



Ettrick Riverside path - a route for everyone

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paths

around Selkirk

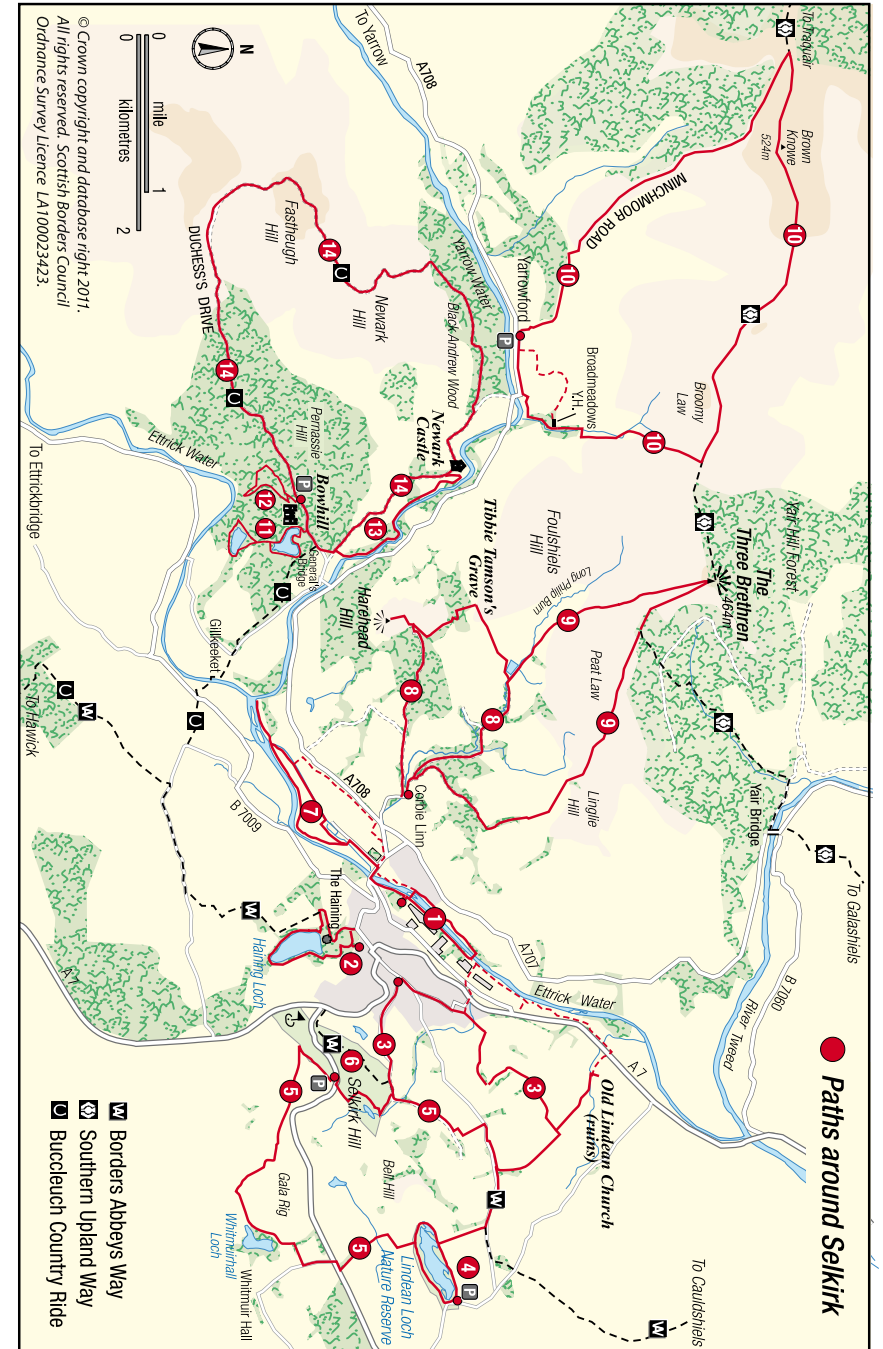


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Your destination

£2.00

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Selkirk's Market Place showing Sir Walter Scott Monument

Introduction

This booklet describes a number of routes in the Selkirk area, several of them start from the centre of the town. The area is ideal for walking, cycling and horse riding because of the Ettrick and Yarrow Waters, the rising hill ground at the edge of the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys and a variety of pleasant woodlands. The varying terrain allows a choice of path to suit all abilities, although some routes include steps or stiles.

The routes described range from short strolls to strenuous hill climbs. Each route has a summary containing distance, estimated time to complete, start and finish points and an indication of the terrain to be expected. The routes include much historical and natural interest which is alluded to in the text. However, further information about Selkirk's history and natural resources is available from the VisitScotland Information Centre in Selkirk or from local bookshops and other outlets.

Selkirk - past and present

The name Selkirk is probably of Anglo-Saxon origin, but may be even earlier from the Selgovae tribe who lived here in Roman times. It dates from at least the 8th century AD and there was a church here from early Christian times. David I established an abbey in the area in 1113 which was moved to Kelso in 1128.

Despite there being little recorded history of the town, the hunting lodge, built for the ancient royal hunting ground of **Ettrick Forest**, was rebuilt as a castle in 1302 at a cost of £1372 – 13s – 10d (Scottish pounds); only a mound remains where the structure once stood in the grounds of the Haining Estate.

In 1535 Selkirk's **Royal Charter** was confirmed by King James V in recognition of the role played at Flodden by the men of Selkirk. The lands that were granted amounted to 11,200 acres (4550 hectares) which would henceforth have to be patrolled

by wardens (rangers) who lived in the forest and were granted the king's permission to graze sheep. The riding of the boundaries to check the marches were secure is continued to this day at the time of the **Common Riding** in June each year.

The burgh was famed for **shoemaking** and in 1745 received its most famous order for footwear – to supply 2000 pairs of boots for Bonnie Prince Charlie's army. Unfortunately for the Selkirk shoemakers the army was defeated and the bill was never paid!

The boom in the **textile industry** during the 19th century brought radical change to the town. The creation of the mills quadrupled the population between 1791 and 1891. The riverside housed mills such as Ettrick, Linglie, Yarrow and Forrest. The A-listed Ettrick spinning and weaving mill has been conserved and converted to provide high quality business accommodation.

Selkirk still has the old **medieval triangular plan** at its heart (see p37) but, although some are Georgian, most of the buildings are Victorian or later and the majority of the monuments and plaques are from this period. The present day town has excellent restaurants, interesting local shops and holiday accommodation. Many of the closes that went from the domestic quarters downhill to the mills are extant, creating shortcuts for exploring the town on foot.

Access in Scotland

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code came into effect in February 2005. The LRSA establishes a statutory right of responsible access to land and inland waters for outdoor recreation, crossing land, and some educational and commercial purposes. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives

detailed guidance on your responsibilities when exercising access rights and if you are managing land and water. The Act sets out where and when access rights apply. The Code defines how access rights should be exercised responsibly.



Know the Code before you go... Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors! Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The key things are:

When you're in the outdoors:

- take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely;
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind;
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively;
- care for your environment and take your litter home;
- keep your dog under proper control; take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.

When you're managing the outdoors:

- respect access rights;
- act reasonably when asking people to avoid land management operations;
- work with your local authority and other bodies to help integrate access and land management;
- respect rights of way and customary access;

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or telephoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

General Advice

Before setting off on longer walks, always check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly. Remember that weather conditions can change rapidly. Remember that hot weather, causing sunburn and/or dehydration, can be just as debilitating as rain or snow. Always carry adequate cover for your body in all conditions.

On longer hill walks you should always wear or carry good waterproofs, proper walking boots, windproof clothing, and take food and drink with you. These provisions may not be necessary on the shorter, low level walks, but a light waterproof and refreshments are still worth taking, just in case. When out on the hills, a map and compass should be carried to aid navigation.

Take great care when walking on country roads.

- **Pavements or paths** should be used if provided
- **If there is no pavement or path**, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light, keep close to the side of the road. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend
- **Help other road users to see you.** Wear or carry something light coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions

Livestock

Many of the routes in this booklet pass through livestock farming areas.

Please remember that the farmer's livelihood may depend on the rearing and sale of livestock, and always act responsibly. Dogs can be a particular concern for farmers during lambing time (March – May) and when cows are calving (Spring & Autumn).

Dogs therefore should not be taken into fields where there are young livestock. This includes all young livestock such as lambs, calves and foals. In more open countryside where lambs are present, keep your dog on a short lead. Disturbance at this time can separate young livestock from their mothers leaving them cold, hungry and exposed to predators.

Dogs should never be taken into fields of cattle when they have calves, as the cows see a dog as a threat and may attack it. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land.

During the bird breeding season (April – June) keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in ground nesting areas. Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, keeping a safe distance from stock and watching them carefully, you should experience little or no difficulty.

Please leave gates as you find them and ensure that if you have to open a gate, you close it securely behind you. Thank you for your cooperation, which will help to ensure that these walks are available for those who follow in your footsteps in future years.

Toilet Facilities

Public toilets in Selkirk are situated by the car park off Market Place and by the Police Station in Scotts Place.

Health Warning!

