# Out and about in Midlothian



# Introduction

A strenuous walk around northeast Midlothian via field and farm tracks. Big views all round, across the Firth of Forth to the Southern Highlands, to East Lothian and the Moorfoots in the south. Walk through the picturesque village of Cousland. Return by Prestonhall Estate and the hamlet of Ford.

#### **Route Details**

Start at the main entrance to Vogrie Country Park. Before exiting the main gate turn left in front of the gate lodge onto woodland path signed Newlandrig. Exit onto public road and continue left to Newlandrig. After



Ripe barley, Airfield Farm

a few houses, turn right signed Mayfield. This core path follows a track then field margins to pine woods at top of the hill. At top, turn left through small gate and woodland strip, then 100 metres right to reach forest road and big views over the Lothians. Turn right to reach public road, then left to crossroads in ½ mile.

The route continues ahead. There is a small field margin path behind the wall to the right of the road (If ground very wet, then continue by road). Follow this path around the left field margin, past a house on left. In ½ mile at a gap in the wall cross the road to path signed Mayfield. At Lawfield farm turn right onto its tar road. At the end, turn left downhill to hamlet of Whitehill. Beside first house, turn right signed Fordel.

Cross main road to left side of filling station. Behind the filling station shop, walk around the left edge of an abandoned caravan site. At the far left corner of the hedge, go through a gate then right along a path past woodland and fields, through the A68 underpass to reach the minor road to Cousland. Turn right, then across crossroads and uphill on road to the far end of Cousland. After the last house, turn right on farm track to reach Airfield farm. Con-

### **Key Points of Interest**

Walk the old Right of Way from Whitehill to Cousland.

Admire the beautifully kept village of Cousland

Take in the extensive views over Airfield Farm

Walk under the Telford road viaduct at Pathhead

tinue down the farm road, and straight ahead on minor road to reach the Pencaitland road (beware fast traffic). Turn left by the crash barrier. After crossing the Tyne Water, cross the road then up the minor road right (signed Pathhead, B6367).

In ¼ mile turn right through old stone gateway onto Prestonhall Estate farm track. Ensure stock gates are securely closed. Follow this track for ¾ mile to a tar road. Continue in the same direction, passing the high red brick walled garden (right) and on out of the estate to the Lions gate.

In 150m, on the bend of the road, directly ahead there is a small path into the trees down to the left side of the Tyne water. This path can be overgrown in later summer. Continue beside the river, through kissing gate, then under the Telford viaduct. Continue by the river over a small stile to reach Ford hamlet.

Turn right. In 200m turn left onto track signed Dewartown. This track turns right at Woodhead Farm and ends in Dewartown. Now turn left then in 200 metres turn left through iron gates into Vogrie Country Park. In 50m turn right. Follow this path back to Vogrie car park.

## Walk

Vogrie Cousland Ford circular

Distance: 12 miles / 19.5 km

**Ascent:** 1,200ft / 370 m

Time: 51/2 hours

**Terrain** – Grassy paths and farm tracks • Quiet roads • A few muddy patches •

Map: No 66 Edinburgh

**Start point:** Car park for Vogrie Country Park, Near Gorebridge, EH23 4NU

Gr: NT 376 632

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: N 55.85798 Long: W 02.99698

Public transport: No
But Walk can be started anywhere where bus routes cross

Car Parking: Yes

**Refreshments:** Yes, Cedar Tree Café at Vogrie House

Route: IB

Photos: IB