

*Walks*

on the Eastern Section of

**THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY**

2nd edition including 8 new walks



**Our Scottish Borders**  
Your destination

## Introduction

The Scottish Borders is a beautiful area, full of history and interest, which deserves to be enjoyed by more people. One of the aims of Scottish Borders Council is to encourage tourism to the area and to enable the public to gain access to and learn more about the countryside. This booklet contains descriptions for 55 walks in the Scottish Borders, along with information on features and places of interest that you may come across whilst out walking. Each walk incorporates a part of the Southern Upland Way. The main route is waymarked throughout its length using the standard symbol  for Long Distance Footpaths in Scotland. Other sections of the walks may not be waymarked and although this booklet contains maps of the walks, you are strongly recommended to carry the relevant 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 maps for each walk. The official guide for the route offers exceptionally good value as it provides written information for the route and also includes full 1:50,000 map coverage of the entire route.

## Acknowledgements

This booklet has been produced, within the Countryside section of the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio of the Council. Scottish Borders Council is pleased to acknowledge financial support from Scottish Natural Heritage, which greatly assisted the production of this guide. The Council would also like to thank all those individuals, too numerous to mention by name, involved in the production of this booklet. Grateful thanks are extended to all the land owners and land managers for their co-operation and assistance in allowing the walks over their ground to be included.

Maps by David Langworth for Scottish Borders Council, based on Ordnance Survey mapping provided by SBC under licence (100023423) 2008, to promote and publicise a series of short walks linking with the Southern Upland Way within the Scottish Borders.



*Crosscleuch - St Mary's Loch*



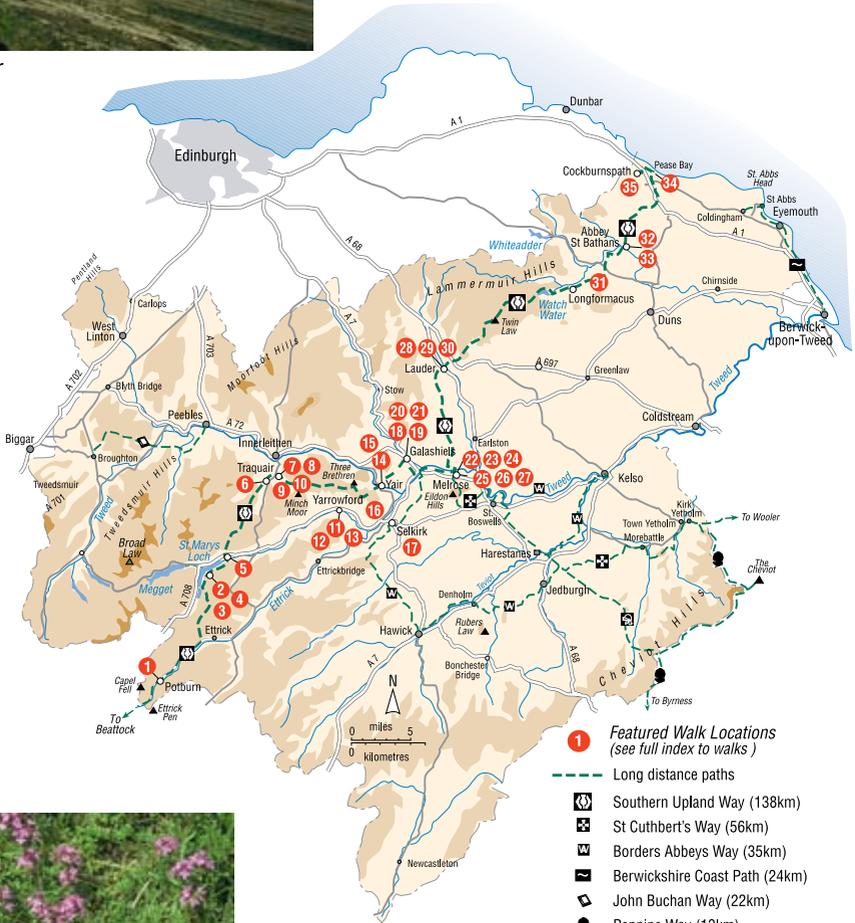
*Southern Upland Way near Twinlaw*

*Front Cover - Landart Sculpture on Minch Moor above Traquair*



Cove Harbour

## Scottish Borders



Wild thyme

*Written and compiled by Mike Baker. With assistance from his colleagues within the Countryside section of the Planning and Economic Development at Scottish Borders Council. Photography by Keith Robeson, Mike Baker and Susan Kevan.*

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# Welcome to the Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders region covers an area of approximately 1800 square miles (4,700 sq. km). The population is just over 100,000 with the largest towns, Hawick and Galashiels having about 15,000 and 12,000 inhabitants. It is easy to see from these figures that there is plenty of open space and where there is open space there are always good walking opportunities. The landscape of the Scottish Borders is characterised by green rolling hills divided by beautiful river valleys, the most famous of which is the Tweed.

We hope that you enjoy your walks but please remember that the land that you are walking on belongs to somebody else and it is a working environment - respect it as if it were your own. If you experience any difficulties whilst out walking, please let us know through the Ranger Service or our Tourist Information Centre.



*Walkers on new stile, Kirkhouse*

## Advice to walkers

Before setting off on longer walks, always check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly, but remember that weather conditions can change rapidly, without much warning. Remember that hot weather, causing sunburn and/or dehydration, can be just as debilitating as poor weather conditions. Always carry adequate cover for your body in all conditions.

On longer walks you should always wear or carry good waterproof and windproof clothing and take adequate supplies of food and drink with you. Obviously these provisions are not necessary on the shorter, low level walks, but a light waterproof is still worth taking, just in case.

### Know the Code before you go...

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors – responsibly!

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors! Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The key things are:

### When you're in the outdoors:

- Take responsibility for your own actions and act safely.
- Respect people's privacy and peace of mind.
- Help land managers and others to work safely and effectively.
- Care for your environment and take your litter home.
- Keep your dog under proper control.
- Take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.

Find out more by visiting:

[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

## Access in Scotland

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code came into effect in February 2005. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act establishes a statutory right of responsible access to land and inland waters for outdoor recreation, crossing land, and some educational and commercial purposes.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives detailed guidance on your responsibilities when exercising access rights and if you are managing land and water. The Act sets out where and when access rights apply. The Code defines how access rights should be exercised responsibly.

Find out more by visiting:

**[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)**

An excellent spirit of co-operation and tolerance exists throughout the Scottish Borders and there is generally no difficulty found whilst walking in our beautiful countryside. In general people should keep to paths where they are defined and use stiles and gates to cross fences wherever possible. Although there is no objection to walking on farm and forest roads and tracks, it should be remembered that they are used by agricultural machinery and care should be taken. Before leaving a vehicle at a farm steading, or beside a track, permission should be sought from the farmer or landowner.

Please pay attention to temporary path closure and diversion signs, especially as a requirement of Health and Safety regulations, whilst walking over farmland and through forests when management operations are being carried out.

## Livestock

The new Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives strict advice on access to the countryside with a dog.

Dogs are a great cause of concern for farmers, especially during lambing time (March - May) and when cows have young calves with them (mainly in the spring and autumn although some farms do calf all year round). Dogs should be kept on a lead or under very close control at all times, especially during the ground nesting season (April - July). Cattle and sheep, particularly those with young, should not be approached. Dogs should not be taken into fields with cattle when they have young, as the cows see a dog as a threat and may try to attack it, nor should they be taken into fields containing sheep with young lambs. At the most sensitive times of year such as lambing, calving and during the bird nesting season, it is recommended that you leave your dog at home. Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, you should experience little or no problem.



*Belted Galloway cattle on Eildon Hill*

## Using this guide

The following pages contain maps showing the routes of the walks accompanied with a brief description of each walk. As the area covered by each map is very limited you are strongly recommended to use the relevant 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map in conjunction with this booklet so that you can identify the surrounding hills and other points of interest. Distances for each walk are given in Miles/Kilometres and total height climbed during the walk is given in Feet/Metres. Features, places and notes of interest are listed alphabetically at the back of the book and are written in ***bold italics*** in the text.

Many of the walks are circular so do not require any other means of transport to return to the start point. For the linear walks public transport will be available to take you back to the start in some cases, but bus services are sometimes infrequent. Details of bus services can be obtained from Scottish Borders Council, Transport and Environmental Standards. Telephone: 01835 825200 or from Scottish Borders Tourist Board. Telephone: 0870 608 0404.

Another means of returning to the start point might be to arrange for a bicycle to be left at the finish point and to cycle back to the start point along some of the quieter roads of the region.

## Walks

1. Ettrick Head Circular.
- 1a. Potburn, Ettrick Head, Capel Fell and White Shank.
- 1b. Potburn, Ettrick Head, Wind Fell, Hopetoun Craig and Ettrick Pen.
2. Yarrow - Ettrick circular via Captain's road.
3. Tibbie Shiels figure of eight via Ettrick Kirk and Loch of the Lowes.
- 3a. Tibbie Shiels circular via Pikestone Rig and Loch of the Lowes.
4. St Mary's loch - Traquair church.
5. Dryhope circular via Blackhouse and Craig Douglas.
6. Traquair Kirk circular via The Glen, Blackhouse and back along the SUW.
- 6a. Traquair Kirk circular via The Glen, Deuchars Law and back along the SUW.
7. Traquair circular via Minch Moor.
8. Traquair circular via Minch Moor and West Bold.
9. Traquair - Galashiels.
- 9a. Traquair - Yair.
10. Traquair - Selkirk.
11. Yarrowford circular via Broadmeadows and Three Brethren.
12. Yarrowford circular via Minch Moor, Brown Knowe and the Three Brethren.
- 12a. Yarrowford circular via Minch Moor, Brown Knowe and Broadmeadows.
13. Yarrowford circular via the Three Brethren, Philiphaugh and Newark Castle.
14. Yair circular via the Three Brethren.
15. Yair circular via Ashiestiel Bridge and the Three Brethren.
- 15a. Caddonfoot circular via Neidpath Hill.
16. Philiphaugh circular via Corbie Linn.
17. Selkirk circular via the Three Brethren, Yair and Ettrick Foot.
18. Galashiels - Melrose.
19. Galashiels - Selkirk.
20. Galashiels circular via Yair, Ettrick Foot and Boleside.

- 21. Galashiels circular via Gala Hill, Lowood Bridge, Melrose and Black path.
- 21a. Galashiels circular via Gala Hill, Lowood Bridge and Black path.
- 21b. Galashiels circular via Gala Hill and Langlee Woods
- 22. Melrose circular via Lowood Bridge, Waverley bridge and Galashiels.
- 22a. Melrose circular via Lowood Bridge and Waverley bridge.
- 22b. Melrose circular via Lowood Bridge.
- 23. Melrose-Selkirk along the Abbeys Way.
- 23a. Melrose circular via Rhymer's Glen and Abbotsford
- 24. Melrose circular via Newtown St. Boswells and the Bogle burn.
- 25. Melrose to Maxton along St. Cuthbert's Way
- 26. Eildon Hills.
- 27. Melrose-Lauder.
- 27a. Melrose circular via Housebyres Lochs.
- 28. Lauder Common circular via Chester Hill.
- 28a. Burgess Acres circular via Chester Hill and Cuckoo Wood.
- 29. Lauder circular via Braidshawrigg and Dabshead Hill.
- 30. Lauder- Watch Water Reservoir.
- 31. Longformacus-Abbey St Bathans.
- 31a. Whiteadder circular via Elemford.
- 31b. Black Hill and Burnhouses circular.
- 32. Edin's Hall Broch via Edgar's Cleuch.
- 32a. Edin's Hall Broch via Blakerstone.
- 33. Abbey St Bathans-Cockburnspath.
- 34. Pease Dean and Penmanshiel circular.

- 34a. Pease Dean circular.
- 35. Cockburnspath circular via Cove, Linhead, Pease Bridge and Penmanshiel.
- 35a. Cockburnspath circular via Cove, Linhead and Pease Bridge.
- 35b. Cockburnspath circular via Cove and Linhead.

## Key to Walks maps

	Southern Upland Way
	Featured Short Walks
	Places of interest
	Summit Viewpoint
	Public road
	Track
	Car Parking
	height over 350m
	height over 500m
	height over 650m



*Three Brethren in winter*

## Further Information

Many of the walks (and other interesting walks in the Scottish Borders) can be found in more detail in the following publications:

- **Walks around Booklets**

A series of booklets describing walks around settlements has been produced by Scottish Border Paths (available from VisitScotland).

These include:

***Coldstream, Duns, East Berwickshire, Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Melrose, Newcastleton, Peebles and Selkirk***

- **In the Paths of the Poets**

***(20 Walks in the Scottish Borders)***  
by Hector Christie and Roger Smith  
(available from VisitScotland).

- **25 Walks: The Scottish Borders**

by Peter Jackson (Mercat Press).

- **The Border Country: A walker's guide**

by Alan Hall (Cicerone Press).

- **Edinburgh and the Borders Walks**

*Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Guide*  
(O/S, Jarrold).

- **Town trail guides are available for Galashiels, Melrose, Lauder, Peebles, Duns, Eyemouth, Hawick, Jedburgh and Kelso** produced by Scottish Borders Council, Economic Development and Environmental Planning (available from Scottish Borders Council Tel: 01835 824000 or from local Tourist Information Centres).



Red Fox



Emerald damselflies on Selfheal



Adder



*Cauldshiels Loch*



*Twin Law Hill*

## Festival of Walking

A week long Festival of Walking has taken place annually in the Scottish Borders since its inauguration in the West Linton area in 1995. This festival, which usually takes place at the beginning of September, offers a selection of walks each day suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities, along with a full programme of evening entertainment. For further information contact: VisitScotland on +44(01750) 20555 or visit their website on [www.scot-borders.co.uk](http://www.scot-borders.co.uk)



*Tweed from Weir Hill, Melrose*

## Wildlife that you might expect to encounter on your travels

As well as being blessed with superb views whilst on these walks you should also have the opportunity to observe many of our native animals and wild flowers in their natural habitats. The following will give you some idea of what you might expect to see on your travels in the different habitats. At different times of year you will find a wide variety of wild flowers. These are far too numerous to list and it is worthwhile taking a small field guide with you to help identify some of the different species.

