

Gorebridge Walks



10 WALKS
**FROM GOREBRIDGE
RAIL STATION**

Acknowledgements



Gorebridge Walkers

for their work in compiling this book of walks and their photographs.



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for their grant assistance to publish this book



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Climate Change Challenge



Gorebridge and District Environmental Group (GADEG)



Greener Scotland

Bogdan Handrea

– Midlothian Council's Active Travel Officer for the maps and support.

All the owners of the land around Gorebridge.



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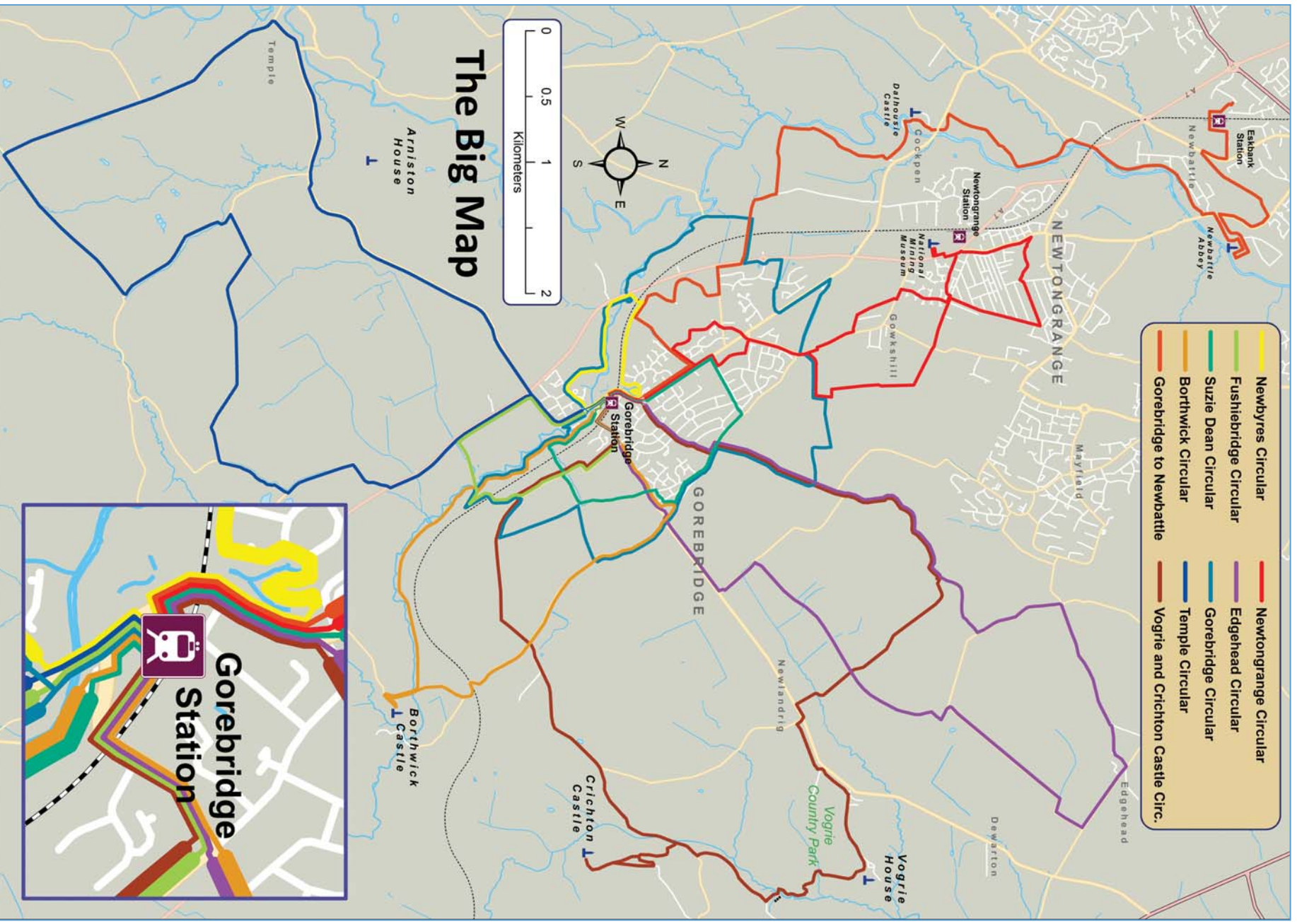
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Gorebridge from the air

The big map of Gorebridge walks



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General Information

About Gorebridge

Gorebridge is a post town and former mining village in Midlothian. The town developed in the 17th and 18th centuries around coal mining and gunpowder production. Gorebridge gets its name from the bridge across the River Gore, a tributary of the South Esk. It was the home of Scotland's first gunpowder mill, at the Gore Water, that started operating in 1794.

Gorebridge sits on a hillside and so offers panoramic views all around: north over the Edinburgh city skyline to the Firth of Forth and Fife hills; east to Berwick Law and the Lammermuirs; south and west to the Moorfoot Hills and the Pentland Hills to the north west. Most of the walks offer wonderful views so don't forget to stop and stare as you walk round.

About the walks

The book describes 10 walks, all starting at Gorebridge Rail Station. Nine of the walks are circular in nature, finishing at the station so no transport other than feet is required. Newbattle Abbey (walk 5) finishes at Eskbank Rail Station where you can catch a train back or walk a little further to the Tesco Supermarket and catch a 29 or 39 bus.

The walks are of varying length and all have a description which includes the distance and will prepare you for the terrain en route. The time each walk takes has been calculated on approximately 2.5 miles/4km per hour with "picnic time" added where the distance is over 5miles/8km. Some of the walks have gates, stiles and steps and need a certain amount of agility to get round. Many have tracks through fields and along paths that can become very muddy in wet weather, so stout walking shoes/boots are essential.



View down to Trotters Bridge

Safety Advice

- **Check the weather and wear the appropriate clothing**
Although the walks all centre on Gorebridge, it doesn't take long to reach open hillside where you need to be prepared for windy, colder conditions so take layers of clothing, your hat and gloves and waterproofs if at all in doubt.
- **Take provisions if it's a longer walk**
Take a drink and something to eat unless your walk is shorter. It's a great comfort if the weather turns bad and food always tastes better outside! If it's a warm day it is easy to become dehydrated so carrying water is advised. Please dispose of any litter responsibly or better still take it home with you.
- **Take care when walking on country roads**
Use the pavements or paths if provided, otherwise walk on the right hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. Be prepared to walk in single file keeping close to the side of the road. It may be safer to cross the road before a sharp right hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Bright or fluorescent clothing is a good idea in murkier conditions.
- **Livestock**
Many of the walks pass through fields which have cattle or sheep grazing. Please be considerate and always keep dogs on a short lead. Where there are young animals dogs should not be taken into the fields. This is particularly true of calves as their mothers see dogs as threats. Please leave gates as you find them and always ensure you close a gate properly if you had to open it.
- **Follow the directions carefully!**
Some of the walks intersect. Follow the directions carefully and do not rely solely on the green arrows, as they may be signing another walk. The numbers on the written directions correspond with the numbers on the maps to make it easier for you to work out where you are. Ordnance Survey map Explorer 345 Lammermuir Hills can be used in conjunction with the book to help you identify the surrounding countryside.

► Additional information

- **Midlothian Walking Festival** takes place every August and features a programme of guided walks throughout Midlothian, arranged by Midlothian Council's Ranger Service. The programme is widely available from July in libraries, community centres, leisure centres etc. **Contact: 01875 821990**



- **Ageing Well Midlothian** has a programme of Health Walks for 50+ led by volunteers and suitable for all abilities including those who don't think they're fit enough to go walking! In Gorebridge, we meet at Arniston Rangers Football Club car park (opposite the Gorebridge Beacon) at 1pm on Tuesday afternoons. You will be made welcome. **Contact: ageingwell@midlothian.gov.uk**
- **Gorebridge Walkers** organise a programme of walks throughout the year, mostly on Saturdays but also the occasional Friday and Sunday to suit. Anyone interested in joining us can contact us by email at gorebridgewalkers@gmail.com

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information and advice contained in this book is correct at the time of publication, it is for you the walker, using your common sense and knowledge of your own state of health, fitness, competence and experience, to assess whether or not completing a walk is within your capability. No liability is accepted by the authors and publishers for any loss, injury or damage arising out of, or in any way connected with, any person undertaking, or attempting to undertake any of the walks contained in this book, howsoever caused.

Scottish Outdoor Access Code



Know the Code before you go...

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors – responsibly!

