

Walk 7 YETHOLM LOCH AND PRIMSIDE

Distance 5 Miles Duration 120mins EASY/MODERATE

This is a circular walk from Town Yetholm. We are lucky, that the roads near the village tend to be quiet, however, the busiest is the Yetholm to Kelso Road. Hence, leave the village to the north (B6352 Wooler/Mindrum Road) and pass the school and playing field. At the Cherrytrees junction, turn left and follow this road right to the end [approximately 2 miles.] The small cottage at the end of the road is called Catch A Penny (a 19 century map shows the building to be Clock Mill Smithy).^[1]

Turn left here and then first right (signposted Lochside). After several hundred yards, you will reach a small lay-by signposted- "Yetholm Loch Nature Reserve," managed by Scottish Wildlife Trust. The reserve, is a worthwhile detour. The route into the loch is along a beautiful woodland path. Otters have been sighted in the small ponds on your right and also on the loch itself. There is a bird hide and during the winter months, the loch becomes a resting place for many migrating wildfowl such as, wigeon, goldeneye and teal to name but a few.

The farm on the opposite side of the loch is called Loch-tower." Lochtour" at one time was the name of a formidable tower which stood in Yetholm Loch. The tower was connected to the shore by a small causeway, but demolished in the sixteenth century. Sir Walter Scott lived near Smailholm as a boy and knew the history of the area well. His description of a Border keep in "The Monastery" is thought to have been inspired by Lochtour^[2]



Wigeon

Breed in central and northern Scotland and also in northern England and are regular visitors to Yetholm Loch. Many birds visit the UK in winter from Iceland, Scandinavia and Russia.

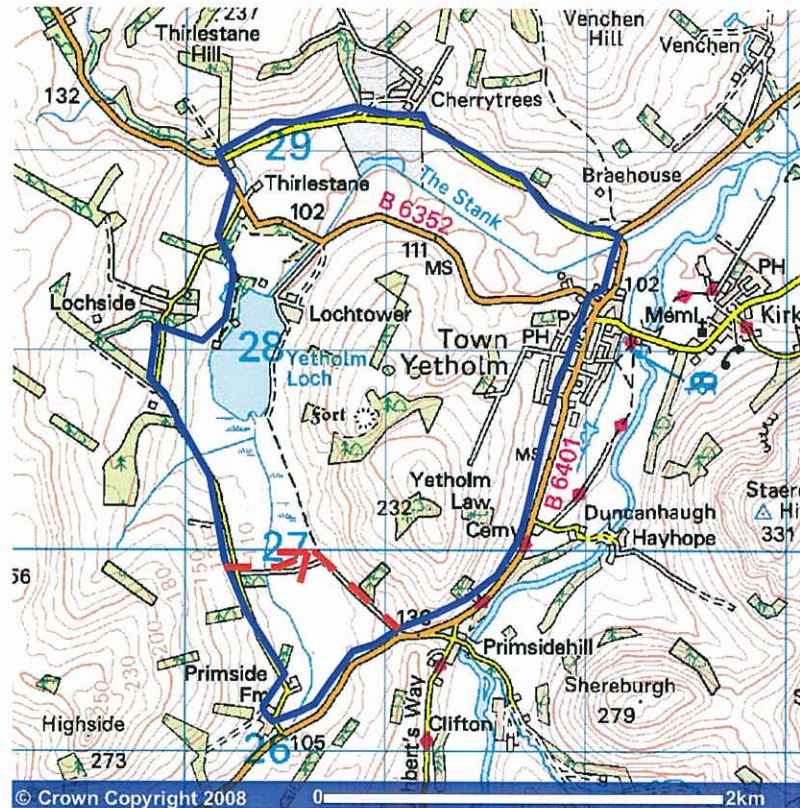


Image produced from Ordnance Survey's Get-a-map service. Image reproduced with permission of Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland

References

1. *Bygone Yetholm-Portrait of a Border Village-Yetholm History Society*
2. *A Guide to Yetholm by Mr Bill Rae and Guy Campbell*

This walk has been devised with the kind permission of the landowners and the financial support of Yetholm Community Council

Proceeds from the sale of these walks will go towards Yetholm Village Funds



Teal

In winter teal congregate in low-lying v... many are continental birds from around the Baltic and Siberia. At this time, the UK is home to a significant percentage of the NW European wintering population.

From the hide, take the narrow path directly opposite which leads straight up onto the Lochside road. At the top, turn left. You have two choices from here. A] Turn left and you can follow the road to Primside and then take a left which brings you back into the village [approximately 1 hr], or B] Turn left onto the road and after descending the hill you can take the farm track on your left just before a small woodland. This plantation is used for rearing pheasants and provides cover. At the end of the track turn right. Continue along the field margin and after approximately five minutes, you reach a small track [passable in winter, but rather overgrown in summer]. It may be easier to walk along the field margins on your right until you reach the Morebattle to Yetholm road. Here, you turn left and reach the village within 20 minutes.

COUNTRY CODE

- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep dogs under close control and on leads at lambing time and where there are young livestock
- Keep to paths across farmland
- Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls
- Leave no litter
- Safeguard water supplies
- Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees,
- Go carefully on country roads
- Respect the life of the countryside