### Rivers and Lochs



*Ramsons at Pease Dean*



*Azure damselfly on Yellow flag*



*Jay*



*Red admiral on Knapweed*

Freshwater provides an excellent habitat for some of our more obvious wildlife. Whilst walking along the banks and shores of the rivers and lochs you may spot ducks such as Mallard, Pochard, Goldeneye and Tufted, as well as Goosander, Moorhen and Coot. During spring and early summer a variety of wading birds such as Common sandpiper, Redshank, Lapwing and Oystercatcher all breed around the lochs and reservoirs as well as along the riversides. Other birds which you may spot include, Dipper, Kingfisher, Heron and Grey wagtail. Sand martin nest along the banks of the rivers and in summer can often be seen with swallows feeding on insects above the rivers. Osprey have recently started to breed in the Scottish Borders and may be seen, especially around St Mary's Loch. Otter are active on most of our rivers and lochs so you may be lucky and catch a glimpse of one. A few species of Dragonfly and Damselfly are active around small ponds and other areas of water during sunny days in August and September.

## Forest Wildlife



*Mute Swans*



*Large red damselfly on Yellow flag*



*Common hawker dragonfly*

The majority of the forestry through which the walks pass are manmade with their own associated wildlife. In the coniferous forests finches such as Siskin, Crossbill and Bullfinch are quite numerous as are Coal tit and Goldcrest. You may also see Jay, Greater spotted and Green woodpeckers. Red squirrel and Roe deer are also plentiful in some areas, but are often difficult to see as they are shy animals. You may also see these birds and animals in deciduous woodland along with Treecreeper, Willow warbler, Chiff-chaff and, if you are very lucky, Nuthatch. Kestrel, Buzzard, Peregrine falcon and Sparrowhawk can often be seen hunting above and around the woodlands as well as in the open countryside.



*Fly agaric*

## Upland and Moorland



*Roe deer*



*Red squirrel*



*Red campion*

Some of the larger moors are actively managed for the benefit of the Red grouse. During late October and March, areas of the heather are burned (muirburn) in strips and squares to produce a patchwork of different ages of heather. Not all the heather is burned, as mature heather is needed for nesting sites and shelter from predators. The new growth of heather offers better feeding for Grouse, which are dependent on it for food. This management not only benefits the Grouse population but is also good for all the other wildlife that live on the moors and especially the many species of birds that are summer visitors. On the heather covered hills Red grouse and occasionally Black grouse may be seen as well as Ring ouzel. In summer Skylark, Wheatear (with its distinctive flash of white rump as it flies away), Stonechat, Curlew, Lapwing, Golden plover and numerous Meadow pipits nest on the moors. Birds of prey including Merlin, Hen harrier and Short eared owls may occasionally be seen hunting in these areas. In the western side of the region Raven can often be seen and



*Red Grouse*



*Heather*



*Curlew on nest*



*Mountain pansy*

occasionally Golden eagle. Another animal you may see here is the Blue or Mountain hare. In the summer these animals are light brown in colour with a white tail and black tips to their ears. During the winter these animals turn pure white, except for the tips of the ears which remain black, for camouflage. Often nature catches them out, as in winters with little snow they are very conspicuous. Another animal that may be seen here, and elsewhere, is the Stoat. In some parts of the country these animals also turn white (ermine) in the winter, except for the tip of the tail which remains black. The black tip to the tail and slightly larger size are the best way to distinguish the Stoat from its close relative the Weasel when the Stoat is in its brown summer colour. Adder are also present on many of the moors. Foxes can sometimes be seen hunting in the hills during daylight hours. In spring, watch out for the large day flying Fox and Emperor moths. It is usually the males which are seen on the wing searching out the females, which are more likely to be found on the ground. In autumn the large, colourful caterpillars of these moths may be found feeding on the heather and grass.



*Short-eared owl*

## Lowground Farmland and Meadows

There are many different species of animals and insects to be seen on the lower ground depending on the type of farming being practised. In grassland areas you will find Partridge, Skylark, Goldfinch, Meadow pipit, Woodpigeon and Pied wagtail to mention, just a few. In arable areas you may see those as well as Yellowhammer. Members of the crow family; Carrion crow, Rook, Jackdaw, Jay and Magpie, are present in many areas. Along the hedgerows you can spot Dunnock, Wren, Bullfinch and many other birds. In Autumn, flocks of Fieldfare and Redwing can be seen in the fields and feeding on the berries of Rowan and Hawthorn. Adder, Slow worm and Common lizard may be seen, especially on warm sunny days. Penmanshiel Forest is an especially good place to spot Slow worm and Common lizard. On warm and sunny days, numerous moths and butterflies can also be spotted throughout the summer months. Large numbers of Peacock and Red admiral butterflies can be found feeding on the flowers of Creeping thistles and Knapweed.



*Peacock butterfly*



*Comma butterfly*



*Small copper butterfly*



*Fritillary butterfly*



*Primrose and Dog violet*



*Red-tailed bumblebee on Woundwort*



*Peregrine falcon*

## Coast and Rocky Shores

In habitat terms, the coastline is possibly one of the most diverse areas. The advancing and retreating tides mean that the marine life is plentiful and varied. If you are lucky you may see mammals such as Porpoise or Whale and many species of seabirds are abundant along the coastline of the Scottish Borders. Some of the cliffs between Cove and St. Abbs Head are the highest on the east coast of Scotland and there are large colonies of Razorbill, Guillemot, Cormorant, Fulmar and Kittiwake. A few Puffin can be found nesting in crevices on the cliffs around Fast Castle and on St. Abb's Head. There is a wide range of grasses and wild flowers growing on and around the cliffs and during the summer months butterflies, such as Meadow brown, Grayling, Common blue along with the Six spot burnet moth, are common. Fulmar similar in appearance to gulls, but in fact a species of Petrel, can be seen around the cliffs at most times of the year and nest on rocky ledges in the spring and summer. A colony of Gannets breed on the nearby Bass Rock and groups of these large white seabirds may be seen plunging-diving for fish off the coast. Eider, our largest duck species, can be seen on the water diving for mussels and other shellfish. Shellduck and other duck species can be seen in the waters near the shore. Dunlin, Turnstone, Redshank, Ringed plover and many other waders can be seen feeding along the shoreline, especially during the autumn and winter months. For those with an interest, at low tide, the rockpools are teeming with marine life. Crabs, small fish and many other marine animals can be found there.



*Six spot burnet moths on Creeping thistle*



*Harebell and Yarrow*



*Fulmar in flight*



*Guillemots on cliff*



*Craigmichen Scar*

### 1. Ettrick Head Circular.

*8mIs/13kms with 2,015ft/620m climb.*

#### **Start and Finish:**

*Potburn road end NT 188 093.*

*(Please park considerably and do not block either of the gateways).*

This is not a walk to be undertaken in poor weather conditions and a map, compass and the ability to use them is thoroughly recommended. Although not unduly long this is an exposed and relatively strenuous walk covering five summits of over 2,000 feet/600 metres. Paths at the lower levels are good and generally distinct, but at higher levels are often no more than sheep or quad bike tracks. The walk starts by passing through the right hand gate and taking the track up to the saddle between White Shank and Bodesbeck Law. *(Please note that there is no bridge over the Longhope Burn and it may be difficult to cross in times of flood).* From here you turn left and head south following the boundary wall/fence over White Shank and Capel Fell before dropping down to Ettrick Head. The Southern Upland Way intersects the walk here and if you were following walk 1a or b it is here that you would leave the Way and head up to Capel Fell or Wind Fell. To continue the walk, follow the boundary

fence uphill over Wind Fell and Craig Head to the top of Ettrick Pen (*the highest point of the walk, where on a good day you will be rewarded with superb views of the surrounding countryside*). On leaving the summit continue to follow the boundary fence north-west for approximately 300 yards then leave the fence line and head due west to descend the west ridge (*in clear weather the line of descent is towards the summit of White Shank in the distance*) to the Entertrona burn where you will pick up a track that will lead down to Over Phawhope and from there back to the start.



*Ettrick Pen behind Overphawhope Bothy*

### 1a. Potburn, Ettrick Head, Capel Fell and White Shank.

*6mIs/11kms with 1,430ft/440m climb.*

#### **Start and Finish: As walk 1**

For a slightly shorter and less strenuous walk, follow the Southern Upland Way from the start point past Over Phawhope and up to the Regional Boundary at Ettrick Head. From here turn north-west and follow the boundary fence up over Capel Fell and White Shank to the saddle below Bodesbeck Law. Turn right here and head south-east down the track to the start point.

**1b.Potburn, Ettrick Head, Wind Fell, Hopetoun Craig and Ettrick Pen.**

6 1/2 mls/11kms with 1,300ft/400m climb.

**Start and Finish: As walk 1**

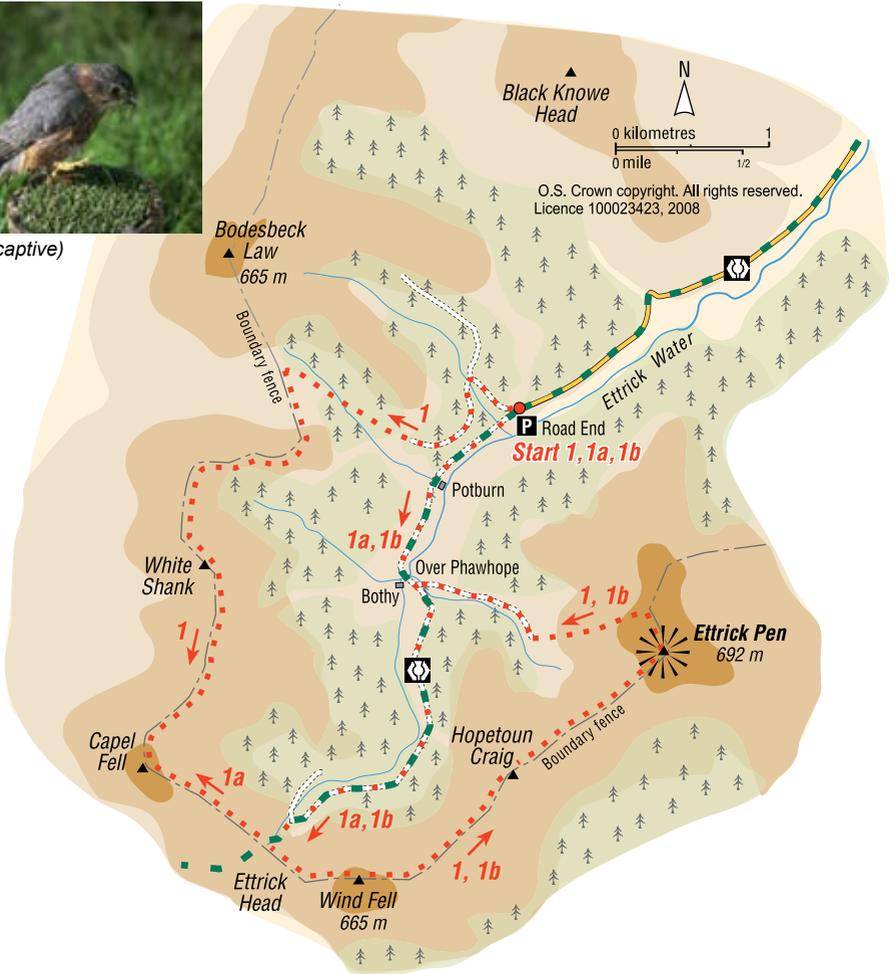
For another shorter and less strenuous walk, follow the route as for walk 1a but at Ettrick Head turn left and head south-east up Wind Fell and Hopetoun Craig and continue the route as described in walk one.



Common lizard



Merlin, (captive)



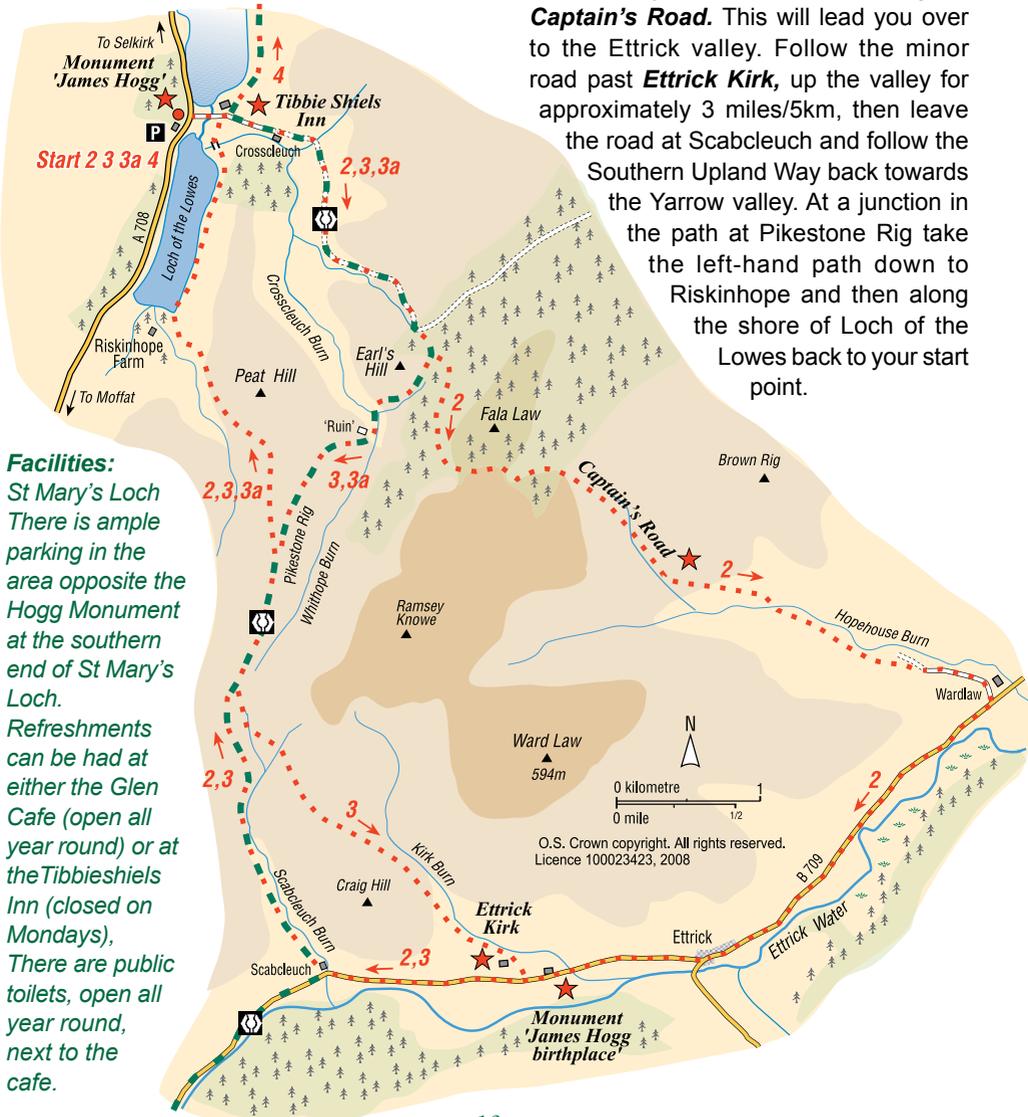
## 2. Yarrow-Ettrick circular via Captain's road.