Germs from animals can cause serious human illness.

Stay safe from diseases when out in the countryside by:

- a. Washing hands with soap & water (or use wet wipes) after visiting the toilet, after activities, touching animals and before handling, cooking and eating food
- b. Taking care to avoid spreading animal faeces on footwear
- c. Avoiding camping or having a picnic on land which has recently been used for grazing animals
- d. Not drinking untreated water from rivers, streams and lochs
- e. Avoiding tick bites, cover legs when walking through long vegetation

Contact the Public Health Department for more information 01896 825560



Borders Abbays Way post with Selkirk Paths disc

Waymarking and Maps

Many routes are way-marked, however an Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50,000 or Explorer 1:25,000 maps should be used in conjunction with this booklet to help identify the hills and other points of interest.



Walk it is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders and aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. Our walks are usually short and easy though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients. You will find the Walk it logo on routes 1, 2, 4, 7, 11/12, 13 and 15. We have chosen these walks for their length and level gradient. For information telephone 01835 826750.

Scottish Borders Festival of Walking

The Scottish Borders Festival of Walking, a week long celebration of walking and the countryside, was the first of its kind in Scotland and has been held annually since 1995. It usually takes place in September and the host town rotates to give a different choice of walks each year. Further details are available from VisitScotland.



Hill farm tups

Route 1

Ettrick Water Circular - North

Distance: 2miles/3km

Time: 1hour

Start and finish: The car park, Victoria Park, Selkirk

Terrain: good paths, mainly hard surfaces. Boots or strong shoes needed in wet conditions.



Ettrick and Yarrow Mill



Ettrick Water

1 Leave the car park and join the riverside path. Turn right onto the path and follow the river downstream.

2 After about a kilometre you come to the second footbridge spanning the river. You can either cross the bridge or as a short detour continue along to the café and its neighbouring retail units (700m further on).

3 If you opt to cross the bridge, notice the island. This feature enhances the richness of wildlife by providing more secure nesting sites for birds. Summer visitors include oystercatchers.



Lintels from a demolished mill building are used as sculptures along the path

Oystercatchers have a distinctive long red beak and black and white plumage. They are a type of wader and forage for worms and molluscs at the seaside but are equally adept at this method on shingle.

5 Turn left over the bridge (or lengthen your walk by heading to Selkirk Bridge). At the other end turn right onto the path and head back to your start point.

Turn left and make your way along the west bank, which has a variety of trees and wild flowers.

Carr
This type of woodland is called 'carr' and is of great value to wildlife. It is often accompanied by a rich ground layer of moisture-loving mosses, ferns and flowering plants. Birds attracted to feed here include siskins and red polls in the winter and tits and warblers in the summer.

4 You eventually pass through a metal gate with its Rotary Wheel emblem. This group supported the improvements of the riverside path. Continue along the riverside until you reach another footbridge.



Ettrick Mill engine house water tank

Route 2

The Haining Loch and Woodlands

Distance: 1 1/2 miles/2.5km

Time: 1 hour

Start and finish: you may enter the estate from the Town Gate on West Port or from the car park by Halliwell's Museum.

Terrain: surfaced paths, woodland paths/tracks (can be very muddy in parts), steps, stiles



Haining House in winter

feature of the day to make the house look grander and the policies more far reaching.

In 1810 Pringle's son John returned home from his travels with a love of all things Classical. In the 1820's he commissioned Archibald Elliot to transform the house into a Roman villa utilising the contractor John Smith.

The estate buildings also comprise a stable block, the remains of a dovecot and a Town Gate. The latter was part of the renovations in the 1820s and is still used as an entrance from the bottom of the West Port.

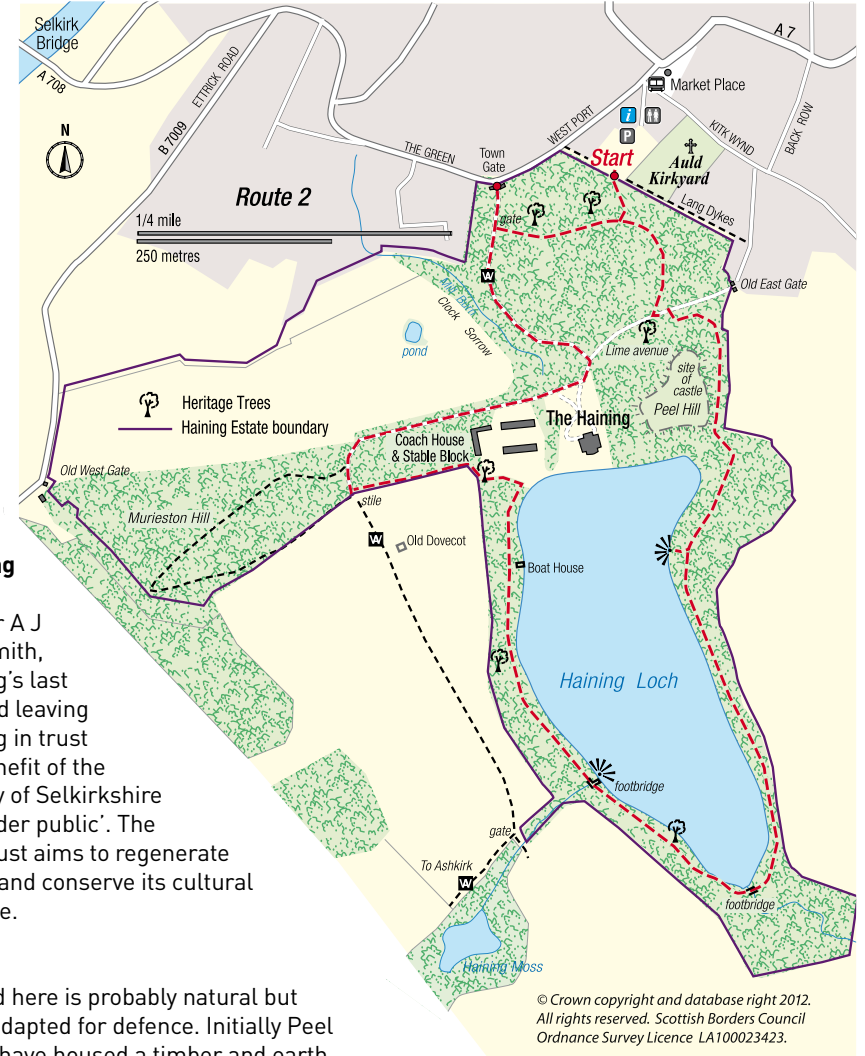
The Haining House and Grounds

The estate is situated at the southern end of Selkirk. Since as early as the 15th century, the Haining Estate has abutted the ancient burgh of Selkirk. Once covering 1,240 hectares (3,070 acres) the estate landscape is centred on a small loch with the mansion house at its north.

The house was designed as a simple classical villa attributed to the architect William Elliot who also built the Yair to a similar design. Built in 1795, under Mark Pringle's ownership, it is set on a terrace above the loch. The terrace was a landscape



The Haining Loch



The Haining Trust

In 2009, Mr A J Nimmo-Smith, the Haining's last owner, died leaving the Haining in trust 'for the benefit of the community of Selkirkshire and the wider public'. The Haining Trust aims to regenerate the estate and conserve its cultural significance.

Peel Hill

The mound here is probably natural but has been adapted for defence. Initially Peel Hill would have housed a timber and earth castle and then later a 14th century pele. The castle is mentioned in the foundation charter of Selkirk Abbey around 1119. By the late 1300's, at the time of the English usurpation, the building seems to have been in a ruinous state.

For more information visit www.thehaining.co.uk



Yew tree branch

Route 3

Buxton - Greenhead - Lindean

Distance: 5 miles/8 km

Time: 2-3 hours

Start and finish: the car park, Scott's Place, Selkirk

Terrain: good paths, tracks and field margins. Boots or strong shoes needed in wet conditions, parts can be muddy.

This is a moderate walk that follows, in part, ancient rights of way. You can make a detour downhill to the ruins of old Lindean Church.

- 1 Leave the car park by the steps at the opposite end of the car park entrance. Turn right and immediately left into Dovecot Park. Make your way uphill past the High School on the right and the playing fields on the left and continue into Goslawdales.
- 2 Follow the road as it narrows and leaves the town precincts, and continues uphill past the houses at Buxton on the left.
- 3 After Buxton the road narrows to a track, and after crossing the Dean Burn, you pass through a hunt gate and bear left along the side of Bell Hill; a pleasant walk on a track lined by hawthorn.



Knapweed by The Batts

Hedgerow feeders

Birds feed in the hedgerow here all year round. Bullfinches, greenfinches, chaffinches and several varieties of tits are attracted by flower buds; robins, blackbirds, hedge sparrows, wrens and whitethroats will feed on insects. In the winter months they are joined by visitors such as redwings and fieldfares.

- 4 Leave the track and follow the Borders Abbays Way signs, as they take you left into a field, and onto the minor road just below Shawmount.
- 5 Continue along this road for a few hundred metres and turn left through a gateway onto a farm track, you leave the BAW at this point. After passing through a second gate, there is a stony descent to where the track turns left.
- 6 Continue for a short distance to where you have the option of turning right to visit the ruins of the old Lindean Church or carrying straight on. If you visit the church ruins you may choose to return to Selkirk town by the river path (see map).
- 7 Past St Helens, follow the track, initially with the wooden boundary fence on your left. Continue through the small wood, through a gate and onto the open hillside and follow the track with the hawthorn hedge on your right.



