

FROM THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**EGCSA'S** 

**WALKING**

**GUIDE 2022**

**Get walking to save the planet!**



**Hand picked walks in the Lothians with  
tips, routes and much more**

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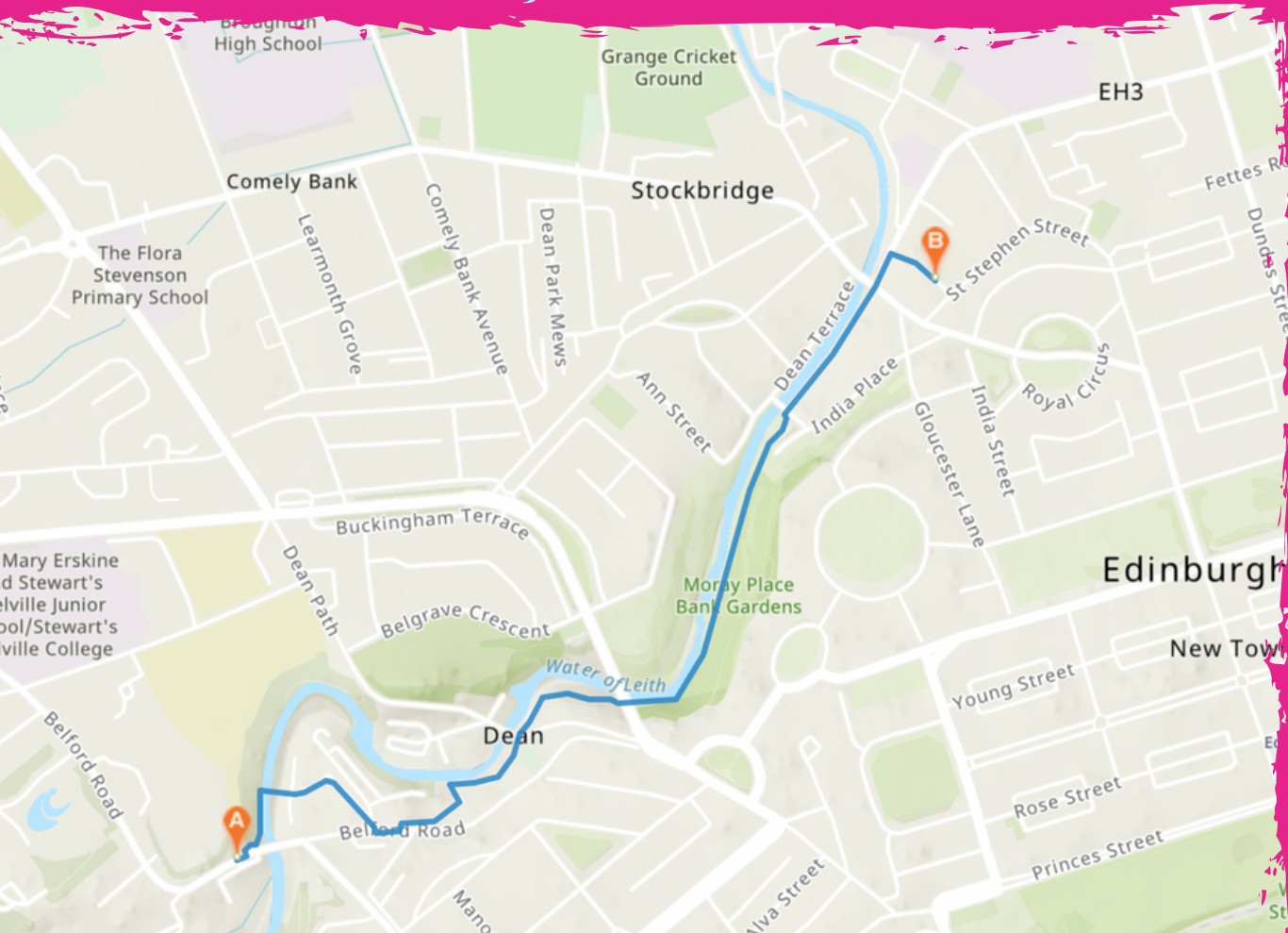
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LET'S WALK!





