



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 Vogrie House by climbing up to Camp Wood, down to Newlandrig and through woods to the Vogrie 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.



Vogrie House

Vogrie 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 Vogrie 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 Vogrie 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 Vogrie Grange, turn left till you reach the road and take the path to the right, which leads into Vogrie Country Park. Take the road to the right, to Vogrie House.



Vogrie Stairs

Vogrie 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.