View of Selkirk from Broomhill



- 8 After passing through a gate, follow the track as it swings to the left and passes another gate and then drops down to a minor roadway between the houses at Broomhill.
- 9 Turn right and continue downhill past a variety of mature hardwood trees, including oak, beech and chestnut until you reach a road junction.
- 10 Turn left at the junction and continue along this road until you enter the town

precincts. Walk up Bleachfield Road into Scott's Place and back to the start point.

Old Lindean Church

It is claimed this is the site of an abbey founded by David I in 1110 which later moved to Kelso. It is said to have been the first reformed order abbey in Scotland. The old church here was abandoned in the early 17th century when the minister moved to Galashiels. Fragmentary ruins and an old graveyard remain as echoes of the distant past.

Route 4

Lindean Loch Nature Reserve

Distance: 1½ miles/2km

Time: 1/2 - 1 hour

Start and finish: Lindean Loch lies approximately 4km/2½ miles east of Selkirk. The reserve can be reached by taking the Lindean village road from the A7 heading towards Galashiels

Terrain: Situated 270m above sea level it sits in one of the many hollows that are characteristic of the area and include Whitlaw Moss, Whitmuir Hall Moss and Murder Moss. The path is mainly on grass and can be wet, there is a short easy access route to a viewing platform.



Lindean Loch in late winter

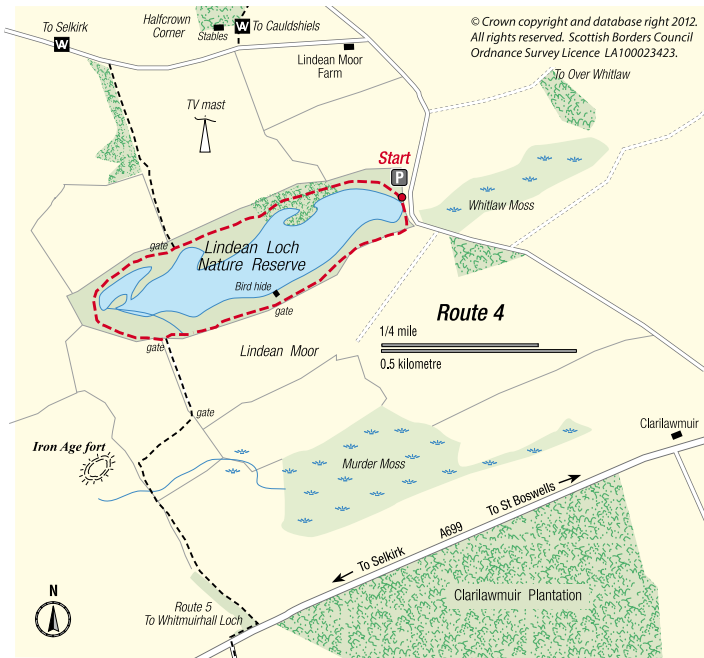
By the late **18th century** the area of the reserve, known as Wester Lang Moss, was being excavated for marl (a substitute for limestone). The process involved draining the marsh and removing the peat.

History

In **1113** the land is first mentioned at the time of the foundation of the monastery, it was part of the monastic estate known as South Common. Most likely the land was used for cutting peat for fuel and building materials and the moor for grazing.

During the **16th century** the Ker family divided up the common land between neighbouring estates, thereby, changing the land use.

During the **17th century** the new commercial attitude to farming prevailed and liming the ground was common to enhance soil fertility.



In **1904** the South East of Scotland Water Board constructed a small dam at the eastern end to form a reservoir; the excavated pit had begun to flood naturally after it was abandoned.

In the early **1970's** the local council took ownership of the reservoir to be managed as a Public Recreation Site, Wildlife Reserve and fishing resource.

Much tree planting took place in the 1990's to increase biodiversity. At the **present time** the reserve is still managed by Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and a steering group made up of interested parties.

Nature Conservation

Lindean Loch is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This status means that it is a very important area for a diversity of wildlife. The soil and the water are lime rich which mean that many different plants can

grow. These then support many species of animals.

Waterfowl- normally one or two pairs of little grebe (dabchick) nest here annually. Other wildfowl which breed here are mallard, tufted duck, mute swan and moorhen. Winter visitors include wigeon, teal, pochard, goldeneye, goosander, and whooper swan.

Song birds – the reed bunting is one of the few resident species of small bird to be found here. During the summer other birds such as whitethroat, yellowhammer, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and swallow can be observed.

Plants – over 160 species of flowering plants have been recorded on the site. In the spring and early summer various orchids can be spotted in the damper ground. On drier slopes harebell, birdsfoot trefoil, tufted and bitter vetches. Around the water's edge large yellow flowers of marsh marigold can be seen in spring and greater and lesser spearwort can be seen in summer and autumn.



Lindean Loch in late summer

Route 5

Whitmuirhall Loch, Lindean Loch and Selkirk Hill

Distance: 5½ miles/8.5km

Time: 3-4 hours

Start and finish: The small car park next to the A699, Selkirk to St Boswells road, adjacent to the golf course on Selkirk Hill (to start from the town centre see map).

Terrain: Mostly good paths and tracks, including steps and stiles. Sections can be muddy walking boots are recommended.

This is a pleasant walk with gentle ascents. It passes Lindean Loch which is a haven for birds and flowers (see pp14-15), the species vary depending on the season.

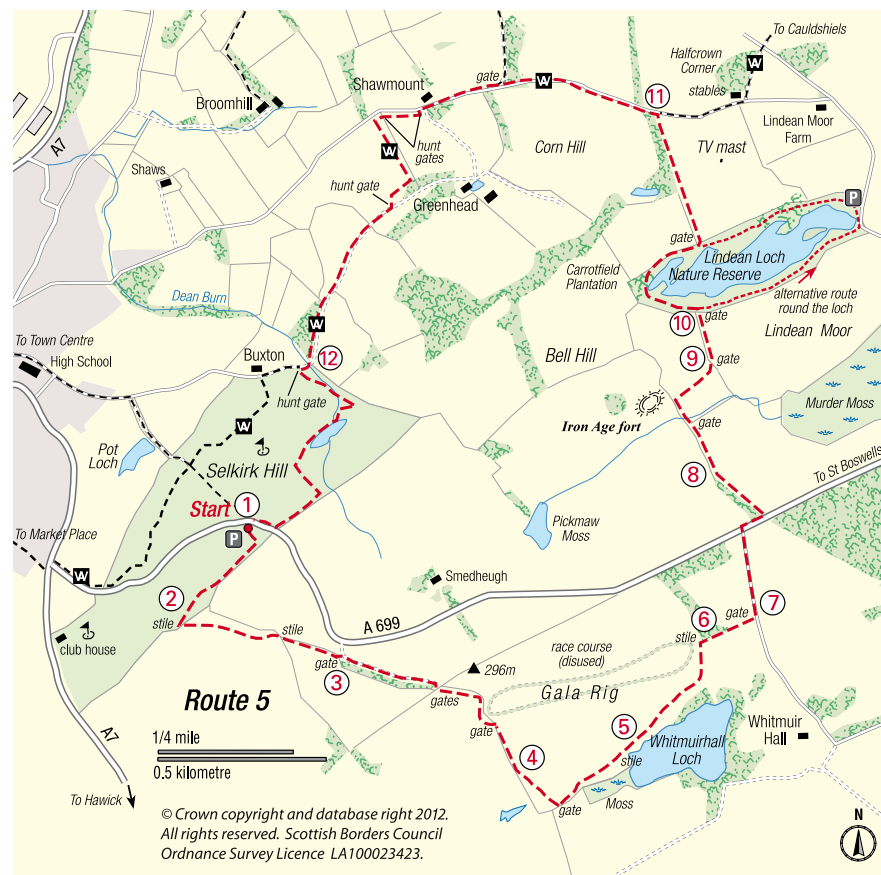
- ① Leave the car park and climb the wooden steps on the left hand side (with your back to the road.) Follow the path as it travels alongside a wall, then a fence, for about 400m until you reach a metal gate.
- ② Go over the ladder stile here by the gate, then follow the track as it goes along a line of trees. After passing another stile continue for 100m. When you reach a strip of hardwood trees pass through the kissing gate on the left.
- ③ Keeping the trees on your right, walk uphill to the top of the strip until you reach the wall. Go through the double field gates and onto Gala Rig. Go through a gate in the wall further down and follow the line of the wall on the right as it follows the former racecourse.
- ④ After 200m turn diagonally left along a path and continue downhill until you come to a hunt gate in the wall ahead. Do not pass through the gate but turn left and



Looking back over the golf course on Selkirk Hill

follow the path as it takes you parallel to Whitmuirhall Loch. You may see water rail, reed bunting and sedge warblers.

