

BUCCLEUCH RANGER SERVICE operates on Bowhill Estate.

Rangers will be only too pleased to help and advise visitors. The ranger service offers educational visits for groups throughout the year. These must be made by prior arrangement. Parties wishing to be lead on a guided walk or activity on any areas of the estate should phone the ranger team for further details.

ENJOY SCOTLAND'S OUTDOORS RESPONSIBLY

Bowhill welcomes responsible visitors. Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Access Code.

When you're in the outdoors at Bowhill, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment
- Keep your dog on a short lead or under close control and remove all dog faeces



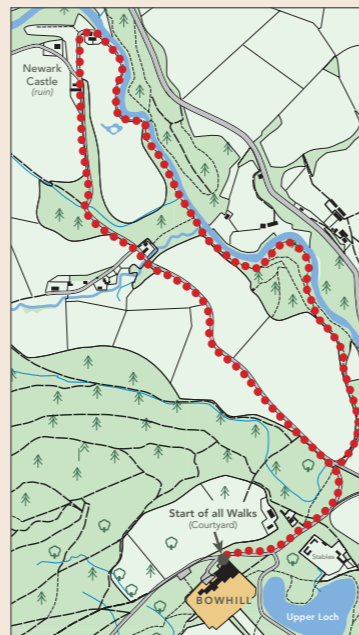
Lady's Walk

Distance: 2 miles • Duration: 1 - 1½ hours



The Lady's Walk is a moderate hike along the Yarrow River to Newark Tower, before returning to the House along the tarmac road.

On leaving the courtyard turn right down the drive past the entry kiosk and straight on at the crossroads. At the forked junction turn left. After a short distance this road joins another tarmac road. At this point cross over the road onto a woodland path lined by Lime Trees. Follow this path along the banks of the Yarrow River, always keeping the river on your right hand side. The upper banks are adorned with Hazel trees, with the lower banks giving way to wild flowers, from our native Dog Violet and Wood Anemone to introduced species like Common Lungwort and Leopard's Bane. If you are quiet and alert you may glimpse a Dipper bobbing in the river, catching insects from the stone edge. Other birds you may also catch a glimpse of are Goldcrests, Kingfishers and Wrens.



The path opens up as it continues towards Newark Tower with a grass field on your left hand side. At this point you will begin to see some houses in the distance; the path will lead you round the back of these buildings. You then take the short climb to join the tarmac road straight ahead. To return, continue back along the tarmac road, heading right at the forked junction back towards the tree lined drive and courtyard.



Duchess' Drive

Distance: 7 miles • Duration: 2½ - 4 hours



The Duchess' Drive is a moderate hike through woodland and over moorland to the north-west of Bowhill House.



On leaving the courtyard turn left, following the tarmac road past the public car park. Then turn right uphill into the woodlands, passing two large boulders on your right and reaching a wooden sign pointing you right. Follow the route until you get to a gate across the track, climbing through maturing woodland, enjoying glimpses of the Ettrick Valley and the restored Aikwood tower through the trees. Passing through the gate, the landscape immediately changes into open moorland. Follow the track, sweeping around Fastheugh Hill in a clockwise direction and passing a line of traditional stone grouse butts on your left. A further line becomes visible on the horizon to the right. As the second line comes closer the track divides. Keep to the right here and follow the well worn track through the gate, ascending the hill with the grouse butts on the left.

Enjoy stunning views over the Scottish Borders as you continue along the track into Black Andrew wood, walking past Douglas Fir trees planted in 1923. Panoramic views of the Moffat Hills and Yarrow Valley open up at this point. As you leave Black Andrew wood, follow the arrow pointing right on to the tarmac road leading back 2 miles to the courtyard. Once past Newark Tower continue back along the tarmac road, heading right at the forked junction back towards the tree lined drive and the courtyard.



BOWHILL

Walks



Design: pmgtd



BOWHILL

Bowhill House Bowhill Selkirk Scottish Borders TD7 5ET
Tel: 01750 22204 Email: info@bowhillhouse.co.uk

WWW.BOWHILLHOUSE.CO.UK

The Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust Registered Charity No: SC014915

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Welcome to Bowhill

There are five way marked walks, ranging from one mile to seven miles in distance. Details of four of these walks are found within this leaflet. The fifth walk is the Tree Trail, which was opened in 2008 and is mapped on a separate leaflet. The routes are denoted by waymarker posts with colour coded arrows as follows:



Most of the lands around Bowhill were once part of the vast ancient Ettrick Forest. Although the Douglas family owned the land from the 1300s, it reverted to the Crown and became a favourite royal hunting ground between 1450 and 1550, when ownership was distributed to the Scotts.

