



MIDLOTHIAN

OUTDOOR

FESTIVAL



3 – 7 October 2024

Further details:

www.midlothian.gov.uk/outdoor-festival

Call **01875 821716** (Friday – Monday)



Midlothian

Midlothian Outdoor Festival

Explore the great outdoors and join us for guided walks, talks, wildlife watching or events and activities through the villages, towns and countryside of Midlothian. Most events are FREE.

The Outdoor Festival is organised by Midlothian Ranger Service. We would like to thank our event leaders, partners and volunteers who have devised great routes and entertainment that introduce Midlothian's beautiful countryside to you.

Some events are drop in; others require booking. Check listing details. If you're unable to book online, call 01875 821716 Fri – Mon. All walks should be booked by Sunday 29th September 2024.

FOR WALKS PLEASE NOTE:

- Arrive 10 mins before departure
- Bring waterproofs, wear suitable footwear and outdoor clothing.
- If walk spans lunchtime: bring a packed lunch and drink.
- Walks may end 30 mins earlier or later than advertised.
- Please consider the grading, distance and timing of the walk (see page 11 for details).

Please inform organiser if you are unable to attend a booking: call 01875 821990.



NO DOGS ALLOWED ON WALKS

Thursday 3 October

1. Mavisbank & the Villas of the Esk

7.30pm - 8.30pm

Evening Talk by James Simpson, Architect.

James is a leading advocate for the architectural heritage of the Esk valleys. His talk will use the concept of the 'Villa' (as envisaged by Sir John Clerk in 'The Country Seat') to reflect on Mavisbank House and other major Villas in the Esk Valleys.

The talk will be presented online by Zoom, so meet in comfort at home!

Suitable for all ages.

FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**
or via: **www.eskvalleytrust.org**

Friday 4 October

2. A Woodland, Water and Wildflower Grassland Wander

10.30am - 3pm

We will gently stroll through the autumn splendour of Vogrie Country Park taking in our mosaic of lovely habitats from woodlands, wildflower grasslands and ponds. From Vogrie House we wend our way through parkland to the River Tyne, which takes us to Ford. From here, passing the Dower House, we follow a leafy farm track to Dewarton before heading back to the house for a cuppa. This walk will involve many stops for wildlife watching, pond dipping, bird spotting and nature ID. Plan to create a nature table just like you had a school.

Meet: Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge. EH23 4NU Grid ref. NT 380 632.

Main visitor carpark at entrance £3 per day.

Ascent 45m, 5.5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Jo Cooke

Back marker: Bill Birder Hewitt



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



3. Carrington Circular Walk

10am - 3.30pm

From the quiet village of Carrington, we visit the Whitehill Aisle before stopping at Carrington Barns Farm to hear how award-winning rapeseed oil is produced, flavoured and distributed. We then follow the picturesque South Esk valley to Temple Kirk and onwards to the peace of Edgelaw Reservoir. From here it's homeward bound via Redside Farm and associated businesses. As we rise gently over the countryside views over the Forth and Fife will end this circular ramble through Midlothian's beautiful countryside.

Meet: Carrington village green, Carrington Village, Midlothian. EH23 4LP. Grid ref. NT 319 605.

On-street parking in front of village church.

Ascent 100m, 6.5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Pete Forster

Back marker: Susan Goldwyre



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



4. History of Coal Mining Walk in Dalkeith and Easthouses

9.30am - 4pm

On our 'black diamonds' circular walk we first stop at an old rail bridge and use this line to alight at Cowden Cleuch, the site of a former coal mine and quarry. Fordel Spring is our next destination en route to Whitehill Village and onwards towards the old Easthouses pit. History then guides us to Newbattle Woods and Abbey, where the Esk leads it's way to Waterfall Park and the Salters road to home.

Meet & Park: Aldi car park, Thornybank Ind. Estate, Dalkeith, EH22 2NE Grid ref. NT 346 677

Ascent 260m, 9 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Jim Arnott

Back marker: Ian Brown



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



5. Ageing Well Health Walks

**Health Walk approx. 60-90 minutes
Walk and Talk 45-60 minutes**

10am Loanhead Health Walk meeting at Loanhead Leisure Centre EH20 9LA

11am Newtongrange Walk and Talk meeting at Newtongrange Library EH22 4LG

11.30am Woodburn Walk and Talk meeting at Grassy Riggs, 10 Woodburn Rd, Dalkeith, EH22 2AT.