# DEAN VILLAGE



# DEAN VILLAGE

***This walk takes you along the pleasant Waters of Leith, ending in picturesque Stockbridge***

## **Accessibility**

Depending on what your start point is this walk is accessible. If you start your journey on the Modern Art Gallery side of the river there are some steps, and further along in Dean Village there are steps and a steep cobbled incline, however if you start your walk at Dean Bridge the rest of the way is a very flat tarmac path.

## **Length**

From start to finish this walk is around 25 minutes at 1.6km.



Begin by crossing over Belford Road bridge and start by the lamppost blanketed in stickers from the adjacent Modern Art Gallery exhibition on Ray Harryhausen. There is a path with steps leading down to the water with a big red sign saying 'Water of Leith Walkway'. Down some steps there is a lovely view of the bridge, but don't get confused as you have to walk through some houses to continue the route.

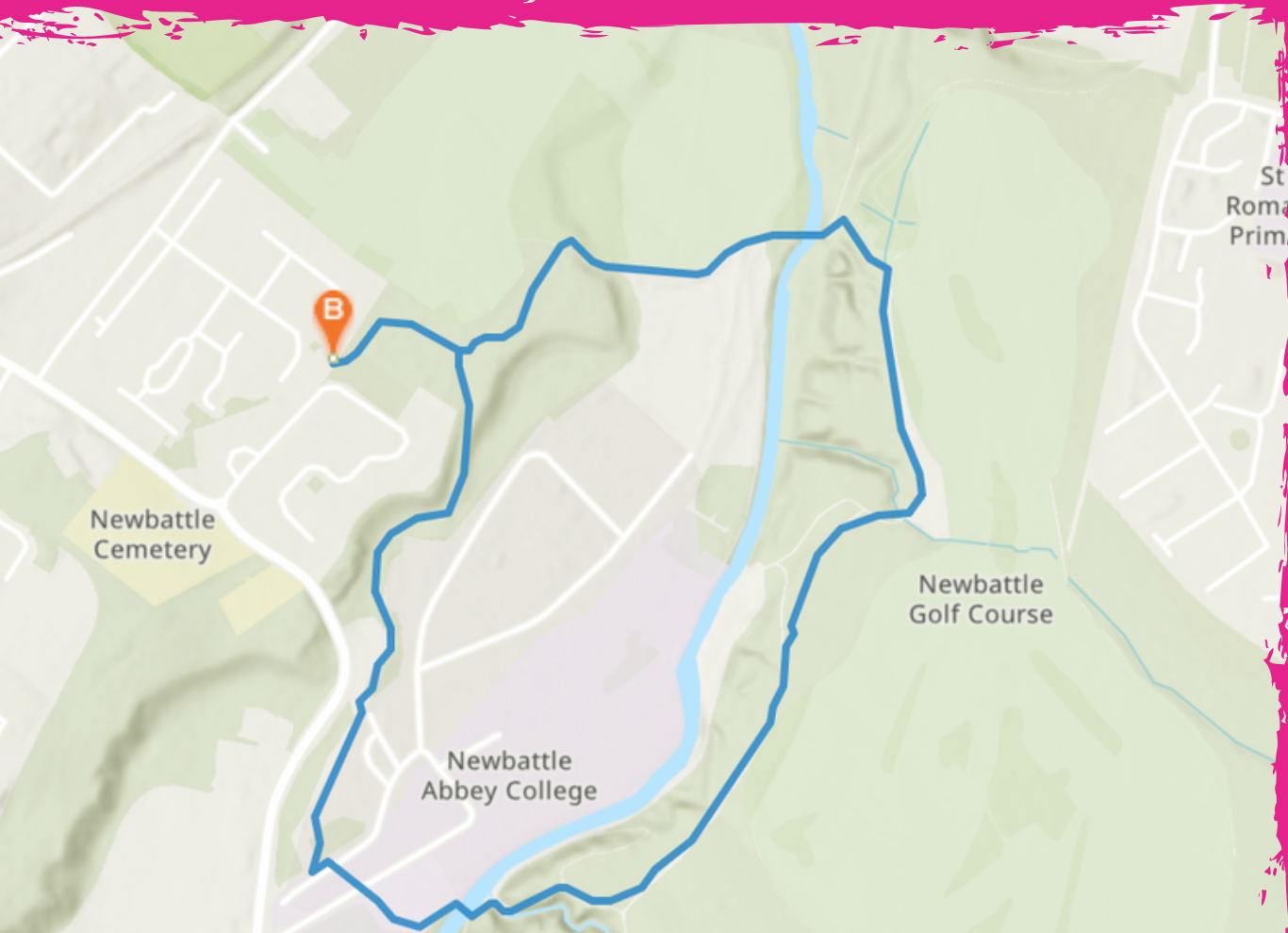
After seeing a blue sign pointing towards Dean Village, follow the street down, and you will find yourself suddenly surrounded by beautiful old buildings and picturesque views. Soak in the view as you walk along the path, observing Dean Village.

