

Newbyres Circular

Distance : 2 miles/3.5 kms – approximately 1 hour



Description

You will be walking on both metalled and grass/mud paths so stout footwear is essential, especially if it's been wet.

Newbyres Castle was built in the middle of the 16th Century by Michael Borthwick of Glengelt. In its heyday it was a substantial vaulted, tower house, surrounded by a courtyard. The walls of the castle were demolished by the Council for public safety in 1963. Today only a fragment of the south-east corner of the original L-shaped

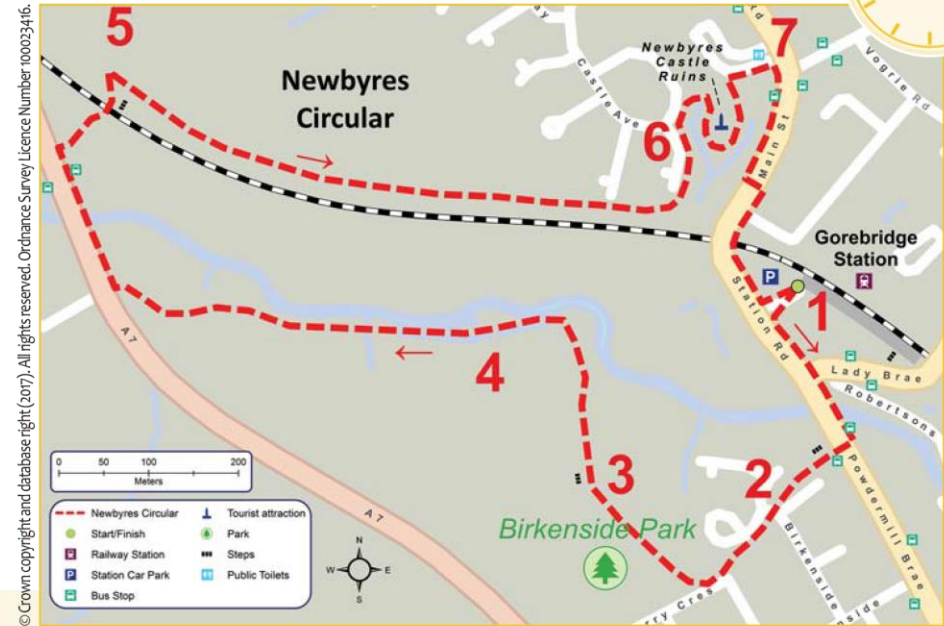
tower survives. As a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument Newbyres Castle is in the care of Historic Scotland.



Shanks Bridge

The Route

- 1 From the station turn left down the hill, cross Lady Brae and walk over the bridge. Cross the road with care and head up the lane to the right signed "Gorebridge Circular" beside the bus stop.
- 2 At the top of the lane bear right then left along John Bernard Way. Take the lane between the houses and continue until you come to the field, turn right and walk in front of the pavilion. Cross the field at a slight diagonal, to the right of the far goalposts. Go through the gap in the wall at the far side of the field.
- 3 Walk into the field and turn right, walking down hill to the wood. The path down to the riverside is steep and needs care as it is often very muddy, there are steps and railings to help. The remains of the gunpowder factories appear on your left as you walk along the path.
- 4 Climb up the path till it meets the A7, follow the path to the right and cross Shanks Bridge. Once over the bridge, there is a low metal barrier on



the right, walk round this and follow the path uphill, take the path to the left and walk over the green railway bridge.

- 5 On the far side of the bridge, take the path to the right as it follows the railway fence. Continue along the path as it crosses the field until you reach a wooden gate at the edge of the housing estate. Go through and walk straight ahead along Castle View, with the houses on your left.
- 6 Where the road meets Castle Place, turn right along the path which goes uphill with Newbyres Health Centre on the left. To your right there is a looped path which encompasses the remains of Newbyres Castle. Please take a moment to read the interpretation panel there and admire the plants, a mass of snowdrops and crocuses in late winter/spring and wild flowers in summer.
- 7 Continue up the path past the car park on the right and Newbyres Nursery, joining Main Street opposite Hunter Square. Turn right and walk downhill to the station.

