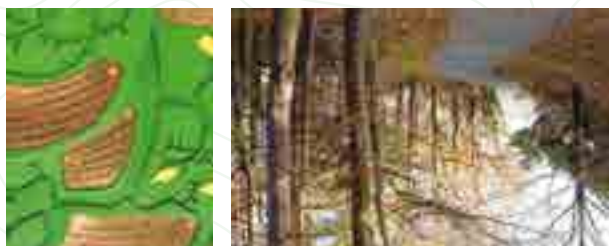


The War Poets Collection exhibition at the Craiglockhart Campus of Edinburgh Napier University. The trail notes suggest a start and finish at the War Poets Collection but the trail can be joined at any point. The full trail follows a figure of eight shape and is about three miles in length - allow two hours to complete the trail. The trail is divided into two loops of roughly equal length. If your time is limited, either of these loops can be completed in less than an hour. The slopes are steep in places and the paths can be muddy so wear sensible shoes. The effort will be worthwhile. You will walk through areas of natural beauty. As you walk, you will have the opportunity to remember the men who once walked here and to reflect on the effect of war on their minds and bodies.



Walks through the Craiglockhart hills were a popular way of exercising and relaxing for the shell-shocked soldiers who were treated at Craiglockhart War Hospital. The peace and serenity of these hills may have served in some small way as an antidote to the horrors of the trenches. The poems of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon often reflect these contrasts. The War Poets Trail follows paths that the soldiers must have walked and links three sites where the community of Craiglockhart has honoured their service and sacrifice.

Return to the junction, turn right and follow the path round the flank of the hill for 350 yards looking left to check the position of golfers on the Merchant Golf Course. When the path ends, check again to your left and give priority to any golfers playing to the green in front of you. Listen for shouts of 'Fore' and take care not to interfere with play or distract players. Follow the fringe of the rough to your right and walk towards the low stone wall ahead. Check again to your left for golfers playing to the green on your right. When safe to do so, walk along the wall and cross a gap. On the left hand side of the wall, a plaque, erected by the Golf Club, includes excerpts from Sassoon's 'Dreamers' and Owen's 'Requiem for Doomed Youth'. Study this with continued attention to any golfers playing this hole. Exit the golf course by turning right down steps and walk for 500 yards along the side of the University campus to the gate where you entered the woods. You can now return to the University or turn right after 80 yards to start the Northern loop.



Leave the campus by the main entrance, glancing backward to contemplate the distinctive 'Egg' lecture theatre and pass the ruins of Craiglockhart Castle (a 15th century tower house) on your left. Cross Glenlockhart Road and turn right. After 200 yards cross the road again and enter woodland through a wooden gate marked 'Golf Course Caution'. Turn left and follow a steep path uphill through a stand of pine trees branching right then right again at a three way junction. The path meanders through gorse thickets for 300 yards to a trig point on the summit. An Iron Age fort stood here in Roman times though the archaeology has been disrupted by WW1 gun emplacements built to protect Edinburgh after the Zeppelin raids of 1916. There are stunning 360 degree views. Above you, buzzards may be circling and kestrels hovering.

> **WAR POETS TRAIL**

A short diversion round the corner into Craiglockhart Road North takes you to a stone cairn marking the spot where a Wellington bomber crashed in 1942. Go back to Collinton Road, cross at the lights again and continue right for 800 yards to return to the University. Alternatively, turn left then immediately right towards the Leisure Centre and pass through a gate on your left to the top of the pond. From here you can return to the University by the woodland path.



At the foot of the pond, a Social History Board includes photographs of the War Poets and some information about the work of the Hospital. Cross the stone causeway in front of the pond and leave by the stone steps. Turn left then right then left again at the main Collinton Road. After 300 yards, you will see the shops of Happy Valley - you could purchase supplies for a picnic here. Cross at the pedestrian lights to view the 'Hillside' statue commissioned by Craiglockhart Community Council. The quotes from 'Spring Offensive' on the statue are testament to Owen's love of nature.



Leave the University, cross the road and turn right as before but then turn left after 100 yards down a signposted path between two houses. Continue downhill for 800 yards through mature beech, ash and chestnut trees. You may see or hear woodpeckers. Behind the Tennis Centre, pass a wall of graffiti art before reaching Craiglockhart Pond, a haven for ducks, swans and water birds. Hydra magazine records that a model boat club met here and was a popular activity for the Craiglockhart soldiers.

< **WAR POETS TRAIL**

Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY

CONTACT

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
> **Craiglockhart Campus**

Craiglockhart Campus is home to the University Business School but was originally constructed in 1880 as a hydropathic establishment, offering water treatments, rest and relaxation to the wealthy. Between 1916-1919 the building was requisitioned by the War Office for use as a hospital for officers suffering from neurasthenia, or shell-shock. The treatments pioneered by the doctors at Craiglockhart War Hospital were innovative and varied. The medical staff included the celebrated Dr William H.R. Rivers and Dr Arthur J. Brock. Two of the officers being treated here in 1917, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, became the most famous poetic voices of their generation. The two men met whilst being treated at the hospital, establishing one of the most celebrated literary friendships of the 20th century. Sassoon, already a published poet, influenced the style of Owen's verse, encouraging his friend to write candidly about his personal experiences of the horrors of war. Poems by Sassoon and Owen appeared in The Hydra: magazine of Craiglockhart War Hospital. Tragically, Wilfred Owen did not live to see the publication of two of his most powerful works, Anthem for Doomed Youth and Dulce et Decorum est, both composed during his time at Craiglockhart.

From 1920 until the mid 1980s the building was a Roman Catholic convent, school and teacher training college, until it was acquired by Napier University.

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
0333 900 6040 | www.napier.ac.uk/environment

FRIENDS OF CRAIGLOCKHART WOODS & NATURE TRAIL
www.craiglockhartwoods.org

THE WAR POETS COLLECTION
0131 455 4260 | www2.napier.ac.uk/warpoets

COUNTRYSIDE RANGER SERVICE
0131 447 7145 | www.edinburgh.gov.uk/countrysiderangers

The War Poets Collection is on permanent display and the exhibition is open to all members of the public for self-guided visits during normal Craiglockhart Campus Library opening times.

Lothian bus services 4, 10, 23, 27, and 45 serve the Craiglockhart Campus and War Poets Trail from Edinburgh City Centre. Bus routes are often changing due to work on the tram system. For full and up-to-date details of buses serving Edinburgh Napier University, contact Lothian Buses or First Bus directly.

WAR POETS TRAIL MAP

> **Craiglockhart**

INFORMATION GUIDEBOOK

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WAR POETS TRAIL MAP

> Craiglockhart

| Key | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| | Access Point |
| | LNR Area |
| | Northern Loop |
| | Start/Finish |
| | Hillside Statue |
| | Board |
| | WW2 Cairn |
| | Southern Loop |
| | Start/Finish |
| | Trig Point/Gun Emplacement |
| | Plaque |
| | Golf Tee |
| | Golf Green |
| | Car Park |