13m/21kms with 1,520ft/470m climb.

### Start and Finish:

Oxcleuch Haugh NT 236 205.

A circular walk from the Yarrow to the Ettrick and back following a route used by **Scott**



### Facilities:

**St Mary's Loch**  
There is ample parking in the area opposite the Hogg Monument at the southern end of St Mary's Loch.

Refreshments can be had at either the Glen Cafe (open all year round) or at the Tibbieshiels Inn (closed on Mondays). There are public toilets, open all year round, next to the cafe.

and **Hogg** and favoured by drovers taking sheep and cattle to the south. The route follows a mixture of good paths, tracks and minor roads and should present no problems in good weather. Follow the Southern Upland Way up towards Earl's Hill, just before you leave the forest at the base of Earl's Hill leave the Southern Upland Way and follow the path signed **Captain's Road**. This will lead you over to the Ettrick valley. Follow the minor road past **Ettrick Kirk**, up the valley for approximately 3 miles/5km, then leave the road at Scabcleuch and follow the Southern Upland Way back towards the Yarrow valley. At a junction in the path at Pikestone Rig take the left-hand path down to Riskinhope and then along the shore of Loch of the Lowes back to your start point.

### 3. Tibbie Shiels figure of eight via Ettrick Kirk and Loch of the Lowes.

10 1/2 mls/17kms with 1,460ft/460m climb.

#### Start and Finish:

Oxcleuch Haugh NT 236 205.

This walk is mostly on good paths, tracks and a short section on the minor road. There is a short section through the pass at the base of Craig Hill where the path is all but non-existent and care should be taken with your navigation. This section in the saddle can be wet at times. Follow the Southern Upland Way up towards Earl's Hill and onto the base of Peniestone Knowe where you will see a metal signpost (*it was in this area that the last Covenanting preacher, James Renwick, was finally caught in 1688 and taken to Edinburgh's Grass Market, where he was hanged*). From here, take the path to the left signed **Ettrick Kirk**. The path is very indistinct here and after crossing the stile over the fence you will have to contour round the hill following sheep tracks, where possible, until you go through the pass at the base of Craig Hill. Once through the pass, a well defined path leads on down to **Ettrick Kirk**. From here walk up the minor road to Scabcleuch and then follow the directions as for walk two back to **Tibbie Shiels or the Glen Cafe** for a well deserved refreshment.



Pkestone Rig looking to Broad Law

### 3a Tibbie Shiels circular via Pikestone Rig and Loch of the Lowes.

5mls/8kms with 810ft/250m climb.

#### Start and Finish:

Oxcleuch Haugh NT 236 205.

This is a very pleasant walk following good tracks and paths for those with less time or just wanting a shorter trip. Follow the Southern Upland Way up past Earl's Hill to Peniestone Rig. At the south end of the Rig, where you drop down to a path junction, turn right and follow the path down to Riskinhope and then along the shore of the Loch of the Lowes back to your start point.



Hogg Monument, Ettrick Valley

#### 4. Tibbie Shiels -Traquair Church along the Southern Upland Way.

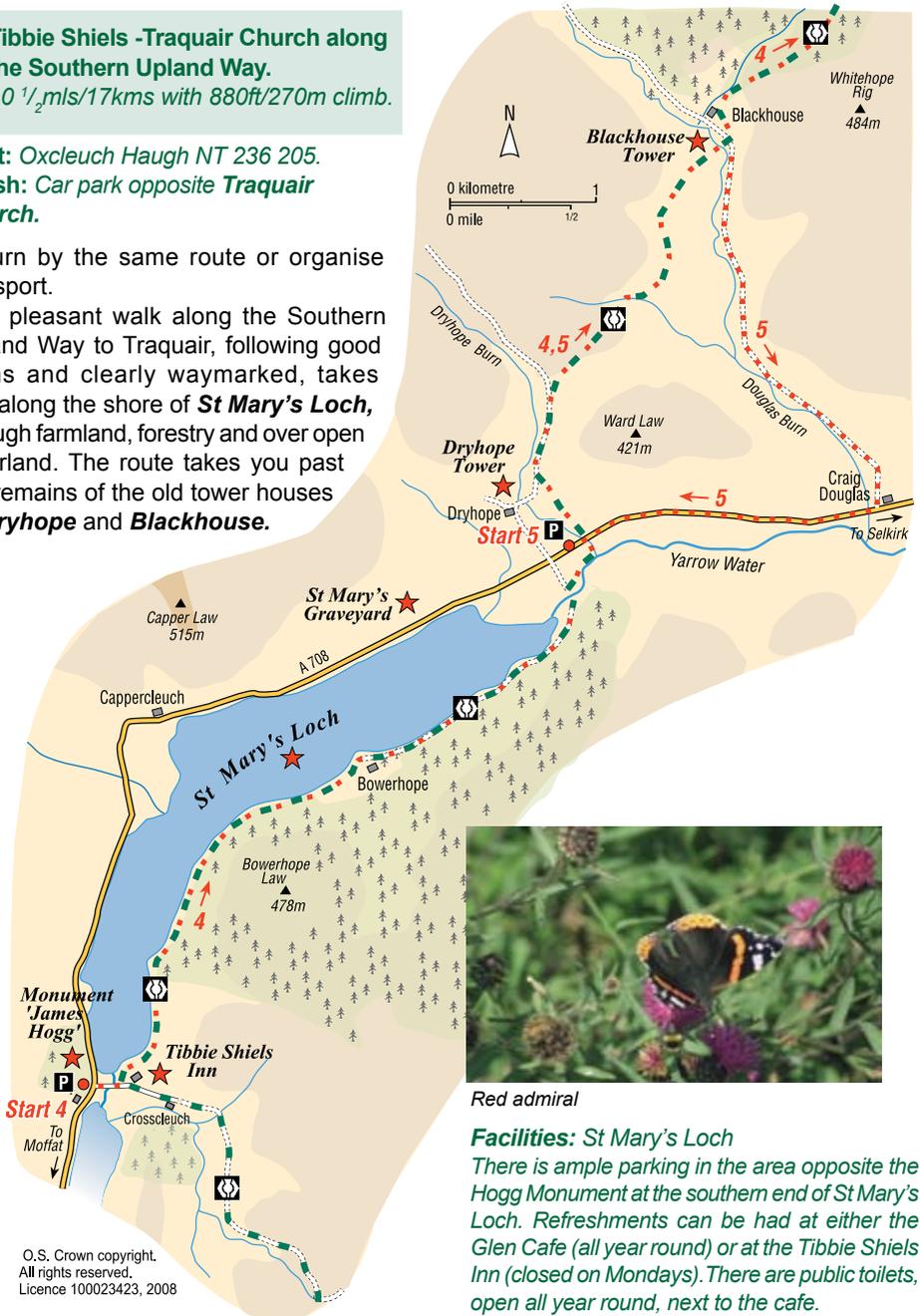
10 1/2 mls/17kms with 880ft/270m climb.

**Start:** Oxcleuch Haugh NT 236 205.

**Finish:** Car park opposite **Traquair Church.**

Return by the same route or organise transport.

This pleasant walk along the Southern Upland Way to Traquair, following good paths and clearly waymarked, takes you along the shore of **St Mary's Loch**, through farmland, forestry and over open moorland. The route takes you past the remains of the old tower houses of **Dryhope** and **Blackhouse**.



Red admiral

#### **Facilities:** St Mary's Loch

There is ample parking in the area opposite the Hogg Monument at the southern end of St Mary's Loch. Refreshments can be had at either the Glen Cafe (all year round) or at the Tibbie Shiels Inn (closed on Mondays). There are public toilets, open all year round, next to the cafe.

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*Hogg Statue, Tibbies*

## 5. Dryhope circular via Blackhouse and Craig Douglas.

*6mils/9kms with 325ft/100m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** Lay-by at the side of the A708, 200m east of Dryhope road end NT 273 244.

This is a relatively easy walk following good paths, tracks and back along the A708 (take care with the traffic on this stretch) with very little ascent.

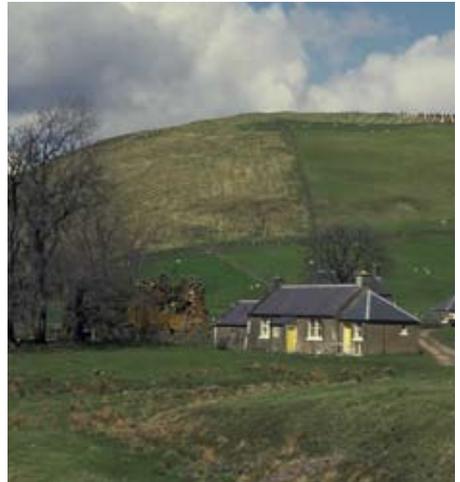
Walk east along the road a short distance until you see a wooden stile over the fence on your left, go over this stile and follow the Southern Upland Way to Blackhouse (**James Hogg** was shepherd here from 1790-1800). Turn right at **Blackhouse Tower** and follow the track down to the road end at Craig Douglas, from here follow the A708 back to the start point.



*St Mary's Loch at March Wood*



*Dryhope Tower*



*Blackhouse Tower*

**6. Traquair Kirk circular via The Glen, Blackhouse and back along the Southern Upland Way.**

*12mils/20kms with 1,620ft/500m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Car park adjacent to the church NT320 334.*

This longer walk follows the glen of the Quair Water and over to Blackhouse before returning to the start point along the Southern Upland Way. The route mostly follows good paths, road and tracks, but the section from Glenshiel Bank to Whiteknowe Head is indistinct at times and the use of compass and map may be necessary. Follow the minor road from the car park to Orchard Mains and continue along the road, which later becomes a dirt track, past Glen House to Glenshiel Bank. Walk past the cottage, through a gate and continue south-west climbing the ridge ahead. Continue climbing to reach a gate at the edge of Craig Douglas Forest at NT265 302. Pass into Craig Douglas Forest and follow the path down to the forest track which will lead you down the road to Blackhouse. At Blackhouse turn left and follow the route of the Southern Upland Way back to the start point.



*Red campion*



*Tweed Valley*



*Blaeberry*

**6a Traquair Kirk circular via The Glen, Deuchers Law and back along the Southern Upland Way**

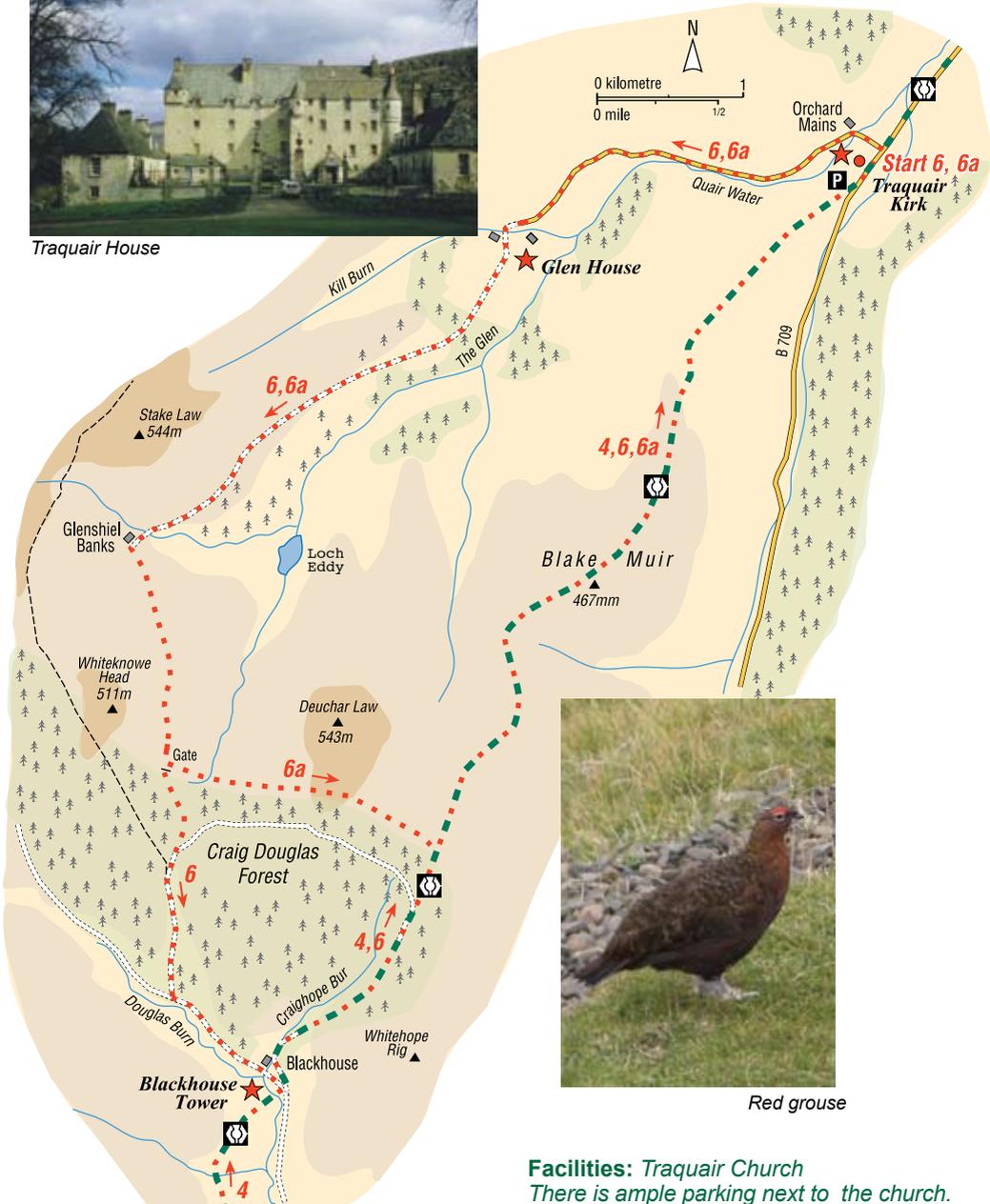
*10mils/16kms with 1,460ft/450m climb .*

**Start and Finish:** *As walk 6*

This slightly shorter walk follows the same route as walk 6, but omitting the section through the forest and down to Blackhouse. From the start follow the directions for walk six up to the gate into Craig Douglas Forest at NT265 302. Do not cross into the forest, but follow the boundary fence south-east, down into the head of the Quair Water and up the edge of Deuchar Law. After approximately 1½ miles / 2½km you will come to a gate with stile, in the wall, leaving the forest. Turn left here and follow the Southern Upland Way back to the start point.