Suitable for age 50+

Bring: Water proofs and suitable outdoor clothing



FREE: Just turn up

6. Ageing Well Walking Rugby

2.15pm-3.15pm

It's a slower form of touch rugby developed by Midlothian Walking Rugby along with the Scottish Rugby Union.

Great way to keep active, meet old and new friends and open to anyone over 50 keen to give it a try!

Meet: Walking Rugby at Dalkeith Rugby Club, EH22 3BQ. Playing in Kings Park, Dalkeith.

Suitable for age 50+

Wear appropriate clothing and trainers.



FREE: Just turn up

Saturday 5 October

7. Woodlands Walk and History of The Newbattle Esk

10am - 12noon

Join the Esk Valley Trust for a short walk around the woodlands at Newbattle, including a section of the South Esk riverbank. We will be looking at the nature and history of the area once part of the original estate owned by the Kerr family. We finish back at the old Church Hall where some refreshments will be available.

Meet: Behind Newbattle Parish Church, Newbattle Road, Dalkeith. EH22 3LH Grid ref. NT 330 660. Parking behind former Newbattle Parish Church EH22 3LH or at parking area for Ancrum woods.

Ascent 15m, 4 miles, Grade 1

Leader: Pat Crawford

Back marker: Nigel Evans



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

8. The Cauldstane Slap Walk

9am - 4pm

Join us for an invigorating walk, beginning from Little Vantage on the ancient drove road through The Pentland Hills, known as The Cauldstane Slap and Thieves Road. To return we take the old track to a welcome cuppa in the Gordon Arms of West Linton.

A free bus will take you to the start.

Meet: West Linton Lower Green, EH46 7EW. Grid ref. NT 149 516
Ascent 300m, 9.5 miles, Grade 4.

Roadside parking

Leader: John Pope

Back marker: John Hutton



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

9. Vogrie Pathhead Circular Walk

10am - 3pm

This walk begins at Vogrie and heads along the River Tyne, before heading up to the grasslands and on to the new Preston Hall path network. We will meet the landowner at New Wood for a chat about this fantastic project. During this gentle walk our leader, Bob Stewart, will tell you about history of the area from Golf Courses at Pathhead to Bonnie Prince Charlie and his connection with Ford. We will finish the day at Vogrie House for an afternoon tea and scones.

Meet: Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU Grid ref. NT 380 632.

£3 for parking at Vogrie.

Ascent 65m, 6 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Bob Stewart

Back marker: Alan Krumholds



FREE

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10. Try Canicross

8am - 9am



Canicross is cross-country running with your dog. If your dog is at least one year old, then you can try canicross with our friendly group of volunteers at Vogrie Country Park at 8am. Kit will be supplied.

Meet: Overflow car park, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU. **£3** for parking at Vogrie.

Suitable for ages: 11 – 75 years.

Bring: Your dog, comfortable grippy running shoes or trainers.

FREE

Book: **canisportsedinburgh@gmail.com**



11. Parkrun

9.30am - 10.15am



'parkrun' organise free weekly 5km timed routes around the world. They are open to everyone and are free, safe and easy to take part in. The Vogrie run takes you around fields, woodlands and quiet pathways, with an option of meeting up in the Tree Top Café at the end for a well-earned cuppa.

Meet: House Driveway, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU. Suitable for all ages. **£3** for parking at Vogrie.

FREE

Book: parkrun.org.uk and bring barcode

12. Try Orienteering

Start times 11am - 2pm; Finish by 3 pm

Come and give this sport of map and compass skills a go to help you navigate your way around the world. Use a specially drawn map to find the check points which will be set out around the grounds. Some will be on paths and easy to find, others will be on smaller features in woods. You never know where your new skills may take you.

Meet: In front of Vogrie House, outside Tree Top Café, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU. **£3** for parking at Vogrie.

3 Courses to suit all ages and abilities.

Wear outdoor clothing and shoes suitable for tracks and woodlands.



Adult **£5**; Junior **£3**; Parent & child **£4**.

This includes a copy of your own map to take away. Book: Eastlothiano@gmail.com

13. Get Started with Wildlife Recording Workshop

10.30am - 3.30pm

A practical 1-day workshop covering the essentials of wildlife recording at Vogrie Country Park. The workshop will include an outdoor recording session in the afternoon. Suitable for beginners. Teas/coffees will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. Numbers will be limited.

Meet: Nature Studies Room in Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU. **£3** for parking at Vogrie.

Suitable for ages 16 – adult.

Bring suitable outdoor footwear and clothing, waterproofs, notepad & pen, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch.



FREE: Donations to TWIC welcome.