The key things are

- take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely;
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind;
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively;
- care for your environment and take your litter home;
- keep your dog under proper control

For more information contact www.outdooraccess-scotland.com



Newbyres Circular

Distance : 2 miles/3.5 kms – approximately 1 hour



Description

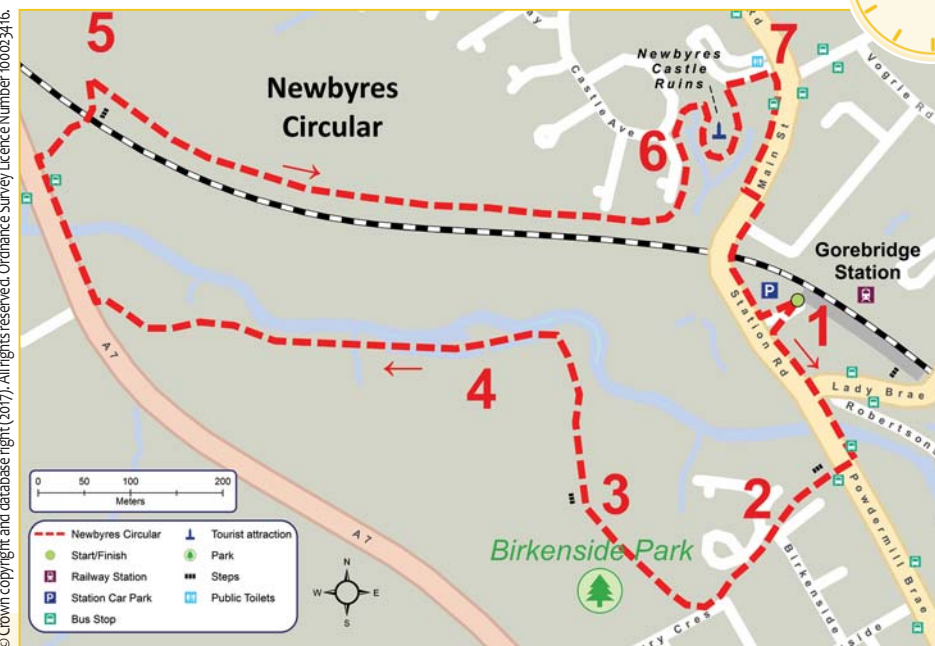
You will be walking on both metalled and grass/mud paths so stout footwear is essential, especially if it's been wet.

Newbyres Castle was built in the middle of the 16th Century by Michael Borthwick of Glengelt. In its heyday it was a substantial vaulted, tower house, surrounded by a courtyard. The walls of the castle were demolished by the Council for public safety in 1963. Today only a fragment of the south-east corner of the original L-shaped tower survives. As a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument Newbyres Castle is in the care of Historic Scotland.



The Route

- 1 From the station turn left down the hill, cross Lady Brae and walk over the bridge. Cross the road with care and head up the lane to the right signed "Gorebridge Circular" beside the bus stop.
- 2 At the top of the lane bear right then left along John Bernard Way. Take the lane between the houses and continue until you come to the field, turn right and walk in front of the pavilion. Cross the field at a slight diagonal, to the right of the far goalposts. Go through the gap in the wall at the far side of the field.
- 3 Walk into the field and turn right, walking down hill to the wood. The path down to the riverside is steep and needs care as it is often very muddy, there are steps and railings to help. The remains of the gunpowder factories appear on your left as you walk along the path.
- 4 Climb up the path till it meets the A7, follow the path to the right and cross Shanks Bridge. Once over the bridge, there is a low metal barrier on



the right, walk round this and follow the path uphill, take the path to the left and walk over the green railway bridge.

- 5 On the far side of the bridge, take the path to the right as it follows the railway fence. Continue along the path as it crosses the field until you reach a wooden gate at the edge of the housing estate. Go through and walk straight ahead along Castle View, with the houses on your left.
- 6 Where the road meets Castle Place, turn right along the path which goes uphill with Newbyres Health Centre on the left. To your right there is a looped path which encompasses the remains of Newbyres Castle. Please take a moment to read the interpretation panel there and admire the plants, a mass of snowdrops and crocuses in late winter/spring and wild flowers in summer.
- 7 Continue up the path past the car park on the right and Newbyres Nursery, joining Main Street opposite Hunter Square. Turn right and walk downhill to the station.



Fushiebridge Circular

Distance : 2.5 miles/4km – approximately 1.5 hours



Description

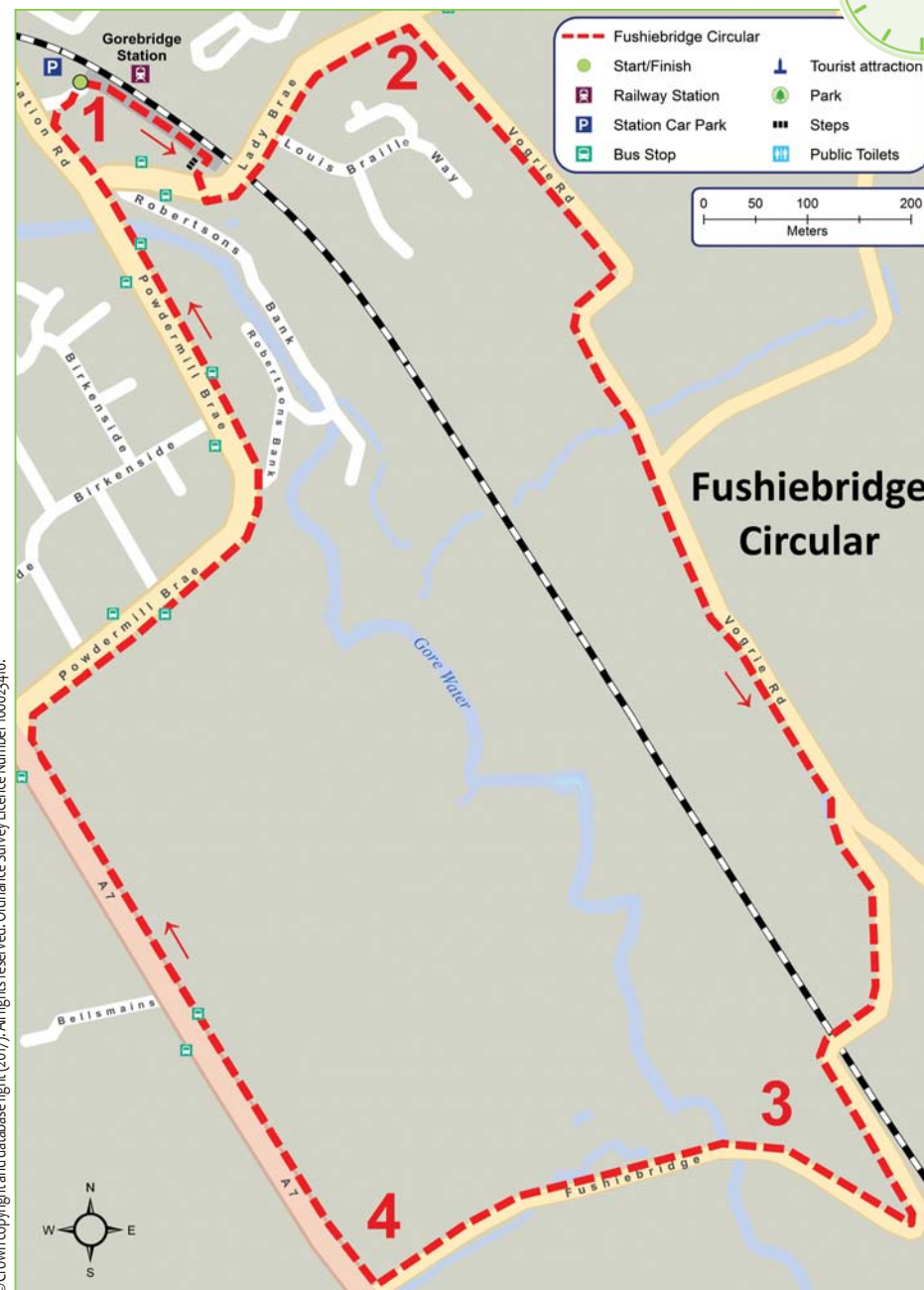
This walk is all on metalled roads, through woods and open countryside. There are some interesting and historic buildings on the way, including the old mill at Catcune. It is suitable for buggies.



