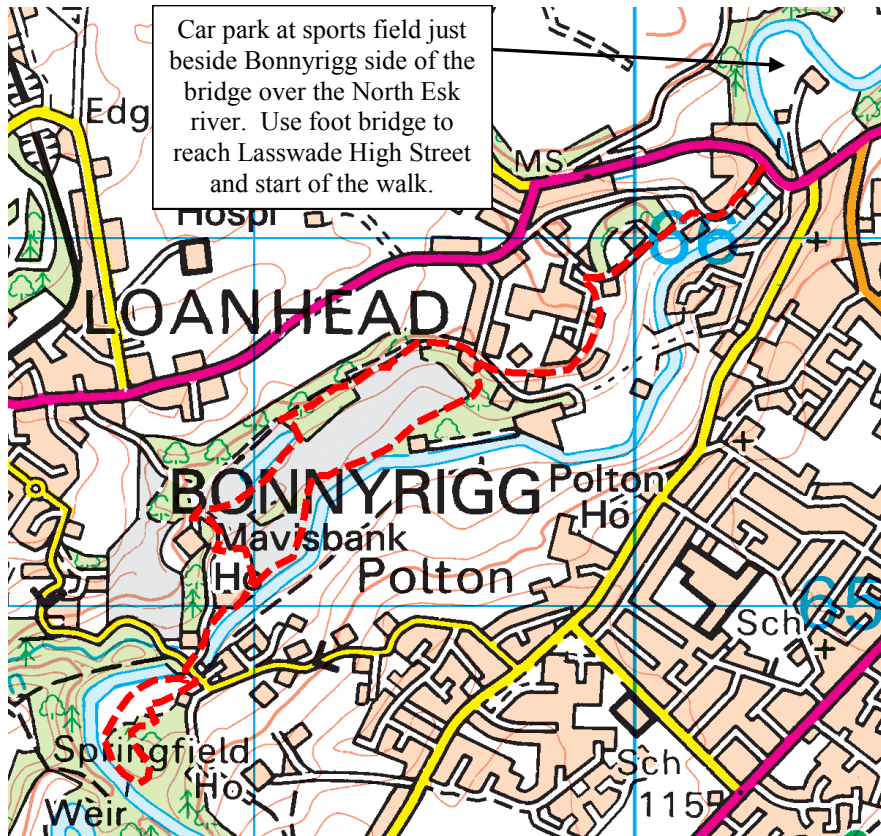


Out and about in *Midlothian*



Car park at sports field just beside Bonnyrigg side of the bridge over the North Esk river. Use foot bridge to reach Lasswade High Street and start of the walk.

Key Points of Interest

Old probable coffin road from Lasswade

Ruined facade of Mavisbank House

Springfield Mill nature reserve, site of former paper mill



Path above Lasswade



Riverbank North Esk

Introduction

Walk from the village of Lasswade to the ruined facade of Mavisbank House. From there on to the site of the former paper mill, Springfield Mill which is now a small nature reserve. Return by the North Esk riverbank.

Route Details

Start on the North Esk river bank at School Green, Lasswade. Walk upstream along School green and up School Brae. Just before Lasswade Cemetery turn left (signed Polton 1¼m.) along an old path, probably a former "coffin road".

After 300 metres keep left at X-roads, keeping to the earth track. At Kevock Road (tar), turn right for 100m then left at the bend between two white houses to a small grass strip and then through a gate into the grounds of Mavisbank House.

The house facade can now be glimpsed in the far distance through the trees. There are a number of informal paths across the grassland to Mavisbank House. Each can be wet in places. Follow the more obvious earth path ahead keeping to the middle ground. In places there have been mi-

nor earth slips - look out for uneven ground. This route approximately follows one of the driveways to Mavisbank house.

When you reach a path X-roads just before a timber kissing gate there is a choice - either straight ahead to the house or down left to reach the large ornamental pond. Walk around its left bank and back up to another kissing gate and approach to the house.

Mavisbank House was gutted by fire in 1973. Currently the house and grounds are managed by Historic Scot-

land. Leaving the house, turn right down the vehicle track then left (signed Polton) onto a new smaller hard surfaced path to reach the North Esk. Turn upstream. At the public road turn left over the river then 2nd right into Springfield Mill nature reserve. Explore.

To return to Lasswade, re-cross the river and return to the riverbank path. Now continue downstream on the river-side path for ¼ mile then up slope and steps to Kevock Road. Cross the road then right onto your outward earth path following it back to your starting point in Lasswade.

Walk

Lasswade to Mavisbank House and Springfield Mill

Distance: 3¼ miles / 6 km

Ascent: 400ft / 120m

Time: 1¾ hours

(Allow additional time to explore Springfield Mill)

Terrain – Good earth paths • some trackless grassland • Will be wet/muddy in places after rain • riverbank path •

Map: No 66 Edinburgh

Start point: School Green, Lasswade

See instructions beside map for car park

Gr: NT 303 662

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: N 55.88303

Long: W 03.11434

Public transport: Yes

Car Parking: Yes (see map)

Refreshments: Yes

Route: Ian Brown

Photos: Ian Brown