Book: www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk

14. Have a go at Tubing



45 minute sessions throughout the day

3 specially built tubing runs, provide exhilarating and fun sessions for both children and adults. Our traveller takes all the hard work out of climbing up the hill. Just ride up and slide down.

Meet: Midlothian Snowsports Centre, Biggar Road Edinburgh EH10 7DU. Check in at reception to collect wristbands 15 mins prior to start time.

Minimum age 4 and minimum height 1 metre.

We recommend long sleeved tops, trousers and outdoor shoes. We can provide helmets.

Tickets available to book online 7 days in advance or from reception on the day.

Cost: **£10.60** adult ticket; **£8.60** Junior Ticket.

Book: www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200281/snowsports_centre



Sunday 6 October

15. Mills, Mansions and Mayhem

10am-3.30pm

Mills, mansions and medieval mayhem merit Midlothian musings on this walk along the North Esk river to Lasswade via Roslin Glen. There are vestiges of paper, carpet and gunpowder mills, an architectural jewel (in a sad state), at least two castles, a glen carved by glaciers, beautiful ancient woodland and the site of a battle (remembered in local gory names).

A free bus will take you to the start.

Meet & Park: Lasswade Pavilion, Lasswade Park, Middlemills, Lasswade, EH18 1ND.
Grid ref. NT303 662.

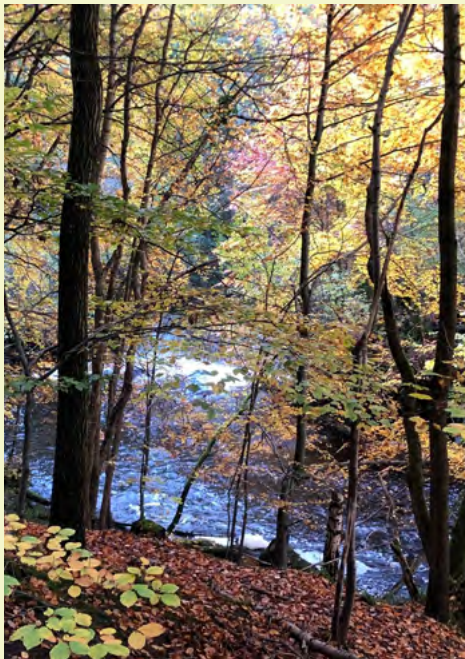
Ascent 100m, 5.5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: John Oldham
Back marker: Nigel Evans



FREE

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16. 3 Reservoirs Trekker Walk

10am-3pm

3 Reservoirs Trekker Walk – We will take in the views across Harlaw, Threipmuir and North Esk Reservoirs on our journey as well as some of the magnificent scenery and wildlife of the Pentlands Regional Park. **Our Trekker walks are continuous walks, stopping for short breaks when needed. Our pace will be between 2/3 miles per hour.**

A free bus will take you to the start.

Meet & Park: Public Car Park in Carlops Village on A702. EH26 9NF Grid ref. NT 161 558.

Ascent 310m, 8.5 miles, Grade 3

Leader: Stewart Darling
Back marker: Mark McCafferty



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

17. Cousland to Ormiston Circular Walk

9.30am - 2pm

The Cousland circular is back for yew all. We'll take in Cousland village, panoramic views, an old graveyard, and count young, old and ancient yew trees before returning to the present via a Polish WW2 memorial. Crossing 21st century playing fields and farmland around Ormiston, we'll finally leg it up to Cousland for tea & baking in the village hall.

Meet & Park: Cousland Village Hall, 1 Quarrybank (corner with Hadfast Road), Cousland EH22 2NT. Grid ref. NT 375 684.

Ascent 220m, 8 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Jean Kirk
Back marker: Gill Aitken



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

18. Discover the Moorfoot Hills

10am - 4.30pm

Starting from the west end of Gladhouse, we pass Moorfoot Farm to the South Esk Valley and up a steep grassy slope to the ridge at Jeffries Corse. Here we get spectacular views across Midlothian, the Forth and beyond. Then it's onwards and upwards to our high point of Dundreich. Upon our steep descent we get catch a glimpse of a wingtip from a Gloster Javelin which crashed in 1960 and head back to the valley floor, fording a small burn on the way back to the car park.

Meet & Park: Moorfoot Farm Road grass carpark at southwestern edge of Gladhouse Reservoir. EH23 4TF. (At the T junction continue past Moorfoot Farm Access Only sign for 1 km). Grid ref. NT 291 528.

