

"Carlisle Approach" track on Arniston Estate,
through access blocked

Fellow cyclists, if you have ever used the "Carlisle Approach" track on Arniston Estate (details below), it would be useful if you could tell the Midlothian Footpath officer. Copy correspondence below gives the detail.

Map reference: [A7, Midlothian EH23 4, UK](#)

Thank you for the information you have provided. I have now met the owners of the former lodge house. We are examining the situation and will let you know the outcome in due course.

In that respect, if you have any knowledge as to use of the access route prior to the present owners taking over could you forward this to me.

Regards John Park
John.Park@midlothian.gov.uk

Dear John Park

WALK on OS EXPLORER 345 (1:25000) and SHEETS 12 and 13 of the Midlothian Core Paths network.

On the map (and on the ground) there is a lovely walk or off-road cycle linking the Esk Valley and Gore Water trails. You can start either from the bus stop in Gorebridge, or from the parking at Trotters Bridge.

3 or 4K up the Esk path from Trotters Bridge, near a rusticated bridge, at about GR322595, you climb a zig-zag path through rhododendrons to gain the estate parkland. You can, on estate paths at reasonable distance from Arniston, get to the B6372 at GR335595.

From opposite the lodge there, runs a track called on the map "Carlisle Approach". It is marked in orange on Core Paths Maps 12 & 13. From this track the exit to the A7 AT GR352596 presents a PROBLEM.

PROBLEM There is a former lodge house at GR352596. It is owned privately and includes some land. The track to the A7 goes through a wicket gate and right past the house. It is a true invasion of privacy to exit to the A7, but there is no other way to go.

The first time I checked out this walk by bike with my husband, we cycled out with no problem. Last Sunday I did the walk with a group of 12 friends and was challenged by the family who have lived in the lodge house for 4 months.

I apologised and tried to explain that all the route except this 100 metres was open to us under the access legislation. I suggested they (a) monitor the numbers trying to use the route (not many I think) and (b) contact the Midlothian Footpath Access officer. They lock the gate to their property when they are out, but they seemed open to some better route being negotiated with you, them and Arniston Estate.

Would you consider all parts of this route except the ex-lodge house as open access?

Is there any plan for a agreed access to be made from the A7 to the Carlisle Approach?

Please write to
Midlothian Footpath officer: John Park
Midlothian Council Ward 6 Councillors :
Colin Beattie
Wilma Chalmers
James Muirhead
Please inform us if you write

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see [www.midlothian.gov.uk\(Councillors\)](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk(Councillors))
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so we can monitor if this campaign alert has been useful.