

# exploring edinburgh

## Haymarket - Edinburgh Park



Edinburgh Park Station at Cultins Road

**The Exploring Edinburgh series is about just that - exploring!** At time of writing, and perhaps reading, not all the cycle facilities will be 'on the ground', but they're on their way! This issue features a quiet, almost flat, route from the West End to West Edinburgh AND the newest cycle facility to hit Edinburgh - alongside WEBS (the new West Edinburgh guided busway).

This isn't the first time that Exploring Edinburgh has suggested Haymarket Station as a starting point for an adventure. It's a well know landmark that's easy to reach by bike, bus - and train. There's even a brand new cafe/bar, intriguingly called Opera, just in front of the station, for meeting your fellow travellers.

Look around, there will be changes in the coming years. The Station itself is fairly safe. It's been here for 162 years and was Edinburgh's first main line terminus. Next door, the fate of the Caledonian Ale House is less certain. Plans for trams may see it demolished. Certain to go sooner are the advertising hoardings above Dalry Road. Shops, offices and houses are set to appear on the Morrison Street Car Park.

Set off. Head west for a short distance and dive into Haymarket Yards. (NOT the sharp left into the station car park.) Pass the headquarters of TIE (the tram planners), the tax office and along the cyclepath by the Chartered Accountants' HQ. Between the fences into the carpark, left between the houses and right onto Balbirnie Place.

Then left through the gap in the old railway embankment to the North Edinburgh Path Network. (Subject of a previous Exploring Edinburgh article, and available online at [www.edinburg hpaths.info](http://www.edinburg hpaths.info)) Turn left, down the

hill, pause at the bottom to look at the NEPN information board, then turn right onto the wide pedestrian/cycle path. Follow it until it runs out, then cross Russel road near end, go round corner, then cross Roseburn street (south of Roseburn Place). Cross and proceed along Roseburn Place (fairly quiet) until you reach Roseburn Park. Here you could spend the whole day - watching or playing, football or cricket, trying the play equipment or picnicking - even listening to a rock concert



The Dovecot

spilling from Murrayfield (but that's only a couple of times a year!)

Then carry on until you reach the access road for the ice rink. Straight ahead is the continuation of the Water of Leith Walkway (upwards to Balerno). Here we cross the bridge, turn left and meander along Riversdale Crescent. SECOND right into Riversdale Road, the usual Edinburgh mix of unusual houses. Cross Saughtonhall Road into Saughton Crescent. Cross Balgreen Road into Balgreen Avenue. Take care at both these crossings. The Council intends to install Toucan crossings to help with the H2EP (Haymarket to Edinburgh Park) route.



Roseburn Park



Pinkhill Station in December 1957

Picture: "Lost Railways of the Lothians". Publisher stenlake.co.uk. Photo W.A.C. Smith



At the end of Balgreen Avenue is an old railway bridge. Go under it and an undulating landscape punctuated with trees greets you - Carrick Knowe Golf Course. Bear right and up the ramp - at present steep and stony, soon to be gentler and tarred. Stop to admire the sandstone bridge, wonderful in the afternoon sun. This was the Corstorphine branch line, which had a short life but a busy one (1902 to 1967). Trains, (photos show some with a dozen coaches), ran to North Berwick. They were timed so that people could come home for lunch!

You are about to discover Pinkhill Station. Look for the platforms and the main building on the bridge, in private use as a workshop. Marvel at how the trees have taken over in less than forty years. Wonder where the sign saying "ALIGHT HERE FOR ZOOLOGICAL PARK" went! You can

still use the station's platforms and access ramps to reach the zoo.

Continue along the line for a short distance and turn off to Pinkhill or carry on, past the back of the Forestry Commission building and turn left. This path comes out opposite Carrick Knowe Avenue, take the second right along traffic calmed Meadowhouse Road.

At the end is a slightly tricky crossing into Dovecot Road. Even before you get there it's obvious where the name came from! However, if it's Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, (or the 3rd Wednesday

in the month) turn right and then left into Corstorphine High Street and find the Dower House, home of the Corstorphine Trust. Not only will you find coffee (at 50p), and a small but delightful museum, but also an amazing archive of books, photos, maps etc. - complete with knowledgeable volunteers who will help you find out about anything to



Dower House



The platforms are still visible

do with the local area.

Return to Dovecot Road (via the park) and cross to Ladiebridge - the narrow path which leads to Broomhall Road. Turn right and follow it to the end. Cross Meadow Place Road at the crossing. You'll Pass Gylemuir Primary - the reason for the traffic calming - and South Gyle Station. Cross the dual carriageway (South Gyle Broadway) using the split crossing. Follow the path to the roundabout and head for Redheughs Avenue. STOP and marvel at the massive Paolozzi, (or play on it).

Carry on into Edinburgh Park



Paolozzi sculpture

- possibly the prettiest business park in Britain. This whole area needs a map to itself! Discuss the architecture, all modern - but varied. Find the sculptures, (some details at [www.gmst.info](http://www.gmst.info)). There are many - even the bus shelters contain art. you could return by train from Edinburgh Park's 'own' station or try the WEBS route to Carrick Knowe, or carry on to The Gyle shopping centre (there's an underpass under the Broadway), and look for more sculpture hidden in the car park. There is a path back to South Gyle Station from The Gyle carpark between the houses and the railway line.



The WEBS busway - almost open



**SPOKES**, the Lothian Cycle Campaign, produces maps for Edinburgh and the Lothians. Available in all good book and bike shops and online at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) for £4.95 each (post free). New Edinburgh map just out!

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!



If you travel with ScotRail remember bikes are free (no booking in Edinburgh area). If you take children they can go FREE on Saturdays and Sundays.

A Family Fundays ticket offers free child travel when accompanying paying adults. The offer is valid with Saver, SuperSaver and Cheap Day Return adult tickets only.

A minimum of one adult and one child must travel to qualify, with a maximum of two adults and four children allowed.