Traquair House



Red grouse

**Facilities:** Traquair Church  
 There is ample parking next to the church.  
 There are no public facilities.

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## 7. Traquair circular via Minch Moor.

6 mls/10 kms with 1,350ft/410m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Traquair village hall, off the B708 1 1/2 mls / 2 1/4 km south of Innerleithen NT 331 346.*

Good tracks and paths take you through Elibank and Traquair Forest, over the open **Minch Moor** and back to the start. From the car park follow the Southern Upland Way past the **Cheese Well** to a fingerpost at NT 360 335. Leave the Southern Upland Way and turn right here over the top of Minch Moor. The summit, at 1,840ft/567m, offers superb views around 360 degrees. From the summit continue heading due south on a clear path down the heathery ridge. Re-enter the forest and continue beside an old wall. After approximately 100 yds/ms take a narrow path on the right which leads you northwest and rejoins the Southern Upland Way just above Minch Moor bothy. From here retrace your steps back to the start.

## 8. Traquair circular via Minch Moor and West Bold.

10mls/16kms with 1,300ft/400m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *As for walk 7*

This walk follows the Southern Upland Way, forest tracks and finally a section of minor road back to the start. From the village hall follow the Southern Upland Way up over the edge of **Minch Moor** (*it is well worth taking a little extra effort on a good day and going to the top of the hill*). Continue on until the Southern Upland Way crosses a forest road, turn left here and follow the forest track down to West Bold. Turn left onto the minor road and follow it back to Traquair village hall.

## 9. Traquair-Galashiels along the Southern Upland Way.

13mls/21kms with 2,210ft/680m climb.

**Start:** *As for walk 7*

**Finish:** *Galashiels. Return to Innerleithen by bus.*

This walk follows the Southern Upland Way through forest, past the **Cheese Well**, over open moorland and across farmland to reach Galashiels. The route is clearly marked and mostly on good paths and tracks with the opportunity for some fantastic views on the way. *It is well worth taking a little extra effort on a good day and going to the top of the Minch Moor to enjoy a 360 degree vista over the central Borders.*

## 9a Traquair-Yair.

10mls/16kms with 1,560ft/480m climb.

**Start:** *As for walk 7*

**Finish:** *Car park at Yair, just east of the bridge, NT 469 324. Return by the same route or organise transport.*

For a slightly shorter day than walk 9, stop at Yair and return to your start point.

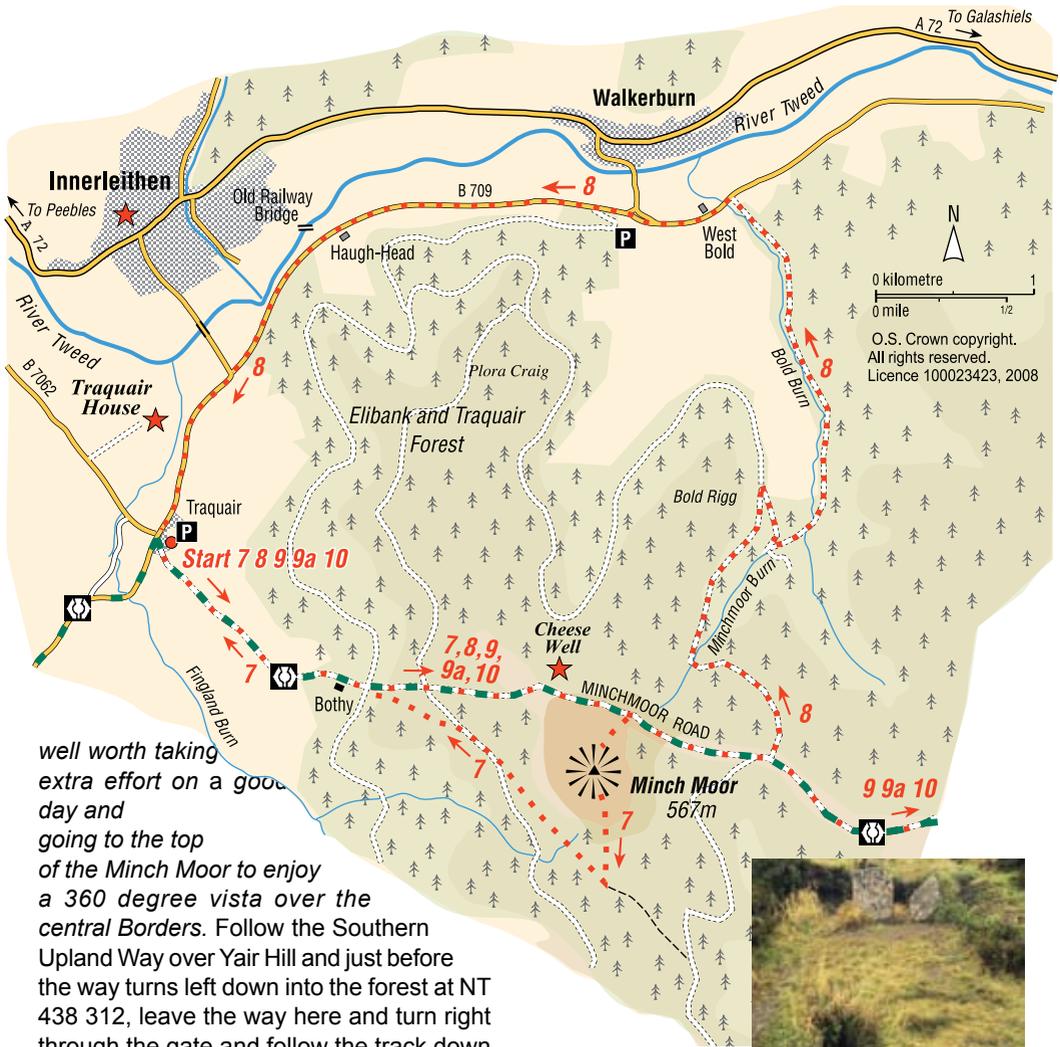
## 10. Traquair-Selkirk.

11mls/17kms with 1,625ft/500m climb.

**Start:** *As for walk 7*

**Finish:** *Selkirk, return by bus.*

This walk follows the Southern Upland Way through forest, over open moorland and across farmland to reach **The Three Brethren**, before dropping down to Selkirk. The route is clearly marked and mostly on good paths and tracks with the opportunity for some fantastic views on the way. *It is*



well worth taking extra effort on a good day and going to the top of the Minch Moor to enjoy a 360 degree vista over the central Borders. Follow the Southern Upland Way over Yair Hill and just before the way turns left down into the forest at NT 438 312, leave the way here and turn right through the gate and follow the track down and along the side of Long Philip Burn to Philiphaugh Farm and then to Selkirk.



*Cheese Well*



*Land art sculpture on Minch Moor*

**Facilities:** *Traquair Hall / Innerleithen*  
 There is ample parking at Traquair Hall, but no public facilities. There are plenty of hotels, B&Bs and a campsite in the town as well as numerous shops (remember to sample the renowned ice cream at Caldwells).  
 There are public toilets, just off the main street at the west end of town.

### 11. Yarrowford circular via Broadmeadows and the Three Brethren.

5 mls/8 kms with 1,140ft/350m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Small parking area at the side of the A708 opposite Yarrowford NT 407 299.*

A pleasant walk up to the top of Yair Hill with, on a clear day, the reward of stupendous views for your efforts. From the start, walk carefully east along the road for approximately 1/2 mile/700m to the junction on your left, go up this road and take the path to Broadmeadows Youth Hostel (the first Youth Hostel opened in Scotland in 1931) go past the Hostel and continue to follow the path up to join the Southern Upland Way at the top of the hill, east of Broomy Law. Follow the Southern Upland Way to the **Three Brethren** on the top of Yair Hill. From here cross the fence and, keeping it on your right, follow the fence line south for approximately 1/2 mile/700m until you reach a gate in the fence. Go through the gate and follow the path down to cross the Long Philip Burn, continue south-west over the saddle to the north of Foulshiels hill and follow the path, which becomes a track, back to the start.

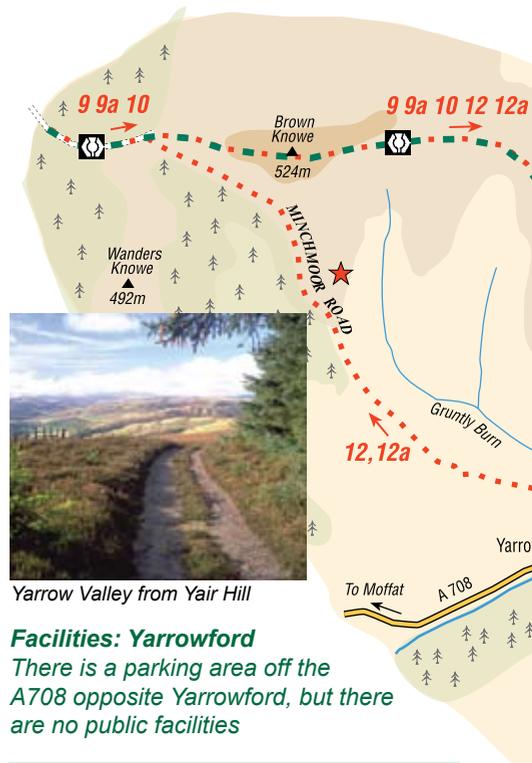
### 12. Yarrowford circular via Minch Moor, Brown Knowe, the Three Brethren and Broadmeadows.

10mls/16kms with 1,460ft/450m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *As for walk 11*

Cross the road and take the signposted route up past the village hall on into the wood where a farm track leads you up through a corridor of oak and beech trees out into open farmland. Turn left here and follow the track up the hill to join the

Southern Upland Way, to the east of Hare Law. Follow the Way eastwards along the ridge to the **Three Brethren** on the top of Yair Hill. From here follow the directions for walk 11, back to the start.



Yarrow Valley from Yair Hill

#### **Facilities: Yarrowford**

*There is a parking area off the A708 opposite Yarrowford, but there are no public facilities*

### 12a Yarrowford circular via Minch Moor, Brown Knowe, and Broadmeadows.

7mls/11kms with 1,400ft/430m climb

**Start and Finish:** *As for walk 11*

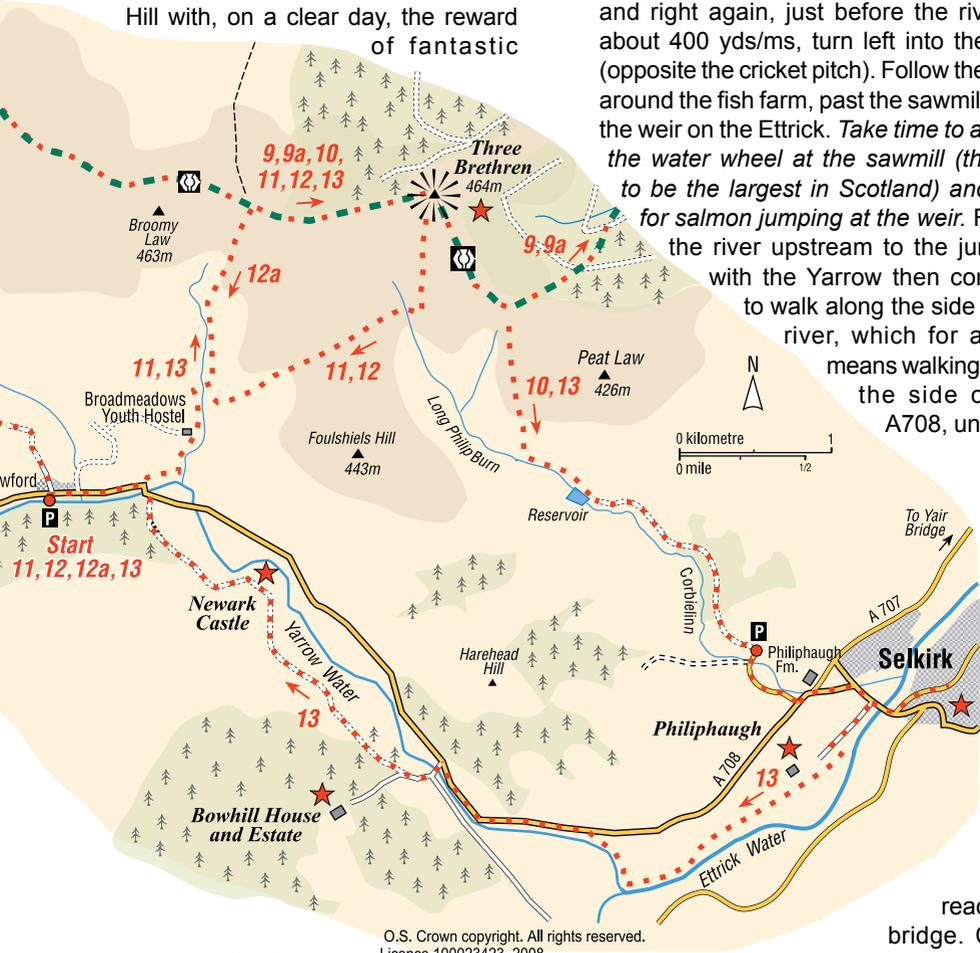
Use this route for a slightly shorter walk than 12. From the car park follow the route as for walk 12 until you come to the stile over the wall on your right, 200 yds/ms before Yair Forest. Cross over the stile and follow the path down past Broadmeadows Youth Hostel and back to the start.