Ascent 400m, 8.5 miles, Grade 4

Leader: Alan Krumholds
Back marker: Jo Cooke



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



19. Vogrie X1 Geocaching

1pm - 4pm

The Vogrie Cachers are delighted to invite you back for the twelfth caching event in the beautiful Vogrie Country Park. Old and new cachers are very welcome and there will be a taster event if you just want to find out more. And there will be cake as usual.

Meet: In front of Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU.

£3 for parking at Vogrie.

Suitable for all ages.

Bring a phone or GPS.



FREE

Just turn up

20. Vogrie Miniature Railway

1pm - 4pm

Join the volunteers of Eskvalley Model Engineering Society for a train ride. The journey will take you through woodland and beautiful parkland at Vogrie Country Park.

Meet: Vogrie Miniature railway, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge EH23 4NU. **£3** for parking at Vogrie.

Suitable for all ages: children must be old enough to sit on the seat.



Cost: **£1** per child, **£2** per adult.

Just turn up



21. Ageing Well Health Walk – Bonnyrigg

1.30pm - 3pm

Walk around the Bonnyrigg area, duration approx. 60-90 minutes. After the walk we will have a chat over coffee/tea in the café at Lasswade Centre.

Meet: Lasswade High School Centre, EH19 2LA.

Suitable for ages 50+

Wear suitable clothing for the weather.



FREE: Just turn-up

22. Horse Endurance Ride

9am - 3pm

Horse ride hosted by the Scottish Endurance Riding Club (SERC). You must be able to hack for at least two hours over mostly off-road routes across some of Midlothian's beautiful countryside. The options for the ride are 13km or 26km

Meet: Events Field, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge EH23 4NU.

Minimum age 8 yrs, children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult on horseback doing the ride.

Must have your own horse and all the details will be provided by SERC nearer to the event.



Members of SERC **£13**, non-members **£25**
Book: scottishendurance.com

23. Clan Stunt Show – Stars of the Future Show!

20 - 30min shows at 11am, 1pm & 3pm

The Clan Stunt Show returns to Midlothian with their new 'Stars of the Future' show. The Clans trial biking ace is joined by 'the big air ramp rider' pulling off huge jumps, flips and other tricks. The show is a massive spectacle and builds towards a finale that must be seen to be believed! The 'Stars of the Future' show features amazing junior riders in addition to their customary stunts.

Dr Bike stall available too, to offer free bike repairs to those who require their services.

Meet: Lasswade High School car park, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA.

Suitable for all ages.

Wear weather appropriate clothing.



FREE: Just turn up

24. Useful Wild Plants and Fungi of the Gore Glen

2pm - 4pm

Botanical time travelling in the Gore Glen with ecologist and nature guide Ian Edwards of WildAwake Foraging on a mission to discover wild plants and fungi that sustained our ancestors, keep us healthy and may be our salvation in the future!

Meet: Gore Glen Woodland Park Car Park, EH23 4LJ, off the A7.

Suitable for 6+ to adult (involves 3 miles walking on forest tracks, some steep gradients).

Wear walking shoes and bring waterproofs.

FREE

Book: iandouglasedwards@gmail.com





25. Bonnyrigg Scouts Survival Village



**2 sessions: 12noon - 1.45pm
& 2pm - 3.45pm**

Learn how to erect shelters, start fires, tell the time, and cook with no utensils at our small survival camp in the woods behind Vogrie House. Donations welcome to cover costs to Bonnyrigg Scouts on the day.

Meet: BBQ 4 and shelter behind Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU.

Dogs welcome to attend.

Suitable for ages 6 yrs. – adult

FREE: Just turn up
£3 for car parking at Vogrie



Monday 7 October

26. Roslin Rocks, Rivers, Ruins and Rhymes

11am - 2pm

A ramble through Roslin Glen, starting in the village, passing the Chapel, the castle, the river and old railway line. We will ponder and clamber over man-made and geological history and there will be intrigue including 'Cromwell's battery', and a tale of a treasure hunt! Juliet will encourage much blethering and bring a few poetic gems to set the scene.

Meet: The Original Rosslyn Inn, Roslin, Midlothian. EH25 9LE. Grid ref. NT 272 633.

Park on-street or at Roslin Chapel car park.

