



Nan Lyle

Nan Lyle, MBE PHF 1929 – 2010

The Nan Lyle cairn was erected by her many friends and organisations she was associated with to commemorate her considerable community and charity work over her lifetime within the Hawick area and beyond to various countries throughout the world. She will be remembered for her dedication to this work and for her enthusiasm for life. From the cairn you can view the landscape which she called home and where she loved to walk.

The cairn illustrates her many achievements.

Both versions of the walk are discreetly waymarked with Nan Lyle Walk signs like these...



Shorter Walk (5.5km)

Park at St Leonard's Park (map ref. NT 4840 1190). Take the waymarked route through the gate at the western edge and follow the signs round, down and through another two gates until you come to the tarmac road just south of Ryvoan. Turn left. You are now on the described route for the main walk. Follow the route round until you get back to your starting point.

Words: Ian W Landies

Scotland's access legislation is different to that of England and Wales and permits you to walk almost anywhere apart from private land/gardens so long as you don't cause damage or disturb livestock. It therefore allows detours from the designated route in this leaflet if circumstances such as crops or sheep/cattle require it. Take particular care at lambing time or when there are very young calves with their mothers. It also goes without saying that you should take care when crossing the Vertish Hill golf course.

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

This project is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage



www.nan-lyle.org

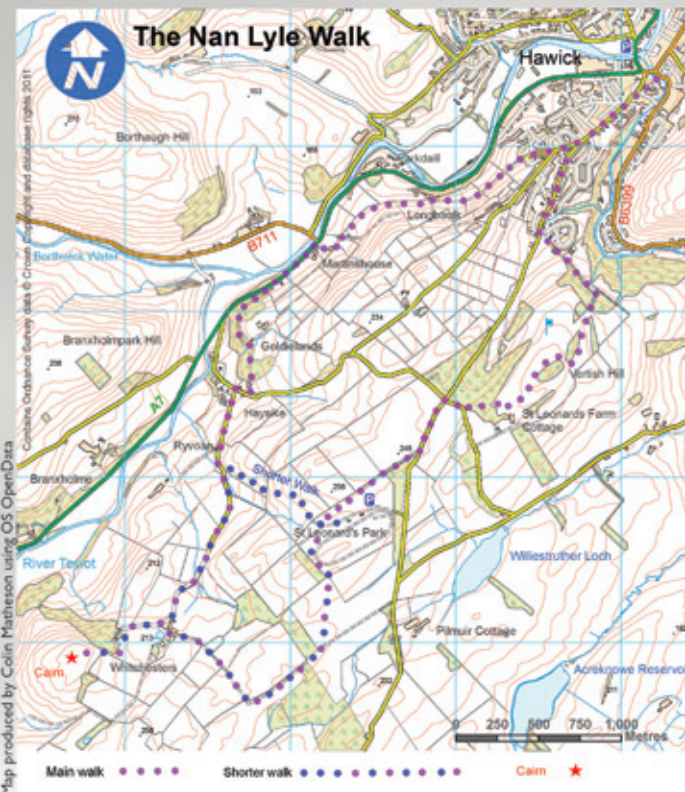
A circular walk to the Nan Lyle Cairn on Whitchesters Hill, near Hawick



Main walk:
12.5 km, starting and finishing in Hawick.
Total ascent 350m

Shorter option:
5.5 km, starting and finishing at St Leonard's Park.
Total ascent 130m

Terrain:
Once outside the town, a mixture of quiet tarmac roads, tracks and grassy fields. The main walk has a very short section of pavement running alongside the A7.



Main Walk Directions (12.5km)

Leave the Tourist Information Centre via Beanscene and turn right to climb the steps to St Mary's Church dedicated in 1214 although this building dates from 1763. Follow the lane round to cross the Kirk Wynd and proceed up Drumlanrig Square with its gardens and ornamental clock. Walk up the Loan noting the Mote behind the houses on your left. This is all that remains of a Norman motte and bailey castle built by the Lovels when they took possession of the Barony of Hawick in 1183. A short diversion to climb to its summit will reward you with a splendid view of the town.

At the top of the Loan at the seat in front of the hedge, affectionately known to Hawick folk as "the auld man's sate", look back down on the town and to the Minto Hills beyond. Take the right fork up Crumhaughhill Road and at the Y-junction continue to the end of Longbault Road. Where the road becomes a track the view opens up with Wilton Burn Hill and Borthaugh Hill to your right. It is hard to believe but you are now on the old main road south from Hawick, which was replaced by the present road the traffic noise from which you are now hearing below. This valley route was opened in 1815 although Hawick folk still refer to it as the New Road!

