

## Self-Guided Walk – Stockbridge

Stockbridge draws its name from the Scots words for timber bridge and is situated north of the centre of Edinburgh. It is bordered by the New Town and Comely Bank.

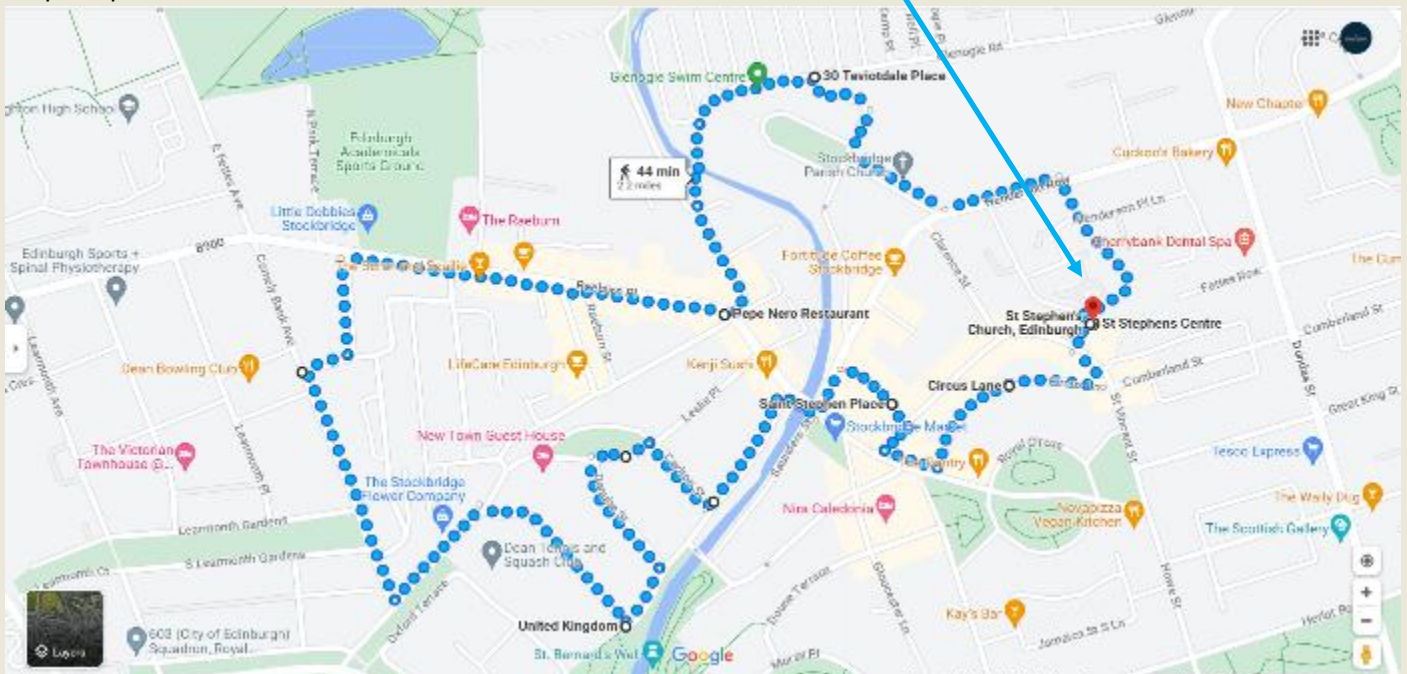
It was a village on the outskirts of the city until absorbed in the nineteenth century and in the modern era is considered an affluent part of the city that retains much of its early charm.

The walk starts and ends at St. Stephen's Church. There are a few buses that stop within a five minute walk of the church such as the number 23, 27 and 29.

In total the walk is 2.2 miles/ 3.5 kms and takes 44 minutes without stops.

For any pictures, the named locations are blue circles, the walking routes red arrows. All other colour circles and arrows are to help but aren't part of the walk as such.

Here is a map of the entire route – starting and ending at St. Stephen's church. All maps and images are from Google Maps as per their Geo Guidelines.



## Step 1

Overview – St. Stephen’s Church. This church was built in 1827 having been designed by William Henry Playfair, the famous designer of much of Edinburgh’s neo-classical buildings as well as the New Town. Its main hall, the Ashton Hall, is home to the Edinburgh Festival Ballet as well as a theatre school. The tower is 49 metres (162 feet) high houses a clock that has the longest clock pendulum in Europe.