Cactune Mill

The Route

- 1 Facing the railway tracks, turn right and walk towards the far end of the platform. Climb the steps on the right and follow the path to where it joins Lady Brae by the bridge. Cross the road here with care and continue up Lady Brae until you reach a road on your right signed Vogrie Road leading to Ashbank. Turn right here and follow the road as it rises to Ashbank and turns sharp right then left downhill past 2 houses on the left.
- 2 Continue down the road past the small croft on the left and ignore the 2 roads off to the left. Pass the cottage on the right and cross the railway bridge, bearing sharp right downhill at the houses.
- 3 Continue downhill to the Gore Water by Catcune Mill and then uphill till you reach the A7.
- 4 Turn right and walk back to the Gorebridge turn off. Turn right and walk down Powdermill Brae, cross Lady Brae and back to the station.



Suzie Dean Circular

Distance : 2.75mils/4.5km – approximately 1 hour



Description

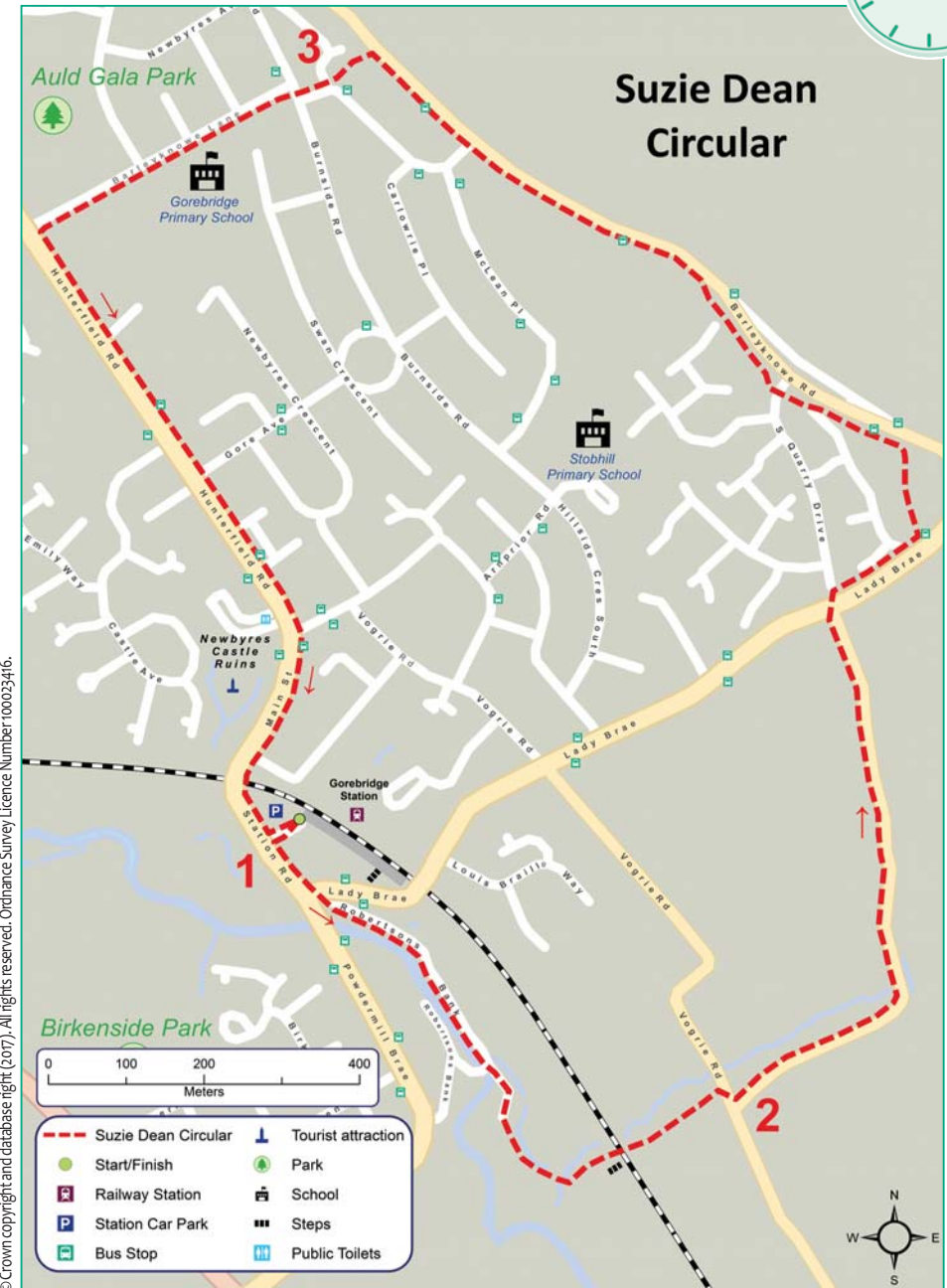
Although this is a relatively short walk it has all the elements that make Gorebridge a great walking town. Suzie Dean is a path taken by the miners when they travelled to and from the pit. From the path through the woods to open countryside, the views are wonderful over the Pentland and Moorfoot Hills. The walk along Barleyknowe Road allows views of the Edinburgh landscape and over the Forth to the Fife hills. Suzie Dean path can be muddy and care is needed to cross the wee burn by the stepping stones. Children will enjoy this walk.



Suzie Dean Bridge

The Route

- 1 Turn left downhill from the station and cross Lady Brae. Look out on the left for the green arrow signing the way down the path past Scally's autobreakers. Follow this path past Robertson Bank and houses on the right, ignoring the path to the right. Cross the burn with care, the iron railings look a bit wobbly but are in fact very sturdy! Bear left uphill after the burn and follow the Suzie Dean path up over the railway bridge until you reach the road.
- 2 Turn right and then first left following the road as it bears left and passes Stobbs Farm. There are often ponies and donkeys in the fields. Cross Lady Brae and head uphill, following the footpath as it heads left and runs parallel to Barleyknowe Road. Join the pavement on Barleyknowe Road and continue as it goes gently downhill, past houses on the left. About halfway down the hill, at the end house (No.80) take the footpath to the left and continue downhill, reaching Barleyknowe Lane with the 20 speed limit signs.
- 3 Head down past Gorebridge Primary School and reach Hunterfield Road opposite the pharmacy. Turn left and walk past the library, Church and on to Hunter Square. Cross here and continue down to the station.



Borthwick Circular

Distance : 5 miles/8km – approximately 2-3 hours



Gore Water by Borthwick

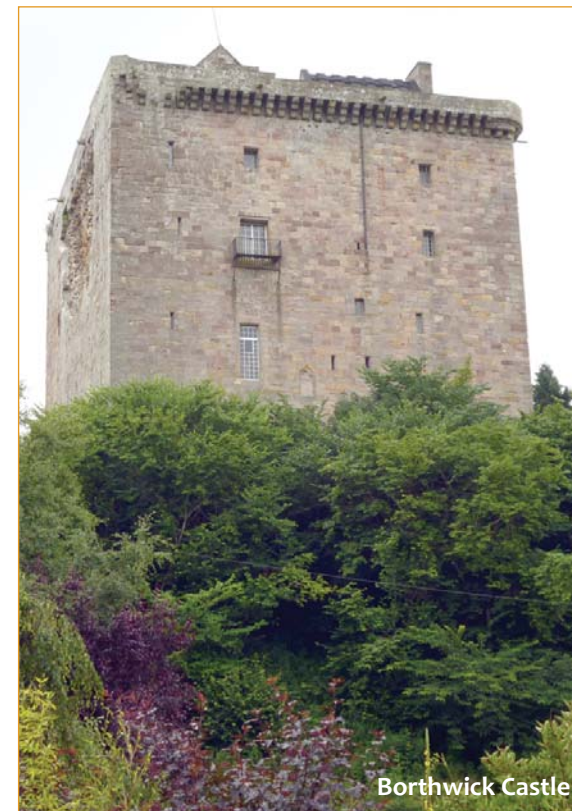
Description

This circular walk takes you through fields and by the Gore Water so it can be very muddy at times. There are also some fences to climb along the way. The way back from Borthwick is on metalled roads, quiet country lanes with little traffic and no pavements so care is required. The route takes you up to the entrance to Borthwick Castle.



Gore Water at Robertson Bank

Borthwick Castle is one of the best preserved 15th century keeps in Scotland. It was visited twice by Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1563 and 1567, when she was besieged inside while under the protection of the 6th Lord Borthwick. She escaped by disguising herself as a page. In 1650 the Castle was attacked by Oliver Cromwell's forces, and was surrendered after only a few cannon shots. The damage to the walls from this attack is still visible. After a period of abandonment, the Castle was restored by 1914. During World War II it was used as a hiding place to store national treasures. In 1973 it was leased from the Borthwick family and converted into an exclusive hire venue. It is now a private residence and privacy must be respected.



