To the right of the Tower House is the mansion of Cramond House, the core of which was built in 1680, the home of the Inglis family. The east extension was part of the estate developments between 1772 - 78, and the west extension was built in 1818. Both of these developments meant the loss of homes in the old village and helped shape the village to become that which you see today.

Come out of the grounds along the roadway and turn right, the village scene before you could have been taken in the early 1800's as so little has changed. At the bottom of the hill the River Almond flows into the



River Forth. As you look around you will see the Maltings Heritage Trust and Information Centre (next to the cafe). This Information Centre is open throughout the summer months, from April to October, 1400 – 1600hrs (Sat and Sun) and daily during the Edinburgh Festival. Here you will find a good deal of information about the village and its environs since the date of the Roman occupation. The steps leading down to the river is where the Cramond Lioness was found in 1997 (a good information board gives the story).

Look across the River Almond, at its mouth, towards the Forth Bridge, you will see Eagle Rock, Barnbougle Castle and Hound Point on the shoreline. Eagle Rock has an outline of an eagle carved on it, said to be the work of Roman Soldiers.

The early Barnbougle Castle was the home of the Mowbray family for 13 generations prior to being bought by Sir Archibald Primrose in 1662. The castle was replaced as the family home by Dalmeny House, in 1815. Following serious damage the old castle was rebuilt in 1881.



Hound Point is the location from which Sir Roger de Mowbray's hound stood awaiting his return from the Crusades. The Dalmeny Estate has been in the ownership of Lord Rosebery's family since 1662. Take time to look around the riverside. As you look out across the River Forth you will see Cramond Island, beyond which is the Fife coast, the islands of Inchmickerry (middle of the river) and Inchcolm in the distance. Downstream you will see Inchkieth Island – once occupied by French troops and visited by Mary Queen of Scots and further downstream you can see Berwick Law (the conical hill). On a clear day you can see the Isle of May on the horizon.

## Visit Cramond Island:

Go to the start of the causeway that leads out to the Island, stop, read the tide timetables on the Notice Board. (these provide safe crossing times and are issued by the City Council for your safety). Should you plan to visit the Island then check the tide times to ensure that you can go out and return safely. If you have time to wait spend it having that cup of tea or ice cream, or just enjoy the scenery.



Cramond Island Map by courtesy of the Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club <u>http://www.esoc.org.uk/</u>



The causeway is almost 1 mile long and it takes some 20 minutes to get to the Island. A nice walk around the island will take you about an hour, then 20 minutes to get back to the shore. On a clear day



the summit of the island makes a good location to look back to the mainland and offers great views all around the coastline.

The island is owned by the Dalmeny Estate, but is now uninhabited. However, in earlier times the island had a more purposeful role than that which it fulfils today. There is evidence in old charters of it being described as the "Isle of Leverith" and that "it was gifted to the Monastery of Inch Colm by the Bishop of Dunkeld". Then in JP Wood's book "The Antient and Modern State of the Parish of Cramond", dated 1794, he tells us that whinstone was quarried on the Island "for the floors of ovens, a purpose for which it is admirably suited". We also learn that in conjunction with the Isle of Inchmickery it formed part of the Oyster Industry that existed in the Cramond area. In 1693, Sir George Hamilton gained permission to "--plant oyster stapes when he or they judge fit, round the Island of Cramond---".

All appears to have changed following the Reformation when the Bishop of Dunkeld sold the island to the Barnton Estate, in 1574, and the land was feued for farming. The British Wool Society grazed sheep on the island in the 1790's.