Following Dean Village you will then be greeted with the massive Dean Bridge with its huge stretching arches. The next landmark is St Bernards Well. Instead of continuing along the main path I spotted some steps that went down closer to the water with a narrower path following the same route, however both will take you to the same place. After walking along for about five minutes you will come out on to Saunders Street next to Stockbridge.

Next, cross over the main road and go straight across following the water, you should spot an alley/vennel - follow it and you will reach your destination. An ancient arch to the original Stockbridge Market, with faded gold lettering and plants - definitely a reward making it worth your while.



# ***LORD ACRUM WOODS***



# ***LORD ACRUM WOODS***

***This is a historic and picturesque walk that takes you past a beautiful former monastery***

## **Accessibility**

The old college has a car park which is easy to access. The walk itself can be very uneven, particularly towards the latter half of the walk as you get deep into the woods. The terrain consists of flat open grass, stone paths, muddy paths and some stone stairs so boots would be advised.

## **Length**

From start to finish this walk is around 45 minutes at 2.6km





The walk begins at the old college which was founded in 1140 and was originally a Cistercian monastery. To the right of the college there is a small path that leads you to the garden of the college which contains large hedges and stone fountains.

Walking out the garden and across a grass field you will come across the woods which contains a large tree guarding it and rather peculiarly has coins embedded into it.