Borthwick Castle

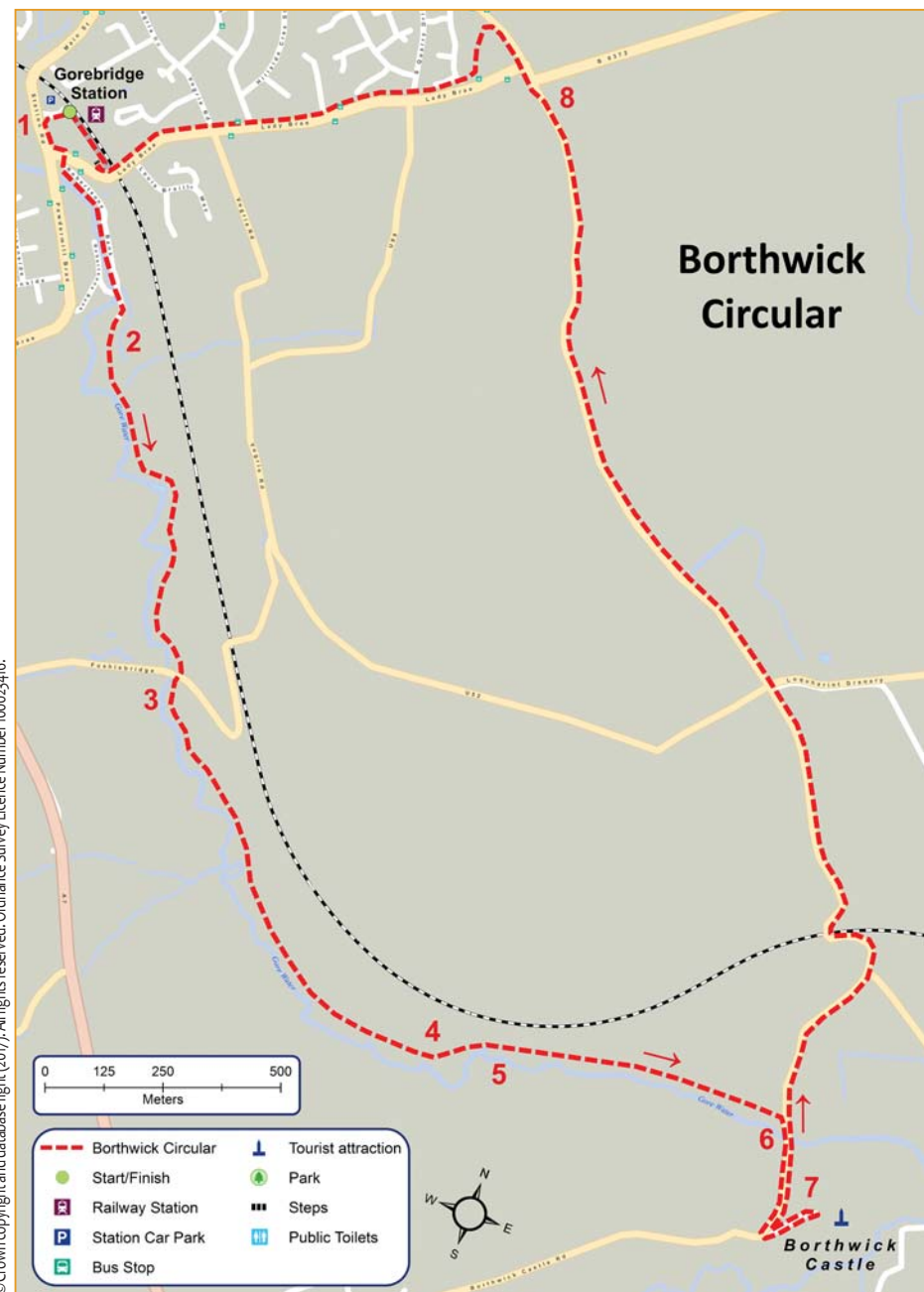
The Route

- 1 From the station, turn left downhill and cross the road at the bottom. Turn left to go uphill and almost immediately take the path to the right signed Gore Way, by Scally's autobreaker. Follow the path as it continues along the bottom of Robertson Bank, past the houses on the right, one of which is the former home of Annie S. Swan the author. Turn right into the field at the gate.

Borthwick Circular

continued

- 2 Take the path, as it passes along the bottom of 3 fields, with 2 kissing gates, following the Gore Water. When you reach the road at Fushiebridge, cross and climb over the fence by the bridge where the path is signed to Borthwick.
- 3 The path is quite clear as it follows the Gore Water, when you see the remains of a bridge ahead, take the path diagonally to the left and climb up the slight incline amongst a group of trees. Take the path diagonally right to the corner of the field by the burn, passing the electricity pole.
- 4 Climb over the fence here and walk along the path, crossing another fence to enter the next field. Look out for your first views of Borthwick Castle and the spire of Borthwick Parish Church ahead. At the junction with the next field, there are 2 fences to cross using the step stiles. This next field can be very boggy!
- 5 Continue along the field, keeping close to the burn. You will see a step stile over the fence on your right, half way along the field. This takes you along a path on the Gore Water side of the fence, which is a little bit harder to walk along but worth it to see the wildlife along the water.
- 6 Climb the stile to join the road by the road bridge. Turn right over the bridge and up the hill, turning sharp left at the corner to Borthwick Parish Church and Borthwick Castle.
- 7 Retrace your steps to the bridge and continue on this road as it winds up hill, over the railway and head straight across at the crossroads, passing Wrights Houses farm on the left heading uphill.
- 8 Continue on this road until you reach Mossend, the group of cottages on the left at the Pathhead junction. This is a dangerous crossing so take great care as you cross the road. Walk along the pavement on the right and pick up the footpath going downhill. This will take you down Lady Brae and back to the station.



Gorebridge to Newbattle Abbey

Distance : 6.5 miles/10.5 kms – approximately 3 hours



Description

The route from Gorebridge takes you across the fields to the Old Cockpen Church, on to Dalhousie Castle Hotel and along narrow paths to Newbattle Abbey. We are suggesting you go on through the woods to Hardengreen where you can catch the train back to Gorebridge at Eskbank Station or buses 29 or 39 from Tesco. The first section to Dalhousie Castle can be very muddy.

Newbattle Abbey was founded in 1140 by monks from Melrose Abbey. The patron was King David I of Scotland (with his son Henry). The Newbattle monks were the first to mine coal in the area and were most probably Scotland's first miners. The Newbattle Abbey College was requisitioned as a training camp on the outbreak of war in 1939. It provided training for both the Royal Army Medical Corps as well as the Auxiliary Territorial Service – often known as The Women's Army. The Abbey is now an events venue and offers courses for adult learners. Guided tours take place throughout the year.



The grounds of Newbattle Abbey



Newbattle Abbey

The Route

- 1 From the station turn right and walk uphill passing the shops, crossing Hunter Square and continuing till you reach the Parish Church. Cross the road and take the path signed "Nancy Teuch". This is one of the paths that the miners took on their way to and from the pit. Walk to the end of this path and turn right where it meets the railway fence. Follow this path, bearing left at the junction, until you reach Engine Road.
- 2 Head left to reach the A7 and right along the pavement for a few hundred yards, crossing to head down Povert Road. Where Povert Road swings to the left, pass through the gate directly in front and walk along the lane. Look out for a gate on your left leading onto a hedge lined path. Follow this path as it passes through meadow land and eventually reaches the old Cockpen Church, which dates from the 12th century. This is not open to the public.

Walk 5

Gorebridge to Newbattle Abbey

continued

- 3 Go through the gates here and climb the stile over the stone dyke on your left. Continue along the wooded path until you reach the bridge over the South Esk in the Dalhousie Castle Hotel grounds. Take the path to the right up the steps, passing the Birds of Prey and leaving by the road under the bridge. Turn right at the junction and continue along this path until you reach a road.
4. Turn right and walk along the road until you reach Lothian Bridge. Cross the road with care! Continue along the path signed to Newbattle which eventually brings you to Newbattle Road. Turn left here and Newbattle Abbey gates appear on your right. You can walk round the gardens and admire the building although it is not open to the public.

