

The Ring of the Loch

The Kirkyard of St Mary's of the Lowes



William Wallace statue - Bemersyde Estate, Scottish Borders

This is one of the most atmospheric and evocative locations in the Yarrow Valley – a peaceful and ancient place of worship. Rest awhile and let it work its magic on you.

This is an historic place, but its history is one where fact and legend meet. It is said that this is the very “Kirk in the Forest” where William Wallace was proclaimed Guardian of Scotland. The Douglas Tragedy at nearby Blackhouse Tower – where Lord William, eloping with Lady Margaret Douglas, slew her father and seven brothers but was himself mortally wounded and Lady Margaret herself died of grief – is said to have had its tragic final chapter at this very spot where the two lovers were buried.

The Kirk itself, which dated back to the late 1200s, has vanished entirely but every year in July an outdoor service called the Blanket Preaching is held in the Kirkyard. This commemorates the determination of the outlawed Covenanters of the 17th century to maintain their beliefs by holding their secret acts of worship out of doors in secluded places.



The Blanket Preaching - image courtesy of Clapperton Trust, Selkirk



The Ring of the Loch Walk - developed by Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company with the financial support of SSE.