From Duchess Anne's (1651-1732) time to the present generation the beauty of the landscape is testimony to the Buccleuch family's stewardship and management of the land in ways which enhance their reputation for integrity, innovation and social responsibility.

A little history...

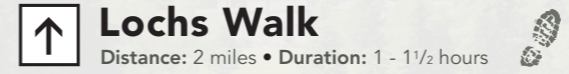
Anne, 1st Duchess of Monmouth and Buccleuch, acquired much of the woodland around Bowhill between 1708 and 1726. During this time she initiated a survey of the woodlands and appointed foresters to block illegal woodcutting, which marked the beginning of the conservation process.

During the 17th and 18th centuries it was a tradition for wealthy young men to do a 'Grand Tour' of Europe, and to bring back with them landscape paintings from Holland and France. These paintings began to influence and change landscape design on country estates. During the 19th century William Sawrey Gilpin reflected this change when he designed the landscape at Bowhill without any of the formality or picturesque features of the past. Instead he embraced a 'forest style' which is still apparent today. This was a style favoured by Sir Walter Scott, and indeed it was he who suggested the excavation of the loch at Bowhill to reflect the House back upon itself.

A major historical landmark is **Newark Tower**, the location of which can be found on the **Duchess' Drive walk**, which was originally designed as a carriageway. The tower was constructed in the form of an oblong tower house surrounded by a barmkin (outer defence wall), situated on a flat topped knoll. The tower dates from the 15th century, with the barmkin a later addition in the 16th century. During this time the tower was used as a royal hunting lodge and the king's crest can still be seen on the west wall.



The tower proved impregnable during the Border raids of the 16th century. After the Battle of Philiphaugh in 1645 many captives imprisoned in the tower were slain and buried at Slain Men's Lea, adjacent to the Yarrow Water in the shadow of the tower.



The most popular walk on the estate, partly on tarmac, with stunning views of the lochs and house.

On leaving the courtyard, turn right and follow the tarmac road. Take the first right down towards the upper loch. The arrows will then take you off onto a woodland path, taking a clockwise direction around the loch. In the spring months there is a display of Bluebells moving into brighter yellows and pinks of Flag Irises and Rosebay Willowherb in the summer months.



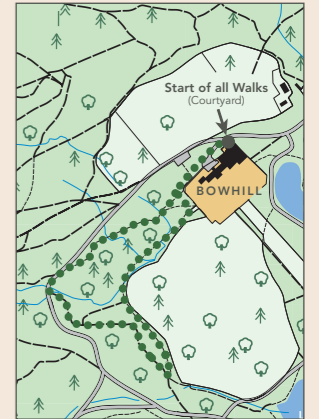
Continuing along the path you will come across a bench, which enjoys views of the House. Let your imagination carry you away to another era when the house and woodlands were still relatively new in the early 1800s. Much of what you see today has changed little since that time. As the path continues on, you will soon witness some of the oldest trees on the estate, 'The Three Beeches'. At this point you can continue straight ahead to the lower loch or pass through these magnificent specimens and turn right back onto the tarmac road and back towards the house.

To continue your walk to the lower loch follow the arrows, to a path leading across the vista which will briefly take you onto the tarmac road before turning left onto a woodland track. Follow the track clockwise, past two mature Wellingtonias (Tree Trail marker no. 8) on your right. The bark is red in colour with lots of cup shaped pockets. Whilst enjoying your walk look out for Red Squirrels, Treecreepers and Nuthatches. Follow the path round this secluded semi-natural loch, passing a stone built boathouse, where you may also catch a glimpse of Grey Wagtails flitting from tree to tree on the water's edge. Once back on the tarmac road, continue uphill back towards the courtyard enjoying the views of the House along the way.



The Bell o' the Woods winds its way through the mixed woodlands to the south-west of Bowhill House.

On leaving the courtyard turn left and walk past the main entrance to the house. Take the path straight ahead leading into the woodlands and on entering the trees turn left. This path will lead you down a steep hill towards a field on your left. The path begins to level off and after 300 metres you will come across two fine examples of Dunkeld Larch on your left. From early spring the woodland floor is a rainbow of colours with woodland wild flowers in full bloom; starting with the white of Wood Anemones and Herb-Robert's pink lasting through September.



Continue on this path which doubles back on itself following the arrow pointing right as it takes you back up through the woodland. These woodlands are home to the secretive Red Squirrel; look carefully in the canopy for these rare mammals.

Alternatively you will find signs of their presence by the chewed pine cones on the forest floor. Turn right onto tarmac road for a short distance before turning right again into the

woodland towards Bowhill House and courtyard. Listen out for the Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming, or members of the thrush family, like the Blackbird and the Song Thrush, rustling about in the undergrowth for worms and snails.