Heritage Trails

Allan Ramsay set his most famous work, *The Gentle Shepherd*, in the beautiful countryside around the village of Carlops and Newhall. We have mapped out a number of trails (blue, red, purple and yellow) that take you to some of the scenes of the play. Although written over 250 years ago, many locations are still identifiable.

To Peggy’s Pool

BLUE TRAIL

This is the primary trail that leads to the valley called “Habbie’s Howe.”

Start at the Public Car Park in Carlops.

Walk through the field beside the entrance to the car park, past the children’s play area and onto the tarmac road to Kitleyknowe (Purple trailhead).

Turning left at the two old obelisks beside the cottage, walk to the top of the hill, climbing over the wooden fence (with two stones). Proceed to a clearing, then take the path down the hill on the left. Cross the bridge and walk to the waterfall on the left. This is Peggy’s Pool.

From here, you can continue on the Red trail to Habbie’s Howe, or return to Carlops.

Blue (loop via Peggy’s Pool) 1 hour. Boots recommended.

Return to Carlops

From Peggy’s Pool, walk back towards the bridge but proceed up the hill path on the left. At the top, there is a side path on the left with a handrail. Walk up here, and stay to the trail keeping to the left. You can see a glimpse of the remains of Habbie’s House on the left.

You should reach a wooden gate. Walk through the gate, across the field to a gravel trail. Take the right side of the Y-split and walk along the hillside. This path leads to the AT02. You can cross the road then take a left at the T. This leads to Carlops.

Stop in at The Allan Ramsay Hotel for refreshments, as was the custom in bygone days.

Notes:

Hiking shoes or wellington boots are necessary. Dogs are welcome when kept on a lead. Midge repellent recommended during summer / autumn.


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Maps & photography by:

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Into Habbie’s Howe and onto Harbour Craig

To Habbie’s Howe

RED TRAIL

From Peggy’s Pool, take the path towards the bridge, heading straight on instead of walking back across it. Stick to the path through Habbie’s Howe along the river, crossing a second bridge until you reach the third bridge.

Crossing the third bridge, walking up the hill turning right, you will soon reach a split in the path around an old stone building. This is the “Flawente Hown”, and the land in front is the Washing Green.

Follow the path up the hill, taking a right at the top, back down the next hill. This brings you Craigie (to your left is a track that leads to where Glaud’s Onstead once was). The main path takes a sharp right. You will shortly see a forth bridge, with a plaque carved in the rock of the introduction to Act 1 Scene 1 from the Gentle Shepherd. This is the location of the Craigie Bield.

Return on the other side of the river back to where this trail began. You will pass another plaque with Act 1 Scene 2 on this side, opposite the Washing Green.

Red (offshoot to Craigie Bield) 1.5 hours.

Boots needed (can be muddy in spots)

To Harbour Craig

PURPLE TRAIL

On the Blue trail, at the point of passing between two old stone obelisks, walk the opposite direction up the hill. Walk along the track until you see a split, walk through the gate into the field and proceed along the edge of the field to the next gate and proceed through it.

Take either trail along the side of the hill or via the derelict house. Harbour Craig at Pulpit Rock is part way down the hill. The view from the foot of the hill matches the original etchings in an early publication of The Gentle Shepherd.

Purple (Harbour Craig) - 45 minutes.

Walking boots/wellies required.
**YELLOW TRAIL**

**West and North of Carlops**

To Jenny Barry’s Cave and North Esk Reservoir

From Carlops Car Park, cross the main road and proceed up the small road.

Part way up the hill is a small gate on the left, with a map next to it. This is the map that shows how to walk to Jenny Barry’s Cave. From the gate you can see the Little Turnip, Carlops Dean, Peaked Craig and the Lin Burn (stream) in front of you.

Continuing on the main path up the hill, will take you up Turnip Hill, past Fairliehope to the North Esk Reservoir. The 1808 edition of *The Gentle Shepherd* contained a number of illustrations, many of which showed large waterfalls. These are no longer as substantial since the North Esk Reservoir was built and restricted the flow.

The trail continues on the eastern side of the reservoir, between the hills, crossing the fields towards the farm track. Towards the base of the track, there was once a Friars Town located on the right. Unfortunately no trace remains.

At the base of the track, you reconnect with the Roman Road that leads back to Carlops. On the left, you will soon see a clump of trees and an entryway, which was once the main entrance to Newhall.

Continue to Carlops by joining the Blue Trail. Please stop by The Allan Ramsay Hotel on your return.

Yellow (loop) - 2.25 hours - quite hilly, but follows a track - walking boots required. The steepest part is to the North of the reservoir.

Yellow (offshoot to cave) - 40 minutes - boggy in places - cave is actually in 6in of water - wellies/boots needed.