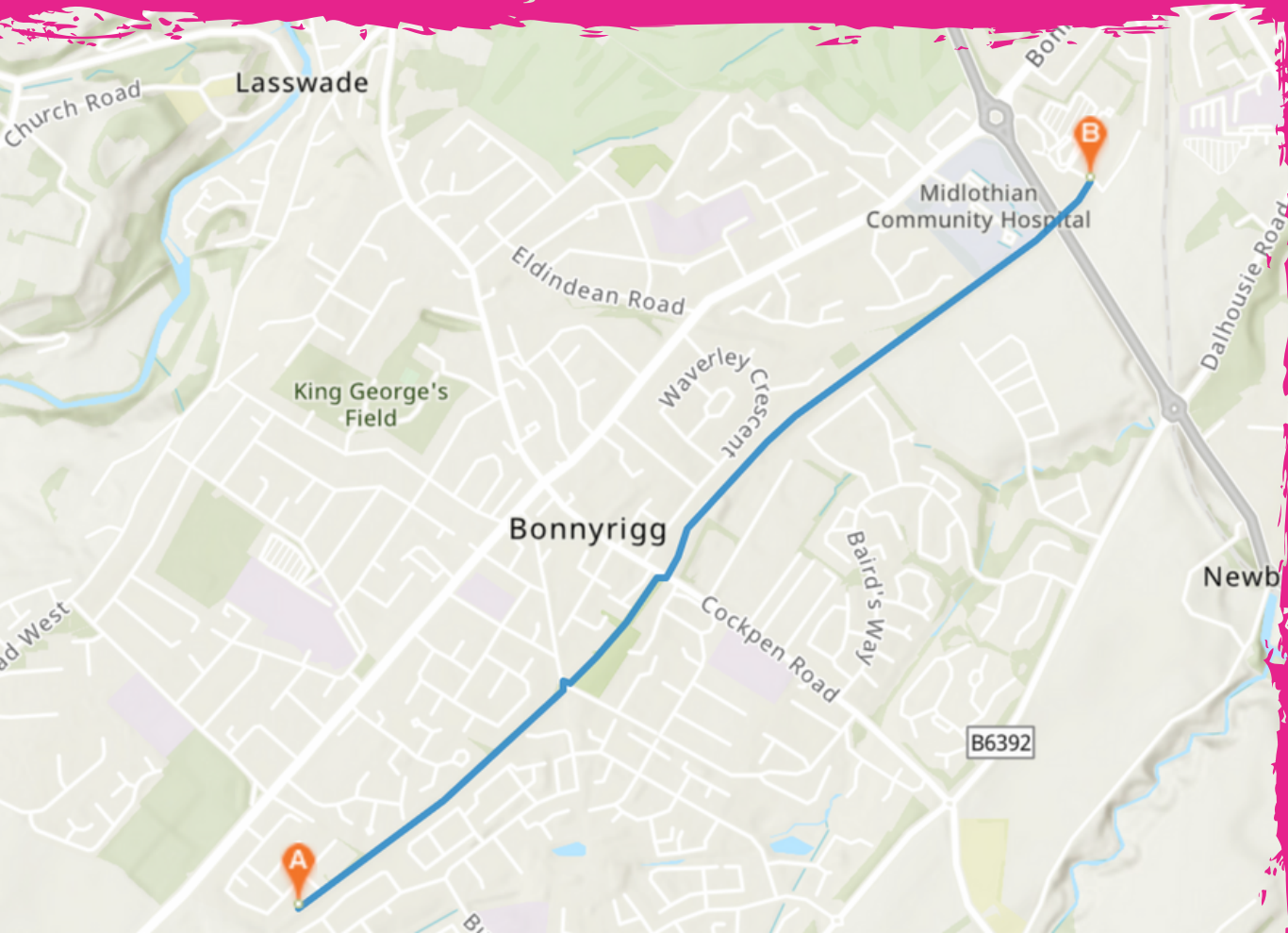
Walking through the woods takes you to a very large stone bridge which overlooks the river. At this stage you are most likely to see king fishers, owls and occasionally otters.

From here you walk upwards and take stairs on your left which take you towards a large golf course. Taking another right from the golf course will lead you deep into the woods where you will be greeted with the oldest and tallest trees in the woods. You might even spot the occasional deer at this section if you're lucky.

As you walk through the woods you will eventually come out on to a large wooden bridge which takes you back to your starting point; overseeing the college.



# MIDLOTHIAN RAILWAY



# MIDLOTHIAN RAILWAY

***This route takes you along a pleasant former railway with amazing views of local farmland***

## **Accessibility**

The walk is easy to access with various paths that merge onto the railway and the entire walk is on a flat stone path that has no mud on it; although heavy rainfall can occasionally cause large pools to form.

## **Length**

From start to finish this walk is around 40 minutes at 2.5km



As you start your walk you will see a field which is behind a farm which often holds several horses in it, just down from it is an old railway platform which opened in the 19th century to aid with railway transportation for the Lowlands of Scotland.