Directions – the church is the start of the route so you will have made your own way here. It sits at the junction of St. Stephen Street, St. Vincent Street and North West Cumberland Street Lane. The church is shown below, and the red circle is the smaller St. Vincent’s Chapel.



## Step 2

Overview – Circus Lane. This mews (a name for a street of housing above stables) is full of pretty houses and is a popular place to visit for a picture. All the way along it you will see stone-built buildings with either garages or large windows where the stable once were.

Directions – Stand with the church behind you so you are looking down St. Vincent Street – and the small chapel will be on your right. Circus Lane is right there on the right.



The view down Circus Lane will initially be as follows before it begins to curve to the left.





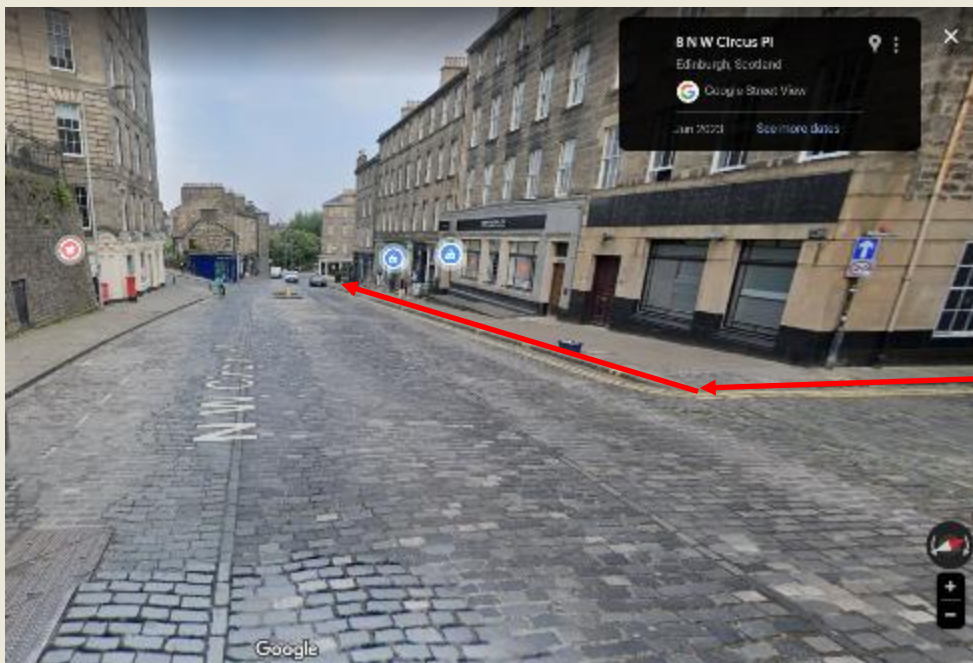
### Step 3

Overview – Saint Stephen Place. Architect Archibald Scott was commissioned in 1825 to construct a market area that could house a small number of stalls. It is believed he modelled the design on another market in Liverpool. The market lasted until 1906 when it was closed due to the noise and smell. The grand Doric columns remain as does a gas lamp but the rest is just faded memory.

Directions – At the end of Circus Lane you need to turn right onto North West Circus Place.



As you turn your view will be as follows.



You are then looking for a right turn, about where the second red arrow above ends, into St. Stephen Street. You will find The Baillie bar on the corner. (Incidentally if you overshoot the turn by a couple of shops you will find a very fine cheese shop).

Here is the right turn described.



You are then looking for the next left as follows. The last shop before it is Skinny Pig.



You can see the arch of the old Stockbridge Market above.



