ETTRICKBRIDGE CIRCULAR via HOWFORD HILL & HELMBURN HILL

4mls/6.5kms with 425ft/130m climb. Grade: Easy/Moderate

This walk offers good views and a variety of landscapes.

Start & Finish: Park on Woodend Road at the east end of Ettrickbridge alongside the churchyard railings, Grid Reference NT389243

- 1. Crossing over the Ettrick Water, walk along the B7009 towards Selkirk for around 400yds. Turn right at the track signposted 'Fanns' then after 50yds turn left and follow the well defined track up the hill.
- 2. There is a gate towards the top of the hill. Do not go through the gate, but turn right and follow the track, keeping the wall to your left, continuing to climb gradually.
- 3. Through the next gate, keep to the left hand track, heading downhill towards a derelict house and steading. From here, the bridleway route is signposted to the right and the track becomes grassy, heading downhill.
- 4. You approach a gate, but walk about 100yds to the right to another gate. Go through this gate, and immediately turn right, following the wall for 200yds. (Do not follow the bridleway signs up the hill). Pass through another gate, keep the wall on your right and you will soon pick up another track heading uphill with the lochan on your left.
- 5. This track is well defined and heads back towards Ettrickbridge. Keep to your right and pass through a gate (at the static caravan). There are lovely views of the gorge of the Ettrick Water as you head back towards the village.
- 6. Keep to the left as you pass the Helmburn farm buildings. On reaching Helmburn Cottage you will see a steep path leading back down to the village at the bridge over the Ettrick Water.



Looking east towards Selkirk and the Eildon Hills



Looking back towards Ettrickbridge



Lochan on way back to Ettrickbridge