending to the top of Yellow Craig. Ascend the steps, with care, to take in the panoramic views of the coast. Descend and follow the path adjacent to the wall towards the coast. Follow the path in front of the toilet block and continue to the main path to the beach. Turn left to head back to the car park. The walk can be shortened here. To continue on the longer walk turn right along south side of wood just before the interpretation panel by the fence. Follow the track by the side of the wood and after approximately 500M leave this to follow a field track to Dirleton village. Take time to enjoy the charming setting of the village, church and castle. Turn left and follow the signs for Yellowcraig, taking care on the road back to the car park. Enjoy the beautiful views of Fidra and the coastline from the beach.

## Points of interest:

- 1. Bird watching** – look out for eiders, which often appear in the summer. On the sea look for puffins from Fidra or Craigleith and passing manx shearwaters from further afield. Also, great crested and red-necked grebes may be seen in summer.
- 2. Yellow Craig** – this is part of an ancient volcano that erupted in Carboniferous times, over 340 million years ago. There are fine views of the coast, east and west, from the summit.
- 3. Fidra Island and lighthouse** – the Cistercian Nuns of North Berwick had a hermitage on the island from 1154. This was also the site of Castle Tarbet, which preceded Dirleton Castle. The lighthouse dates from 1885 and was the first to be automated in Scotland in 1970.
- 4. Dirleton Gallery** – exhibition space and coffee shop.
- 5. Dirleton Auld Kirk** – The sixteenth century Kirk houses the beautiful 'Archerfield window', a stained glass depiction of wildlife found in the local area.
- 6. Dirleton Castle** – built in 1220, and substantially re-built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**Public transport:** Regular bus service to Dirleton on the Edinburgh – North Berwick coastal route.

**Local Services:** Dirleton has a variety of eating places.

