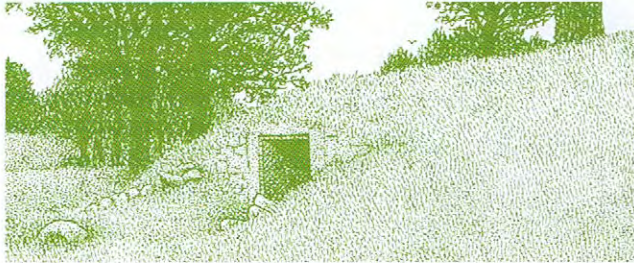


Walk 1: Round and round the garden

Allow half an hour for this route

Starting from the entrance to the Caravan Park, walk north keeping the house on your left and then follow the wide fenced path going west in front of the house, signposted *Footpath to Buckstone*.

You are in a Designed Landscape, with every feature carefully placed to give pleasure to the eye. On your right is a classic parkland with some mature trees in prime condition, including oak, ash, beech, pine and larch. It is usually grazed by cattle; you can see the way they have shaped a 'browse line' on each tree.



Notice the grassy mound to the right of the path: this is the old ice house (above). Further on, you can look back and see the entrance. In the days before fridges were available, slabs of ice were collected from a shallow pond, then layered with straw deep inside the ice house. Food was stored above, either on wooden shelves or hung on the walls.

Each winter, the aim was to collect enough ice to store food all through the next summer.

The path continues between the gardeners' cottages and the edge of the old walled garden. The estate once employed 5 people to care for the gardens and landscaped areas, and grew most of the food required to support the families living on it.

At the top end of the garden wall, take the path into the woods on the edge of the estate. The path continues left between evergreen yews and hollies and tall beech trees towards Braid Road and Mounthooly Loan, but to complete the circular walk, turn right between the stone gate posts and follow the fenced brideway across open pasture, and return past the Stables Bar.

Walk 2: Viewpoint

*"Traced like a map, the landscape lies
In cultured beauty, stretching wide
Here's Pentland's green declivities...
North Berwick Law with cone of green"*
David Macbeth Moir



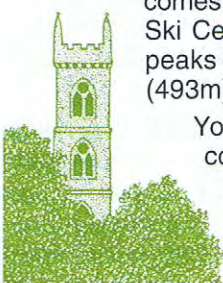
Follow the track that goes north around the left side of the Stables Bar to where it meets Stanedykehead, then turn left uphill towards Meadowhead Farm. From this track you can see magnificent views in all directions. Looking to the north

and west, the horizon is dominated by Salisbury Crags with Samson's Ribs, 30m tall basalt columns and craggy Arthur's Seat (251m), all created by a volcano about 340 million years ago.

Further to the right of Arthur's Seat, look for Liberton Tower (above), recently restored to the original mustard yellow, the distinctive horns on Liberton Kirk (below) and Craigmillar Castle on its wooded hilltop.

Further to the east, Cockenzie Power Station can be seen on the coast. Nearby appears Berwick Law, only 187m high but a very prominent feature which in the Iron Age was an important hill fort.

Swinging around to the south and west, the view takes in the Lammermuir and Moorfoot Hills, then comes around to the Pentland Hills. Hillend Ski Centre can be clearly seen, with the peaks of Caerketton (473m) and Allermuir (493m) behind.



You can continue northwards and complete a circular walk using paths outwith the Estate, or return the way you came.

Walks to enjoy at Mortonhall

Walk 3: Exploring the Arboretum

"I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it" John Muir

The Arboretum is on the west side of the house. It can be approached from the Caravan Park 'late arrivals' area or from the car park by the Stables Bar. The Arboretum is a collection of trees, mainly evergreens from the west coast of North America, grown from some of the first seeds brought to Scotland about 150 years ago.

Take time to meander along the winding grassy paths and look at these splendid trees. They include some exceptionally large specimens of English walnut, weeping lime, flowering ash and Cappadocian maple. This is also a good place to look and listen for woodland birds.

