

# Hopes Reservoir

**Start and finish:** Mid Hopes, at the end of the road about a mile and a half from Longyester Farm.

**Distance:** 5½ km / 3½ miles

**Time:** 2 hours

**Terrain:** Tracks and rough paths.

**Description:** This walk follows gravel hill tracks and rough sheep paths around Hopes Reservoir, including one or two steep climbs.



**How to get there:** Leaving Gifford towards East Saltoun, turn left towards Longyester Farm. Follow the road around a sharp left turn at the farm and in a third of a mile turn right onto the Hopes road. At the end of this road, in a mile and a half there is limited parking at the Scottish Water filter station.

**Directions:** The walk continues up the track towards West Hopes. Here, next to an information board, climb the stile and continue along the track. After about half a mile the track climbs steeply up towards the reservoir dam. Here some steep steps will take you up to another stile. Then turn left and follow the narrow path through sparse scrub. This path runs along the reservoir for almost half a mile, goes through a gate and drops down to a small burn. This is normally narrow enough to jump over. After that the path becomes a little wider and in another half mile it crosses another burn and then joins a larger track. Turn left at this point and the track will take you back to Mid Hopes. This whole area is managed for conservation and grouse rearing. Please make sure that any dogs are kept under strict control.

**Points of interest:** 1. **Hopes Reservoir** – Work on the reservoir was completed in 1933. It now supplies drinking water to the Gifford and Bolton area.

2. **Wildlife** – The area is very good for bird watching. You will almost certainly see

Red Grouse in the hills at any time of year. The woodland leading up to the dam is home to many species of birds, and the birdsong is fantastic in the spring. Geese and ducks are usually seen on the reservoir. In the winter white mountain hares are often seen on the hills.

**Local Services:** Gifford has various shops, pubs, coffee shop and public toilets.