Ascent: 50m, 4 miles, Grade 2

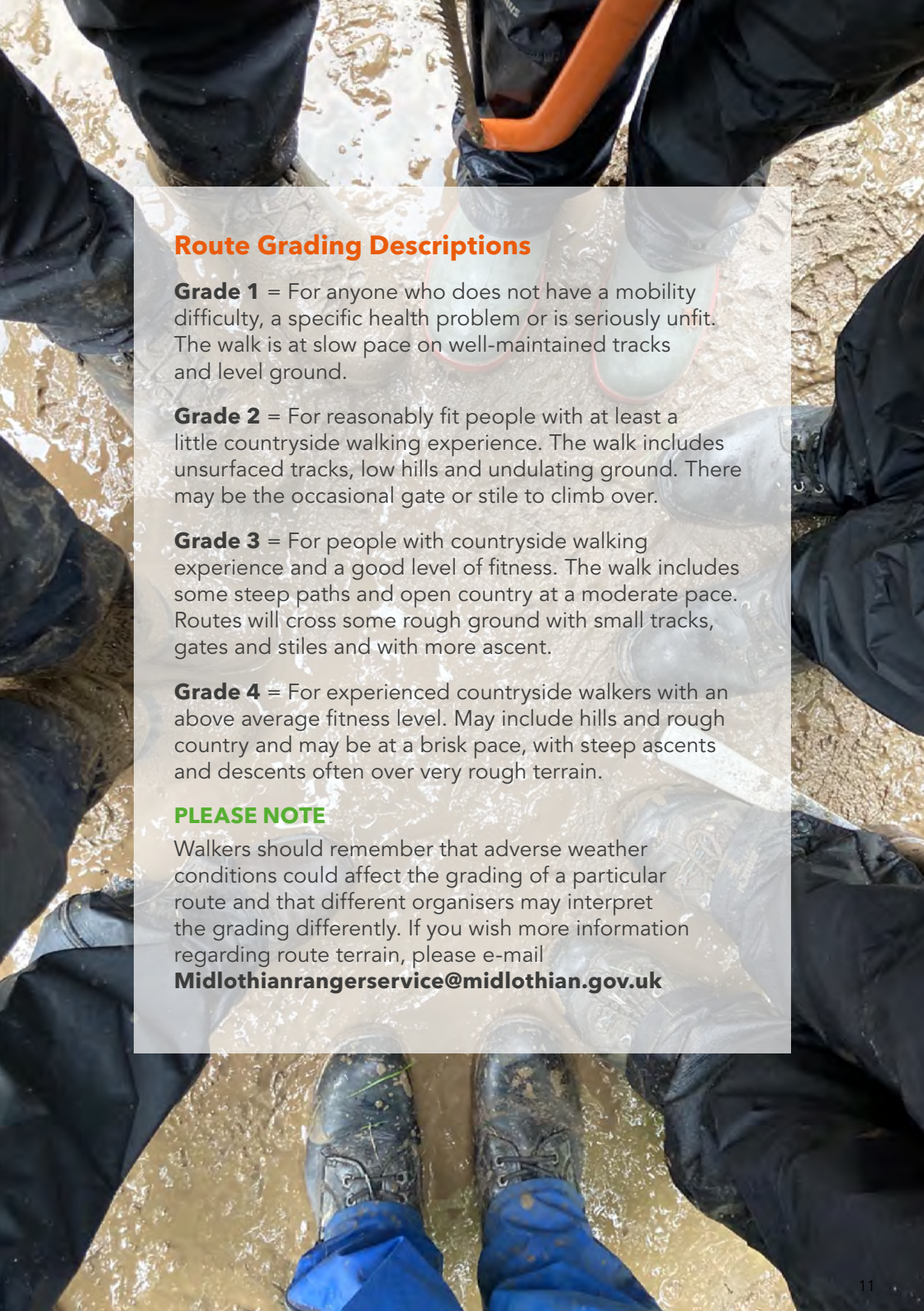
Leader: Juliet Ridgway-Tait

Back marker: Jo Cooke



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



Route Grading Descriptions

Grade 1 = For anyone who does not have a mobility difficulty, a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. The walk is at slow pace on well-maintained tracks and level ground.

Grade 2 = For reasonably fit people with at least a little countryside walking experience. The walk includes unsurfaced tracks, low hills and undulating ground. There may be the occasional gate or stile to climb over.

Grade 3 = For people with countryside walking experience and a good level of fitness. The walk includes some steep paths and open country at a moderate pace. Routes will cross some rough ground with small tracks, gates and stiles and with more ascent.

Grade 4 = For experienced countryside walkers with an above average fitness level. May include hills and rough country and may be at a brisk pace, with steep ascents and descents often over very rough terrain.

PLEASE NOTE

Walkers should remember that adverse weather conditions could affect the grading of a particular route and that different organisers may interpret the grading differently. If you wish more information regarding route terrain, please e-mail

Midlothianrangerservice@midlothian.gov.uk