

B6369

COULSTON WATER

Cockles Brae

GIFFORD COMMUNITY WOODLAND

GIFFORD

The Avenue

YESTER KIRK
WAR MEMORIAL

B6355

Main St
Duns Rd

YESTER PRIMARY

LADY'S WOOD

GIFFORD WATER

YESTER HOUSE

You can walk to the castle by following the river from Gifford, or you can access it from the Castle Park Golf Club - follow the perimeter of the golf course, keeping the dyke to your right. You'll have to cross a potentially boggy bit before reaching a hillier section. Head right, towards the 1717 stone bridge that crosses the burn, into the castle's outer defences. A path leads up a bank to what would originally have been the main entrance to the castle.

In front of you will be the remains of a 15th century tower house, partly hidden by trees. This tower was built against the courtyard wall, and it's the top of this that can be seen from the golf course. The tower originally consisted of three storeys above a barrel vaulted basement - Goblin Ha'.

YESTER CASTLE & THE GOBLIN HA'

The only complete structure left of the ruined 13th Century Yester Castle is the subterranean Goblin Ha'.

The castle, founded in 1267 by Sir Hugo de Giffard, was destroyed by the English in the 14th Century, rebuilt, damaged again considerably in the mid 16th Century, and abandoned around 1557 when the Baron of Yester moved to a nearby Townhouse. Over the years, much of the stone was pilfered for building, leaving the castle ruined by the 18th Century.

THE GOBLIN HA'

Sir Hugo de Giffard, known as the Wizard of Yester, was said to practise his sorcery in the underground cavern. He was considered a powerful Warlock, even rumoured to have made a pact with the Devil to raise a magical army of hobgoblins to build the castle for him.

This whole area was planted with trees in the 19th century by the Marquess of Tweeddale, and is now quite overgrown, making it easy to lose your bearings.

DANSKINE LOCH



YESTER CASTLE

HOPES WATER

CASTLE PARK GOLF COURSE

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PLAY MAP

PlayMapEastLothian

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