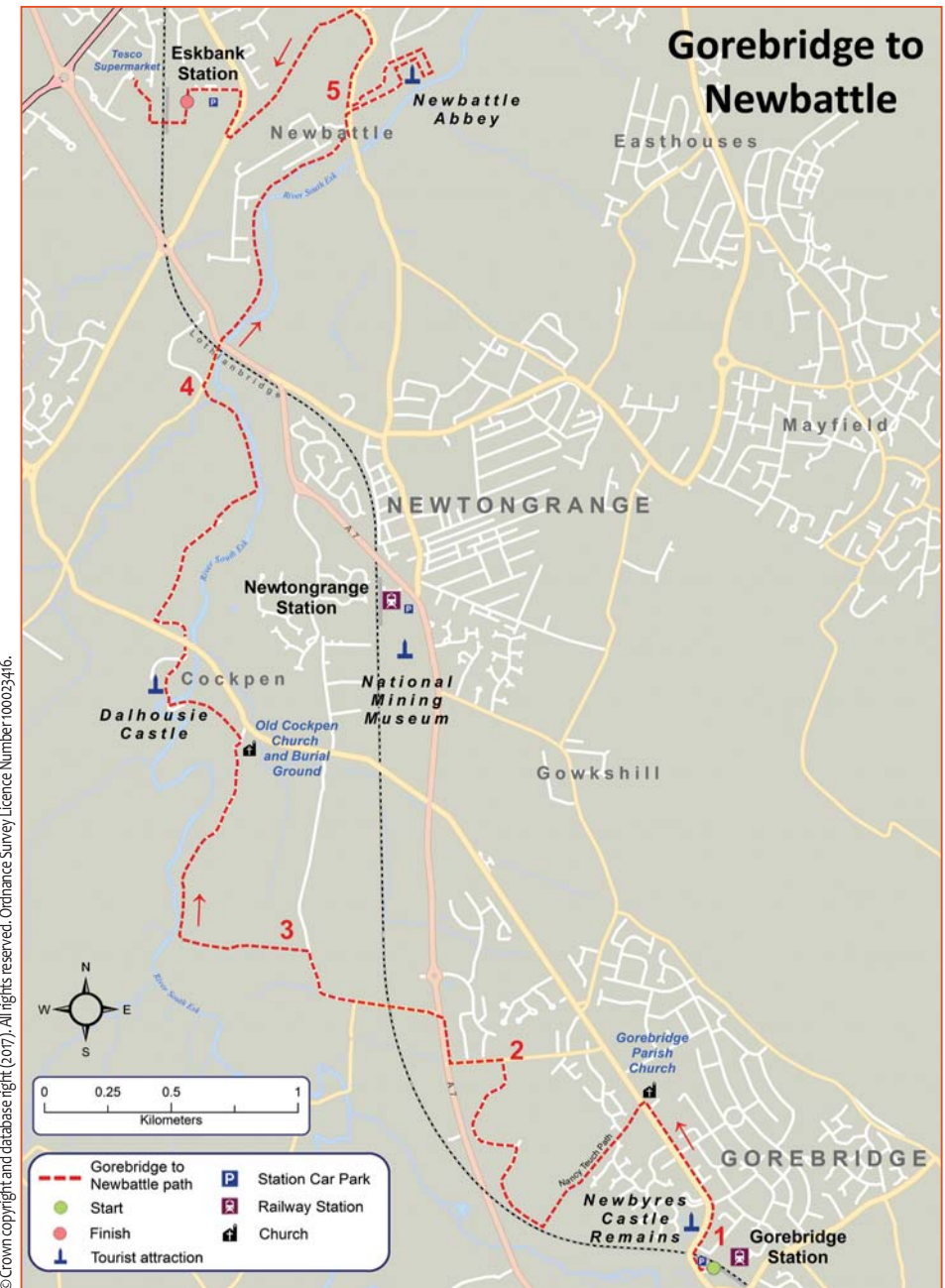


Newbattle Abbey Gardens

- 5 Heading back through the gates, cross the road and turn right, taking care along the narrow pavement. Pass the Church and as you walk uphill, look out for the signpost to Hardengreen on your left. Follow the main path through the wood. Cross the road and turn right, then left to reach Eskbank Rail Station. If you want to catch the bus back, take the footbridge over the tracks and the path to the right will bring you to Tesco Supermarket, where you can catch a bus (29 or 39).



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Newtongrange Circular

Distance : 6.5 miles/10.5 kms – approximately 3-3.5 hours



Description

Taking the cross country route to Nitten-by-the-Bing involves tracks through fields so this is potentially a muddy walk, especially in winter and after rain. Having said that, the views are amazing and walking along hedges is a sure way

of getting close to birdlife. The National Mining Museum is a great half way stop with cafe and toilet facilities. There are regular buses (29, 33 and 39) from Newtongrange to Gorebridge if you want to avoid the hill, or you can travel one stop on the train. There is a path linking the museum to the station, turn left as you pass round the large red gates.



Newtongrange Park

The Route

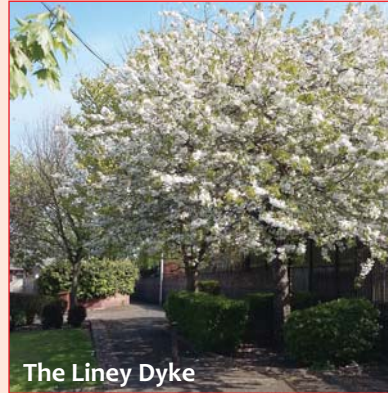
- 1 From the station turn right and walk uphill passing the shops, crossing Hunter Square and continuing past the Parish Church and Library. Turn right along Barleyknowe Lane (signed to Gorebridge Primary School). Cross the road and pass through the black metal gate into Auld Gala Park. Follow the winding path downhill to meet the road at Greenhall Crescent.
- 2 Turn right and walk to the junction with Barleyknowe Road, cross and

take the grassy path on the right by St Andrews School. Continue along this path, turning left at the end. After a few metres down the track, bear right onto the narrow path that runs along the edge of the field. Carry on this path as it crosses 2 fields, with the hedge on your left. Where the path meets a track, turn left and walk down to meet the road. Cross here and continue on the track to Lingerwood Farm. Go through the yellow gate and carry on downhill, looking out for the green sign to Bryans indicating the lane on your right.

Newtongrange Circular

continued

3 Walk along the length of this lane, known as The Liney Dyke from the days when coal was taken along by rail. (Short cut here, any of the roads on the left will take you to Main Street). At the end of the lane, turn left and walk to the end, turning left and crossing over to go through the park. Follow the paths downhill and slightly to the right, passing the War Memorial and leaving by the gate opposite the Dean Tavern. Turn left and walk to the end of the street, turning left at the traffic lights. The National Mining Museum is on the right.

