

### Walled Garden

Restored and maintained by volunteers from Friends of Corstorphine Hill, this is the old kitchen garden of Hillwood, formerly home to the MacKinnon family, custodians of the famous Drambuie liqueur. Legend has it that Bonnie Prince Charlie bequeathed the precious recipe to the MacKinnons, and it was held in the safe at Hillwood. The recipe remains closely guarded, but when the garden was transformed from weeds to its present splendour, *Angelica* was found growing profusely (and does to this day) – perhaps a clue to one of the secret ingredients?

### Scott Tower

Built in 1871 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, it is also known as Corstorphine Tower or Clermiston Tower. Open on Sundays from May to September (2-4pm), it can be climbed to a height of almost 200 feet, for stunning 360-degree views above the woodland canopy. Nearby Ravelston Tower is the remains of a much older viewpoint, built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Cup Marks

Dating from the late Stone Age or Early Bronze Age, these systematic indentations in the glacial ‘roches moutonnées’ were made some 5,500 years ago. Found throughout Europe, their purpose remains a mystery, perhaps art, perhaps ritual, perhaps territorial. To locate the cup marks, first find the only yew tree (bushy evergreen) at the north side of the clearing. Stand beneath the yew tree and face west, directly towards a Scots pine. Walk 25 yards in line with the pine, and the cup marks should be underfoot!

### Forth Bridges View

The 3 bridges feature in a spectacular outlook that includes 5 Sisters Bing, Edinburgh Airport, Cammo Tower and Longannet Power Station, against a backdrop of the Forth Estuary and the Ochil Hills. On a clear day the peaks of Ben Ledi, Stob Binnein and Ben More are usually visible, and even – just north of the western horizon – the summit of Ben Lomond, 60 miles away.

### Nuclear Bunker

Presently undergoing renovation before it is opened as a visitor attraction, this underground bunker was built in 1952 to coordinate radar information, and later modified to house Scotland’s Regional Seat of Government in the event of nuclear conflict.

### Inchcolm Abbey View

From this viewpoint the islands of Inchcolm, Inchmickery and Inchkeith can be seen. The former holds the best preserved monastic house in Scotland, dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Inchmickery (meaning ‘Isle of the Vicar’) resembles a battleship, owing to its surviving WW1 and WW2 gun emplacements.

### Rest & Be Thankful

Immortalised in Robert Louis Stevenson’s ‘*Kidnapped*’, this was once on the old drove route into the city. Restored from ruins in 1989, it provides unrivalled views of Edinburgh and the East Lothian skyline; including the Bass Rock, Berwick Law & the Garleton Hills. Look out for birdlife close at hand – especially Nuthatches that come to feed on seeds scattered daily by generous volunteers who maintain the site.

## Friends of Corstorphine Hill



3 1/3 miles around  
the highlights of  
Corstorphine Hill



walk this way...

### STAGE 1

#### Walled Garden to Tower

Turn right out of gates of Walled Garden.  
 Take main path directly up hill.  
 Ignore side paths – follow John Muir Way sign.  
 See 'air traffic' pylon – then Scott Tower above trees.  
 (Find Ravelston Tower 70 yards to SE.)

### STAGE 2

#### Tower to Cup Marks

Face door of Tower and walk diagonally left.  
 After 35 yards see a stone pillar & descend 21 steps.  
 Follow the rollercoaster ridge, staying high.  
 Pass *Secret Garden* hidden on left.  
 Climb up between Scots pines & bare trunks.  
 Reach an area of open rocks ('roches moutonnées').

### STAGE 3

#### Cup Marks to Forth Bridges View

Continue north along the ridge (past yew tree).  
 Descend a rocky step into wooded glade.  
 After 100 yards or so look left (west).  
 See smooth rocky downhill path through gorse.  
 Descend to bench for comfort.

### STAGE 4

#### Forth Bridges View to Nuclear Bunker

From bench cut diagonally towards Leonardo Hotel.  
 Continue along field edge to Clermiston Rd N parking area.  
 Turn right along metalled track, passing bunker on left.  
 Reach an open area – forestry stackyard.

### STAGE 5

#### Nuclear Bunker to Inchcolm Abbey View

From log stackyard turn right (south).  
 Take steep uphill path for 250 yards.  
 Turn left at main path – stay on this level for 1 mile.  
 Pass various shortcuts on right-hand side.  
 Keep left at the 'Queensferry Rd' waymarker.  
 Reach the viewpoint at a bench in 150 yards.

### STAGE 6

#### Inchcolm Abbey View to Rest & Be Thankful

Continue south along level path to golf course.  
 Climb right up steep path to meet Zoo fence.  
 Turn left along main path for 200 yards.  
 Reach Rest & Be Thankful.  
 Exits to Ravelston (E)/Corstorphine Rd (S).

### STAGE 7

#### Rest & Be Thankful to Walled Garden

Retrace steps but keep Zoo fence on left.  
 After about ¼ mile descend flight of 17 steps.  
 Keep left alongside Zoo fence.  
 At Cairnmuir Road cul-de-sac turn right into woods & stay on level to return to Walled Garden.



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