**13. Yarrowford circular via the Three Brethren, Philiphaugh and Newark Castle.**

9mils/15kms with 1,140ft/350m climb.

**Start and Finish: As for walk 11**

A pleasant walk up over the top of Yair Hill with, on a clear day, the reward of fantastic



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views for your efforts before descending down to the bottom of the Yarrow valley and following the river upstream to the start point. Follow the directions for walk 11 to the **Three Brethren**

on the top of Yair Hill. Follow the Way over Yair Hill and just before the Way turns left down into the forest at NT 438 312, turn right through the gate and follow the track down and along the side of Long Philip Burn through **Philiphaugh Farm** to the A708. Cross the road, turn left and follow the road towards Selkirk. Turn right at the T junction and right again, just before the river. In about 400 yds/ms, turn left into the lane (opposite the cricket pitch). Follow the lade, around the fish farm, past the sawmill up to the weir on the Etrick. *Take time to admire the water wheel at the sawmill (thought to be the largest in Scotland) and look for salmon jumping at the weir.* Follow the river upstream to the junction with the Yarrow then continue to walk along the side of the river, which for a time means walking along the side of the A708, until you

reach the bridge. Cross over the bridge and where the road forks go right and follow the estate road past Newark Castle and continue until you rejoin the A708 and back to the start.

#### 14. Yair circular via the Three Brethren.

5mils/8kms with 1,140ft/350m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Small parking area east of Yair bridge on the A707 NT 469 324*

A fairly strenuous climb, through mixed woodland, to the **Three Brethren** on the top of Yair Hill, but a beautiful view awaits you at the top. Mostly on good paths and tracks. From the eastern side of the car park, follow the waymarked route up into the forest. Turn right after a short distance and continue to follow the path which joins a forest track, turn right and keep on the track for approximately 1m/1½km, until you come to a large turning area. Turn left here and continue to the top of the hill. Return by the same route as far as the turning area. Go straight over and follow the Southern Upland Way back to the car park.

#### 15. Yair circular via the Three Brethren and Ashiestiel Bridge.

8mils/13kms with 1,140ft/350m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *As for walk 14*

A fairly strenuous climb up to the Three Brethren on the top of Yair Hill, returning down a gentler slope and following the Tweed back to the start. Climb to the top of the hill as for walk 14. To return, carry straight on past the top for about 300 yds/ms, then turn right down a forest track. Turn right at the junction at the bottom and follow the track down until it merges with another track. Turn left and follow this track continuing on down the hill keeping to the main track. Just as the track emerges out of the forest at the bottom of the hill, turn left and after approximately 200 yds/ms turn right and go through the field gate (*it might be worth a short detour to have a*

*look at the magnificent **Ashiestiel Bridge** over the Tweed, 200 yards/m to the west).* Follow this track as it winds through the field, along the side of the Tweed. Continue on this track through forest and open areas, past **Yair House**, to rejoin the Southern Upland Way as it comes out of the wood on your right. Carry on down the drive, rejoin the A707 at Yair bridge and back to the car park.



*Three Brethren in winter*

#### 15a. Caddonfoot circular via Neidpath Hill

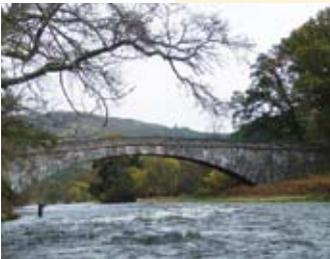
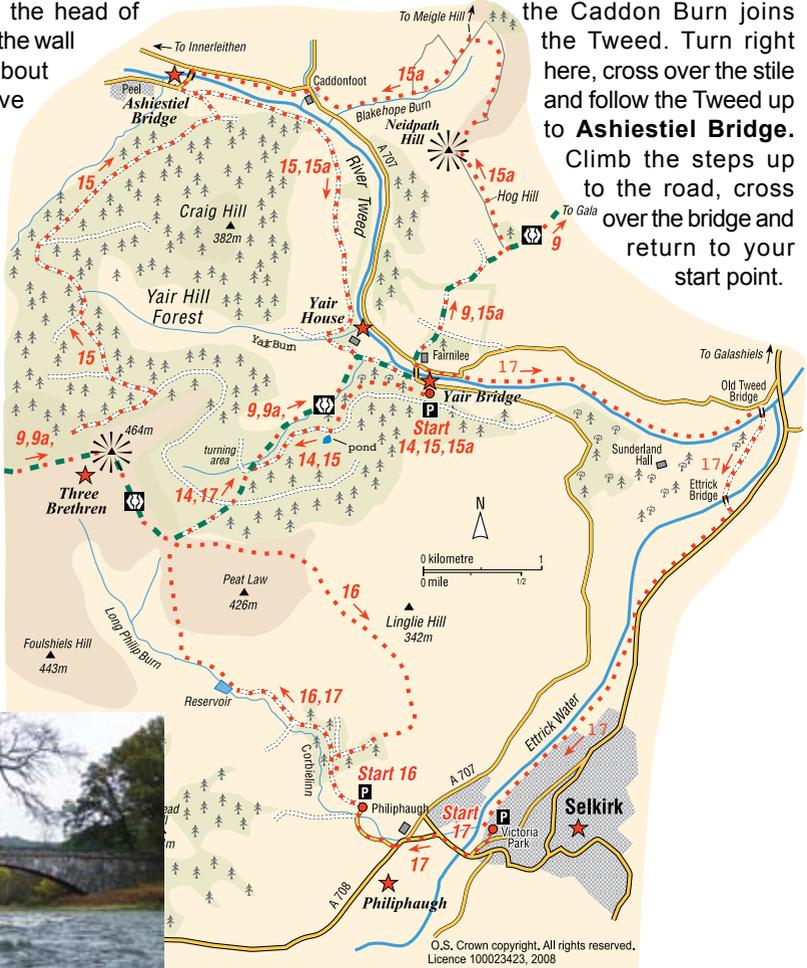
6¾ mls/11km with 1320ft/400m climb

**Start and Finish:** *Glenkinnon Community Woodland car park, off the A707 north of Selkirk NT437 349*

From the car park turn right, head back towards the bridge and turn right onto the track before the bridge to follow the National cycle route. After 150 metres turn left at the junction and continue along the track, which eventually becomes a tarmac road and passes under a small metal bridge. Bear left beyond this bridge and continue to Yair farm where you bear left again. The Southern Upland Way joins from the right

and you follow this down to **Yair Bridge**. Cross the bridge heading towards Fairnilee Farm and continue to follow the signs for the Southern Upland Way uphill for 1.25 km. 100 metres past a small cottage you reach a finger post signing “Gala Circuit”. Turn left, leaving the Southern Upland Way, and follow the waymarkers uphill, keeping the wall on your left, through two fields. At the top corner of the second field, turn right and after 150 metres go through the gate in the wall on your left. Turn right and contour around the head of the hill, keeping the wall on your right about 15 metres above you. Continue to follow the wall down from the corner of the wood for 150 metres to a gate and a fingerpost. Go through the gate, turn left (signed “Meigle Circuit”) and go downhill through the next two fields, keeping close to the wall on your left, and then along a

track that goes gently downhill. Follow this path as it winds down along the Blakehope Burn and bends round to the right at the bottom of the hill, behind Caddonfoot Church. After 175 metres leave the track (at the fingerpost signing “Caddonfoot”) and take the steep path down on your left, between the gorse, to Caddonfoot Primary School. Cross to the other side of the junction, take the footpath over a small bridge and then turn immediately down the track on your left and follow it down to where the Caddon Burn joins the Tweed. Turn right here, cross over the stile and follow the Tweed up to **Ashiestiel Bridge**. Climb the steps up to the road, cross over the bridge and return to your start point.



Ashiestiel Bridge

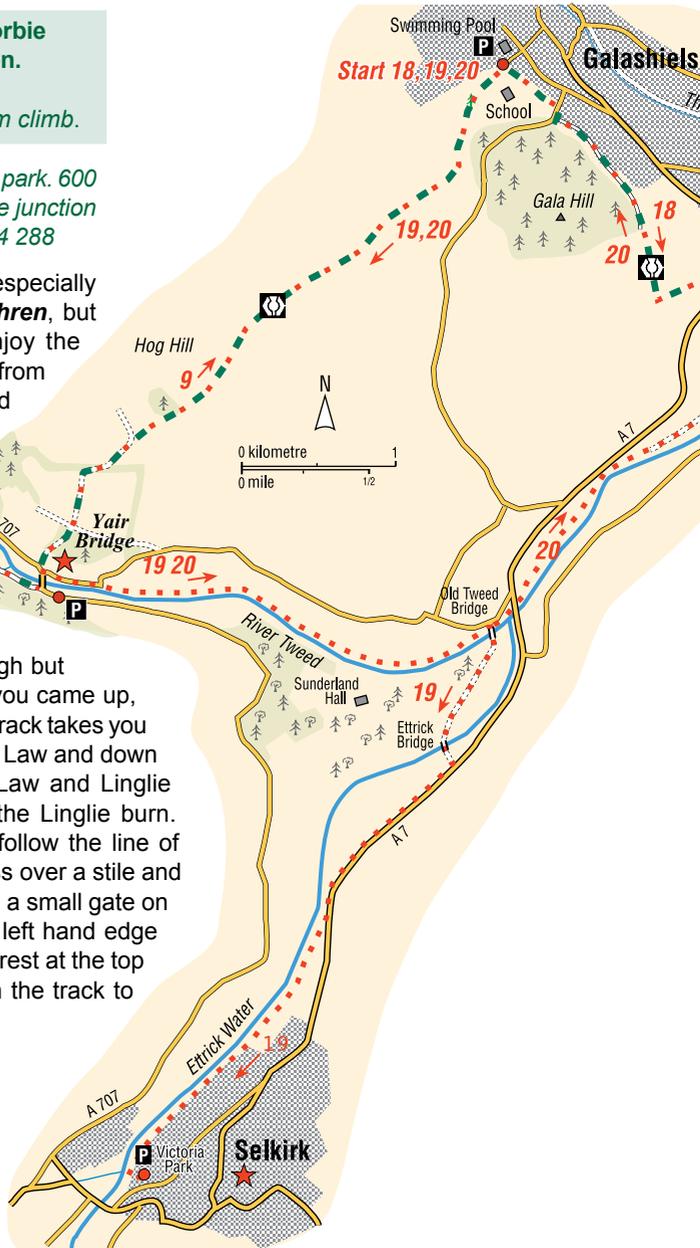
**16. Philiphaugh circular via Corbie Linn and the Three Brethren.**  
(see map on page 29)  
6mils/9kms with 1,070ft/330m climb.

**Start and Finish:** Philiphaugh car park. 600 yards/m up the farm road from the junction of the A708 with the A707 NT454 288

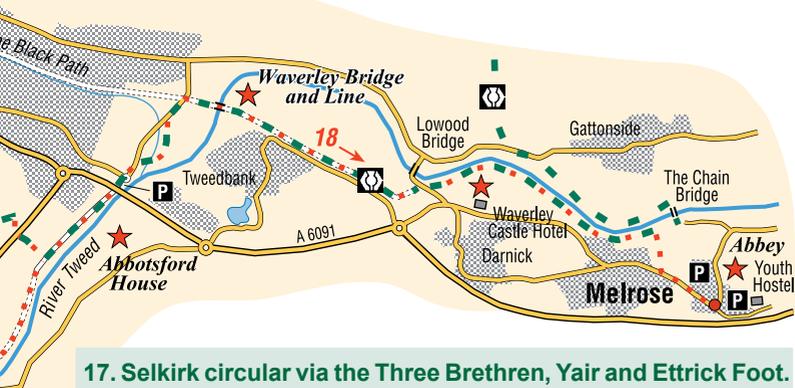
This is a fairly strenuous walk, especially the climb up to the **Three Brethren**, but it is well worth the effort to enjoy the panoramic views of the Borders from the top. Leave the car park and follow the rough track (an old drove road known locally as the Corbie Linn), up past the reservoir and up to the edge of Yair Forest. Go through the gate and follow the Southern Upland Way to the left on to the top of the hill. Return to the gate and go through but do not go back down the track you came up, but take the track to the left. This track takes you along the north shoulder of Peat Law and down into the saddle between Peat Law and Linglie Hill. From here head down to the Linglie burn. After you pass through a gate follow the line of the fence/wall on your right, cross over a stile and after a short distance go through a small gate on your right. Continue around the left hand edge of the field before entering the forest at the top corner and returning back down the track to the start point.



Great-spotted woodpecker  
(Laurie Campbell)



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**17. Selkirk circular via the Three Brethren, Yair and Ettrick Foot.**  
(see map on page 29)  
11m/17kms with 1,200ft/370m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *The Victoria Park car park NT465 287. See map on page 29*

A very pleasant days walk climbing to the top of Yair Hill, descending down through the forest and then following the Tweed and Ettrick rivers back to your start point. From the start point walk out of Selkirk along the A708 and out to the car park on Philipaugh farm. From here follow the route for walk 16 to the top of the hill. Return to Selkirk by following the Southern Upland Way down through Yair Hill Forest to Yair bridge. Cross over Yair bridge, turn right onto the minor road, and in 1/2 mile/750 metres as the road turns left, go straight on and follow the Tweed down to its junction with the Ettrick. Cross the old bridge over the Tweed and follow the road back towards Selkirk. At the junction with the A7, turn right and continue along the pavement for approximately 1/2 mile/750metres. Turn right at Bridgeheugh, just after the large layby on the left and make your way down to the side of the Ettrick Water and follow the river back to the start.

