

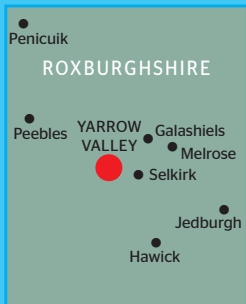
• Distance 15km/9 miles • Time 5-6hrs • Type Hill

2 NAVIGATION
LEVEL 2

3 FITNESS
LEVEL 3



Plan your walk



WHERE: Circular walk from Yarrowford via Broadmeadows, Three Brethren and Minch Moor. **START/END:** Yarrowford (NT407300). **TERRAIN:** Good paths and tracks over surrounding hills, including a fine ridge-top stretch of the Southern Upland Way. **MAPS:** OS Explorer 338; Landranger 73. **GETTING THERE:** Limited bus service along A708 from Selkirk to Yarrowford; bus service X95 between Edinburgh and Carlisle via Selkirk; nearest mainline train stations Carlisle and Edinburgh (☎ 0871 200 2233; www.traveline.info). **EATING & DRINKING:** Good choice of cafés, pubs, restaurants and takeaways in Selkirk. **SLEEPING:** Good selection of hotels, B&Bs and guesthouses in Selkirk, such as County Hotel (☎ 01750 721233); ▶

PHOTOGRAPHY: FIONA BARTLROP



Overlooked by many on their way to the more dramatic Highlands further north, the Scottish Borders region affords some of the finest and quietest walking terrain in the country. Here, in this unspoilt and relatively little-known area, are rounded, grassy hills, moorland, forests and river valleys where you can often walk all day and not meet a soul. This walk around Ettrick Forest – through which flow the two roughly parallel valleys of Ettrick Water and its tributary, Yarrow Water – provides an excellent introduction to the area. It includes the Three Brethren (three distinctive cairns), an exhilarating stretch of the Southern Upland Way and a return down the historic Minchmoor Road. The far-reaching views are splendid.

1. START Head up the signed track for Broadmeadows Youth Hostel, which lies just east of Yarrowford's village hall. Broadmeadows was the first SYHA youth hostel, opened in 1931, and is situated on the hillside overlooking the Yarrow Valley. Continue north up the path behind

the hostel, then bear R and along a stretch of boardwalk, before following the wide track that climbs north-east. Near the saddle north of Foulshiels Hill there are superb views to the south-west up the Yarrow Valley. Cross Long Philip Burn and continue in the same direction to meet with the Southern Upland Way (NT438312).

2. Turn L and head up to the Three Brethren, which you'll have seen well before now (unless the visibility is very poor). The identical stone-built cairns are around 3m/10ft tall – dwarfing the nearby trig point – and each marks the boundary of the estates of Yair and Philiphaugh and the Burgh of Selkirk. This is a marvellous viewpoint: the distinctive Eildon Hills to the east should be easily spotted.

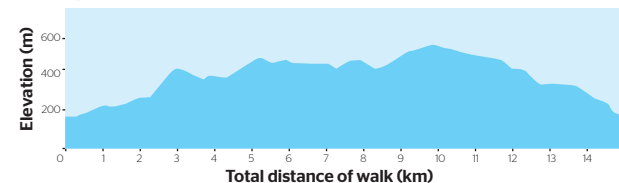
3. The route is very straightforward from here as you continue westwards along the wide track that is the Southern



Continued...

Broadmeadows Youth Hostel (☎ 01750 76372; www.syha.org.uk). **VISITOR INFORMATION:** Selkirk TIC (☎ 0870 608 0404; www.visitscottishborders.com or www.selkirkonline.org). **GUIDEBOOKS:** *The Border Country* by Alan Hall (£12, Cicerone, ISBN 9781852844592); *25 Walks – The Scottish Borders* by Peter Jackson (£9.99, Mercat Press, ISBN 9781841831299). **LOCAL RAMBLERS AREA/ GROUP:** Tweeddale Group (e-mail: twee@lothian-borders-ramblers.org.uk).

Steepest of walk



Upland Way (SUW). Frequent marker-posts guide you along the southern edge of Yair Forest, round the north side of Broomy Hill and along the Old Drove Road uphill to the summit of Brown Knowe (NT388326). This is part of one of the many old drove roads that pass through the Borders. Brown Knowe (523m/1,716ft) marks the highest point of the route. Descend to meet the junction with Minchmoor Road.

4. If you have time, it's worth continuing along the SUW for another 2km/1 mile or so (though the views are more restricted by the trees) then turning L up to the summit of Minch Moor (567m/1,860ft) – another excellent viewpoint. Otherwise, head down Minchmoor Road, which follows a ridge between two burns, eventually reaching Hangingshaw Wood. Continue down and back into Yarrowford.
Route devised by Fiona Bartlrop