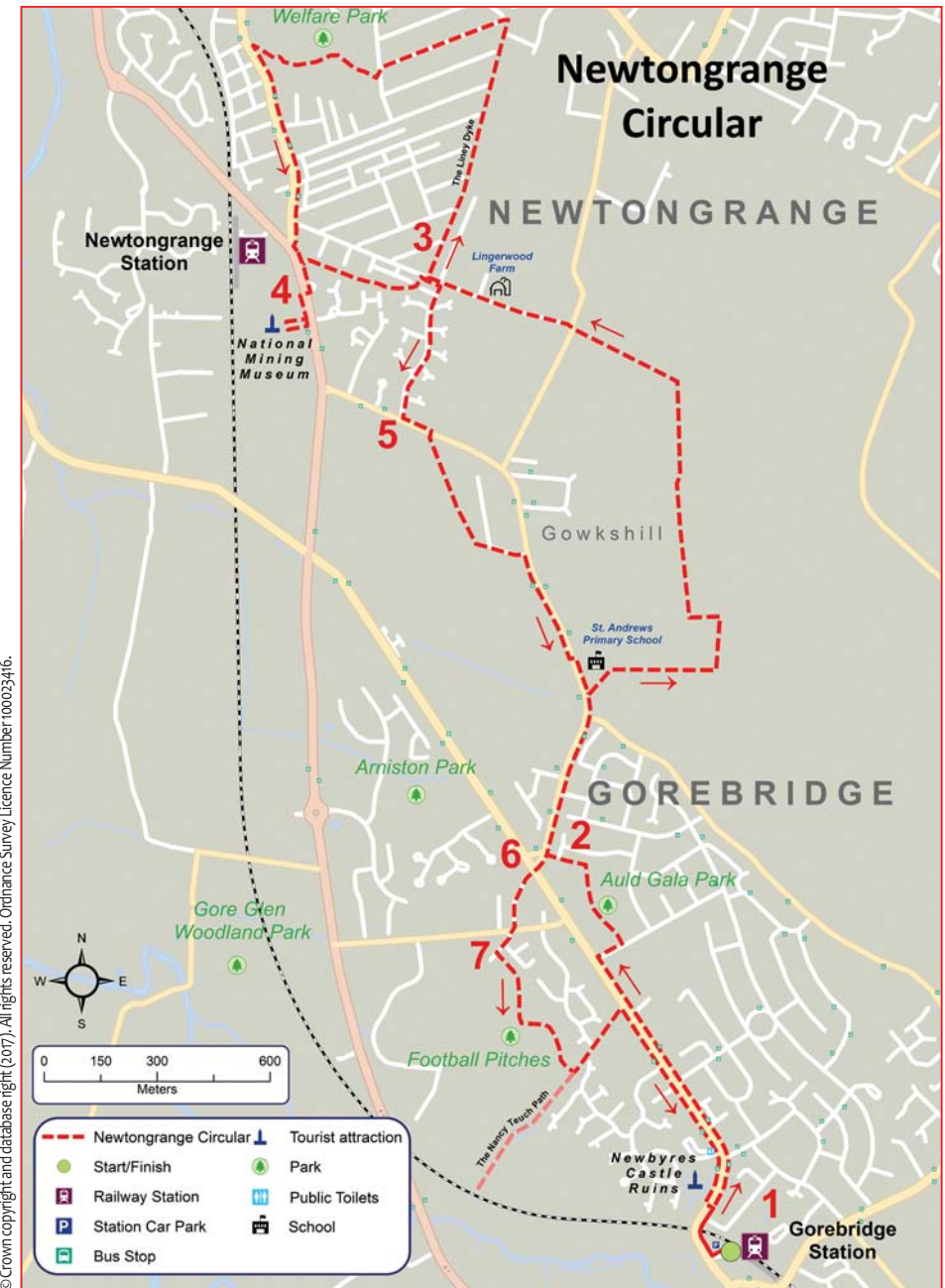


4 From the Museum, cross the road and retrace your steps downhill. Look out for the path signposted to Bryans on your right 50 yards before the lights. Climb the steps and walk along the grassy path to the end, turning left where it meets the tarmac path. Turn right where the path joins the road and right along the path opposite Lothian Terrace. Follow the path through to Monkswood Road, which meets the Stobhill Road just down from the recycling centre.

5 Turn left and walk uphill past the entrance to the centre and cross the road. Look for the gap in the stone wall on your right and walk through to the field. Follow the path diagonally right to the top of the field past the houses and turn right where it joins the busy road. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and walk to the end of Greenhall Road and Crescent.

6 Cross straight over and head down the lane past Laundry Cottages and Arniston Bowling Club. At the end of this road, cross straight over and continue till you reach the park.

7 Follow the path on the left as it makes its way past the football pitches to join Nancy Teach Path. Turn left and walk uphill to join the road opposite the Parish Church. Turn right and walk back along Main Street to the station.



Edgehead Circular

Description

Partly on metalled roads and partly on paths and tracks, this route to the picturesque village of Edgehead passes through lush farmland and offers panoramic views over the Firth of Forth to Fife, to Berwick Law and East Lothian, the Lammermuir Hills and, of course, the Pentlands. The tracks and paths can be very muddy. There is a perfect picnic stop in the park as you reach Edgehead village.



Edgehead sign

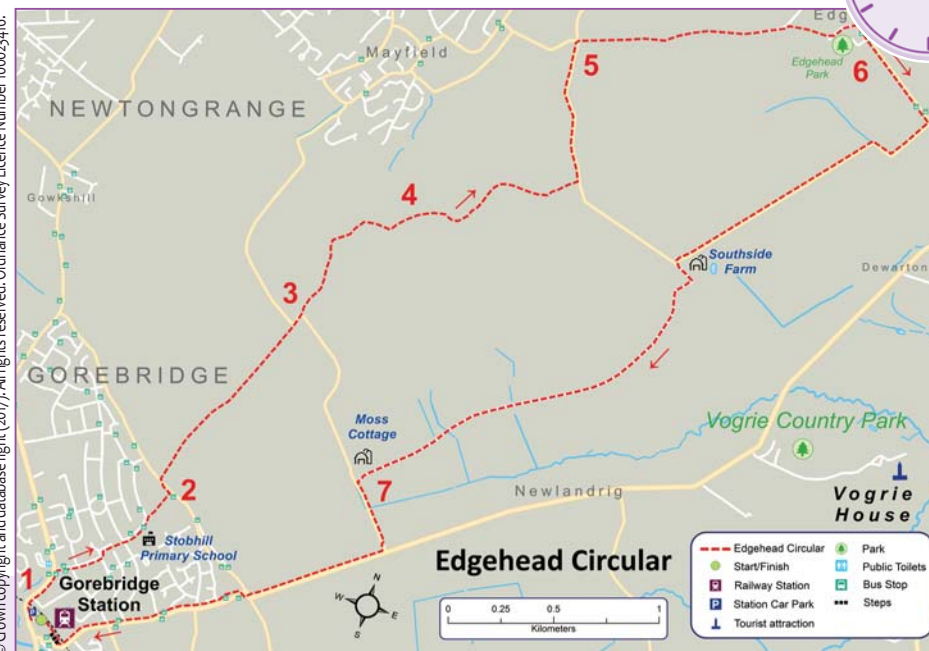
Distance : 7.75 miles/12.5kms – approximately 4-5 hours



The Route

- 1 From the station, turn right up Station Road, past the shops of Main Street and up to Hunter Square. Turn right at the square and walk uphill, crossing 2 roads and passing Stobhill Primary School on your right. Continue up the grass path to reach Barleyknowe Road.
- 2 Turn left for a few metres and cross the road past the mobile phone mast, pass through the kissing gate and walk up the side of the field, through the next field and uphill along the track until you reach a metalled road.
3. Walk straight ahead and through a gate to the right of the metal gate opposite. Walk along this path, signed to Newlandrig, passing the animal enclosures on your left. A gate leads onto the path which takes you through Camp Wood to the top of the hill.
- 4 Pass through the gate on your left and follow the path along the top of the field. Cross the stile and continue straight ahead as it travels through woods to reach a metalled road. Turn left along the road. Look out for the Queensferry Bridge coming into view to the north west.

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- 5 A signed track to Edgehead appears on the right opposite a cottage. Take this path as it makes its way past fields. The track reaches the end of a field on your right and you reach a small wood. Take the 2nd path on the right, take care as this is easy to miss. (If you reach the road by a metal gate you've gone too far). Follow the path to the gate on the left and reach Edgehead. The park is on your right.
- 6 Turn right and walk down between the cottages, taking the road to the right at the end of the houses. This quiet country road leads to Southside Farm. Behind the farm take the track, signed to Moss Cottage. Continue on this track till you reach the road junction at Moss Cottage.
- 7 Turn left at Moss Cottage and walk to the junction with the road to Pathhead. Turn right and continue to Mossend. Turn right and cross the road with care. Walk down Lady Brae to the station.



Gorebridge Circular

Distance : 8 miles/ 13 kms – approximately 4-5 hours



Description

The Gorebridge Circular route was instigated by Gorebridge and District Environmental Group (GADEG). You will be walking on paths through fields and woodland, seeing some impressive views of Midlothian. There are some hills on the way and stout boots are essential, especially if it's been wet. There are often cows in the fields. The route is signed with Gorebridge Circular Walk signs and little green arrows. There are several points of interest along the route including Aldersyde house, the former home of author Annie S. Swan at Robertsons Bank.