**Facilities:** *Selkirk*

*Parking: There is parking at the swimming pool and also several other car parks in the town.*

*There are plenty of hotels, restaurants and cafes in the town as well as numerous shops. The Tourist Information Centre is just off the main square in the centre of town, opposite the bus terminus. There are public toilets in the town centre next to the Tourist Information Centre.*

**18. Galashiels to Melrose, following the Southern Upland Way.**  
5m/8kms with 325ft/100m climb.

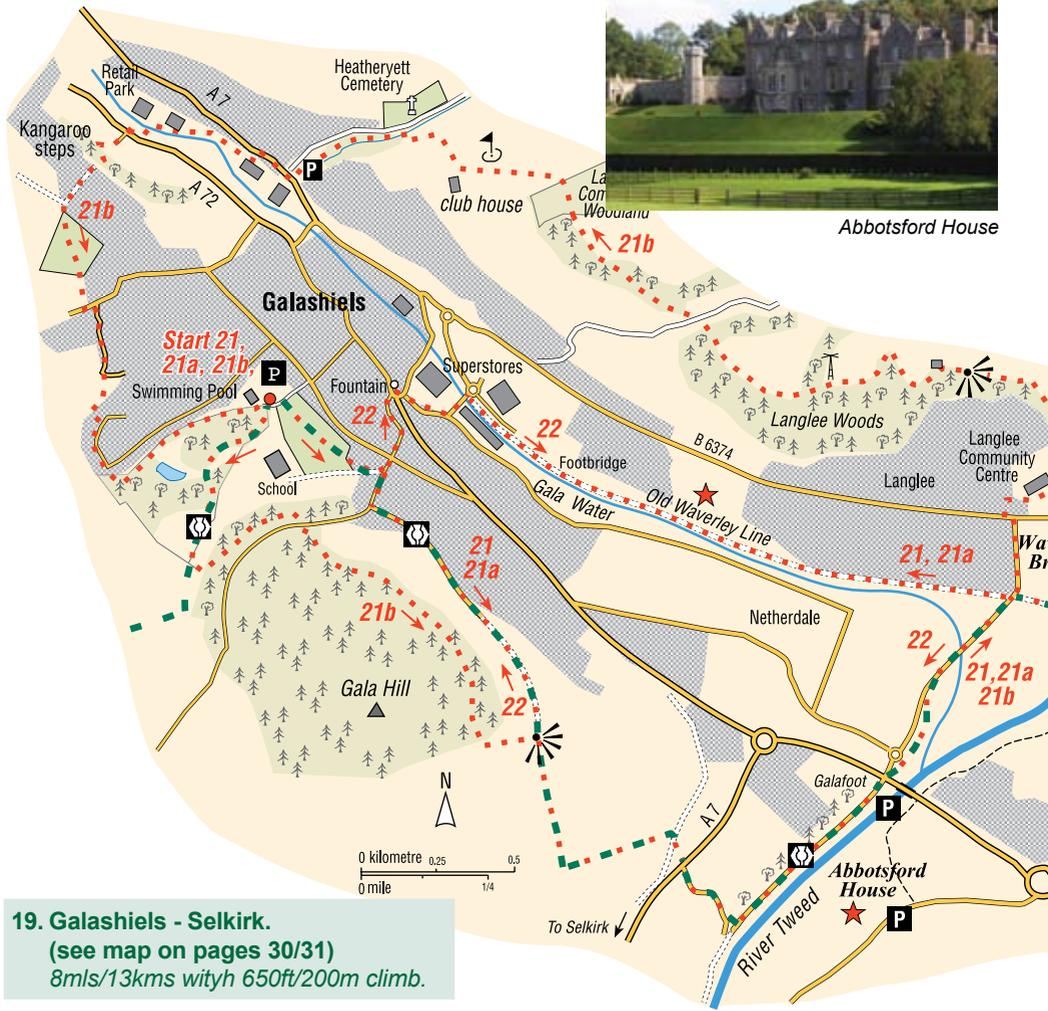
**Start:** Galashiels Swimming Pool  
NT 488 359.

**Finish:** Melrose. Return by public transport.

An enjoyable walk, without too much climbing, along a well waymarked route on good paths and tracks From the seat just to the east of the swimming pool, follow the Southern Upland Way over the edge of Gala Hill and along part of the old **Waverley Line** and then follow the Tweed down to Melrose.



Abbotsford House



**19. Galashiels - Selkirk.**  
 (see map on pages 30/31)  
 8mils/13kms wityh 650ft/200m climb.

**Start:** Galashiels Swimming Pool  
 NT 488 359.  
**Finish:** Victoria Park next to Selkirk  
 swimming pool NT465 287.  
 Return by public transport.

A walk mostly on good paths and tracks but with some sections across open farmland. From the seat just to the east of the swimming pool, follow the Southern Upland Way out of Galashiels and over to **Yair**

**bridge.** Do not cross the bridge but turn left onto the minor road and follow directions from here to Selkirk as for walk 17.

**20. Galashiels circular via Yair, Ettrick Foot and Boleside.**  
 (see map on pages 30/31)  
 9mils/14kms with 490 ft/150m climb.

**Start and Finish:** Galashiels Swimming Pool  
 NT 488 359.

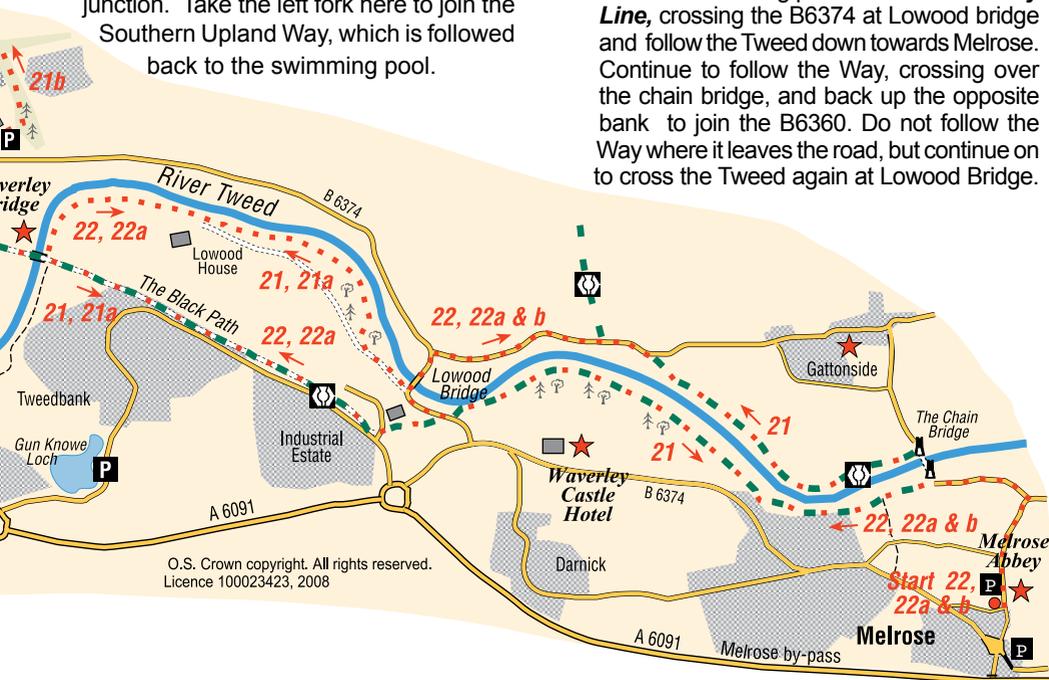
A walk mostly on good paths and tracks but with some sections across open farmland. Follow the Southern Upland Way out of **Galashiels**, from the seat just to the east of the swimming pool, over to **Yair bridge**. Do not cross the bridge but turn left onto the minor road, and in 1/2mile/750metres as the road turns left, go straight on and follow the Tweed down to its junction with the Etrick. Cross straight over the old road and follow the cycleway down to Boleside. Continue past Boleside until you come to a road junction. Take the left fork here to join the Southern Upland Way, which is followed back to the swimming pool.

## 21. Galashiels circular via Gala Hill, Lowood Bridge, Melrose and the Black Path.

9mils/15kms with 390ft/120m climb.

**Start and Finish:** As for walk 20

A very interesting figure of eight walk through a variety of different habitats with only one short climb out of Galashiels. From the seat just to the east of the swimming pool, follow the Southern Upland Way over the edge of Gala Hill and along part of the old **Waverley Line**, crossing the B6374 at Lowood bridge and follow the Tweed down towards Melrose. Continue to follow the Way, crossing over the chain bridge, and back up the opposite bank to join the B6360. Do not follow the Way where it leaves the road, but continue on to cross the Tweed again at Lowood Bridge.



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### **Facilities:** Galashiels

**Parking:** There is parking at the swimming pool and also several other car parks in the town. There are plenty of hotels, B&Bs, restaurants and cafes in the town as well as numerous shops. There are public toilets at the east end of Bank Street and at the bus terminus.

Immediately after crossing the bridge turn right along the estate road and after a short distance take a path on your right to leave the road. Pass through the woodland to rejoin the Tweed which you follow upstream to the old railway bridge. Pass under the bridge and immediately take the path on the left and climb up onto the bridge. From here follow the path of the old **Waverley railway** back into the centre of **Galashiels** and return to your start point.

**21a Galashiels circular via Gala Hill,  
Lowood Bridge and Black Path.**  
(see map on pages 32/33)  
*7mils/11kms with 390ft/120m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *As for walk 20*

A very similar walk to 21 for those with less time of just wanting a shorter day out. Follow the same route from Galashiels, as for walk 21, as far as the B6374. Do not cross the road here, but turn left and go down the hill and turn left onto the estate road. From here follow the directions as in

**21b Galashiels circular via Gala Hill,  
and Langlee Woods.**  
(see map on pages 32/33)  
*7mils/11.5kms with 1450ft/440m climb*

**Start and Finish:** Galashiels Policies car park, next to Galashiels Swimming Pool. NT487 359.

From the bench seat beside the large conifers, follow the Southern Upland Way (SUW) southwards through Gala Policies woodland. At the edge of the policies, go through a gate, turn left, cross a small bridge and at the gate on your left, leave the SUW and re-enter the woodland (you will now be following green and yellow Gala Paths markers). Follow the path through the wood and up to the road. Cross the road and enter the woodland onto Gala Hill. Follow the path along the edge of the wood, enjoying the mixed woodland cover and the views out over Galashiels. When you reach the end of this path turn left and enter the field through the gate immediately in front of you. Continue down the edge of this field. At the bottom of the field turn right to rejoin the SUW and enter the adjacent field. Follow the SUW through Netherbarns, taking care when crossing the A7, down to the River Tweed. Continue to follow the SUW to Gala Foot and over a bridge across the Gala Water. After another 200 yds/ms continue straight on up



*Galashiels from Langlee Wood*

the road, leaving the route of the SUW as it turns right to join the line of the old **Waverley railway line**. Continue along the roadside on Winston Road to reach Melrose Road, cross over, turn left and after 20 yds/ms turn right and take the steps up to Marigold Road. Go right at the top, straight across a roundabout and continue through the car park and enter the woodland at the far side. Continue on the path, turning left, and go uphill, eventually reaching the top of the woodland strip. Turn left at the top, keeping the old fence on your right, and walk through the trees to reach an open area on top of a small knoll. From here you can see across Galashiels and beyond to the **Eildon Hills**. The path continues downhill for a short distance, to reach the top of a track. Go across the top of a track and through an old gateway on the right and follow a path which runs alongside a fence. Keep the fence on your right as the path climbs uphill. At the top of the wood turn left at the wall and keeping it on your right, follow the woodland path as it passes the transmitter tower. Carry straight on, turning right onto a track, which eventually descends steeply down to a gate at the roadside. Go straight across the road through the gate, signposted for Langlee Community Woodland. Keep left at the path junction and carry on to enter Langlee Community Woodland through a small gate. Go through the wood, heading for the ladder stile on the opposite side (take time to rest on the bench seat in the middle of the wood and enjoy the tremendous views over Galashiels). Cross the wall, turn left and head diagonally down the

golf course towards the Club House. Turn right at the Club House and cross the lower part of the golf course down along a line of mature Oak trees, giving due consideration to people playing golf, and walk down the steps through the woods by Ladhope Burn. Turn right, cross the stone bridge and then, 50 yds/ms on, turn left just before the road and descend on the path through the woods.

At the bottom of the woods you will come out at a small parking area. Cross the A7 with care, turn right and after 30 yds/ms, left down a narrow lane. Turn right at the bottom and pass behind the retail outlets on your left. Bear left at the junction and keeping close to the Gala Water, pass to the left of the next retail unit to reach the bridge over the river. Cross the bridge onto King Street. Cross the road with care, turn right, then left into Duke Street to go straight ahead to the edge of the wooded bank. Climb the flight of steps, which are known as Dargy Lane or the Kangaroo Steps. At the top of the steps, cross the road, go up Manse Lane and across the next road, to reach Victoria Park. Go across the park to exit at the opposite side by a path between the houses. Bear left and go along Meigle View to the junction with Mossilee Road. Cross Mossilee Road, turn left and then right into Meigle Street. Follow Meigle Street as it winds uphill and then downhill into Forest Hill Road. Descend Forest Hill Road until you see a small open area on your right. Turn right here, just before the children's play area and follow the path down through a strip of woodland. At the bottom of the path, turn left, then right along Balmoral Road. Continue on Balmoral Road until you reach the side of Gala Policies Wood, at the end of Balmoral Avenue. Cross the bridge into the wood and keep left on the woodland paths to return to your start point.