In 1865 the island was bought by the Dalmeny Estate *"to enhance their view"* and use for duck and rabbit shooting parties from the estate—the Duck House was used for shelter. The land continued to be farmed and Peter Hogg, who died 1904. was the last



died 1904, was the last *Duck House Ruins* farmer to work the land of the island. The remains of the farmhouse can still be found as can those of the Duck House. Both the farmhouse and Duck House were popular as 'holiday lets' throughout the early 1900s. The concrete pillars that you see, on the way out to the island today, are part of what was the WWII defence line at Cramond. At high tide these remains can be almost underwater -Note: that the concrete pillars had to be heightened, and therefore provides an idea of the rise and fall of the tides in the area. These pillars



were built to stop shallow bottomed craft slipping past between the island and the mainland at high tide and you can still find some remains of the concrete barriers that fitted into the slots on the pillars.

The Island was used as part of the River Forth secondary defence line (the first line being between the Bass Rock and Burntisland, closer to the mouth of the River Forth). The wartime remains that you see



are not maintained so do be careful as many of these have suffered from fire damage and general erosion. On the north of the island there are some remains of the submarine defence boom (a wire hawzer net). The boom could be drawn from the north of the Island across the River Forth, to Inchcolm Island, by the river defence boat MV Cramond Island - this vessel was sunk by German bombers off St Abb's Head in April 1941.

There are good views to be had up the river towards the Forth Bridges and also across to Inchmickerry and along the Fife coast. If you look back to the mainland you will see Arthur's Seat and the Pentland Hills in the distance.



There are some interesting geological features on the Island. Near the old quarry there are ice flow marks etc, but do your homework before you go if you want to get the best out of identifying these. The rocks to the north west of the Island, called Seal Rock, are where you have the greatest chance of seeing marine life and is the location that has seen the greatest number of whales that have beached in the River Forth.

When you have completed your walk and taken in the views it is essential that you **leave the Island by the "safe crossing time ends" as stated on the Notice Board.** The tides of the Firth of Forth can come in very fast and water levels can quickly become very deep and leave you stranded. Should the tide already be approaching the causeway **do not try to wade back to the mainland**, the water will be much too deep and dangerous before you get to the shore.

Before you return to your car, walk along the promenade for about 200 yards and have a look at the Cramond Fish. The sculptor was local artist Ronald Rae and more of his work can be seen at St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh.



Enjoy a stroll and relax in the surroundings for a while before heading back to the car park or up the hill for the number 41 bus back to Edinburgh City.

## How to Get to Cramond

**By Bus:** Take the Lothian Region Bus, number 41, from Edinburgh to Cramond. Get off at the top of Cramond Glebe Road and walk downhill towards the riverside.

**By Car:** Follow the A90 to Barnton then take the B9085 to Cramond. Go down Cramond Glebe Road where you will find a (free) Public Car Park.

## The Cramond Association

Promoting the amenity of the community of Cramond, Barnton and Cammo and safeguarding its heritage



## Visit Cramond and Cramond Island.

As you go down the hill towards Cramond Village the Manse and the Church will be on your right. The base of the church tower and the Cramond Burial Vault (to the right of the building) are from the medieval church that had stood on the site and was reconstructed in 1656. The Church has had many restorations since that date with the last major restoration being in 1911. As you go downhill on your left, opposite the wall of the church, is the old Cramond Schoolhouse, built 1778 by the Inglis family in exchange for land on the east side of the Church Burial Grounds. The school was financed by the Heritors (landowners) prior to the 1872 Education Act.

Go into the Kirkyard – there are many notable grave stones; Wm Ramsay of Barnton; the Houison-Craufurd family of Braehead; George Muirhead - minister of the Disruption of the Church of Scotland; Loch of Drylaw; and Ainslie of Pilton and many others. You will also find a number of cast iron memorials which were produced at the Cramond Iron Works that operated along the River Almond from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century until the 1870s.

Go out of the back gate of the Kirkyard, and you will find the outline of the Roman remains that were excavated in the mid-1900s. Each excavated area of the site has a good information board with the largest of the finds being that which is close to the public car park entrance. Look around and you will see the refurbished 12th century Bishop's Tower. The ruin of the Tower stood as a scheduled monument for some 300 years



before it was bought, in 1978, and sensitively restored.