Burdiehouse Burn



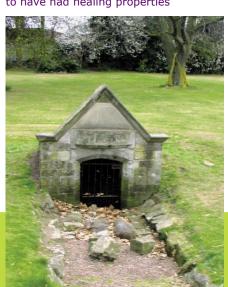
BURDIEHOUSE - CRAIGMILLAR

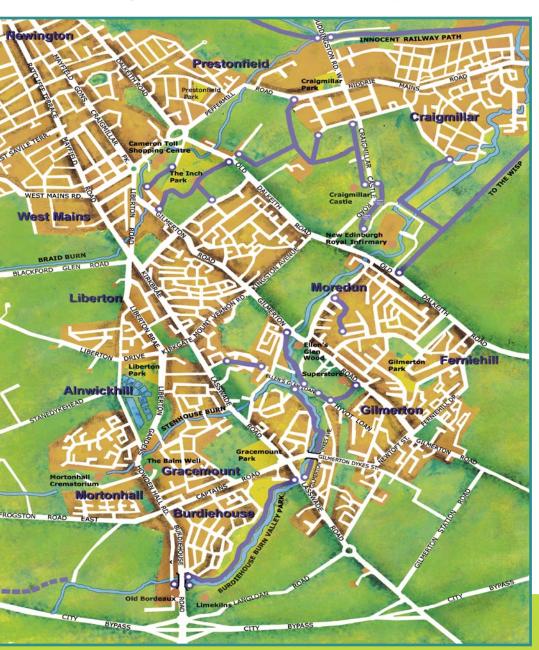
Stenhouse Burn

A local path network follows parts of the Stenhouse Burn before it joins the Burdiehouse Burn in Ellen's Glen. It flows from the Mortonhall Estate through the wonderfully well kept Mortonhall Cemetery. Fans of architecture should visit the crematorium building designed by Basil Spence in 1967. He had previously been responsible for the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral.

Close by is the Balm Well now a place to eat and drink. The Well itself is still to be found in the gardens as a grotto. It was famed for the healing properties of the water. This was because of the oily film which came from a seam of oil shale. The water was effective for some skin conditions.

Water from the Balm Well was said to have had healing properties

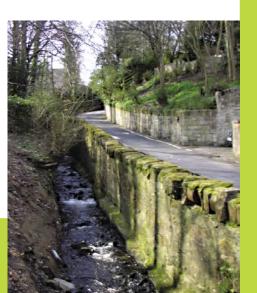








Ellen's Glen is green, beautiful and secluded (top images). It's also where the Stenhouse Burn (bottom) forks away.



Useful information

ORGANISATIONS



St. Martin's Church 232 Dalry Road Edinburgh EH11 2JG Tel: 0131 313 2114 www.spokes.org.uk

SPOKES, the Lothian Cycle Campaign, produces cycle maps for Edinburgh and the Lothians. Available in all good book and bike shops or online at £4.95 each (post free).



c/o Railtrack Reception Platform One Waverley Station Edinburgh EH1 1BB tel: 0131 558 2647 www.thebikestation.org.uk

The Bike Station renovates and recycles donated bikes with the help of volunteers. It offers DIY bike fixing facilities, bike maintenance training and cycle training for novice and nervous cyclists!



16a Randolph Crescent Edinburgh EH3 7TT Tel: 0131 539 8122 www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans - the sustainable transport charity - works on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport in order to reduce motor traffic and its adverse effects.

SAFETY

We want you to enjoy Edinburgh's path networks safely and comfortably. **CLARENCE** can help. So, when you see a problem, don't ignore it - report it to **CLARENCE**.



Freephone:
CLARENCE 0800 23 23 23
or e-mail:
clarence@edinburgh.gov.uk

Whether you're cycling or walking, you're bound to meet someone else on these routes. Be sensible when you're using Edinburgh's off-road paths...

Look out for others, Look out for yourself!



At the northern end of the Valley Park is Ellen's Glen, once known as Helen's Glen. If you've never been before it will be an unexpected surprise - a small sleepy hamlet in a wooded glen, far removed from the big city. On the left is the Stenhouse Burn tumbling down the hill.

You could go up the hill and find the public footpath through the Regis Fields estate and on to Lasswade Road. Better is to turn right and take a short walk to the gate on the left (often hidden behind parked cars). It's a short walk to Gilmerton Road, through a very fine stretch of mixed woodland with carpets of flowers in spring. Take your time, there's lots to savour.

The path surface along Burdiehouse Burn is very variable. The woodland section can be quite muddy. Upstream there are dusty and stoney stretches. But there are also increasing amounts of tarmac which give a more reliable surface for cycling or casual walkers.

Gilmerton Road will probably be the end of your outing (Lothian Buses 3, 8, 29), though you could turn right and left into Moredunvale Road and glimpse the Burn through the high metal fence. The next landmark is the New Royal Infirmary off Old Dalkeith Road.

The burn flows around the buildings as part of the landscaping, then on through the fields to Greendykes. There is also a newish route through the hospital and up a stepped path to Craigmillar Castle Road with a brand new tarmac path avoiding the traffic. There's a choice of routes - through Craigmillar Castle Park, back to Old Dalkeith Road or onto Peffermill Road.

Limekilns at Burdiehouse (left) The view towards Arthur's Seat at the beginning of the route (top) Basil Spence's Mortonhall Crematorium (front)

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Discover Edinburgh by bike or on foot using tranquil off-road paths

Places of interest • Links to other paths

Burdiehouse Burn

The Burdiehouse Burn is part of one of the waterways flowing from the Pentlands to the Forth. It reaches the sea at Joppa where it forms the city boundary with East Lothian. The last couple of miles (Niddrie and Brunstane Burns) are covered in the leaflet on East Edinburgh.

The name Burdiehouse is said to derive from 'Bordeaux' because some of Mary Queen of Scots' retainers stayed there when she returned from France in 1560. Certainly some stayed at Little France (the site of the New Royal Infirmary) below Craigmillar Castle.

The main path starts by Burdiehouse Village on Burdiehouse Road, just inside the City By-pass. (Lothian Buses 37). In theory it's possible to follow the burn upstream and discover its source - the converging of the Lothian and Pentland Burns. However, there are fences, farmland and culverts under the Bypass to contend with.

Before you start your trip along the Burn, look east to see the imposing masonry of disused lime kilns. They look like a single structure, but are actually a number of kilns built over many years in slightly different styles. Lime was made by burning limestone. It was used for improving land and for plastering walls in houses.

For the next two miles it's almost all downhill. The route passes through what is becoming known as the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park. It meanders through pleasant areas of open grassland, mature trees and more recent tree planting. The park will see more improvements over the next few years; campaigning by local people has resulted in plans that include improving the park by upgrading old paths and building new ones. New habitats also will be created for the diverse wildlife found in the area.

