

# GREY MARE'S TAIL (Fairly strenuous to strenuous)

## **What you'll see:** A splendid waterfall and a lovely secluded loch

THIS varied and scenic walk takes in a splendid waterfall, one of the Borders finest lochs and one of its highest hills; either, or all of which can be taken in. There is a path that leads from the car park towards the base of the lower fall but there have been accidents here in the past and a barrier has been erected across the path. Since the fall is in fact a succession of waterfalls, they are perhaps best appreciated by climbing the good path up the steep slope to the right. Although fairly strenuous, height is gained rapidly and soon the path traverses the hillside to easier ground beside the Tail Burn, which leads pleasantly to picturesque Loch Skeen.

Walk along the east side of the loch for about 200m then break off right across heather to a fence which is followed across a couple of boggy sections towards Lochcraig Head (801m), which rises steeply above the end of the loch. The fence and an old wall running beside it lead up the right side of the steep slope before swinging round and traversing across the flat summit area a short distance south of the actual top itself.

Continue alongside the wall and fence, downhill to Talla Nick,



then on up the other side onto Firthybrig Head (763m). Part way along the next section a shorter route leads back to Loch Skeen via the south-east ridge of Mid Craig.

However, with the height already gained, the onward traverse across Donald's Cleuch Head and Firthhope Rig to reach the highpoint of

the day, White Coomb (821m), is easily made.

Retrace your steps from the summit for a short way, then follow the line of the old wall down the east ridge and over the bump of Upper Tarnberry to a crossing of the Tail Burn well above the waterfall, where the upward route leads back to the start.



## **The essentials**

**MAP** OS LANDRANGER SHEET 79  
**DISTANCE** UP TO 7 MILES (11 KM)  
**APPROXIMATE TIME** 2 - 5 HOURS  
**GRADE** FAIRLY STRENUOUS TO STRENUOUS  
**START/FINISH** THE TRUST CAR PARK ON THE A708 MOFFAT TO SELKIRK ROAD (NT 186 146)



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