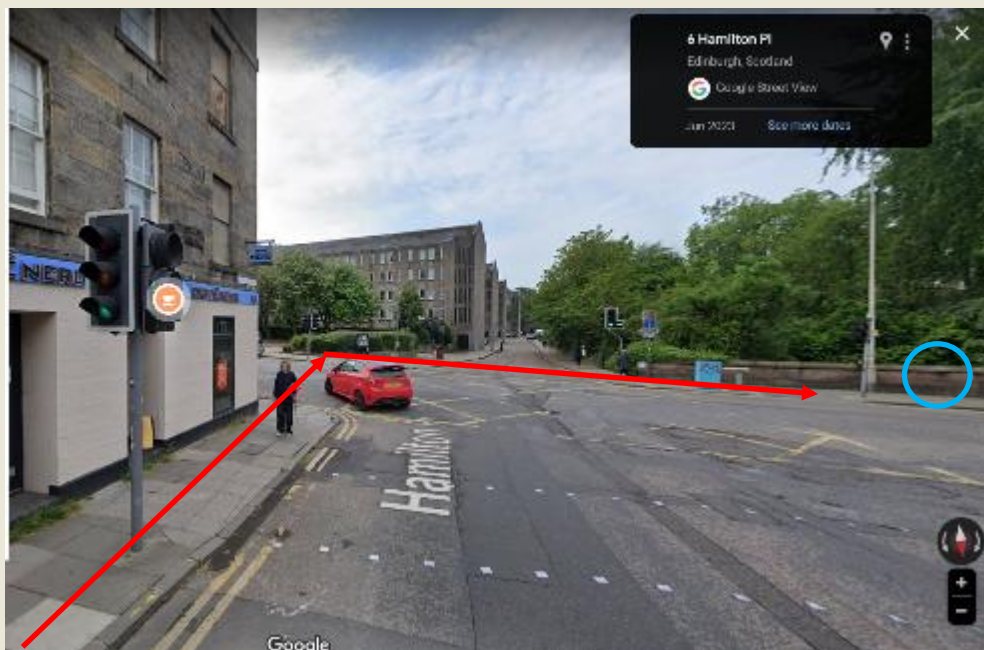
#### Step 4

Overview – Stockbridge. The bridge that crosses the Water of Leith today dates from 1801. The water below rises in the Pentland Hills then meanders across Edinburgh before pouring into the Firth of Forth at Leith. The route comes from the north side of the bridge, and you should cross over the road first before crossing the bridge – and as you do cross the bridge look down to the river where you will see one of Anthony Gormley’s six sculptures that make up the set *Six Times*.

Directions – At St. Stephen Place go through the arch and head along the passageway beyond it. This will come out on Hamilton Place where you need to turn left. If you need them there are public toilets directly opposite the passage exit.



At the crossroads you will have Stockbridge to your right but as suggested first cross the street ahead of you, Kerr Street, before crossing to the right across Saunders Street. You will now be on Stockbridge. Note, if you are here on a Sunday morning you will find the modern Stockbridge market about where the first red arrow below ends.



As already mentioned, look down to the river as you cross it where you will see the Gormley statue, number three of six.

## Step 5

Overview – Dean Terrace to Raeburn Place. The next section meanders through the streets of Stockbridge. You will find a large number of grand stone buildings all along this section including some with columns. Dean Terrace faces the Water of Leith for the first part before the route heads away from the water. The area is strongly associated with the famous painter Henry Raeburn, who was King George IV's portrait painter in Scotland, and who owned two estates – Deanhaugh and St. Bernard's. Ann Street in this area was named after his wife. The route ends on Raeburn Place and at the start of Raeburn Place you will also find the ground of Edinburgh Academicals rugby team. These fields were the location of the first ever international rugby match between Scotland and England. There are no blue circles in this section as it is effectively the whole area.

Directions – At the end of the bridge, take the immediate left, Dean Terrace.



You will then take the next right, Carlton Street.





At the end of this short street, you will come to St. Bernard's Crescent, an elliptically shaped road and you will take the first left on its south side.



Next, turn left onto Danube Street.





At the end you will reach Dean Terrace one more and need to turn right as it becomes Upper Dean Terrace.



At the end follow the road to the right onto Ann Street.



At the end the road will veer to the left then turn left, this time onto Dean Park Crescent.



Take the next right, Comely Bank Avenue.





Take the first right onto Comely Bank Place, continuing on the same street with a left turn.



At the end you will be on Raeburn Place opposite the rugby ground – turn right and follow the road back to the centre of Stockbridge. Ignore the first left and then walk past a number of shops. You will be looking for the second left, St. Bernard's Row. It sits between the Stockbridge Tap and Hector's.