- ⑤ Do not go over the stile but follow the fence as it climbs along the woodland edge, swinging left to follow the wall on your right. Continue to the end of the old racecourse. Turn right over a stile onto a track.
- ⑥ Follow the track as it passes between the wood and the fence, then enters a field by a stile. Walk along the field for a short distance before exiting onto a minor road through a kissing gate.
- ⑦ Turn left onto the road. Follow the road to a T-junction where you turn right. After 100m cross the road with care to join the track that passes on the right hand side of a woodland.
- ⑧ Follow the path as it continues along between two fences, pass through a gate and over a burn. Shortly after the burn the path swings to the right. At this bend look to your left where you will see the remains of an Iron Age fort.
- ⑨ After 200m go through a gate and turn left. Follow this field margin for a further 200m and go through the next gate. You are now at Lindean Loch Nature Reserve (see pp14-15).



- ⑩ Turn left and follow the loch side round to a gate on your left. Go through the gate and follow the field margin, with the wall on your left and the television mast on your right, until you reach a minor road.
- ⑪ Turn left along the road. After 500m you will come to a group of buildings on your right. Turn left off the road and immediately turn right through a small gate. Follow the Borders Abbeys Way until the track bends right, after crossing a burn you reach a gate on the left.
- ⑫ Go through the gate and take the left hand fork, you are now on Selkirk Hill. Follow

this up to the old skating pond and turn right. Follow the edge of the pond and beyond to reach a fence/wall. Turn left and follow the fence/wall for 150m. Then turn right following the boundary to return to the road and your starting point.



Common Blue butterfly

Route 6

Selkirk Hill

Distance: a route is suggested for you in red on the map
Time: : various
Start and finish: The small car park next to the A699, Selkirk to St Boswells road, adjacent to the golf course on Selkirk Hill or you may choose to start from the town centre, see link on map.
Terrain: Mostly good paths and tracks. Sections can be muddy walking boots are recommended



Selkirk Hill

ambulances up to the time of the First World War in 1914.

Wildlife

From the field and ground layers to the tree canopies and wet areas the hill land hosts a variety of flora and fauna. Wild flowers include the less common northern marsh and early purple orchids as well as more familiar species such as meadowsweet, rock rose, dog violet and wood anemone.

Small birds that enjoy the cover of shrubby trees and tall grasses and sedges include the skylark, meadow pipit, sedge and willow warblers, reed bunting and whinchat. At the skating pond you may spot redshanks and snipes, both types of waders.

The tree cover consists of rowan, whitebeam, sessile oak, ash, Scots pine, hazel and hawthorn. While these species play host to a number of birds and invertebrates the field layer of flowers and grasses on the meadow sections also provide food and shelter for butterflies like the small heath and ringlet and moths like the northern eggar and emperor.

This area of ground is situated south-east of the town and lies between the Haining and Lindean Loch. The area extends to about 140 acres. The southern half of the hill has been used as a nine-hole golf course since 1885, while the northern half is open ground suitable for recreational use including riding and walking.

History

The area now known as Selkirk Hill was a small section of the ancient Ettrick Forest, royal hunting ground for the kings of Scotland. The land also forms part of the common land granted by David I in 1155 to the monks of Selkirk.

James V reaffirmed this grant in 1535 in recognition of the Souters who fought and died in the Battle of Flodden in 1513. The common land was used for pasturing sheep and cattle and for peat and turf that was dug for fuel and roofing material.

In the north corner of the hill there remains the base of the smallpox hospital surrounded by a hawthorn hedge. Victims of the pox were brought by horse drawn



Selkirk Hill

A place for people

Selkirk High School played a significant role in the improvement of Selkirk Hill for biodiversity when they planted trees. The school also use the hill for cross country running and field studies as well as painting the shelter annually.

As a whole the hill is looked after by Selkirk Hill Management Committee. The land forms part of the Selkirk Common Good and the management group employ a warden whose work includes heather management, path maintenance and litter clearance.

The Borders Abbeys Way runs along the hill on the section between Selkirk and Melrose. This is a popular route totalling 68 miles (109km) and is commonly walked in five sections. As well as beautiful Border countryside the route connects six Border towns including the main abbey centres at Jedburgh, Melrose, Dryburgh and Kelso.

The golf course is one of the oldest in the Borders formed as it was in 1885. In 1922 the original course in among the heather was replaced by a new layout which is the present one still being used today. Tickets may be purchased from the clubhouse which is located just off the A7 going south out of Selkirk.



Mountain Pansy



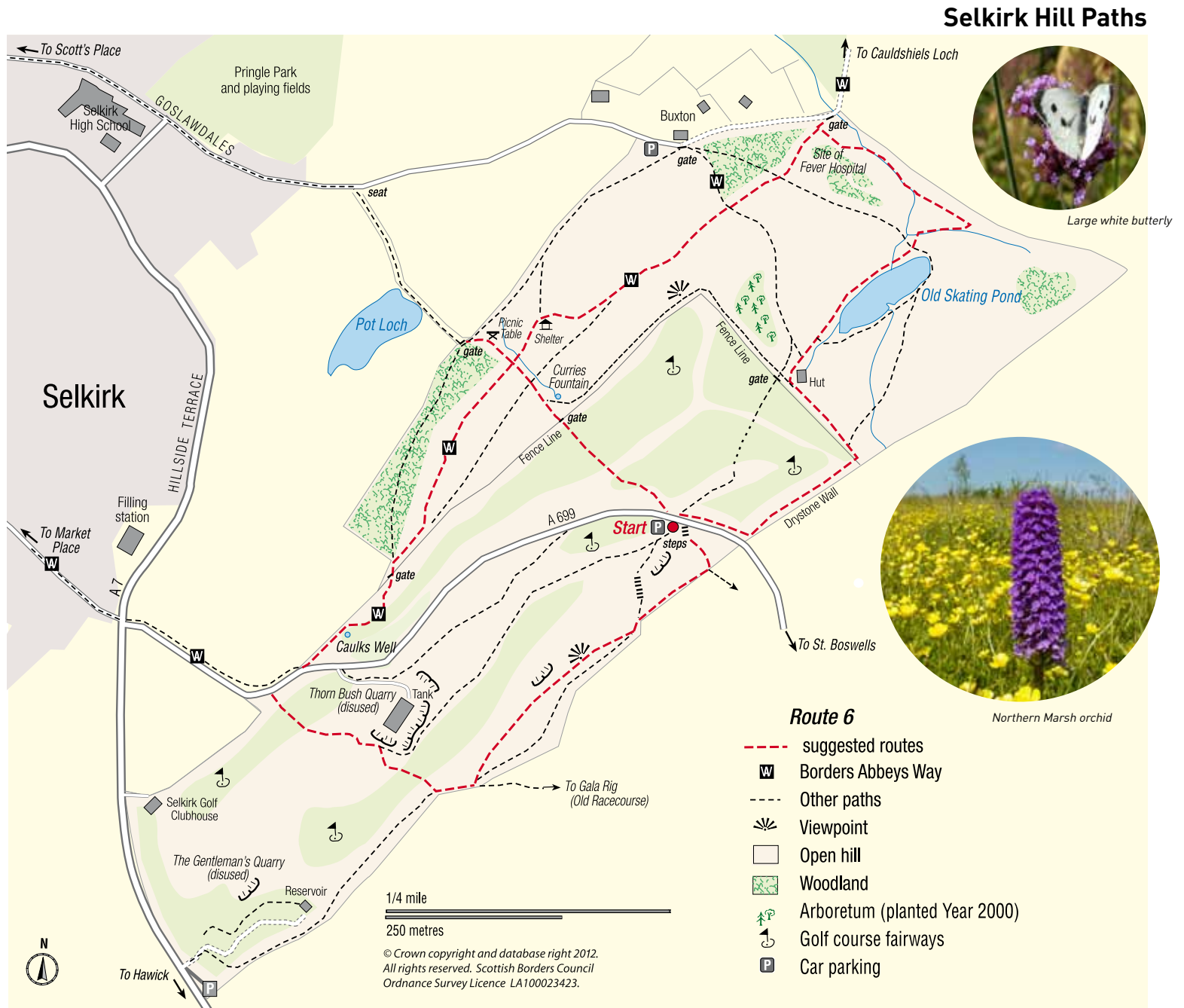
Caulks Well



Selkirk Hill from Golf Course Corner



Peacock butterfly



Large white butterfly



Northern Marsh orchid

Route 7

Ettrick Water Circular - South

Distance: 3½ miles/5.5km

Time: : 1-2 hours

Start and finish: the car park, Victoria Park, Selkirk

Terrain: narrow paths, pavements and track, steps that can be avoided. Boots or strong shoes needed in wet conditions.



This is a relatively gentle route that follows the north-west bank of the Ettrick Water as far as its confluence with the Yarrow Water. Wild flowers abound beside the path and many birds including sandpipers, dippers and the occasional kingfisher can be seen.

- ① Leave the car park and turn left along the riverside path. Just before the road bridge stay on the tarmac path that bends to the left. Turn right onto the pavement, follow this to the bridge and cross the bridge. Cross the road with care.

Mature trees in the park include **hybrid limes** which were widely planted in estates and parks in the Borders. Easily recognised by the prolific growth of stems from the base of the trunk.