**Facilities:** *Melrose*

**Parking:** *There is a car park in the town centre, opposite the Abbey. There are plenty of hotels, restaurants and cafes in the town as well as numerous shops. There are public toilets in the town centre close to the Abbey. The Tourist Information Centre is opposite the Abbey.*

**22. Melrose Circular via Lowood Bridge, Waverley Bridge and Galashiels.**  
**(see map on pages 32/33)**  
*9mils/15kms with 390ft/120m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Melrose town centre.*

The same walk route as for walk 21 but starting in Melrose. Follow the B6361 out of Melrose, past **Melrose Abbey**, and after a few hundred yards take the small road on your left leading to the chain bridge. Do not cross over the bridge but follow the Southern Upland Way all the way into **Galashiels**. After joining Elm Row, at the bottom of Barr Road, do not turn left through the gates into Scott park, but carry straight on past the market cross, and down Lawyers Brae to the fountain in the centre of town. Turn right here, down Paton Street, and go into the car park at the supermarket. Head for the far right hand side of the car park where you will find a bridge over the Gala Water. Go over the bridge, turn right and follow the tarred path out of Galashiels along the route of the old **Waverley Line**. Immediately after crossing the bridge over the Tweed, turn right, pass beneath the bridge and continue on the path along the side of the Tweed. After about 1 mile/1/2km, the path will lead you up through woodland to join the estate road into Lowood, turn left here and walk on to join the main road. Turn left and cross over the bridge taking the first right almost immediately and follow the B6360 towards **Gattonside**. After about 1/2 mile/700m you will find that the Southern Upland Way will come down from the left to join the road, continue along the road for a short distance and follow the waymarking down to the bank of the Tweed and back to Melrose.

**22a Melrose circular via Lowood Bridge and Waverley Bridge.**  
**(see map on pages 32/33)**  
*5m/8kms with 160ft/50m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Melrose town centre.*

For a shorter walk, with virtually no climb, follow the Southern Upland Way out of Melrose, as for walk 22, but do not cross the Tweed over the old railway bridge. Instead leave the path to the left, pass under the bridge and follow the directions for walk 22 from here back to Melrose.

**22b Melrose circular via Lowood Bridge.**  
**(see map on pages 32/33)**  
*3m/5kms with 100ft/30m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Melrose town centre.*

A short walk along both banks of the Tweed with no climb on good paths and tracks. Follow the Southern Upland Way out of Melrose, as for walk 22. On reaching the B6374 do not cross the road but turn right and cross the bridge over the Tweed and follow the directions for walk 22 back to Melrose.



*River Tweed, Melrose*



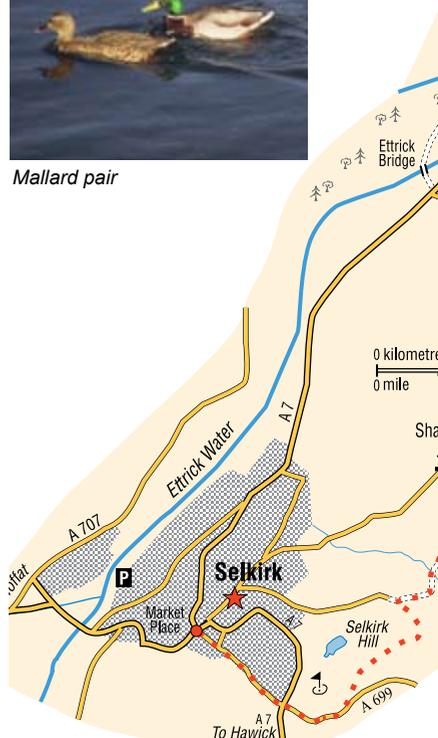
*Mallard pair*

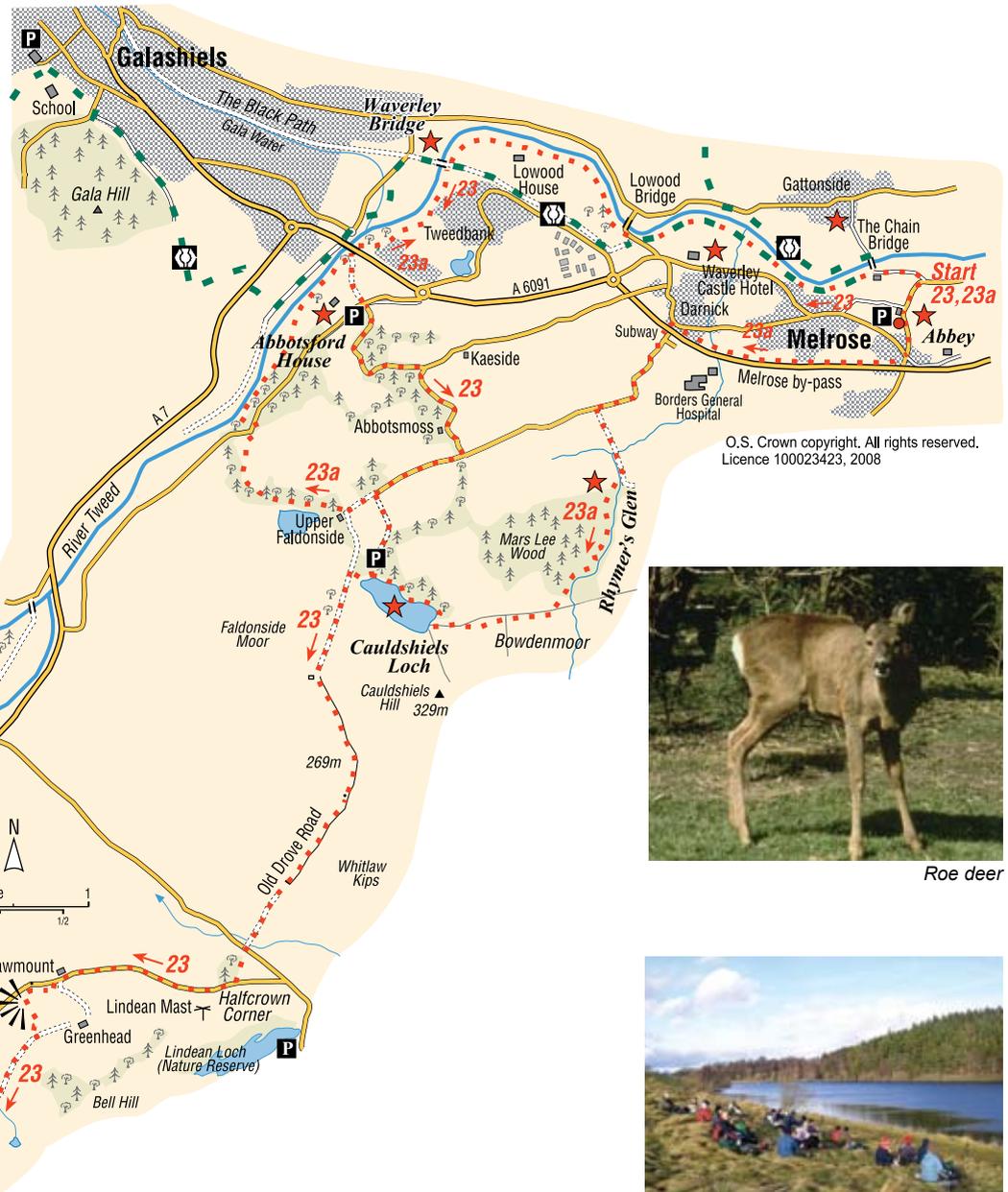


*Eildon hills and river Tweed*

**Facilities: Melrose**

*Parking: There is a car park in the town centre, opposite the Abbey. There are plenty of hotels, restaurants and cafes in the town as well as numerous shops. There are public toilets in the town centre close too the Abbey. The Tourist Information Centre is opposite the Abbey.*





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Roe deer



Cauldshiels Loch

### 23. Melrose to Selkirk via the Borders Abbeys Way

(see map on pages 36/37)

10m/16kms with 710ft/220m climb.

**Start:** Melrose town centre (alternatively this walk could be undertaken from Selkirk to Melrose).

**Finish:** Selkirk, return by public transport.

A pleasant walk on good paths, tracks and some roads, offering fine views of the surrounding countryside. This walk follows a section of the Borders Abbeys Way. This section of the Way was opened in 2004. Follow the B6361 out of Melrose, past **Melrose Abbey**, and after a few hundred yards take the small road on your left leading to the chain bridge. Do not cross over the bridge but follow the Southern upland way towards Galashiels. On reaching the B6374, do not cross over the road but turn right and follow the signs for the Borders Abbey Way. Enter the drive to Lowood House and after a short distance turn right down a path which leads to the Tweed. Continue along the left bank of the Tweed, under the old railway bridge, past Tweedbank, towards the A6091. Cross under the large road bridge at Gala Foot and down to join a track up to Abbotsford House. Leave the side of the Tweed here and follow the track then minor roads up to Cauldshiels Loch. Walk round the west shore of the loch and follow the fine old grassy track to join the minor road leading from Lindean Moor to Shawmount. Leave the road at Shawmount and follow the signs round two fields before joining the track to the west of Greenhead farm. Turn right on to this track, which leads you all the way to **Selkirk**. The bus stance is at the west end of the town square.

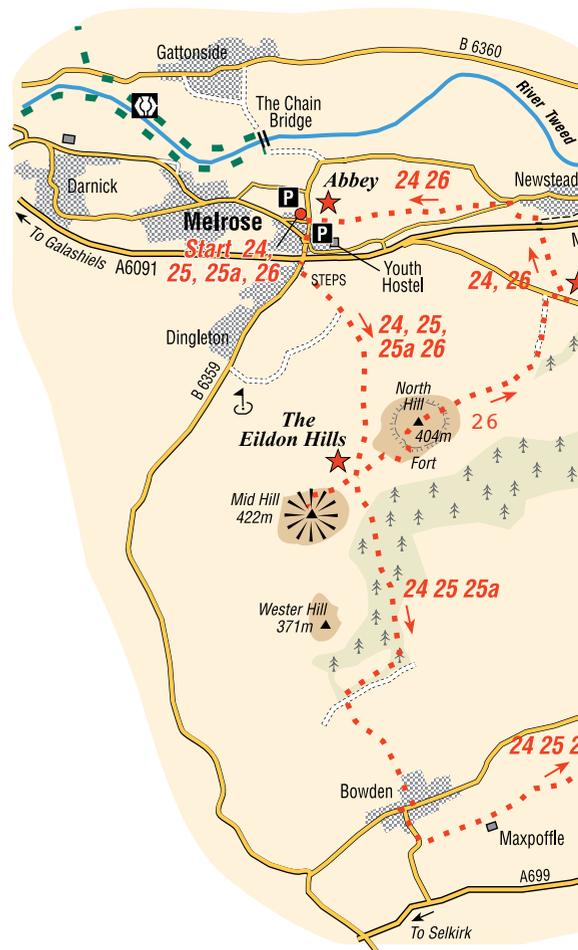
### 23a. Melrose circular via Rhymer's Glen and Abbotsford

(see map on pages 36/37)

9m/14.5kms with 1000ft/300m climb.

**Start and Finish:** Melrose Town Centre NT546 341.

Exit Market Square from the top right hand corner, heading southwest, and take the first right up towards the old Railway Station. Pass in front of the Station Building, turn left and climb the steps in the middle of the building, up to the old platform. Turn right and follow the

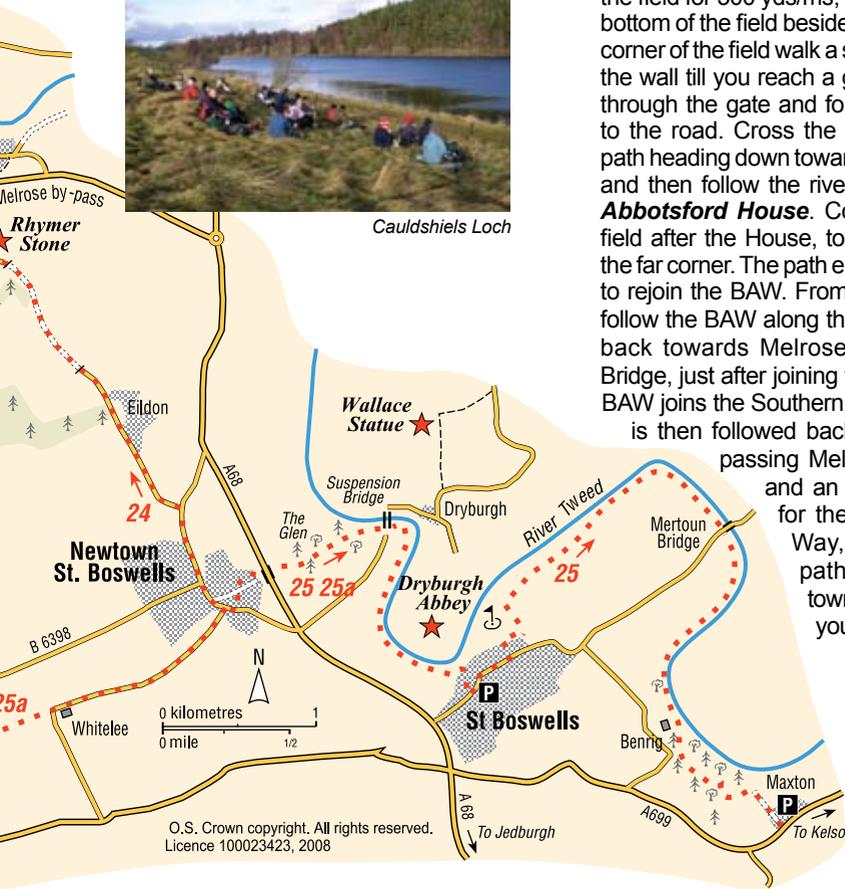


path along the former railway line. After 1 mile/1.5 km, the path ends at a subway under the by-pass. Turn left through the subway to join the road. Turn right and continue on this road, past the entrance to Borders General Hospital, for about 1km and then turn left down a track heading towards Rhymer's Glen. After 500 yds/ms, turn right at a grassy track beside some woodland. Follow this track up into the woodland and into Rhymer's Glen. At the top of the woodland, continue on the path across old earthworks until you reach a gate. Go through the gate onto Bowdenmoor

and turn right, walking with the wall on your right. After about 800 yds/ms you reach the edge of Cauldshiels Loch at a gate on your right. Go through the gate and follow the winding path through the woodland along the water's edge. Many different species of birds can be seen on the loch, especially during the winter months. Near the end of the loch, bear right on a path away from the water and join the Borders Abbeys Way (BAW). Follow this along a track to meet a road. At the road turn left and after 200 yds/ms, bear right on a track, just before a cottage. Follow the track through woodland for about 500 yds/ms and then bear right up a track that leads into a field. Continue down the left-hand edge of the field for 300 yds/ms, bear right along the bottom of the field beside the road. From the corner of the field walk a short way up beside the wall till you reach a gate on the left. Go through the gate and follow the path down to the road. Cross the road carefully to a path heading down towards the River Tweed and then follow the river downstream past **Abbotsford House**. Continue across the field after the House, to reach a gate near the far corner. The path emerges onto a track to rejoin the BAW. From here, turn left and follow the BAW along the line of the Tweed back towards Melrose. Above Lowood Bridge, just after joining the public road, the BAW joins the Southern Upland Way which is then followed back to Melrose. After passing Melrose Bowling Club and an information shelter for the Southern Upland Way, turn right on the path towards Melrose town centre and back to your starting point.