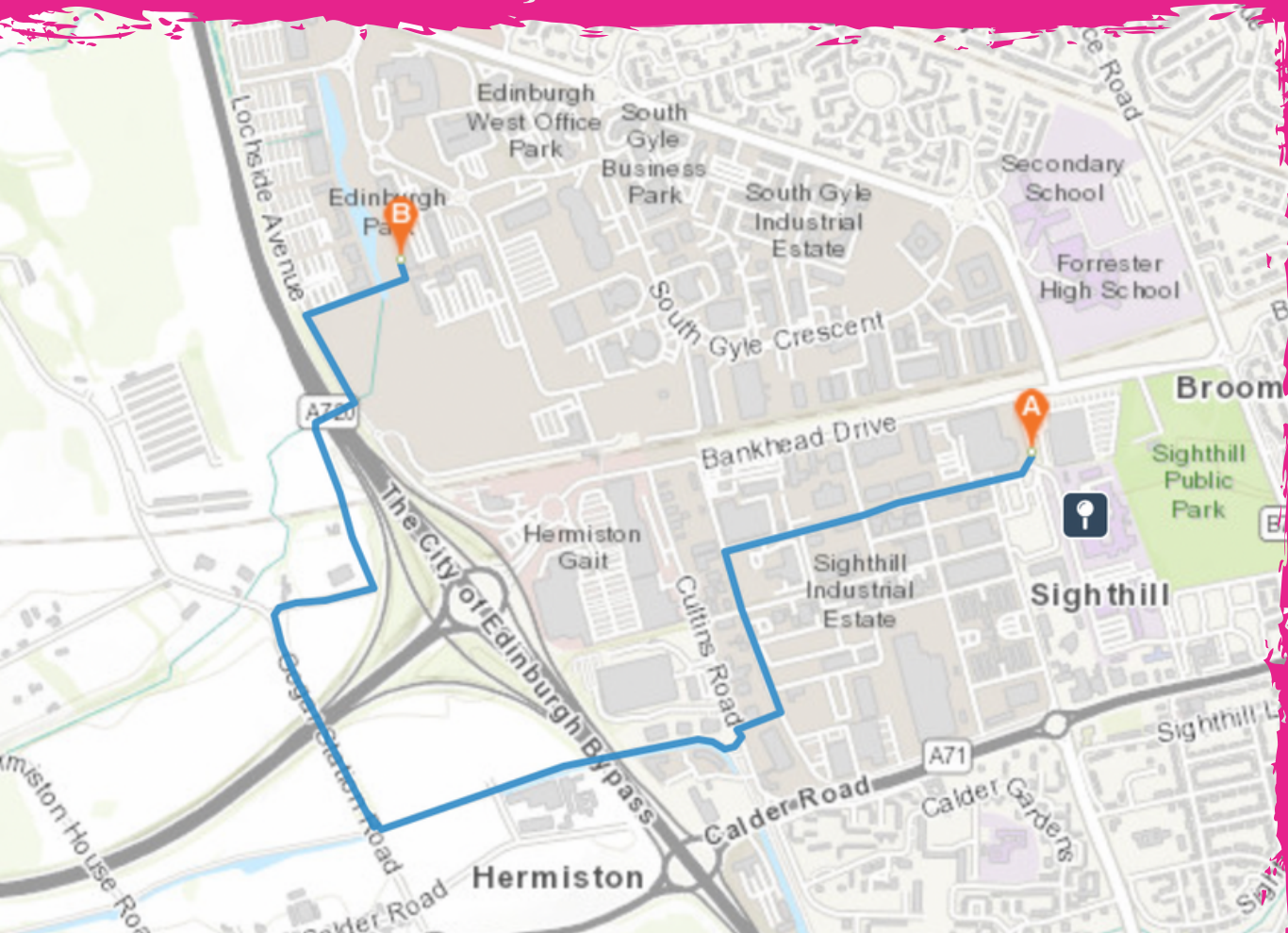
As you continue your walk down the railway you will come across a map of the railway with details on where to go and what to see; things to see include foxes, kingfishers, hares and old industrial factories that helped with train manufacturing during the 19th and 20th century.

On your walk you will soon have to cross over the road. You will soon come across some large iron railings with another information signs

Continuing down the railway, you will soon cross over a very high up bridge overlooking a main road and you will start to see the end of the walk which is marked by another information sign similar to the one in point two.



# UNION CANAL



# UNION CANAL

***This route takes you past the beautiful Union Canal***

## **Accessibility**

There are no steps involved, and all level changes have a slope or ramp. However, there is a lot of uneven terrain within this walk that could be difficult for some. The paths on this walk are also very narrow and bendy, which could also prove problematic. There aren't any places to stop and sit down, and there is no access to a toilet or refreshment facilities.

