

Bishop Hill from Holl Reservoir 10th August 2026

Eight members drove to Holl Reservoir to climb Bishop Hill. The walk was previously undertaken in the summer of 2023 but by changing the starting point, walking in the opposite direction, utilising some new paths and adding in a navigation challenge on pathless terrain a completely new experience was enjoyed.

Initially the route followed Holl Reservoir, Drumain Reservoir and Harperlees Reservoir with spectacular views towards the River Forth, the Bass Rock and Berwick Law. After passing the ruins of Ballo Castle we turned west to contour round the lower slopes of West Lomond towards the Devil's Burdens. The terrain was rough, heathery and boggy in places and we had to gain height in order to negotiate a route avoiding the scree and eroded slopes before finding the dramatic cluster of large weathered quartz-dolerite boulders and rock outcrops scattered across the southwest slopes. The Devil's Burdens have many legends associated with them including one which says a local witch taunted the devil as he walked past carrying a heavy load of rocks on his back. He was angry and dropped his load to chase her and turned her into a pillar of stone nearby Bishop Hill. A coffee break was enjoyed here with more spectacular views over Loch Leven and the hills beyond.

We descended from West Lomond and followed Glen Vale to cross the burn and climb to the summit of Bishop Hill where we had lunch before descending through the woods to West Balgothrie and back to the car park. A well deserved coffee stop at Lochend Farm Shop rounded off a most enjoyable day

Walking along Holl Reservoir towards West Lomond



Devil's Burdens





Devil's Burdens

Summit of Bishop Hill

