

WL37 River Almond to Breich Water

Start, route and finish

This is a 1.1 mile (1.8km) path that starts at the bridge over the River Almond below Seafield on WL33 and heads south passing through Easter Breich to reach the B7015 at Oakbank Cottages. Here it crosses the road briefly following a roadside path on the southern side of the road heading west. The path then heads south again by taking a private road that serves a quarry and City Farm. After bearing left at a fork in the road that leads to the farm to the path then bears left again to drop down to the bridge over the Breich Water. After crossing the bridge the path climbs some steps and eventually emerges onto the minor road that leads south to West Calder. Cross the road and follow the roadside pavement to West Calder.

Surfaces and features

This is currently an unsurfaced path and the bridge at City Farm was demolished by the council in December 2007 as it was unsafe. The path south of the steading follows the access road to the houses. South of the B7015 the path follows the access road to a quarry and City Farm.

The experience

This is a rural path passing through a farmed landscape with woodlands and shelterbelts.

Opportunities and constraints

The new bridge across the Breich Water is scheduled to be installed in August 2008. Once the bridge is in place some upgrading of the path will take place in 2008/2009 and the route will be signposted.



WL40 Almond Valley Path

Start, route and finish

A 2.6 mile (4.2km) path that links Seafield with Livingston and a 0.5 mile (800m) path from Easter Breich that links to it. The main path starts on Redhouse Road opposite Redhouse Court in Seafield. It initially follows narrow streets before taking a very narrow path between back gardens dropping down to the river. The path quickly emerges onto the edge of a field. After crossing the recently built bridge over the river the path turns east to follow the south bank of the River Almond. The path crosses the bridge over the Breich Water, continues past the Almond Pools, goes under Simpson Parkway on the western fringe of Livingston and heads south to terminate at Fleming Road at its junction with Simpson Parkway. There is a small car park to the west of Simpson Parkway, which serves the path, and can be accessed from Fraser Road.

The link path leaves the B7015, a little to the east of Easter Breich, by way of a gate. The path leads north east to meet the riverside path at the Breich Water bridge. For horse riders there is another path, to the east of the core path, on the boundary of the recently planted area which is owned by Central Scotland Forest Trust. This path joins the riverside path near the Almond Pools.

Surfaces and features

These are generally whindust paths approximately 1.5 metres wide apart from the path down from Seafield to the River Almond bridge which is a 1 metre wide tarmac path. The horse rider's path is unsurfaced. The only barrier is the gate on the B7015. There are some fording points across the rivers available for horse riders but their condition would need to be assessed by riders especially after heavy rain.

The experience

Aside from the path down from Seafield to the River Almond bridge this path is crossing an agricultural/woodland landscape with the rivers and views to the Five Sisters and the Pentlands being key elements.

Opportunities and constraints

The prevalence of flooding and a high water table make the maintenance cost of this path relatively high. It is well used and valued by local people as a rural path link between the two communities. It is hoped to keep it as a whindust path to retain its rural character. However, the Gavieside CDA and the increase in local population may require sections of this path to be upgrded.