- ② After crossing the road, go along Ettrickhaugh Road. At the end of the row of houses on the left, turn left and make for the footbridge beyond.
- ③ Cross over the footbridge that spans the old mill lade (a lade is a man-made waterway or canal that was originally diverted from the river to serve industrial premises). Do not turn sharp right but carry straight onto the footpath that takes you along the bank.

From here, you are following marker posts with red arrows for the remainder of the walk as far as the footbridge back onto Ettrickhaugh Road.

- ④ Continue to follow the bank of the river, sometimes passing through wooded areas. Willow and alder trees were planted here to stabilise the riverbank in an area that is prone to erosion. Walk on until you arrive at the cauld with its salmon ladder. The ladder allows the salmon to migrate upstream in late autumn to spawn in the river gravels of the headwaters.

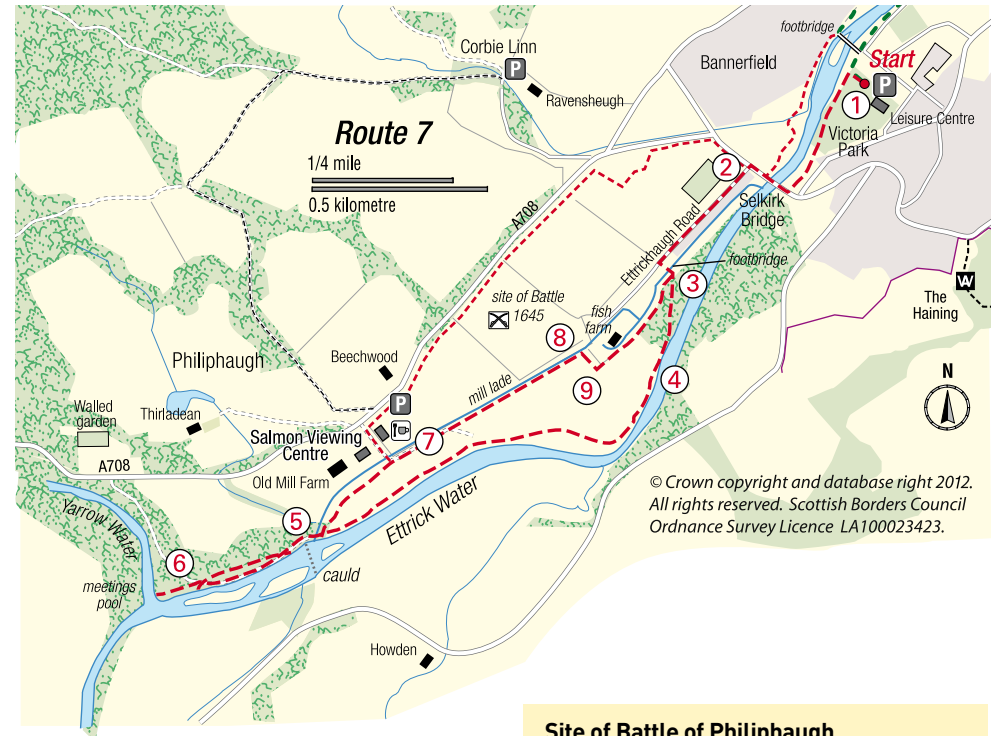
Please note there are extensive engineering works around the cauld area at the time of writing. Follow signs for diversions.

- ⑤ At the cauld continue along the river bank until you come to the place where the Yarrow Water meets the Ettrick. Two birds often seen here are the dipper and the grey wagtail.

The **dipper** has a white bib and often dives into the water to search for food. **Grey wagtails** fly in a characteristic undulating path low over the water, catching insects in mid-air; its long tail helps the bird to balance.



Junction of Ettrick and Yarrow



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- ⑥ Retrace your steps for 30m and take the path on the left that leads into the wood. Both red and grey squirrels live here and you may see cones on the ground with a frayed appearance which the squirrels have been nibbling. This path leads back to the Cauld. Take the left fork after 150m to return to the sawmill. The water wheel can be seen from the bridge over the mill lade. You may also wish to visit the Salmon Viewing Centre.
- ⑦ Continue along the right-hand side of the mill lade until you come to the fish farm, now abandoned. Follow the path around it as it turns right and then left. Follow the path until it again comes to the bridge leading onto Ettrickhaugh Road. From here retrace your steps back to the start point at Victoria Park.

Site of Battle of Philiphaugh

You may choose to follow this path, as shown on the map, which will extend the length of the route. There is an interesting interpretation board and you can continue round to visit Philiphaugh's amenities.



Waterwheel at Philiphaugh sawmill

Route 8

Philiphaugh - Tibbie Tamson's Grave

Distance: 4 miles/6.5 km
Time: 2-3 hours
Start and finish: Philiphaugh's Corbie Linn car park.
Terrain: forestry tracks and paths and field margins. Boots or strong shoes needed in wet conditions, parts can be muddy.

This walk is moderate except for a short climb from the reservoir to Tibbie Tamson's Grave.

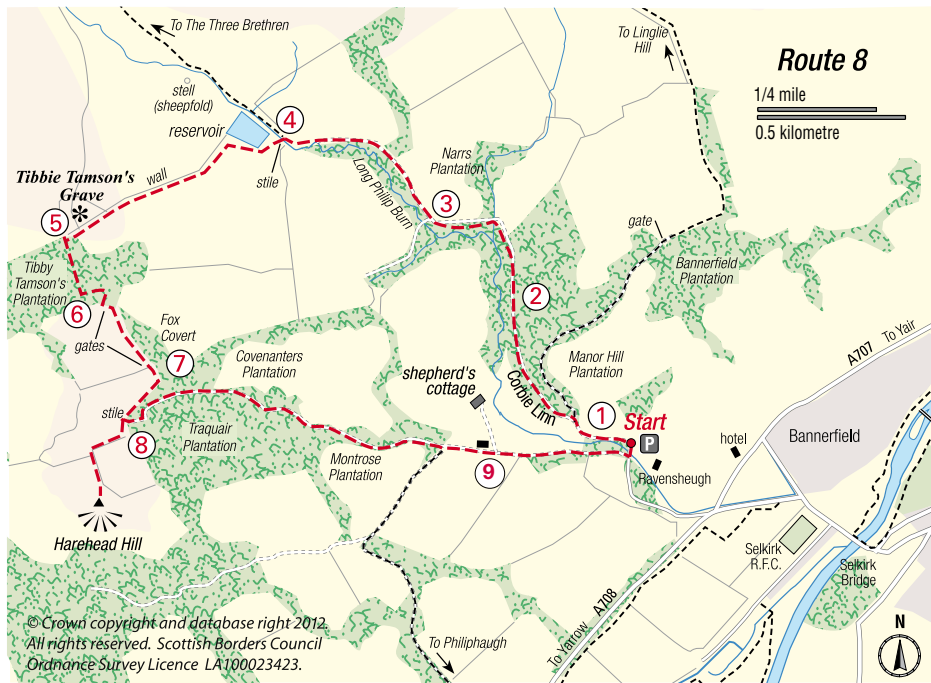
- 1 Leave the car park and follow the rough track up to the left towards the Corbie Linn. Corbie is a Scots word for a crow and



Tibbie Tamson's grave

linn is a waterfall. As you climb you will see the white-washed shepherd's cottage down on the left. It is said that this is where the stories of Black Bob the Border collie originated. Black Bob first appeared in The Dandy on 25 November 1944, the 280th issue.

- 2 Continue on this track between plantations of Scots pine, larch, Sitka



spruce and Douglas fir. The Douglas fir is grown for its timber, known in the construction industry as Columbian or Oregon pine. The foliage has a distinctive lemony smell when crushed. Both red and grey squirrels live in the trees. After about 1km you come to a junction of tracks.

- 3 Take the track on the right and continue uphill for a further 800m until you come to a small reservoir on the left. This reservoir often has swans, ducks and other water-loving birds on it.
- 4 Before the reservoir turn left and pass over the burn and stile. Follow the line of the fence round the reservoir and then climb up the hill with the old dyke on your right. The most common breeds of sheep seen here are white-faced Cheviots on the lower ground and hardier Blackfaces on the hill. At the top of the hill, pass over the stile on your right and you will see the grave on your right.

Tibbie Tamson's Grave

The grave is marked with a stone with the inscription 'Tamson 1790'. There is a plaque, which bears the sign of an acorn and oak leaves and the inscription:

Where the curlews cry and wild birds fly
 Tibbie thro' the centuries lies
 The stone is cracked yet bears the name
 A witch, perhaps, but who's to blame

The story goes that Tibbie, a simple-minded woman and resident of Selkirk, was caught stealing yarn. She was so distressed and embarrassed that she hanged herself. Being regarded as a criminal, she could not be buried in consecrated ground, but some townsfolk who had sympathy for her laid her to rest on the side of the hill.