Path from Greenhall

An iron gate

Sign for Gorebridge Circular and Borthwick

The remains of the gunpowder factories

The weir

The Route

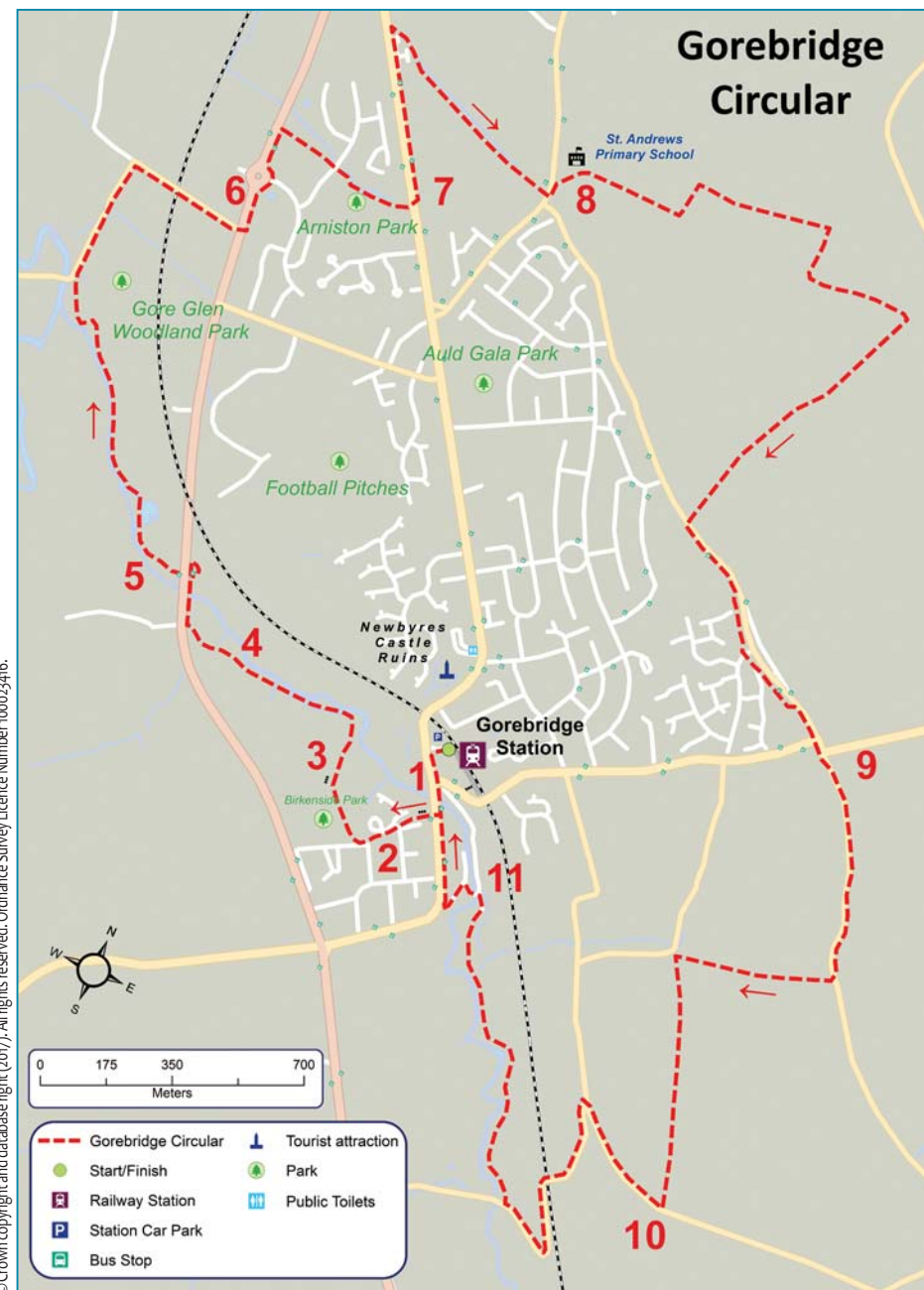
- 1 From the station turn left down the hill, cross Lady Brae and walk over the bridge up Powdermill Brae. As you reach the bus stop, cross the road with care and head up the lane signed "Gorebridge Circular" beside the bus stop.
- 2 At the top of the lane bear right then left along John Bernard Way. Take the lane between the houses and continue until you come to the park, turn right and walk in front of the pavilion. Cross the field at a slight diagonal, keeping to the right of the football pitch. Go through the gap in the wall at the far side of the field (signed).
- 3 Walk into the field and turn right, walking down hill to the wood. The path down to the riverside is steep and needs care as it is often very muddy. There are steps and railings to help. The remains of the gunpowder factories appear on your left along the path.
- 4 Climb up the path till it meets the A7, follow the path to the right and cross Shanks Bridge.* Once over the bridge, there is a low metal barrier on the right, walk round this and follow the path uphill, bearing right to go down under the A7. Take care here as the path is very steep.
*Alternative : to avoid the steep slope, cross the road here and climb the path at the other side, turning right at the top and then left down the steps to join the path by the Gore Water. Turn right at the bottom.
- 5 Ignore paths to the right and continue on the path which follows the Gore Water until a Y junction, bear right here and continue until the road is reached at Trotter's Bridge. Head uphill and under the bridge, following the road as it bears right and heads to the A7. Cross with care and turn left.
- 6 Cross at the roundabout**, look out for the signed path to the right by the cottages. Walk up the very narrow path with Gore Glen Primary School fence on your right, then cross the road and continue straight ahead. Look out for the wee green arrows and follow the paths up the hill till you reach Hunterfield Road.

Gorebridge Circular

continued

****Alternative:** at the roundabout head uphill along the path with Gore Glen School on your left and continue up to the playpark, head left to join Hunterfield Road.

- 7 Cross the road with care and turn left, walk downhill past Newtonloan Court until you see the path signed to the right. Follow the grassy path uphill to the road at Greenhall. Cross here and take the signed grassy path to the right of St Andrews Primary School.
- 8 Follow the path to the end, ignoring paths to the right. At the junction, turn right and follow the signed paths up the hill through the wood. Cross the stile and carry on till you reach a fence. Turn right here and walk through the fields keeping close to the fence, till you reach Barleyknowe Road. Cross the road and turn left up the hill. Walk along Barleyknowe Road, crossing Lady Brae (short cut here, turn right down the hill and then right again up to the station).
- 9 The road leaves the town and enters open countryside, look out for the signed path to the right down the field. The path crosses 2 fields and comes out at the road by the croft. Turn left here, through the gates and walk along the side of the field up the hill passing trees on your right. Just past the last tree, go through the kissing gate, turn left and walk along the field edge, through the gate to join a road. Turn right.
- 10 Continue on the road and take the next left, heading down the hill, past the cottages and over the railway bridge. Keep on this road as it bears hard right and continues downhill. Before you reach the bridge over the Gore Water, take the signed path to the right and walk through the fields, passing through 2 gates, keeping the water on your left. As you reach the houses ahead, bear diagonally right to the kissing gate and go through.
- 11 Turn left and follow the path till it reaches the bridge on your left, turn left here over the bridge and walk up Robertson Bank. At the top turn right and walk down the hill, cross Lady Brae and walk back to the station.



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Temple Circular

Distance : 9.5 miles/15.5km – approximately 4.5-5.5 hours
(shorter route 7miles/12km, 3-4 hours)



Description

Temple was named for The Knights Templar who were based here from the 12th century until they were suppressed in the 14th century. In 1312 the land at Temple was given to the Knights of St John in Jerusalem and the residents of Temple gave them a tenth of their income.

The Route

1 From the station turn left downhill, crossing Lady Brae and continue up Powdermill Brae to reach the A7. Turn left and walk along the pavements until you pass the Council depot on your left, looking out for the road to the right. Cross with care and follow the road as it rises gently. Take the first road on the right.

2 Continue on this quiet country road as it undulates through woods and open countryside. Please stop and admire the wonderful views of the Pentlands and Edinburgh along the way!

3 At Castleton Farm*, turn left and cross the bridge, continuing until you reach the junction where you turn right.

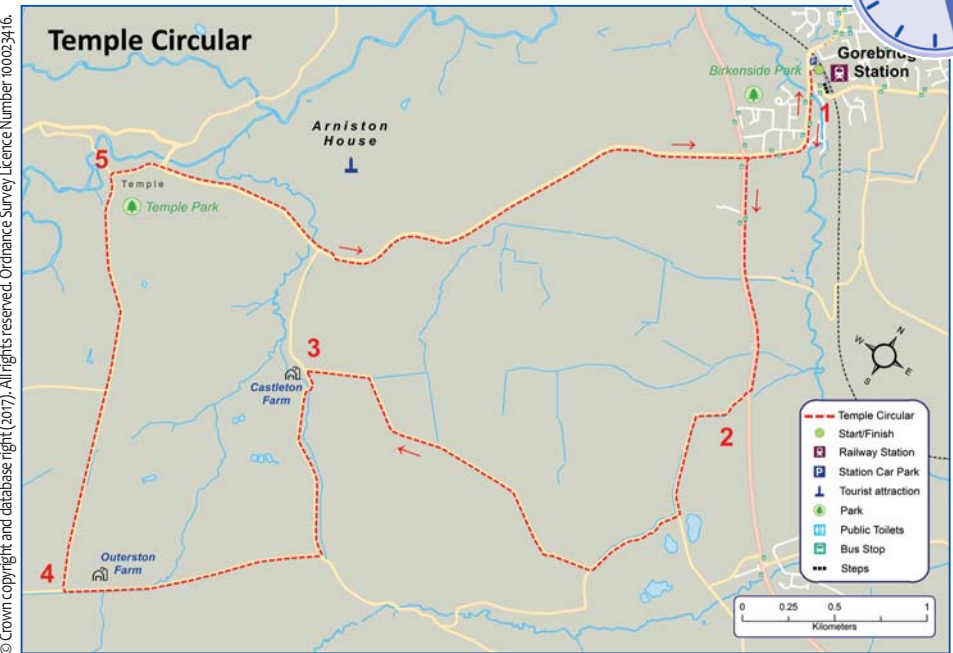
*Alternative short cut here – turn right at Castleton Farm and right again at the Temple road junction. This road leads back to the A7 at the Gorebridge junction. (12kms, 7 miles)

4 Continue along this road past Outerston Farm, turning right at the T junction which takes you into Temple Village. Go through the village as it heads downhill, turning right at the bottom.