Walk 4: Arable rambles

Allow an hour and a half for this route

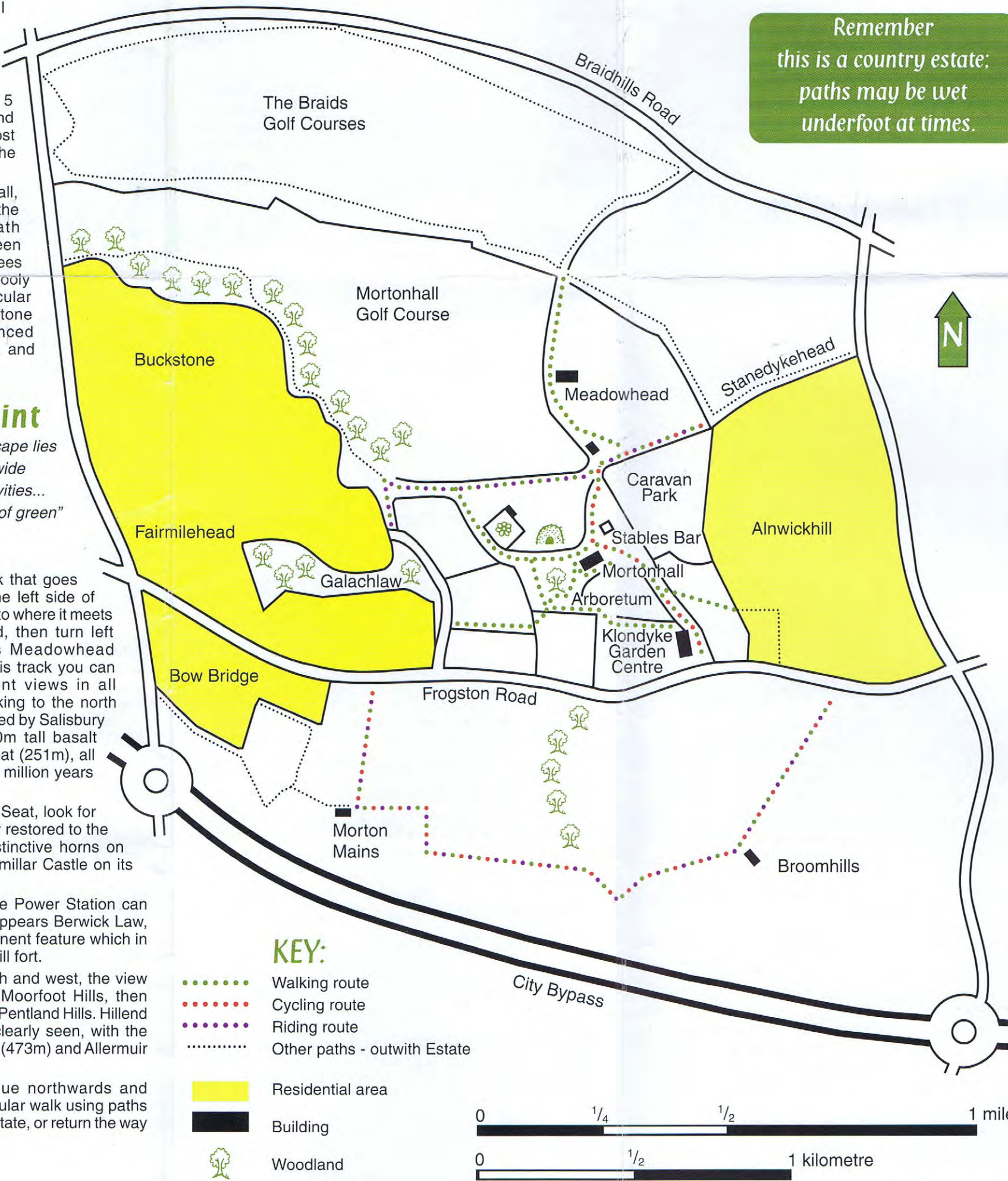
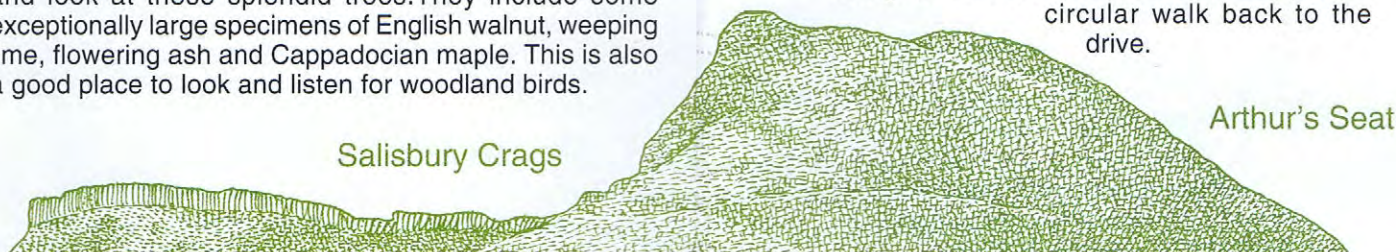
On the south side of the Estate, across the main road, a pleasant walk is waymarked through arable farmland. Going from Frogston Road to Morton Mains, you pass two historic buildings, Morton House and the Belvedere (garden house) and a folly. Malting barley, wheat and oilseed rape are the main crops in these fields.

Walk 5: Here's a ha-ha

Allow half an hour for this route

From the drive just past the garden centre, take the path on the left by the cattle grid, waymarked *Mounthooly Loan and Buckstone via the Arboretum*.

The path follows the line of ha-ha, a walled ditch created to fence in livestock but be invisible from afar, so it did not spoil the view from the house. Continue into the Arboretum, and make your way up to the path along the far side of the house to complete a circular walk back to the drive.



KEY:

- Walking route
- Cycling route
- Riding route
- Other paths - outwith Estate
- Residential area
- Building
- 🌳 Woodland