- 5 After viewing the grave, retrace your steps back over the stile and turn right, passing over a second stile into a wood. Follow the path down into the wood for a few yards and at a junction of tracks carry straight on.
- 6 At the bottom of the hill turn left and follow the track as it swings round to the right. After a short distance you come to a gate on the left. Pass through the gate and turn left. Keeping the dyke on the left, follow the field edge as it bears right uphill.
- 7 After passing through a second gate, continue to follow the line of the wall as it swings to the right until you come to a stile over the wall. At this point you can continue across the open ground to the summit of Harehead Hill (triangulation pillar, trig point, 324m) which commands a splendid view over Selkirk and the surrounding countryside. From the summit, return to the stile.
- 8 Pass over the stile onto a track and follow this track downhill through a conifer plantation for about 1km.
- 9 After passing the white painted shepherd's cottage on the left, continue for about 400m until you reach the track/road junction. Turn left here and return to the car park.



Corby cottage (shepherd's cottage)

Route 9

The Three Brethren

Distance: 7½ miles/12km
Time: 3-4 hours
Start and finish: Philiphaugh's Corbie Linn car park
Terrain: forestry tracks/paths, field margins and open hill. Boots or strong shoes needed, parts can be muddy.

This is a reasonably strenuous walk, particularly the section leading up to the Three Brethren. It is well worth the effort due to the panoramic views of the Borders countryside.

Follow instruction 1 and 2 in route 8.

- ③ Pass through the gate on the right of the reservoir onto open ground with heather clad hills; shortly after the reservoir there is circular dry-stone enclosure known as a stell.

Stells are where a shepherd would round his sheep up on extensive hill pastures. They were also designed to create a sheltered area. This is why they are round or, more unusually, hexagonal. The idea was that snow and rain would blow round the outside and not into the enclosure. Sadly during very severe winters snow has drifted into them burying the sheltering sheep.

Follow the track as it winds uphill with the Long Philip Burn on the left and Peat Law on the right.

Land management alongside sheep grazing, open moorlands are managed for grouse. A line of grouse butts can be seen on the left on Foulshiels Hill.



Three brethren cairns and trig point

Heather is burned on a 10-15 year cycle to encourage new growth which provides optimum feeding and breeding habitat for red grouse. The burnt areas should be less than 0.5 hectares because grouse will only feed within about 15 metres of cover.

- ④ On rounding the side of the hill, the three stone pillars or cairns, known as the Three Brethren can be seen on the skyline ahead. As you ascend the main track swings to the right and it is here that you leave the track and take to the footpath on the left that takes you up to the summit.

The Three Brethren cairns mark the boundaries of the estates of Buccleuch, Yair and Selkirk Burgh at a height of 465m. They are visited by riders during the Selkirk Common Riding in June each year. The first cairn was built by Alexander Pringle, Laird of Yair and Whytbank Tower in 1512. However, one cairn was considered to be insufficient and another two were built at a later date. We do know that the hill is named as the Three Brethren on General Roy's military maps from the mid 1700's.



- ⑤ On leaving the summit head south-east along the Southern Upland Way (SUW) as it descends towards Yair. It is worth looking out for Goshawks at the forest edge. These large hawks are increasing in numbers as coniferous plantations mature. They feed mainly on smaller birds and mammals, including squirrels. Where the track swings to the left leave the SUW and pass through a gate on your right which takes you onto a track leading along the north side of Peat Law.
- ⑥ Follow the track up to the brow of the hill and walk down onto the saddle between Peat Law and Linglie Hill. At the lowest point of the saddle veer right downhill to

the Linglie Glen and join the track below. Turn left along this track and, after passing through a gate, follow the line of the wall on the right.

- ⑦ After passing over a stile and crossing a boardwalk, continue to follow the wall on the right until a hunt gate is reached in the wall. Pass through a gate, turn left, cross another boardwalk and follow the edge of the field as the route proceeds uphill, with the plantation on the left. Follow the slope up to the right to reach a gate on your left.

- ⑧ Go through the gate in between the trees which leads you onto a track. Follow the track as it goes downhill and take time to look to the left for splendid views of Selkirk.

- ⑨ At the bottom of the hill, at the junction of tracks you rejoin the Corbie Linn track. Turn left here, walk downhill and return to the car park.



Looking east towards the Eildons

Route 10

Minchmoor Road and Southern Upland Way

Distance: 7½ miles /12km

Time: 4-5 hours.

Start and finish: small car park adjacent to the A708, by the red telephone box, opposite Yarrowford

Terrain: forestry tracks/paths, field margins and open hill. Boots or strong shoes needed, parts can be muddy

This is a popular long walk just over 4 miles west of Selkirk. The historic Minchmoor Road climbs steadily up to the Southern Upland Way (SUW) just east of Harelaw's summit. It then turns on to another old drove road heading east towards the Three Brethern Cairns. You leave the SUW short of this hill to return to Yarrowford.

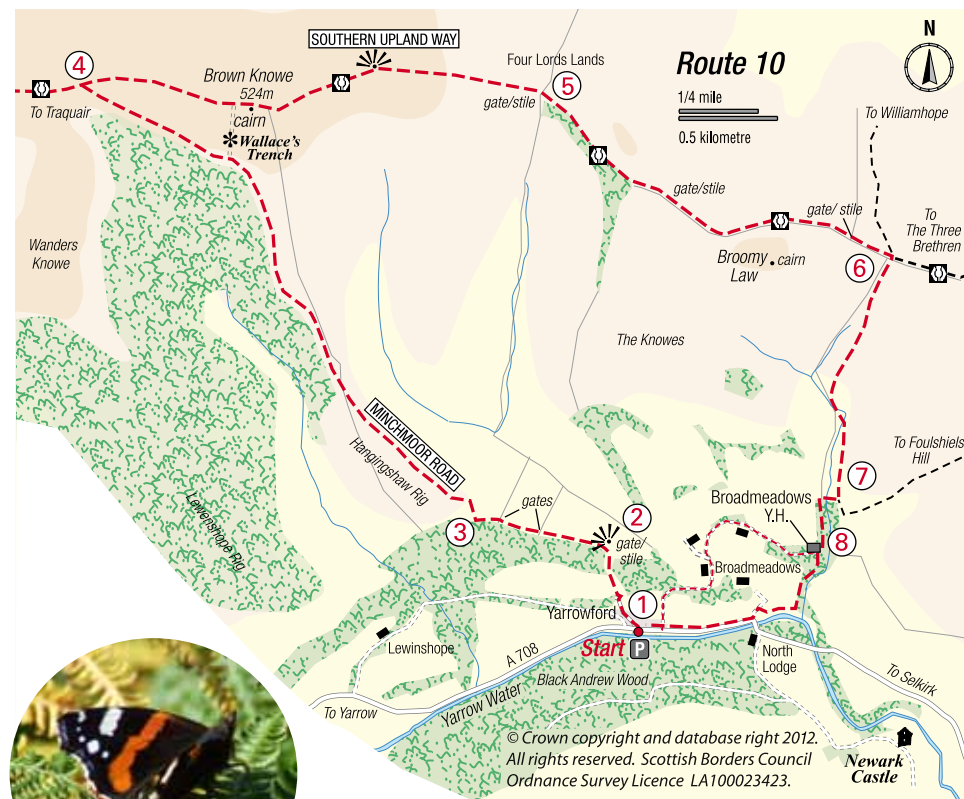
- ① Leave the car park and head up the road on the other side of the main road, in between the houses. Local people sometimes have an impromptu café for charity in the brightly coloured village hall. At a bend in the road take a track to the right and almost immediately leave the track by steps on your left. At the top of the steps carry straight on uphill.



High up on the Southern Upland Way



- ② After 300m go through the gate at the corner of the woodland. Turn left and continue to follow the track by the woodland edge. From this vantage point you can enjoy open views and you can see the Minchmoor Road winding up to the hill tops.
- ③ After 1km the track begins to ascend the hill as it bends to the right. A further 2km of steady ascent takes you to the SUW. On the way up look out for Wallace's Trench, a large earthwork, that runs north to south and is cut by the track.
- ④ When you reach the SUW turn right to head east along the track. The section along this drove road not only has the wilderness factor but you can imagine the men of old driving their cattle and sheep along this high land.
- ⑤ After 2.5km the track descends to a gate at the Four Lords Lands. Go through the gate and follow the hill side round with the dyke and woodland on your right.
- ⑥ After 2km leave the SUW by climbing over the ladder stile and heading downhill with the dyke on your right.
- ⑦ When you reach a woodland turn right with the trees on your left. Walk along the boardwalks and go through a



pedestrian gate at the end. Go through the gate immediately on your left to follow a pleasant woodland path down to Broadmeadows Youth Hostel.

- ⑧ Turn right in front of the youth hostel and left down a set of steps to cross the grass. (Alternatively, you can follow the track that winds its way along the side of the hill and returns to the start point.) Continue to follow the woodland path until you reach a road. Turn left onto this road and then right onto the main road which will return you to your starting point.



Wallace's Trench marker

Routes 11/12

Bowhill - Short Walks



Bowhill House and Country Estate lies three miles west of Selkirk on the A708 to St Mary's Loch and Moffat. The estate is owned by the Duke of Buccleuch and it is one of three estates in his ownership in Britain.

History

Anne, 1st Duchess of Monmouth and Buccleuch, acquired much of the woodland around Bowhill in the early 1700's. She employed foresters to stop illegal woodcutting and began a planting regime that would be continued through the following centuries.