5 Walk along pavements back towards Gorebridge, passing the impressive drive into Arniston House. Look out for the poignantly named bench on the right, marked Miners Rest. Continue till you reach the A7, cross with care and walk back to the station.

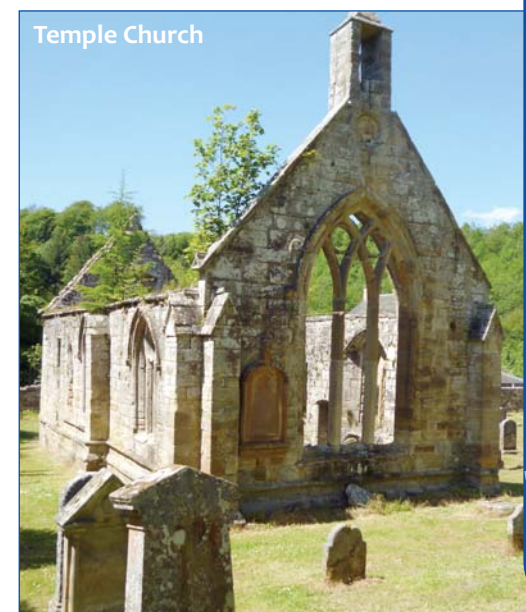


The Miners Rest



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This circular walk is all on metalled road, mostly quiet country lanes with little traffic and few pavements so care is required. The views of Midlothian are wonderful. Spare a moment to look round the old Church grounds while you are in Temple, they are fascinating. This is also a nice cycle route.



Temple Church

Vogie House and Crichton Castle Circular

Distance : 10 miles/17kms, approximately 5-6 hours



Description

This circular walk is for the more experienced walker as it involves walking over fields, crossing stiles, narrow muddy paths and some steep ascents and descents on stepped paths. The terrain can be very muddy and there will be animals in some of the fields. The views en route are quite spectacular and photographers will especially love this walk with its combination of scenery and historic buildings. The route reaches Vogie House by climbing up to Camp Wood, down to Newlandrig and through woods to the Vogie Country Park estate. From the house you follow paths down to Tyne Water via Alderdean and up a narrow challenging stepped path to Crichton Castle. The way back is on metalled roads, quiet country lanes with little traffic and no pavements so care is required.



Vogie House

Vogie House is the former home of the Dewar family and was built in 1876 by Andrew Heiton, the town architect for Perth. It was briefly a nursing home for the Royal Edinburgh Hospital before being sold on to local government in the 1950s and was used during the Cold War as a control centre for communications. It is now the home of Midlothian Countryside Ranger Service. There is a cafe in Vogie House with toilet facilities.

Crichton Castle is looked after by Historic Scotland and is open to the public from Easter to end September. It is a well preserved 13th century building with many additions that make it unique in Scotland, including Chancellor Crichton's great hall built around 1450 and the diamond-faceted façade added by Francis Stewart around 1580.



Crichton Castle

The Route

- 1 From the station, turn right up Station Road, past the shops of Main Street and up to Hunter Square. Turn right at the square and walk up hill, crossing 2 roads and passing Stobhill Primary School on your right. Continue up the grass path to reach Barleyknowe Road.
- 2 Turn left for a few metres and cross the road just past the mobile phone mast, pass through the kissing gate and walk up the side of the field, through the next field and uphill along the track until you reach a metalled road. Walk straight ahead and through a kissing gate to the right of the metalled gate. Walk along this path, which is signed to Newlandrig, passing the animal enclosures on your left. A gate leads onto the path which takes you through Camp Wood and eventually to the top of the hill.
- 3 Pass through the gate on your right and follow the path along the top of the field. Cross the stile and follow the signed path to Newlandrig on your right. Follow this as it makes its way down the hill, past some forestry felling. At the gate, turn right downhill along the path at the side of the fields. Cross straight over a metalled road and continue along the path until you reach Newlandrig.
- 4 Turn left and cross the road at the last house, walking along the road joining from the right. Take the path signed to Vogie on the left. (This path can be very muddy as it is used extensively by mountain bikers. The alternative is to walk the short section on the pavement). Where this path joins the road to Vogie Grange, turn left till you reach the road and take the path to the right, which leads into Vogie Country Park. Take the road to the right, to Vogie House.



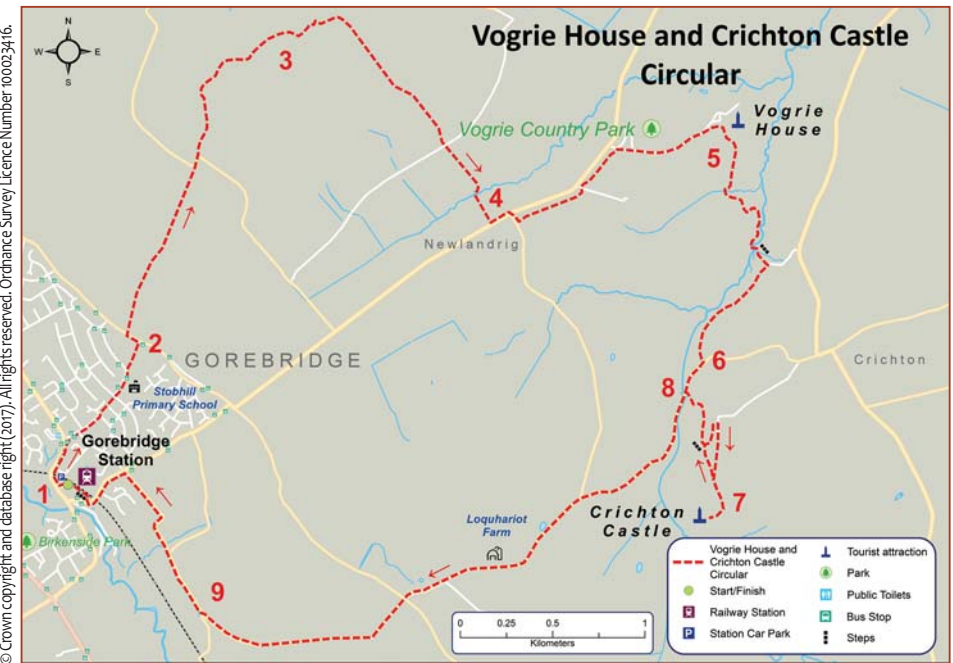
Vogie Stairs

Walk 10

Vogie House and Crichton Castle Circular

continued

- 5 With Vogrie House on your left, walk over the grass and pick up the signed path to Alderdean. Follow these signed paths as they zigzag and undulate, passing over a stone bridge and eventually reaching Tyne Water. Turn right along the path signed to Crichton 1.3 miles and follow the meandering water until you reach a wooden footbridge. Cross the bridge and follow the Midlothian Path signs up the hill to the steps and along the path. Turn right at the top of this path and continue to a Y junction, take the path to the left. Continue through 2 wooden gates to reach the road.
- 6 Turn right and walk down to the bottom of the hill, looking out for the small arrow sign which indicates the path up to Crichton on the left before you reach the stone bridge. Take this path up the hill, climbing steep steps, crossing a stile and following the path as it goes over the roots of the beech trees on your right. Ignore the gate and take the path to the right and uphill through the grass, eventually joining the path to Crichton Castle.
- 7 From the Castle, return along the path until you reach the official entrance by the car park. Continue to the Church and look out for the stone steps on the left. Take the steps and follow the narrow path back to the gate. Go through the gate, turn right and walk back down the path, retracing your steps to the road.
- 8 Turn left here, crossing the bridge and continue along this road as it rises and falls. Look out for the great views of the Castle on your left as you climb up the first hill. Pass Loquhariot Farm buildings and continue to the crossroads, where you go straight over.
- 9 Continue along this road, ignoring roads to right and left, until you reach Ashbank and walk down the hill along Vogrie Road. Turn left down Lady Brae and immediately after crossing the stone railway bridge, cross the road and take the path back to the train station.



Crichton Castle



Pentlands view



Gorebridge