

Castlelaw Hill

Short but scenic

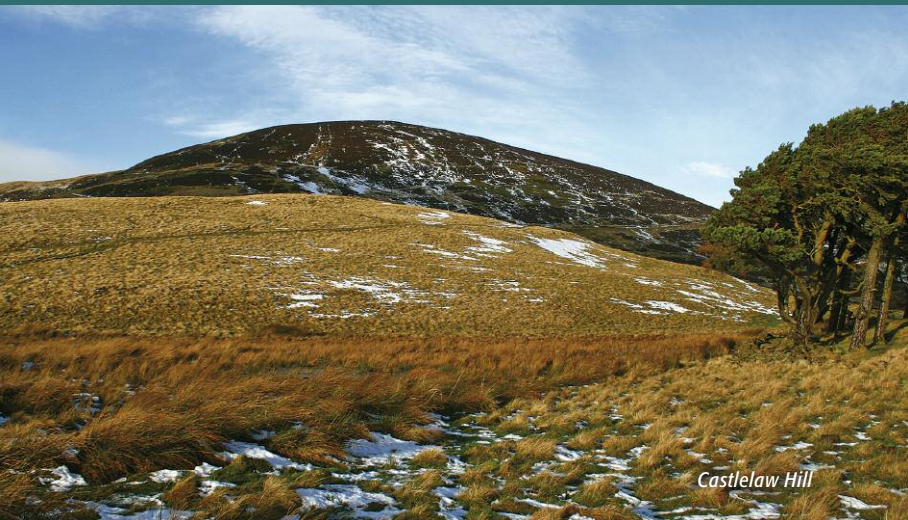
START & FINISH: Castlelaw car-park (NT 230637)

DISTANCE: 4km; 2.5 miles

TIME: 1hr 30mins

TERRAIN: Tracks, paths & pathless hillside

GRADE: Moderate Hillwalk



Castlelaw Hill

Castlelaw Hill sits in a commanding position above Glencorse Reservoir at the head of the Logan Valley, down which it offers splendid views. Located off the main ridgeline pathway it is perhaps not as popular as some of its neighbours and when it is climbed, it is usually by the track which leads around its east flank then up onto its summit from the north; a route that does the hill little justice.

This walk however ascends the south-west ridge above Glencorse Reservoir and although short, it is both engaging and scenic. The car park at Castlelaw is accessed from the A702 a short distance north of Flotterstone, via a narrow road leading uphill. There is a farm here and a military firing range. The range is regularly used, however when firing is taking place there is no interruption for walkers, as long as they

remain outside the fenced-off and red flagged area around the bowl on the south side of the hill.

Head downhill out of the car park and take the signposted pathway around the farm buildings to gain a track on the far side. Traverse this track out in front of the firing range (the targets face the other way!) passing a path that descends to Flotterstone, to reach a small plantation. Continue past the path which descends beside the trees to the Glencorse Reservoir road, then break off right a few hundred metres further on, where the track swings around the shoulder to some old quarry workings.

Climb past a door-like piece of metal framework then ascend a path which cuts diagonally right across the steep scree slope. At the top of this slope cut back left then climb pathless grassy slopes up onto the south-west ridge



and follow the fence to the top.

To descend, ignore the track coming up from the north and instead follow a sheep track steeply down south-eastwards beside the fence to join the main Castlelaw to Dreghorn track. Cut

across this, onto a grassy track leading towards a wooded knoll, then break off and gain the top of this lovely spot. There are numerous military foxholes, bivouacs and filled-in trenches in the vicinity, especially on the north-east side of the slope beneath the woods where there are the remains of practice trenches, probably dating back to between the First and Second World Wars.

Grassy tracks lead back to Castlelaw from either the top of the wooded knoll, or from the slopes below. Here, the Castlelaw Iron Age Hillfort and earth house, or Souterrain, can be explored; see [Castlelaw via Howden Glen \[6\]](#). This is an excellent example of such a fort and the concentric rings of the earthen ramparts are seen to good advantage from Castle Knowe just above. The site is in the care of Historic Scotland and there are interpretive boards, as well as a section of underground passage that can be explored.



Castlelaw Hill from House o' Muir on the A702