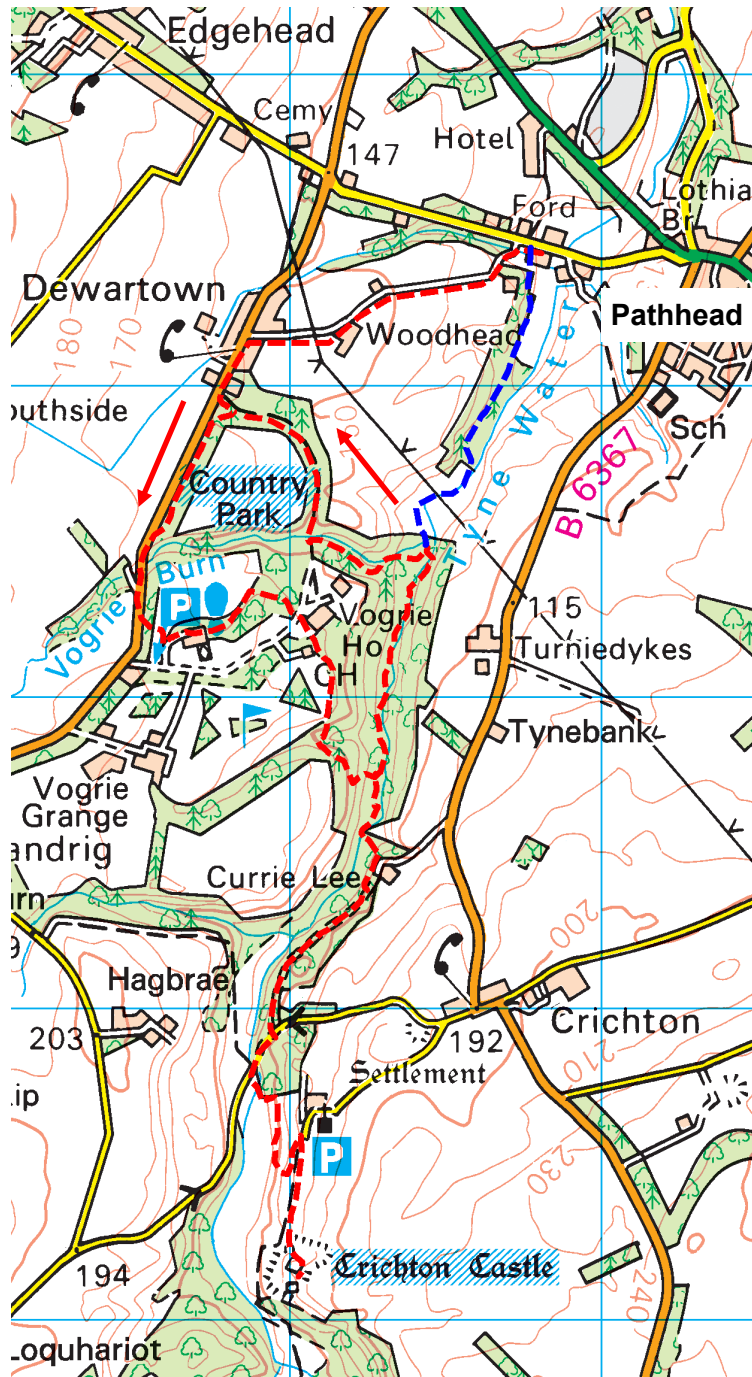


Out and about in *Midlothian*



Vogrie footbridge

Introduction

Walk from the small hamlet of Ford, to Vogrie Country Park and on to Crichton Collegiate church and Crichton castle. Start on good tracks and paths. The second half is on informal country paths.

Route details

Start in the middle of Ford (hamlet). Walk up the pavement (away from Pathhead) onto a track left signed Dewartown then right past Woodhead Farm and ending in Dewartown. At public road turn left and in 200 metres turn left through iron gates into Vogrie Country Park. In 50m turn right. Follow this path to the main car park. Walk along left side of the car park to path signed Vogrie House. Walk past the right side of Vogrie House to a path. Now follow signs for Alderdean until it reaches the Tyne Water. Here turn upstream signed Crichton Castle. In 200m, turn left over a small bridge and up the steps ahead. This path climbs through woodland to a mown grass path. Turn right then keep left at a Y-fork. Cross a gate and onto the public road. Turn downhill.

Just as it levels out and before the river, turn left onto a small path on the left side of a fence. In 100m it turns steeply uphill to a stile. Cross this, turn right down a beech avenue, then round and up to Crichton Collegiate Church. Crichton castle is along the track to your right (Historic Scotland).

Return by the same route until across the small footbridge in Vogrie. Now follow the

Key Points of Interest

Pretty hamlets of Ford and Dewartown

Vogrie Country Park, Award winning Country Park.

Crichton Collegiate Church

Crichton Castle (part ruined)
Summer opening (Historic Scotland)

Crichton Castle



informal path down the left river bank until you reach the end of the park at a pair of bridges. **Here there is a choice.** For the easier but longer route, turn left (away from the river) then right across a small stone bridge and on uphill. At the top of the hill turn right, signed North Woods. This path skirts the edge of the park until exiting beside Dewartown and your outward route. Remember to turn right in Dewartown signed Ford.

Alternative route from Vogrie to Ford:

Where the Vogrie path ends beside the river and its two bridges, there is a stile straight ahead into a grazed field. This is an old right of way to Ford. This follows the edge of two fields which have been used for sheep and cows. Pass through a gate following the left river bank. There is now a vague path into the trees. In places there can be deep water filled vehicle ruts. Finally after a gate, the track ends in Ford, between two houses. In later summer this route can be overgrown with nettles.

Walk

Ford to Crichton Castle via Vogrie Country Park

Distance: 7 miles / 11.3 km

Ascent: 800 ft / 245 m

Time: 3 hours

Terrain: Mixture of well surfaced paths • Grassy and beaten earth paths • one short Steep ascent / descent • Muddy in places after rain

OS Map: No 66 Edinburgh

Start point: Ford near Pathhead, Midlothian

NT 388 644

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: N 55.86891
Long: W 02.97808

Public transport: Yes

Car Parking: Yes

Refreshments: Pathhead

Route: Ian Brown

Photos: Ian Brown