The 1800's witnessed the greatest changes to the original Georgian house and its gardens and policy woodlands. Sir Walter Scott is said to have influenced some of the landscaping decisions including the creation of the Upper Loch and the formal terraces. Otherwise the landscape designer William Sawrey Gilpin embraced a 'forest style' moving away from

the formal lawns and follies of the 1700's. The present house at Bowhill dates from an 1812 design by William Atkinson, with no visible trace of the original buildings of 1708. The building work was continued by William Burn in 1831-32 and MacVicar Anderson in 1874-76.

The routes

Bowhill Country Estate has four way marked routes that are described over the following pages. Two of these are described in full in the following pages. However, if you wish to take a stroll around the grounds in the immediate proximity of the house you can choose from three other routes. There is a charge to enter the grounds during opening times. Bowhill Country Estate is open weekends and bank holidays in April, May and June. The house and country estate are open to the public every day in July and August, opening times are subject to change.

The Lochs' Walk

This is a very pleasant route that is suitable for easy access users. On the way you will follow lochside paths through elegant woodlands and enjoy views of Bowhill House.



Bowhill Upper Loch



Yellow flag iris

Bowhill's two lochs are in fact a product of the landscape gardening early in the 19th century. The upper loch is most definitely artificial; it was dug out in 1816. However, the lower loch is more problematic. While the loch has certainly been altered it may have originally been a natural hollow or a glacial kettle hole.

Bell o' the Woods

The Bell o' the Woods is a short and easy walk that winds its way through the mixed woodlands south-west of Bowhill House. There is a rich diversity of tree species and age distribution in the woodland. The woods are managed for commercial, scenic and recreational purposes.

From April to September the woodland floor is brightened by the presence of wild flowers. The deep pink of Herb Robert, the yellow of Herb Bennet and the purples of Bugle spring forth after the delicate whites of Wood Sorrel have passed. Wood Sorrel and Wood Anemone flower before the canopy closes its shimmering green veil.

Tree trail

There is also a Tree Trail that you can follow. This trail uses some of the signed paths mentioned above and takes you on a tour of sixteen fabulous trees. The sixteen trees described in the estate's leaflet allow a world tour of interesting examples from around the world ranging from the Americas, North Africa and a rare rediscovery from Australia. Included in the set is a romantic gesture of a Ruby Wedding present from the 9th Duchess to her Duke. For more information and leaflets for these routes go to www.bowhill.org or telephone 01750 22204.

The Buccleuch Country Ride

This route was designed primarily for horse riding. The route is 59 miles (95km) long and is divided up into sections so that you can choose day rides. The route follows bridleways, private tracks, open country and quiet country roads through a variety of scenic areas. The route is way marked with blue and white horseshoe signs.

We recommend riders to get detailed route descriptions and maps (£8.50) from Harvey Maps before attempting the rides: <http://www.harveymaps.co.uk>



Bowhill House

Route 13

The Lady's Walk

Distance: 3 miles / 5km

Time: 1-1½ hours

Start and finish: Bowhill House and Country Estate car park, follow A708 from Selkirk to St Mary's Loch, after 5km turn left following signs for Bowhill House

Terrain: good tracks and roads. The route is waymarked by the estate with red arrows. Training shoes or strong shoes are recommended



Yarrow Water

This is a gentle walk that initially takes you along the driveway of Bowhill House through beautiful mature woodland. The route then follows the Yarrow Water and returns by Newark Tower, returning to the start by the estate road.

- 1 From the car park return down the main driveway past the arch through to the courtyard on your right. When you come to a Y-junction, with a triangular lawn, take the left fork; where it meets another road cross it and walk through the Lime Avenue. At the end of the avenue the path heads downhill to the left and down to the river.

Lime trees were often planted alongside drives and paths of estates because their flowers have an attractive scent in summer. The trees have a characteristic sprouting bole, making their bases thick with twigs. Their timber is only used for small items because although it is easy to work it has no strength.

- 2 The river is lined by mixed woodland offering homes to several bird species, including, at night, tawny owls who are accompanied by bats. There are many

wild flowers throughout spring and summer on the verges and woodland floor including lungwort, ramsons (wild garlic), ragged robin, wood anemone and woodruff. Butterburr can be found on some sections of the river shingle, unusually this plants' leaves appear after the flowers. You will go over a small stone footbridge which spans the Newark Burn.

- 3 The path then leads into conifer woodland and continues on to Newarkmill where it winds upwards towards the imposing Newark Tower.

Newark Tower was a royal hunting seat for Ettrick Forest. The royal arms can be seen on the west gable, possibly marking the grant by King James III of the Lordship of Ettrick Forest to his queen, Margaret of Denmark. In 1645 100 prisoners from the Battle of Philiphaugh were slaughtered in the courtyard, and Cromwell's troops occupied the castle in 1650. You can read the interpretation panel by the tower for more information.



Ramsons (wild garlic)



- 4 On reaching the estate road at the top of the hill, turn left past the cottages on the right. As you continue you drop down through a wooded area with cottages on the left. This is called Slain Men's Lea.

Slain Men's Lea is where the murdered prisoners of Newark Castle were buried in 1645. Legend says that the burn ran red with their blood for several days.

- 5 Continue along this road until you reach the main driveway where you will turn right and return to your starting point.



Snail on self-heal flower



Small tortoiseshell butterfly



Greater stichwort

Route 14

Bowhill -The Duchess' Drive

Distance: 7miles /11km

Time: 1-4 hours

Start and finish: Bowhill House County Estate car park, follow A708 from Selkirk to St Mary's Loch, after 5km turn left following signs for Bowhill House

Terrain: : good tracks and roads. The route is waymarked by the estate with yellow arrows and blue/white horse route discs. Training shoes or strong shoes are recommended

- ① From the car park turn left onto the estate road so that Bowhill House is below you on your left.



- ② Where a track forks off to the right follow this into the plantation on Pernassie Hill. Stay on this track for 2.5km following the yellow waymarkers. There is an abundance of wild flowers in the verges alongside the track including wood

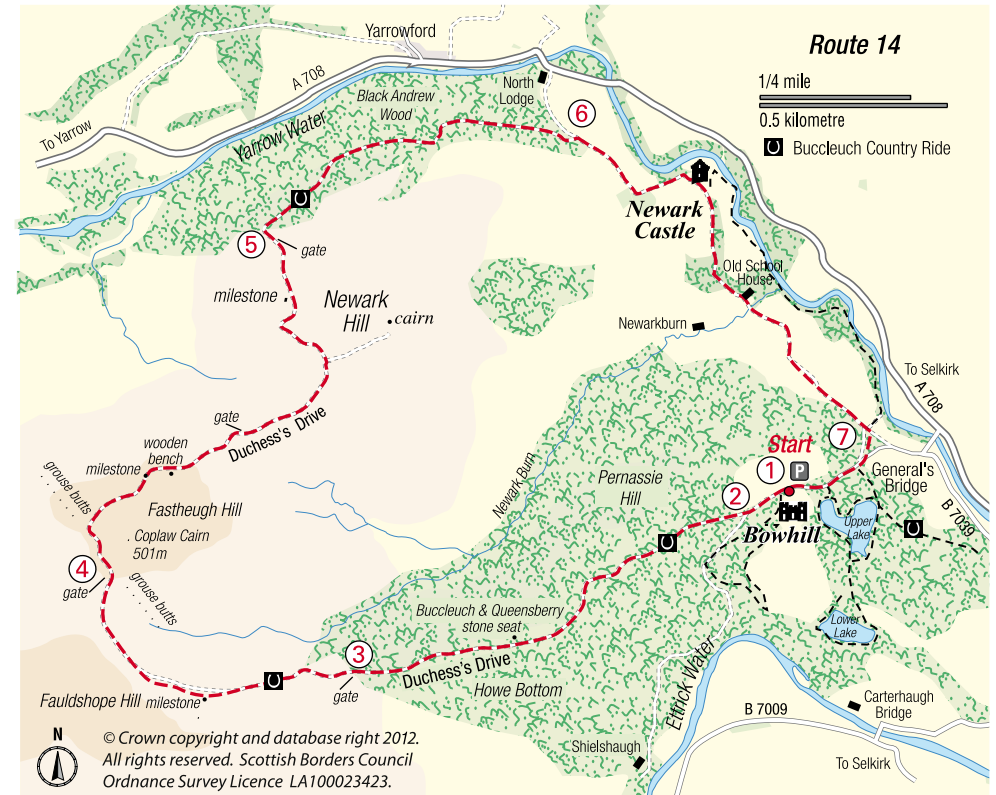


Bird's foot trefoil

sorrel, wood anemones, heath bedstraw, dog violets and enchanter's nightshade.

The stone seat that is on this section of track was erected in memory of the 7th Duke of Buccleuch. The B&Q engraved in the stone love heart actually refers to Buccleuch and Queensbury (the family's full title) and not a well known hardware chain!

- ③ At the edge of the forest exit through the field gate onto open moorland. Continue to follow the track up hill on a gradual gradient. At a fork in the track go through the gate and continue uphill on this track. From this section of the route there are excellent views south to the Ettrick Valley. There is also a chance to see small birds including skylarks, meadow pipits, wheatears and stonechats. You may also see kestrels and buzzards.
- ④ When you reach another gate go through the gate to continue round the side of Fastheugh Hill. From here the view changes; you are now looking north towards the Yarrow Valley. On a clear day you may even glimpse St Mary's Loch. Keep on this track and go through another gate following it round towards Newark Hill.



