

## Walking on the Pentlands – Flotterstone Circular – 7 miles

This circular walk starts from the Flotterstone Visitor Centre and take the hill paths over Turnhouse and Carnethy Hills before descending to The Howe to the west of Loganlea Reservoir. The walk now remains on lower level and by way of single track road past Loganlea and Glencorse Reservoirs to then finally descend back to the visitor centre at Flotterstone.

| Grid Reference |       | Feet | Directions  |
|----------------|-------|------|---|
| NT 23272       | 63099 | 606  | Flotterstone Visitor Centre. Leave by path in a westerly direction and running parallel to road.  |
| 22930          | 63108 | 619  | Turn left at finger post off road.  |
| 22821          | 63069 | 655  | Turn left off path and cross the stream, then bear right and start to climb.  |
| 22350          | 63019 | 798  | Cross stile and continue up hill in westerly direction.   |
| 21264          | 62650 | 1671 | Summit of Turnhouse Hill. From top of hill head in SW direction.  |
| 20798          | 62287 | 1414 | Cross fence as path reaches shoulder between Turnhouse and Carnethy Hills.  |
| 20386          | 61917 | 1897 | Summit of Carnethy Hill. Start gradual descent walking in a SW directions.  |
| 19531          | 61504 | 1472 | Arrive at shoulder point between Carnethy and Scald Law. At a path cross roads turn to the right and head NW down path to valley. The path soon crosses a dyke at ladder style, do cross to W side of dyke. |
| 18947          | 61979 | 900  | Path crosses the Logan Burn at the Howe. Turn right and head NE along narrow road past Loganlea, then on to Glencorse Reservoir.  |
| 21604          | 64067 | 850  | Roadway and route turns right heading SE along dog legged reservoir, ignoring path to left heading towards Harlaw.  |
| 22220          | 63613 | 850  | Path leaves the SE corner of Glencorse reservoir and starts a steady decline SE towards Flotterstone  |
| 22930          | 63108 | 619  | Turn off road onto path at left side and walk on path parallel to the road.   |
| 23272          | 63099 | 606  | Flotterstone Visitor Centre and car park.   |

Distance 6.86 miles

Max Height 1897 feet

Ascent 1065 + 483 = 1548 feet

Some typical times for the walk.

Moving Time taken 2 hours 40 minutes

Stopping time 29 minutes

Moving Average Speed 2.6 mph

Overall average 2.2 mph

This is one of many surprising walks on the Pentland Hills, so close to the City but offering times of remoteness from urban life along with stunning views. It must also be very suitable in the winter months when the days are short and for many the time to travel to the open countryside is limited. Being on the doorstep of much of the central belt here is a chance for exercise and a break from urban living.

The walk is hardest in the first ascent up Turnhouse Hill with parts being relatively steep but never difficult. On the way up time should be taken to stop and look back east over towards East Lothian and the Firth of Forth. There are also improving views to the south over the Moorfoot Hills. By the time you reach the summit of Turnhouse Hill there are 360 degree views and to the north Fife and the Forth Bridges, while in the background the Ochil Hills. Looking west the view is over the wilder and more remote parts of the Pentland Hills Regional Park with the summits of the Cairns, Kips and Scald Law to be seen.

Straight ahead on the path is Carnethy Hill, but first a descent before a second ascent of about 500 feet. Carnethy Hill also offers great views and looking north west you can see the Loganlea Reservoir and the narrow valley track leading NW towards Bavelaw and Balerno. The walk is now all a descent and all of the earlier panorama views will soon end as the path reaches the track coming over between Silverburn and the Howe. This is not to suggest that the walk loses any of its charm on the return leg, just that the landscape now moves towards valley walking along side attractive reservoir or burn.

By the side of the small Logan Burn the walking surface also changes from grass and stone hill paths to a minor road that runs all the way back to Flotterstone. Fortunately this is a no through road and only farmers and fishermen make use of the single track road. In one respect this section of the walk is even more rural than the first, you could be walking in any country location, there are no signs of urban living to be seen and all around are the many hills that make this Pentland Range so interesting.

The second reservoir is Glencorse and this is dog legged in shape. This is a good location to see Cormorant and a range of birds. Past the SE corner the walk now starts to descend for the final short distance back to the Flotterstone Visitor Centre, and if refreshments are what is being required the attractive and well known Flotterstone Inn.

This walk was undertaken in November on a day when the temperature struggled to rise above freezing and initially the cloud base was about 1800 to 2000 feet. This provided some great views out over the snow covered Ochil Hills to the North, but framed in by a roof of cloud. If walking, do come well prepared with good waterproof and windproof clothing, on the first section winds can be strong and the walkers is very exposed if wet and windy.

Data prepared by Walking Support ([www.walking-support.co.uk](http://www.walking-support.co.uk)) with directional data produced from GPS tracking. Altitude data may therefore be subject to some margin of error.