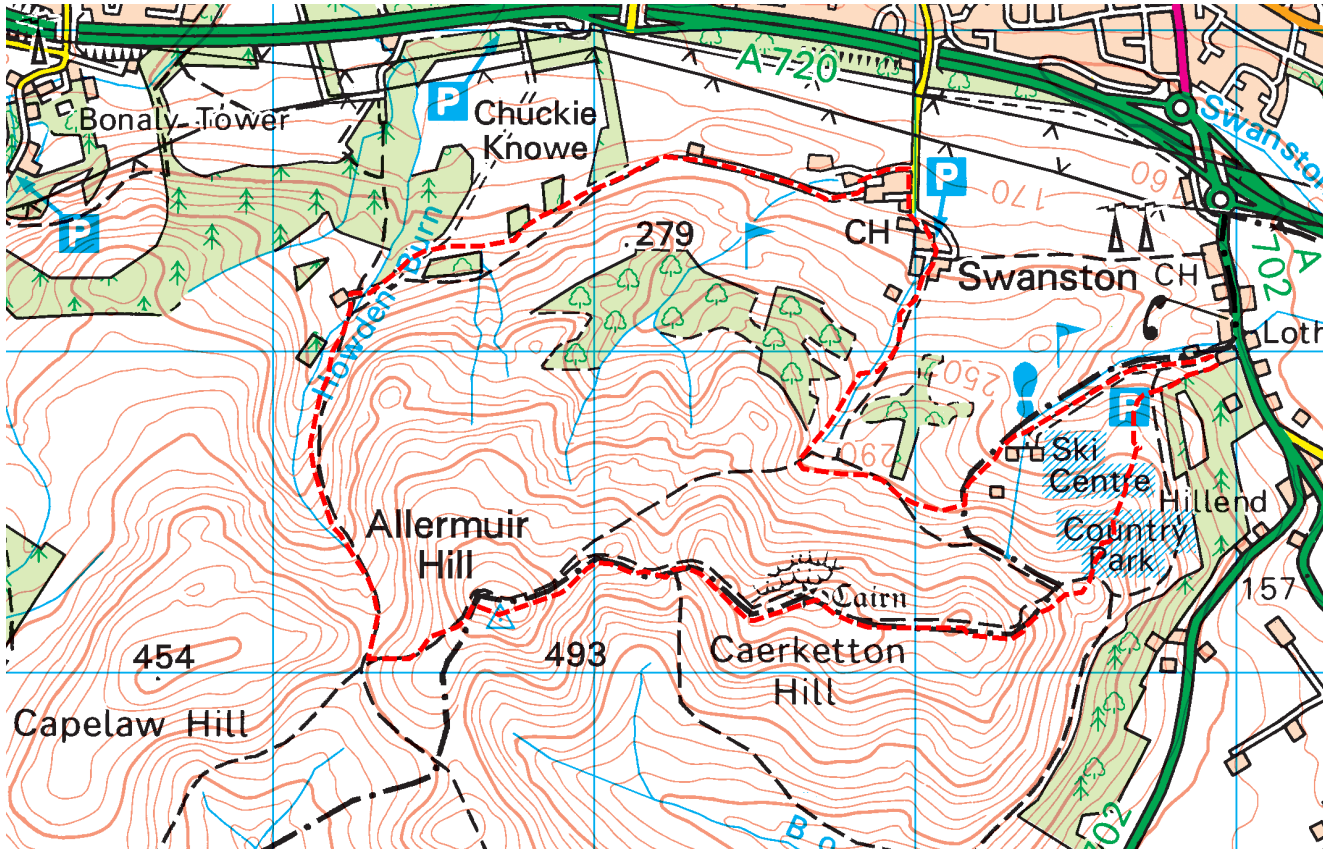


Out and about in *Midlothian*



Key Points of Interest

Midlothian Snow Sports Centre

On a clear day, enjoy views of Edinburgh, the Firth of Forth and the southern Highlands.

Swanston Village and its thatched cottages.



Swanston Village

Introduction

A moderately strenuous but relatively short walk over the top of the North Pentlands with excellent views all round. Return by the Green Craig cistern and the attractive thatched roofed cottages of Swanston Village.

Route Details

Map & compass are essential for navigation in poor visibility on the Pentlands.

From the car park at the bottom of the ski centre road, head up beside the road. Initially this route is waymarked with blue and white discs. Walk up the broad grassy path. At the corner of the

wood on your left continue ahead up a flight of steps signed Caerketton. At a T-junction of paths turn left then right (waymarker) and continue uphill, keeping left at a Y-fork then steeply up and past a seat to the summit of Hillend Hill. A short descent beyond reaches a gate and signpost. Go through gate signed Caerketton. Climb steeply with the fence on your left over Caerketton Hill (the second of three cairns at the top).

Continue on the path following the ridge line and fence down then up again to reach Allermuir Hill, trig point and view indicator. Go through the gate and ahead down to corner of fence (100 metres) marked by a boundary stone with "W1D" on it. Turn left and in

50m. follow the right hand fork in the path and descend to a good track. Turn right and descend vehicle track to reach a small stone building, Green Craig cistern.

Turn right along a broad path signed Dreghorn to reach a gate. About *100 paces* beyond the gate take the right hand fork to pass a stand of unfenced trees on your left then through a metal gate. Continue on path to reach a wall and gate with a wood on your left. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead on a track with the golf course on your right to reach Swanston Steading farmyard. Turn left then right onto tarmac to reach a T-junction and public road.

Turn right up the road towards Swanston Brasserie. Go into the walkers' car park on left. Walk through it then up a path through trees to Swanston Village. Go up through the village (signed Hillend and Boghall). Go through the gate by a wooden seat. After a few yards bear left then right onto a track heading up to the hills (ignore tracks off to right and left). On reaching some gates and a fence go through a wooden gate on your left. Continue up with a stream on your left to reach a rough track. Turn left signed Hillend and Boghall. Continue on the track to reach a gate by a wood. Go through the gate and descend past the ski slope buildings back to your start point.

Walk

Capital View

Distance: 5¼ miles / 9¼ km

Ascent: 1750ft / 530m

Time: 3¼ hours

Terrain – Grassy paths with some Steep ascent / descent • Well marked path • Muddy on low ground •

Map: No 66 Edinburgh

Start point:

Just off the A702 1/3 mile south of Edinburgh City by-pass, at foot of Midlothian Snowsports access road.

Gr: NT 249 670

For Sat Nav users:

Lat: N 55.89031
Long: W 03.20090

Public transport: Yes

Car Parking: Yes

Refreshments: Ski Centre and The Steading

Route: Arthur MacKenzie (ed. IB)

Photo: Ian Brown