## Step 6

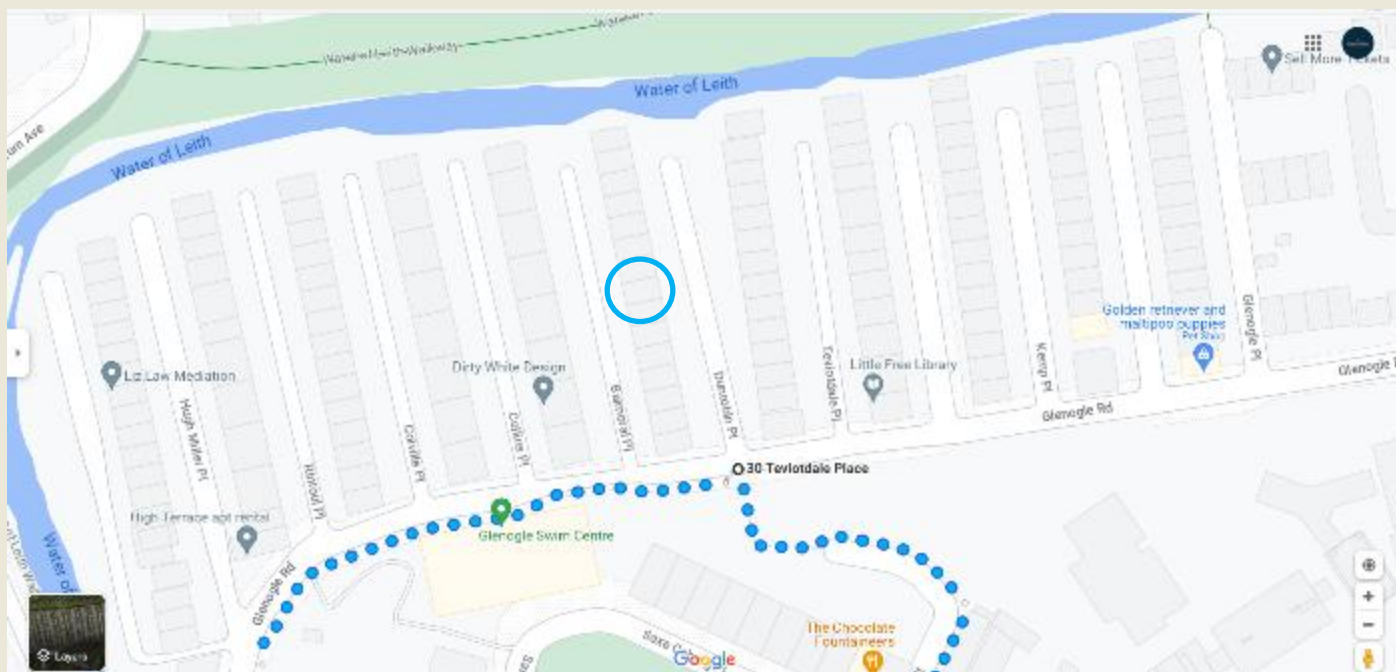
**Overview – The Colonies.** Between Glenogle Street and the Water of Leith are eleven short parallel streets known as The Colonies. These were built between 1861 and 1911 by the Edinburgh Co-Operative Building Company to provide low-cost housing for artisans and they are named after their founders including geologist Hugh Miller. Now their location is highly sought after, close to the city centre, the Royal Botanical Gardens and Inverleith Park.

**Directions –** Having turned off Raeburn Place left into St. Bernard's Row. It's gentle curving start quickly straightens and you just need to follow the road, passing Malta Terrace and Arboretum Avenue. As you pass the second of these on your left the road ahead changes name to Bridge Place.



As the name suggests you will cross water – and it's the Water of Leith once more. The road then changes name to Glenogle Street.

Here is a close-up map of this section where you can see the fingers of the eleven streets.



You can wander along any of these fairly similar streets with narrow roads and tightly packed houses. You will be looking for an exit to the right opposite the seventh of them, Dunrobin Place.

## Step 7

Overview – Silvermills. This last section will take you back to the start point. It goes through the Silvermills area that is named due to the silver smelting that began after 1607 when silver ore was found at Linlithgow. It later became an area known for tanneries although has been largely developed in the modern era.

Directions – Turn right off Glenogle Road opposite Dunrobin Place – taking Gabriel's Road which starts by going up some steps.



Follow it until it becomes a passage then arrives at a road where you will turn right – onto Saxe-Coburg Street.