## **Length**

From start to finish this walk is around an hour at 4.3km



This walk begins by heading to the other side of the industrial park that the college is based in. One bonus of this start is passing a Greggs and 2 independent food trucks en route. Once at the path, you join onto the path running alongside the canal. You can either turn left, and head towards Gorgie and the inner city, or turn right, and head out of the city. Fun fact: if you kept following the canal you would eventually end up in Falkirk- the Union Canal is 31 miles long!

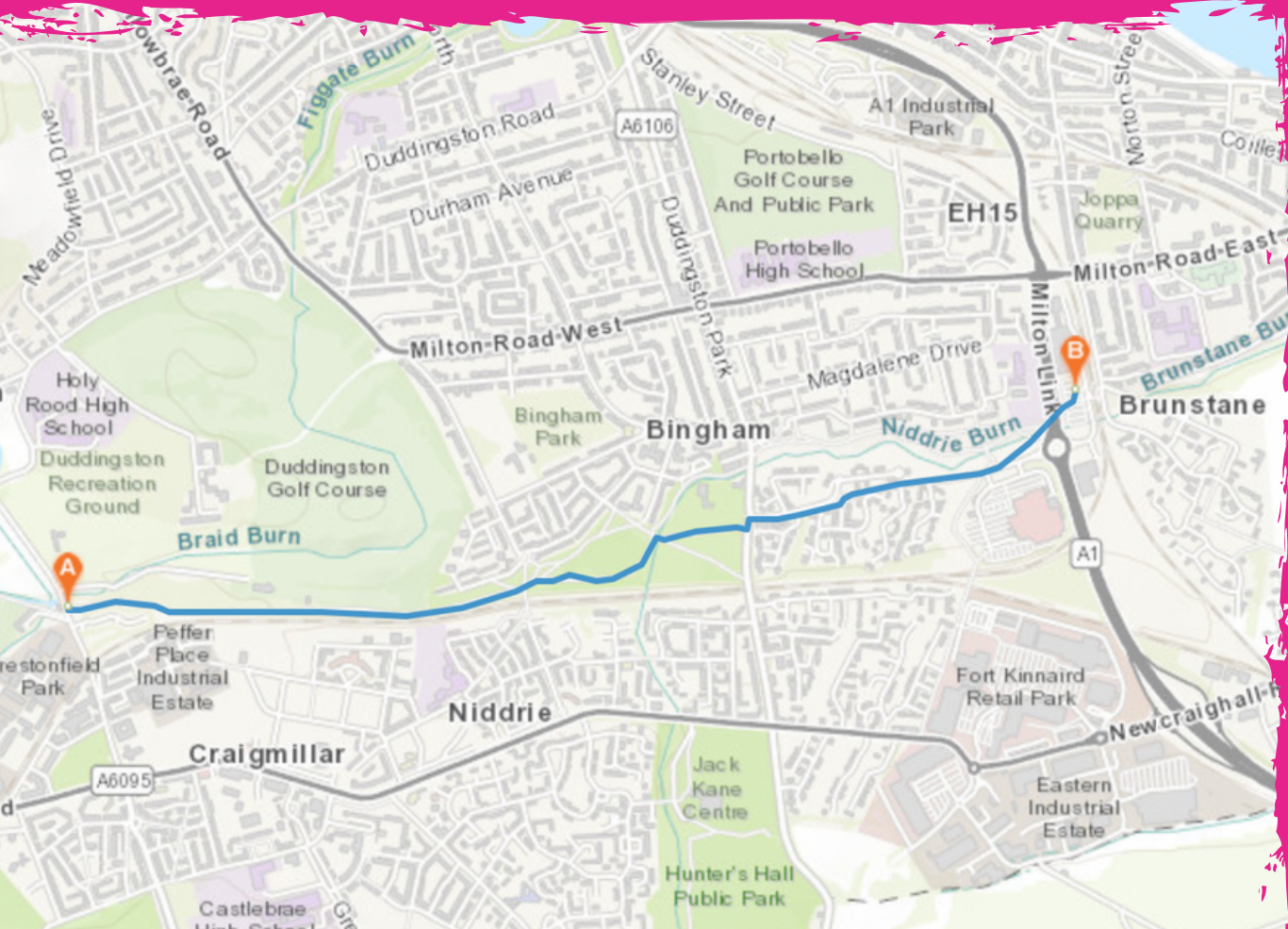
I turned right on my walk, and set along the canal. The first thing you pass is the Scott Russel Aqueduct. This carries the water of the canal over the City of Edinburgh Bypass. If you look down, you are right above a busy motorway! Continuing on the walk, there are many picturesque bridges en route which look like something out of a fairytale!

