

River Esk and the Smeaton Railway

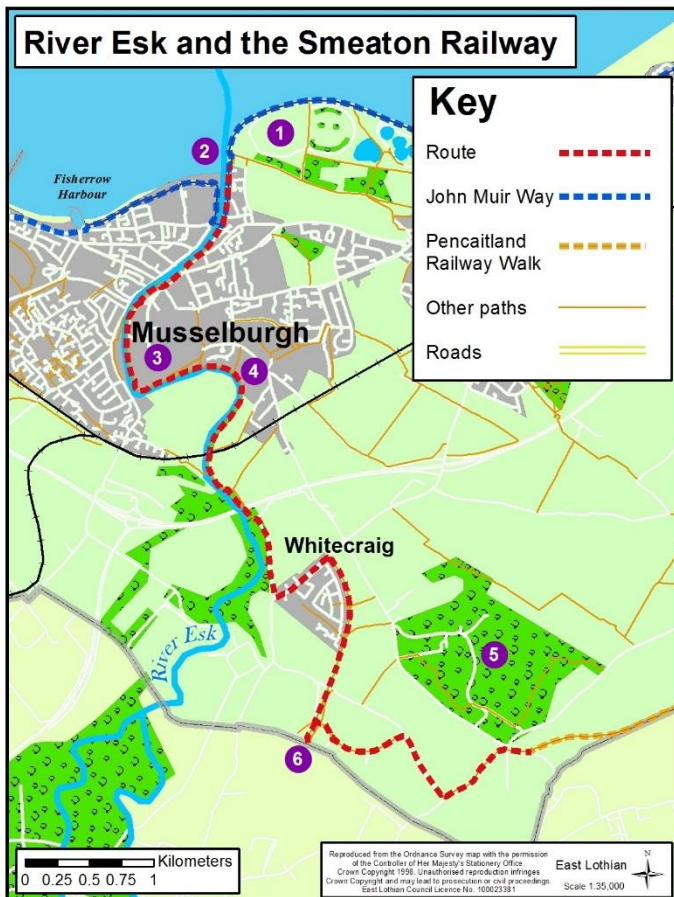
Start: Goose Green, Musselburgh
Finish: Crossgatehall, Pencaitland Railway Walk
Distance: 9½ km / 6 miles
Time: 2½ - 3 hours
Terrain: Tarmac paths and pavements. One short section of quiet road.

Description: A lovely walk following the River Esk Path and old railway lines from Musselburgh to the Pencaitland Railway Walk.

Directions: Starting at the mouth of the River Esk, follow the pavement upstream along Goosegreen Crescent until the road curves away from the river. Continue straight on along Eskside and then onto the path, following the river. Cross over the High Street and continue to follow the river next to Hall Avenue. Continue through the car parks and then cross Olive Bank Road and go down the steps (or ramp) onto Station Road. Continue along the pavements on Station Road for 300 metres and then follow the River Esk Path to your right. After four kilometres the path emerges onto Cowpits Road. Follow the pavement into Whitecraig and turn left when you meet the main road. Follow Whitecraig Road and cross it when convenient. Continue to the other end of the village and once past all the buildings look for the Smeaton Railway path on your right. Continue along the railway walk for a kilometre and after you go under a bridge take the left hand path and follow signs for cycle route 196. After a short section of quiet road and then a cycle path



adjacent to the road, turn right at the traffic lights and you will see the Pencaitland Railway Walk ahead on your left.



Points of interest:

- 1. Levenhall Links** – created from the waste ash from Cockenzie Power Station. Now a haven for wildlife and recreation.
- 2. River Esk** – great spot to see waders and other birds.
- 3. Musselburgh** – There has been a settlement here since at least Roman times.
- 4. Inveresk Village** – a beautiful conservation village. Location of the National Trust for Scotland's Inveresk Lodge Garden.
- 5. Carberry** – in 1567 Mary Queen of Scots surrendered to the Confederate Lords here.
- 6. National Cycle Route 1** – continues through Dalkeith on its way to Dover.

Public transport: There are regular bus and rail services to Musselburgh.

Local Services: Musselburgh is well served with shops and restaurants.