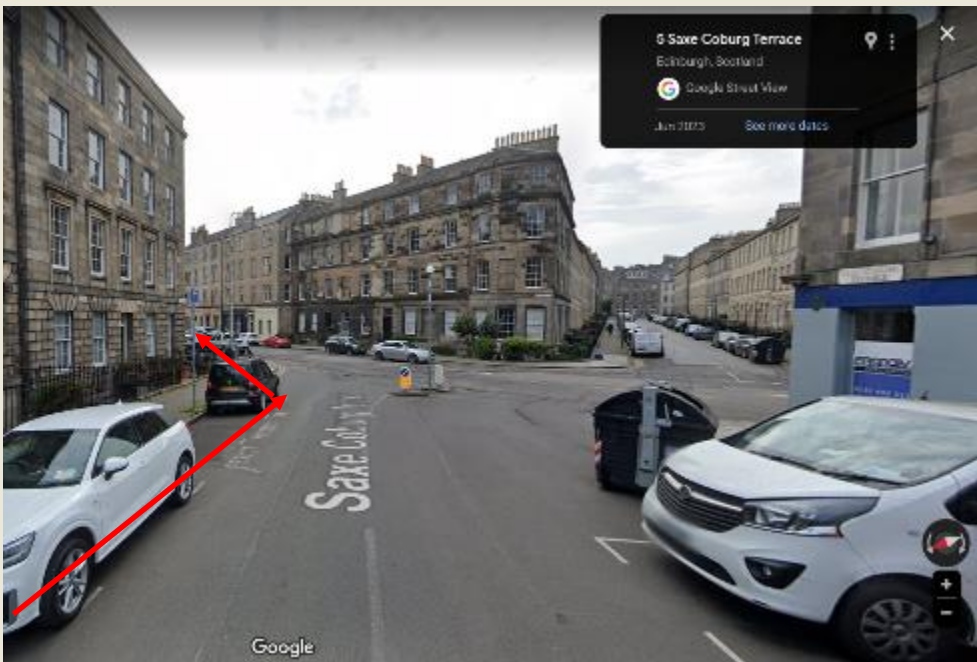




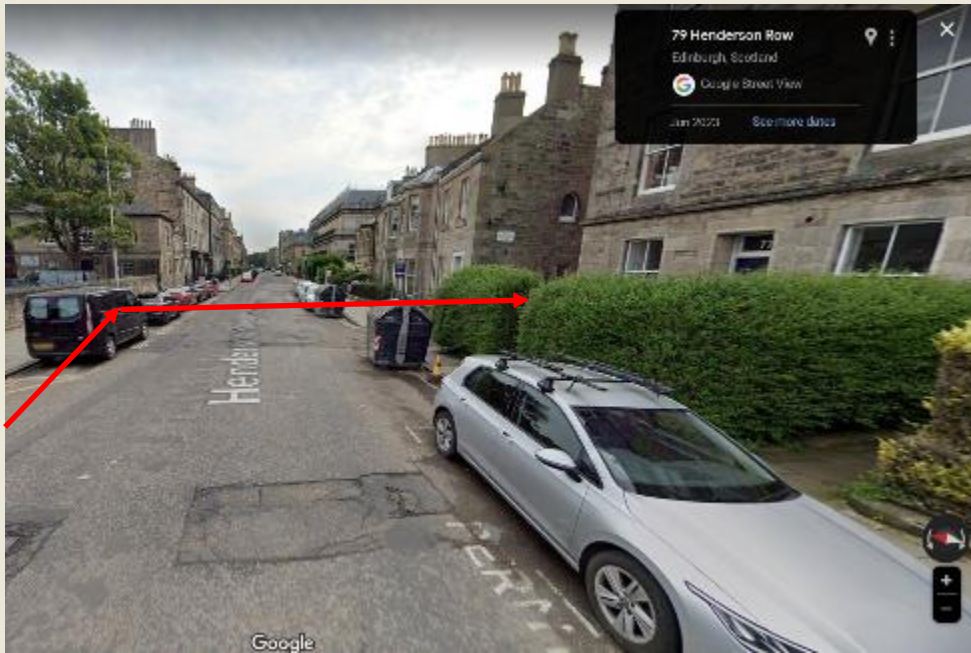
The road bends round to the right and you then need to take the next left, Saxe-Coburg Terrace.



You will pass Stockbridge Parish church on your left and then, at the end, need to turn left onto Henderson Row.



You will pass one lane to the right but need the next, East Silver Mills Lane. It is opposite the Edinburgh Academy school.



The lane will come out onto Henderson Place Lane – just cross and stay on the lane.





Ignore a couple of other lanes on the left and the one you are on will curve to the right. It will then come out onto West Silver Mills Lane. Turn left and you will find yourself at the rear of St. Stephen's church.



This is a nice walk around a less visited part of the city – if you need any links to the main attractions in Edinburgh you can find a selection at the bottom of our main Edinburgh page.