After a walk along the canal, I took a right turn up to Gogar Station Road. Here I again crossed a bridge that carried me over the bypass - looking over will make anyones stomach do a flip. Here I walked along the road, until I came to a small country trail, which took me over a small bridge above the GogarBurn - a small river. I went through a tunnel, where I walked along Lochside Avenue.

It was here when I noticed a large, gold, hand shaped sculpture situated near Edinburgh Park. Further research has informed me that this piece is called "Reach for the Stars" by British sculptor, Kenneth Armitage. Armitage is known for being a favourite artist of musician David Bowie. It has been there for 10 months now, and is the first piece in an ambitious vision to turn the area into a centre for culture.



# ***INNOCENT RAILWAY***





# ***INNOCENT RAILWAY***

***This route lets you soak in the stunning outskirts of Edinburgh along this pleasant railway walk.***

## **Accessibility**

The walk starts at Brunstane train station which is an easily accessible place with the only elevation change occurring as you walk up and down the bridge that is over train station; the rest of the walk is a flat stone path.

## **Length**

From start to finish this walk is around 40 minutes at 2.8km



The walk begins at the Brunstane railway station and walking over its bridge that gives you a great birds eye view of the surrounding area

As you walk off the bridge you walk underneath a tunnel that takes you underneath the bypass with an Asda and The Range en route. After walking underneath the tunnel you can take a left towards Asda or take a right towards a park.

Taking the path to the right will lead you towards to play parks where you can release your inner child or take part in a litter pick!

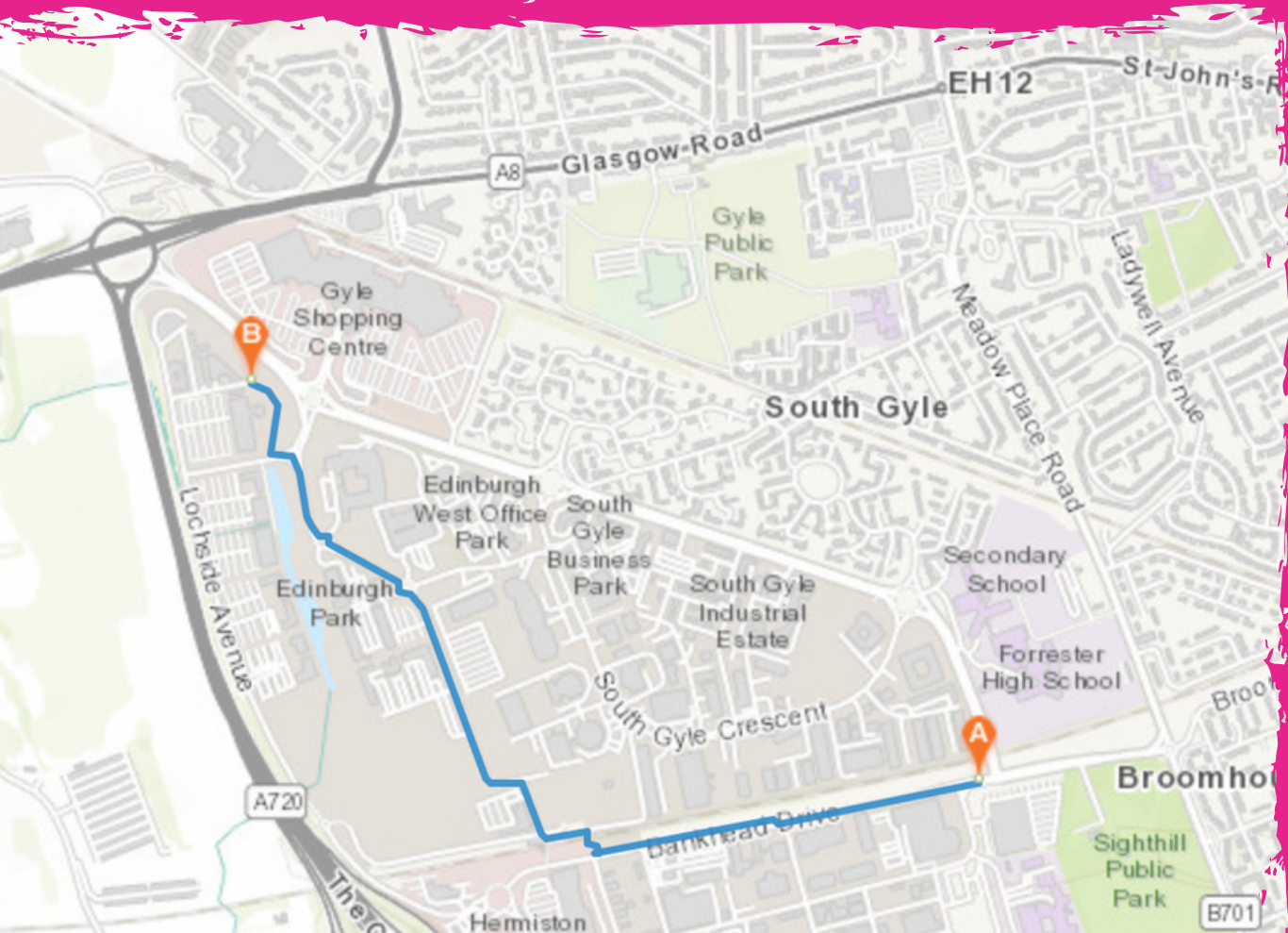
Walking past the parks and over the main road will take you back on the path and walk parallel with a river which leads you to a peculiarly shaped wooden bridge.

