

This is a circular walk between the 2 valleys used by Sir Walter Scott and James Hogg and favoured by drovers taking cattle south. You can start from the Yarrow or Ettrick valleys.

**Start & Finish:** There is plenty of parking opposite the monument to James Hogg near to the Loch of the Lowes, Grid Reference NT237205. You can also start this circular walk from the parking available at the Boston Memorial Hall, Ettrick Grid Reference NT266145

1. If starting from the Loch of the Lowes, cross the small bridge and walk along the road past Tibbie Shiels Inn towards Crosscleuch. Go through the gate and follow the Southern Upland Way climbing up towards Earl's Hill. After about 1½ mls, you go through a gate. Do not continue on the forest track, but take the marked path to the right. You will soon see a path to your left, signposted Captain's Road.

2. Follow the Captain's Road which will lead you down into the Ettrick Valley. On reaching the B7009, turn right and follow the road for 1¾ mls. At Ramseycleuch, there is a road junction where you should take the right hand fork and continue to follow the quiet, single track road for just under ½ mile to the Boston Memorial Hall (on your left). **This is the alternative starting point for this walk.**

3. Pass the monument marking the birthplace of James Hogg (the famous Scottish poet and novelist) and after a further mile, you will cross the Scabcleuch Burn and find a signpost to your right for the Southern Upland Way. Walk up the Southern Upland Way for about 2mils, passing Peniestone Knowe on your left.

4. At the small col before Pikestone Rig there is a junction of paths. Take the left hand path down to Riskenhope. There is a slightly marshy stretch where the path can be more difficult to find. Keep to the right and the higher ground before descending back to the left and down to Riskinhope.

5. From Riskinhope, turn right and follow the shore of the Loch of the Lowes towards the Tibbie Sheils Inn.

**If you started the walk at the Boston Memorial Hall, Ettrick Valley, you should head right at Tibbie Shiels Inn, picking up the Southern Upland Way and follow the route description above from paragraph 1.**



View of St. Mary's Loch



The Ettrick Valley near Scabcleuch