

# Tough Stuff

If you're out in the elements for hours, you want robust kit that can take a bit of punishment – and help you get stuff done

Words Joe Pontin & Sian Lewis Photography Steve Sayers



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**1. Lady Preece jacket**, Seeland, £149.99. Water and dirt resistant, this warm oilskin jacket looks the part everywhere from rainy dog walks to country pubs. 07912 934389, [www.seelanduk.co.uk](http://www.seelanduk.co.uk) **2. Windy convertible mitt**, Extremities, £30. Windproof mittens that convert to fingerless gloves. A tough and grippy PVC pad protects the palm. 01773 833300, [www.terra-nova.co.uk](http://www.terra-nova.co.uk) **3. Small stormproof pouch**, Aquapac, £15. Keeps your phone and wallet dry in teeming rain. For belt or pocket. 0208 906 8505, [www.aquapac.net](http://www.aquapac.net) **4. Powermonkey Explorer 2 mobile charger**, Powertraveller, £79. Capable

of recharging an iPhone 5 up to three times. The casing is hard enough, say its makers, to support the weight of a Land Rover Defender. 01420 542980, [www.powertraveller.com](http://www.powertraveller.com) **5. Mini floodlight**, Go Travel, £9.99. A pen-sized LED flashlight that provides a bright ambient light to work by; needs protection from rain. 0208 906 8505, [www.go-travelproducts.com](http://www.go-travelproducts.com) **6. Micron Lantern**, Primus, £54. Swaps traditional glass for durable steel mesh, though it contains a mantle, so you can't be too rough with it. 023 925 28711, [www.primus.eu](http://www.primus.eu) **7. Rebar multi-tool**, Leatherman,

£69.95. Bristling with useful tools, including strong pliers and replaceable wire cutters – all folding down to 10cm and slipping into a neat leather pouch. 01539 721032, [www.whitbyandoo.co.uk](http://www.whitbyandoo.co.uk) **8. Men's insulated Fjord flannel jacket**, Patagonia, £145. Warm, lined overshirt, robustly made from thick organic cotton. 0800 026 0055, [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com) **9. Falkland Country Jacket**, Keela, £259.95. This waterproof coat is made from super-strong cotton Ventile fabric. It's too bulky and warm for hiking, but it's ideal for low-intensity work and other outdoor activities such as wildlife-watching. 01592

[www.countryfile.com](http://www.countryfile.com)



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777000, [www.keela.co.uk](http://www.keela.co.uk) **10. Frontier stove**, Anevay, £150. A portable log-burning stove that pumps out warmth – and provides a hob to cook up hot soup. 01872 870 839, [www.anevay.co.uk](http://www.anevay.co.uk) **11. Waterproof beanie hat**, Sealskinz, £25. Stay dry in this warm knitted hat. 01553 817990, [www.sealskinz.com](http://www.sealskinz.com) **12. Activate short glove**, Jack Wolfskin, £18. Breathable, stretchy fingerless gloves give you grip and a little warmth on bitter days. 0800 965 37546, [www.jack-wolfskin.co.uk](http://www.jack-wolfskin.co.uk) **13. Classic Vacuum Camp Mug**, Stanley, £22. Chunky steel mug keeps drinks warm for an hour or more. For stockists call 0116

234 4646 or go to [www.burton-mccall.co.uk](http://www.burton-mccall.co.uk) **14. Grid classic baselayer**, Paramo, £40. A warm baselayer that feels dry even when you've worked up a sweat. 01892 786444, [www.paramo.co.uk](http://www.paramo.co.uk) **15. Purofort Safety Wellingtons**, Dunlop, £62.99. Insulated with reinforced toes, these are ideal for the stable yard and working in cold weather. 0845 4501077, [www.gaelforcemarine.co.uk](http://www.gaelforcemarine.co.uk)



**Kit reviews in detail**

Find out more about all the products on this page – and other tough, long-lasting kit ideas too – at [www.countryfile.com](http://www.countryfile.com)

## Team test: serious strides

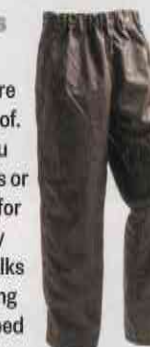
**Technical trouser Result Workguard**, £28.25

Working clothes are often well priced and robust. These are made of a durable polyester/cotton fabric with strengthened knees and reinforced seams. There are lots of pockets, too. They are too heavy and awkward for hiking, but they are a tough and practical option for outdoor manual work, bushcraft adventures and the like. [www.resultclothing.com](http://www.resultclothing.com)



**Grieff overtrousers Seeland**, £69.99

Seriously tough, these are also warm and waterproof. The soft lining allows you to wear them as trousers or overtrousers. Designed for the hunting market, they are too hefty for long walks but ideal if you spend long periods outdoors and need some rugged protection. Wildlife watchers will love the comfort they offer – though they are a little noisy on the move. 07912 934389, [seelanduk.co.uk](http://seelanduk.co.uk)



**Nils Trousers Fjällräven**, £105

A good all-rounder suitable for hiking, messing around in woods and all sorts of outdoor work – and they will look pretty good in the village pub, too. Beautifully made and cut in a tough polyester/cotton blended fabric, these should take some punishment and still last for years. The fabric can be waxed to add some wind and water-resistance in grim winter weather – then wash out the wax for summer use. 02392 528711, [www.fjallraven.co.uk](http://www.fjallraven.co.uk)



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