



Description

The route from Gorebridge takes you across the fields to the Old Cockpen Church, on to Dalhousie Castle Hotel and along narrow paths to Newbattle Abbey. We are suggesting you go on through the woods to Hardengreen where you can catch the train back to Gorebridge at Eskbank Station or buses 29 or 39 from Tesco. The first section to Dalhousie Castle can be very muddy.

Newbattle Abbey was founded in 1140 by monks from Melrose Abbey. The patron was King David I of Scotland (with his son Henry). The Newbattle monks were the first to mine coal in the area and were most probably Scotland's first miners. The Newbattle Abbey College was requisitioned as a training camp on the outbreak of war in 1939. It provided training for both the Royal Army Medical Corps as well as the Auxiliary Territorial Service – often known as The Women's Army. The Abbey is now an events venue and offers courses for adult learners. Guided tours take place throughout the year.



The grounds of Newbattle Abbey



Newbattle Abbey

The Route

- 1 From the station turn right and walk uphill passing the shops, crossing Hunter Square and continuing till you reach the Parish Church. Cross the road and take the path signed "Nancy Teuch". This is one of the paths that the miners took on their way to and from the pit. Walk to the end of this path and turn right where it meets the railway fence. Follow this path, bearing left at the junction, until you reach Engine Road.
- 2 Head left to reach the A7 and right along the pavement for a few hundred yards, crossing to head down Povert Road. Where Povert Road swings to the left, pass through the gate directly in front and walk along the lane. Look out for a gate on your left leading onto a hedge lined path. Follow this path as it passes through meadow land and eventually reaches the old Cockpen Church, which dates from the 12th century. This is not open to the public.

- 3 Go through the gates here and climb the stile over the stone dyke on your left. Continue along the wooded path until you reach the bridge over the South Esk in the Dalhousie Castle Hotel grounds. Take the path to the right up the steps, passing the Birds of Prey and leaving by the road under the bridge. Turn right at the junction and continue along this path until you reach a road.
4. Turn right and walk along the road until you reach Lothian Bridge. Cross the road with care! Continue along the path signed to Newbattle which eventually brings you to Newbattle Road. Turn left here and Newbattle Abbey gates appear on your right. You can walk round the gardens and admire the building although it is not open to the public.



Newbattle Abbey Gardens

- 5 Heading back through the gates, cross the road and turn right, taking care along the narrow pavement. Pass the Church and as you walk uphill, look out for the signpost to Hardengreen on your left. Follow the main path through the wood. Cross the road and turn right, then left to reach Eskbank Rail Station. If you want to catch the bus back, take the footbridge over the tracks and the path to the right will bring you to Tesco Supermarket, where you can catch a bus (29 or 39).