Just before the track swings right at Longbault farmhouse climb the five wooden steps on your left to enter the field. Head right with a good view down on Parkdaill to cross a stile. After a dip follow the fence along the right-hand edge of the next field till you reach a gate. Go through this gate and carry on in the same direction along a faint green track. You are following what older Hawick folk referred to as the Fisherman's Walk, a shortcut used by fishermen heading for the Teviot or Borthwick. Pass the cottage and the offices of Martinshouse and swing down right to cross the main road at Martin's Bridge.

Walk up the pavement beside the A7. Notice that unusually the back of Martinshouse farmhouse faces the road - its front faced the old road. After passing Inverteviot, which should really be called Inverborthwick situated as it is above the mouth of the Borthwick Water, cross the road and follow the track up through the trees. Take the right fork at the cottage. Look over your left shoulder to glimpse Goldielands Tower, a typical 16th Century Border pele-tower. Follow the track through the trees to join the minor road just beyond Inglisfield. Turn right then left for Fenwick and Whitchesters. Follow the road passing various houses including Ryvoan where Nan and husband Rob spent much of their life together. **The shorter walk joins the route just south of Ryvoan.**

Continue with the road when it becomes an untarred track to reach the steading of Whitchesters Farm. Just before the first building take the track on the right. After Pond Cottage you get your first view of Branxholme Castle with its prominent tower from which the legendary Bold Buccleuch rode out to rescue Kinmont Willie Armstrong from the supposedly impregnable Carlisle Castle. Go through the first gate on your left and follow the right hand edge of the field round in front of Whitchesters House to turn right through the gate at the top corner of the field. Head up the loaning and through another gate onto the open hill. The wild hill country where the notorious Border Reivers once rode is now in view. To the south, Greatmoor, Cauldcleuch and Skelfhill Pen with Penchrise Pen the nearer peak to the south-east. Head up the hill with a wonderful view down on Branxholme Castle and back down the valley with majestic Ruberslaw dominating the eastern horizon. Nan's memorial cairn soon comes into view ahead. (map ref. NT 4667 1089)

Having studied the toposcope and reflected at the cairn, retrace your outward route to the farm steading. Turn right past Steading Cottage and immediately after the first big shed on your left turn left to follow the track up past another cottage and through a gate.

Swing right to go through a gate between two dykes then when the track veers left uphill leave it and turn left along the dyke making for the wood on the skyline ahead. Pass the old dump in the trees on your right, go through the gate and the parallel dykes. Cross the field diagonally left to enter Hawick Moor racecourse (St Leonard's Park) through the gate at the right hand corner of the wood. Keep the railings on your right making for the "Gents" on your left although you will find it has limited facilities! Swing right with the racecourse fence, cross the tarred road and head up towards another limited Gents toilet facility. Look back to Whitchesters Farm and Hill and to Ettrick Pen and the Moffat Hills in the far west. Head on with the dyke on your left to pick up a track which leads you out past the wood to the Moor entrance gates and the road.

Turn left down the road and right at the crossroads. Take the track to the left at the corner of the field sign-posted Vertish Hill. Take the left fork and reaching the golf course head right keeping the 7th green on your left to turn left along the green track immediately before the prominent tree. When you reach the 12th fairway veer slightly left to see that it is safe to cross to where the track takes off again at the corner of the wood. If there is no-one tee-ing off from the 13th tee turn right to have a look at the "View from the 13th cairn". Rejoin the track and follow it along to the 11th green and again golfers permitting detour briefly right to look at the "View from the 15th cairn" which points out the landmarks which can be seen from this spectacular viewpoint.

Follow the gravel path round and look out for the green track at the corner of the wood on your left. Head down following the arrow of the Hawick Paths sign. Swing left at the next sign and follow the track parallel to the 10th fairway to come out at the 10th green. Take the path down to your right to pass the 11th tee on your left. Directly behind the tee follow the path down through the wood - this stretch can sometimes be very muddy. It broadens out after you swing left and a good view of Hawick opens up before you go through a gate and down a more substantial track to reach the entrance to Paterson Gardens named after Robert Paterson, the prototype for Sir Walter Scott's "Old Mortality", who was born in a cottage which once stood here.

At the mini-roundabout turn right up Burnflat Brae and along Rosebank Road till you reach the "auld man's sate" from where you head back down the Loan, retracing your outward route.