Note the impressive cairn on top of this summit. On a clear day it is worth taking the short detour to visit this view point.

Continue downhill until you reach a gate at the edge of forestry.

- ⑤ Go through this gate and head downhill along the forestry track. When you come to a junction continue downhill to the right, at the next junction keep on the track where a burn goes under the track. There is one old mile stone along this section – see if you can find it. Continue to the edge of the forest.
- ⑥ Turn right onto the estate road. Keeping left at a fork follow the road past Newark

Tower (see page 32). Continue to follow the estate road past the Old School House and Slain Mens Lea (see page 33) until you reach a junction of tracks.

- ⑦ Take the right hand fork as it turns onto the main drive for Bowhill House. Return to your starting point at the car park.



Wild thyme

Route 15

Selkirk Town Trail

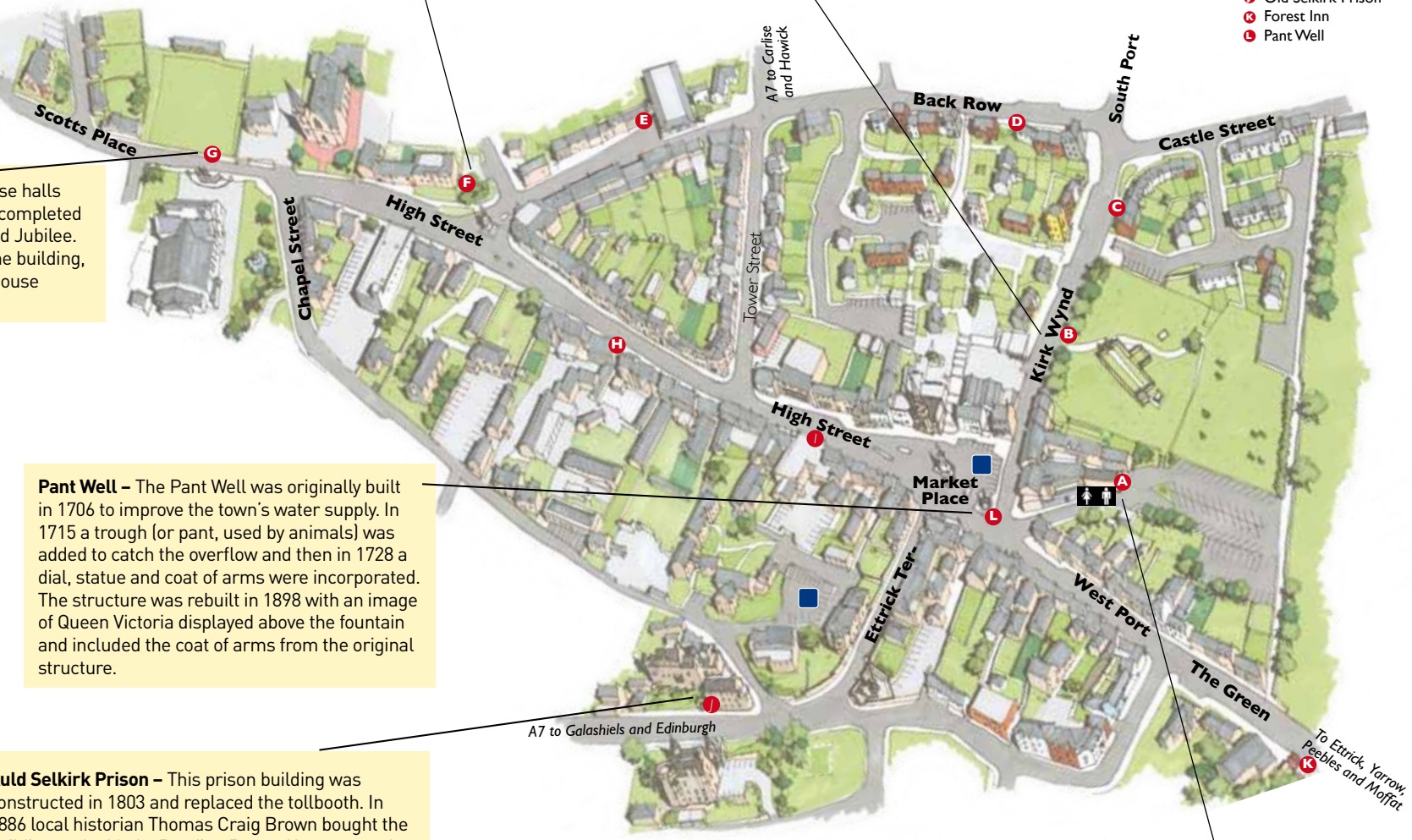


The full text for Selkirk Town Trail can be purchased from VisitScotland Information Centres (the tourist information centre in Selkirk is in Halliwell's Close). Lettered plaques are sited around the town at specific points of interest, here are some examples from the Selkirk Town Trail booklet. Download at scotborders.gov.uk/walking.

Mungo Park – The pioneering African explorer Mungo Park was apprenticed here to Dr Anderson, courting and marrying his daughter. The statue to Mungo Park, erected in 1859, was designed and sculpted by Andrew Currie. In 1905 the fine bronze relief panels, by Galashiels' sculptor Thomas Clapperton, were added.

Auld Kirk – There has been a church on this site since 1152AD. The Scottish patriot, William Wallace, was proclaimed "Guardian of Scotland" here in 1298. However, the present ruin was built in 1747 and was the parish church until 1861. The restored Murray Aisle is where the maternal ancestors of the US president Franklin D. Roosevelt lie.

- A Halliwell's Close
- B Auld Kirk
- C Selkirk Regis
- D Back Row
- E Masonic Lodge
- F Mungo Park
- G Victoria Halls
- H Black Swan Hotel
- I County Hotel
- J Old Selkirk Prison
- K Forest Inn
- L Pant Well



Victoria Halls – the foundation stone for these halls was laid down in 1895 and the building was completed in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The fountain, found within the curtilage of the building, was transported from the old Philiphaugh House when it was being demolished.

Pant Well – The Pant Well was originally built in 1706 to improve the town's water supply. In 1715 a trough (or pant, used by animals) was added to catch the overflow and then in 1728 a dial, statue and coat of arms were incorporated. The structure was rebuilt in 1898 with an image of Queen Victoria displayed above the fountain and included the coat of arms from the original structure.

Auld Selkirk Prison – This prison building was constructed in 1803 and replaced the tollbooth. In 1886 local historian Thomas Craig Brown bought the building and added a Reading Room. He presented the building to Selkirk to be used as a library and this remains its current use. coat of arms from the original structure.

Halliwell's Close – contains one of the oldest dwelling houses in Selkirk. The close was named after a wig maker, Walter Halywall from Duns, who lived here. He owned most of the buildings in the lane by 1768. Ironmongery was one of the commercial activities that had been practiced since 1828.



The Pant Well



Auld Kirk

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information and advice contained in this booklet is correct at the date of publication. However, it is always for you to assess whether completing a route is within your capability, using your common sense and your knowledge of your own state of health and fitness, competence and experience. No liability is accepted by the authors or publishers for any loss, injury or damage, arising out of, or in any way connected with, any person or persons undertaking or attempting to undertake any of the routes described in this booklet, howsoever caused.

Acknowledgements

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Lindean Loch

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Selkirk, TD7 5DT.
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Tel: 01835 863170
Email: bordersinfo@visitscotland.com
www.visitscottishborders.com

Scottish Borders

VisitScotland Information Centres

Jedburgh, Peebles and Melrose, Kelso,
Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.
Opening dates and times vary
For Information: Tel: 01835 863170

Scottish Natural Heritage

(Information on Scottish Outdoor Access Code)

Lothian & Borders Area Office
Tel: 01896 756652
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Scottish Borders Council

www.scotborders.gov.uk

Access & Countryside Team

Council Headquarters,
Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA
Tel: 01835 826750
Email: rangers@scotborders.gov.uk

Traveline

(for public transport information)
Tel: 0871 200 2233
www.traveline.org.uk



Looking over to Ettrick and Yarrow hills

Other websites

Guides about Selkirk:
www.selkirk.co.uk
www.selkirk.bordnet.co.uk/
www.selkirkonline.org

Walking websites

Borders Abbeys Way:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/
bordersabbeyway](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/bordersabbeyway)

The Southern Upland Way website is at:

www.southernuplandway.gov.uk

visit: www.walkingwild.com

Country Estate websites

Bowhill House and Country Park:

www.bowhill.org

History and further information about

The Haining:

www.thehaining.co.uk

Philippaugh Estate:

www.salmonviewingcentre.com/

Mountain Rescue Team - Scottish Borders.

It is considered best practice to alert the MRT to all incidents where a casualty is located on a hill, moor, upland or other countryside, or missing on such ground even if the Ambulance Service has been requested.

To call the MRT to such incidents the following procedure should be followed:

1. Dial 999
2. Ask for Police
3. Tell the Police that you require Mountain Rescue
4. Tell the Police why and where you require the MRT.