This stage of the walk has the most open greenery of any stage of the walk. Walking over the bridge takes you to an open field, but walking straight past the bridge soon takes you to a football and basketball cage where you can release your inner athlete if you so desire!

Continuing the walk leads you walking in a straight line parallel to a large golf course and eventually to Cavalry park and the end of the walk.



# *EDINBURGH PARK*



# ***EDINBURGH PARK***

***This route lets you soak in the stunning outskirts of Edinburgh along this pleasant railway walk.***

## **Accessibility**

This walk is overall very accessible for all people. The paths within Edinburgh Park itself are very wide, have a flat gradient and a smooth surface. When the level changes, there are ramps with handrails for use by anyone who needs them. Another factor is that there are many benches within the park, where people are able to sit and have a rest if need be. This walk is also right on the tram stop, thus could be shortened with a tram ride if it becomes too long. It is close to local amenities – the Gyle Shopping Centre – for access to toilets and refreshment.

## **Length**

From start to finish this walk is around 30 minutes at 2.4km



This walk begins at Bankhead Tram stop. Walk along the footpath towards Hermiston Gait. Before you reach Edinburgh Park, there is a right hand turn you can take across the tram tracks. Follow this path underneath the bridge and keep following the path to the left. Keep following the path round, until you reach a small left hand side lane, which will take you out at Edinburgh Park! You will initially come to the tram stop, but here you can explore the park!

Here you can walk around Loch Ross, see the ducks and look at the statues.

There are also many benches and tables to sit at for a nice coffee break.

There are many statues of heads in Edinburgh Park. They are all Scottish Poets! They include

- WS Graham
- Jackie Kay
- Liz Lochhead
- Tom Leonard
- Hugh MacDiarmid
- Hamish Henderson

There is also a nice piece of art called "Thoughts 4 paws"

If you walk around Edinburgh Park on a nice day - it's beautiful and very relaxing. Once you've finished your lap of the pond, follow your route back up to Edinburgh Park Station! The loch is also just across the road from the Gyle Shopping centre, with multiple bus links and places for food and drinks. It is also just beside a restaurant and a gym. This is a calm quiet walk, that is a little heaven in the centre of a business park!