Cauldshiels Loch



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**24. Melrose circular via Newtown  
St. Boswells and the Bogle burn.**  
*7mils/11kms with 975ft/300m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Melrose town centre.*

An interesting walk, offering good views, following part of St. Cuthbert's Way on generally good paths and tracks but with a few muddy sections in wet weather. Follow the waymarking for St. Cuthbert's Way over the Eildon Hills (if time allows a visit to the iron age fort on the top of North Eildon is well worth the effort) through Bowden and on to Newtown St. Boswells. Turn left when you reach the main street in Newtown and leave the Way. Continue along the road out of town, passing the Local Authority Headquarters on your left, take first left just after leaving the town and follow the route of the old A6091 over the Bogle Burn and back to Melrose. Just after the **Rhymer Stone**, there is the opportunity to make your way back to Melrose along part of the Eildon walk. Turn right along the path and continue on towards Newstead. On reaching the road at the west end of the village, cross over and follow the Eildon walk signs past the stables on to a footpath that leads back to Melrose.

**25. Melrose to Maxton, along  
St. Cuthbert's Way.**  
*9mils/15kms with 910ft/280m climb.*

**Start:** *Melrose town centre.*

**Finish:** *Maxton, return by public transport.*

Follow St. Cuthbert's Way over the **Eildon Hills** and along the side of the Tweed to Maxton. This is a well waymarked walk, mostly on good paths and tracks but with a few muddy sections in wet weather.



*Eildon Hills*

**25a Melrose to St. Boswells, along  
St. Cuthbert's Way.**  
*6mils/10kms with 840ft/260m climb.*

**Start:** *Melrose town centre.*

**Finish:** *St Boswells, return by public transport*

For a shorter walk follow St. Cuthbert's Way as far as St. Boswells and take the bus back.

**26. Eildon Hills.**  
*4mils/7kms with 1,055ft/325m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Melrose town centre.*

A waymarked route on good paths and tracks, some sections may be muddy in wet weather. Leave Melrose and follow the signs for St. Cuthbert's Way to the saddle between the two main hills (*a detour here, 1/2 mile/700metres with 355ft/110m climb to the top of Mid Hill, the highest of the Eildons, offers panoramic views with a view point finder*). Leave St. Cuthbert's Way here and, following the signs for the Eildon Hills walk, climb to the top of North Hill. Walk north-easterly along the ridge of the summit and, where the paths diverge, take the left hand one and descend the steep slope to the corner of a small coniferous plantation. Cross the stile and follow the track down to the road, turn right and, after 100 yds/ms, left and continue on towards Newstead. On reaching

the road at the west end of the village, cross over and follow the Eildon walk signs past the stables on to a footpath that leads back to Melrose. For a shorter less strenuous walk leave the route of St. Cuthbert's Way just after crossing onto the open hill and contour round the side of North Hill to rejoin the path as it comes down from the top.

*A separate leaflet describing the walk, local history and points of interest is available from the Tourist information centre in Melrose*

### 27. Melrose-Lauder

10m/16kms with 975ft/300m climb

**Start:** Melrose Town Centre.

**Finish:** Lauder, return by public transport

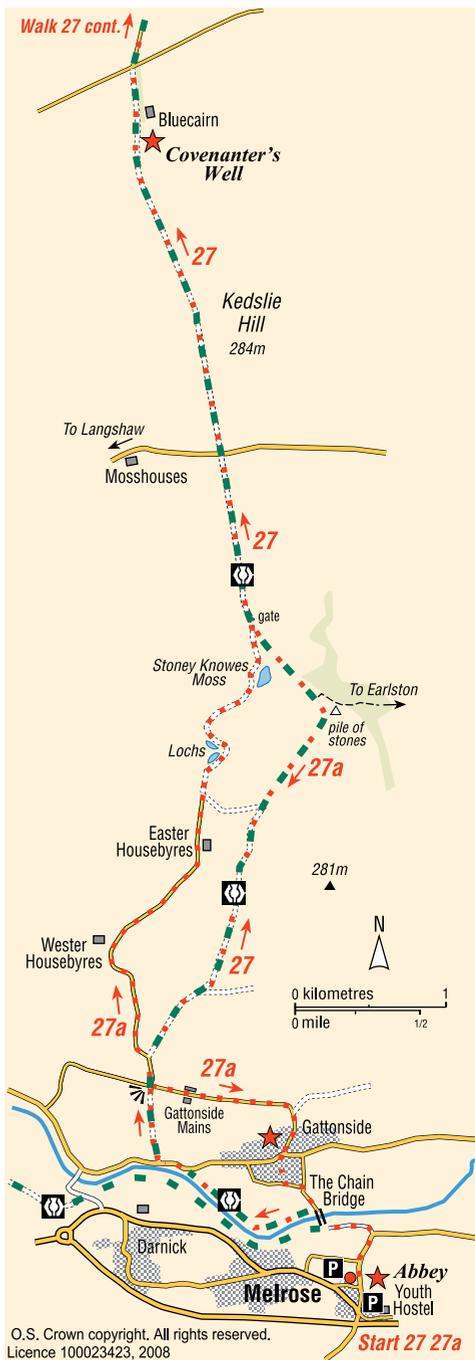
Following the waymarked route of the Southern Upland Way on good paths, tracks and roads with gentle gradients. Leave Melrose on the B6361, past **Melrose Abbey**, and after a few hundred yards take the small road on your left leading to the chain bridge. Cross over the bridge and follow the Southern Upland Way to **Lauder**.

**Facilities:** Lauder

*Parking: There is a car park just off the main street in the centre of town next to the hall. There are plenty of hotels, B&Bs and a cafe in the town as well as numerous shops. There is a campsite at Thirlestane Castle. There are public toilets next to the hall in the car park.*



Waymerk Kist



## 27a. Circular via Housebyres Lochs.

(see map on page 41)

7½ mls/12.5km with 850ft/260m climb.

**Start and finish:** *Melrose Town Centre.*  
*NT546 341.*

From the start point, head down the High Street, past Melrose Rugby Ground, to the junction with St. Mary's Road. Turn right into St. Mary's Road and then left, beside a large stone cairn, to follow the tarmac path to the right of Melrose Parish Church. Follow the path down towards the River Tweed to meet the Southern Upland Way (SUW) at the weir. The weir was built to divert the water from the river to the Abbey Mill. Turn right and follow the SUW along a tarmac path, across the Chain Bridge, then immediately left along a path up the river. After leaving the river to reach the road, turn left, then right up an old lane for 500 yds/ms to reach a road junction. At the road junction go straight ahead and follow this road, leaving the SUW at the first bend. Continue on this road passing Wester Housebyres and then Easter Housebyres. Continue straight ahead along a rough track passing the Byres Lochs. Follow the track past the lochs and up into higher, rougher grassland. Pass to the left of an attractive loch, Stoney Knowes Moss. The SUW is rejoined at the next gate. To the north the SUW continues on a fine undulating track to Lauder along the line of an old mediaeval track, Malcolm's Road. Turn sharp right here and follow the line of the SUW southwards, back towards Melrose. After about 2mls/3.5kms the track eventually rejoins the public road, where you left it earlier. Bear left and at the junction ahead, turn left, leaving the SUW, taking the road that leads up past Gattonside Mains Farm and down towards the village of **Gattonside**. Cross the main road, bearing right, then immediately turn left into Hoebridge Road

West at Pink Cottage. Follow this road to a T-junction, turn left and then right into Bridge Road, passing Gattonside's war memorial, to reach the Chain Bridge again. Cross the bridge and turn left at the old Toll House, following signs for the Borders Abbeys Way, along a small road. At the next junction, turn right, cross to the pavement and follow the road back past Melrose Abbey to your starting point.



*Lauder from Chester Hill*



*Bluecairn Farm*

**28. Lauder Common circular via  
Chester Hill (see map on page 44)**  
*7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mls/12.5km with 980ft/300m climb.*

**Start and finish:** *Lauder Town Centre.  
NT530 475. see map on page 44.*

Leave the town centre, walking south past the Town Hall on your left. Turn right into Mill Wynd and continue downhill, now on the Southern Upland Way, to the fingerpost pointing the route into the right at the edge of the town. Turn right here and passing the information shelter, take the track uphill to the left of the old mill. Continue over **Chester Hill** (remember to stop and look back over **Lauder** as you go through the gate onto the open Hill) and 50 yds/ms past the end of the Golf Course, turn down to the right (just before the Southern Upland way bears left and heads uphill over a ladder stile). Follow this path as it descends down a steep incline leading to a footbridge over the Lauder Burn. Cross the bridge and follow the broad track, bearing slightly right, uphill. Continue over the brow of the hill, ignoring the path signed off to your right, until this track eventually passes through a gate in the wall at the top of the hill. Turn left and follow the path, parallel to the wall, crossing the farm road to Muircleuch and continue on a grassy track leading northwards (to the left of the wood) parallel to, but at a distance from the edge of the Common to

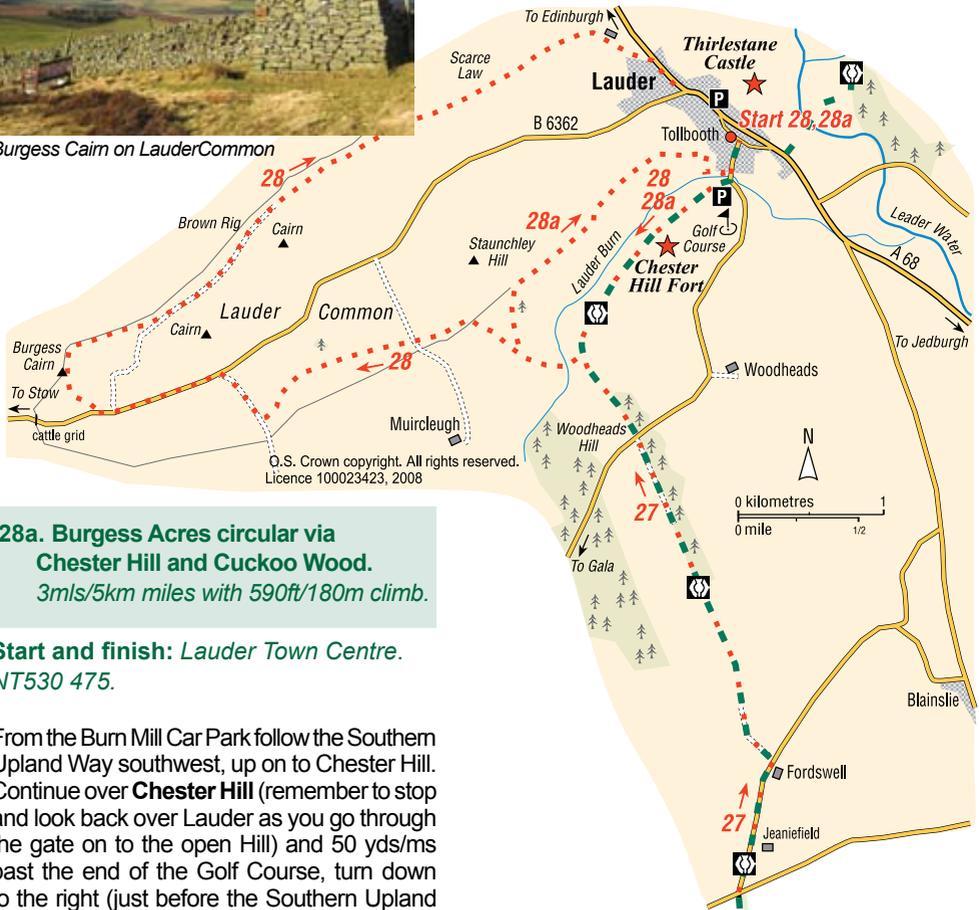
your left. On reaching the next farm track turn right and head northwest to join the public road from Lauder to Stow. Turn left and carefully follow the Stow road for about <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ml/1km and then take the 2nd path off to your right (just after the left hand bend in the road) This leads up to the Burgess Cairn, in the wall at the edge of the Common. If you reach the cattle grid that marks the edge of the Common, then you have gone too far! Continue upwards from the cairn and head eastwards to meet up with the broad path along the ridge (parallel to but about 50 yds/ms out from the wall on your left). Follow this route back along the ridge towards Lauder until it eventually drops down to go through a field gate at the end of the Common. Continue through the field, passing to the right of the electricity pylon in front and heading for the wall ahead. Go through the next gate onto Scarce Law. Carry straight on, with the wall now on your right, over the brow of the hill, until the rather indistinct path turns into an obvious track that leads down to the industrial estate at the edge of Lauder. Go over the cattle grid here and follow the road down past the fire station and chicken sheds. Continue straight on through a short alley (rather than following the road round to your left), which brings you out at the garage on the A68. Turn right and follow the pavement back to your start point



*Mosshouses track to Eildons*



Burgess Cairn on Lauder Common



**28a. Burgess Acres circular via Chester Hill and Cuckoo Wood.**  
*3mils/5km miles with 590ft/180m climb.*

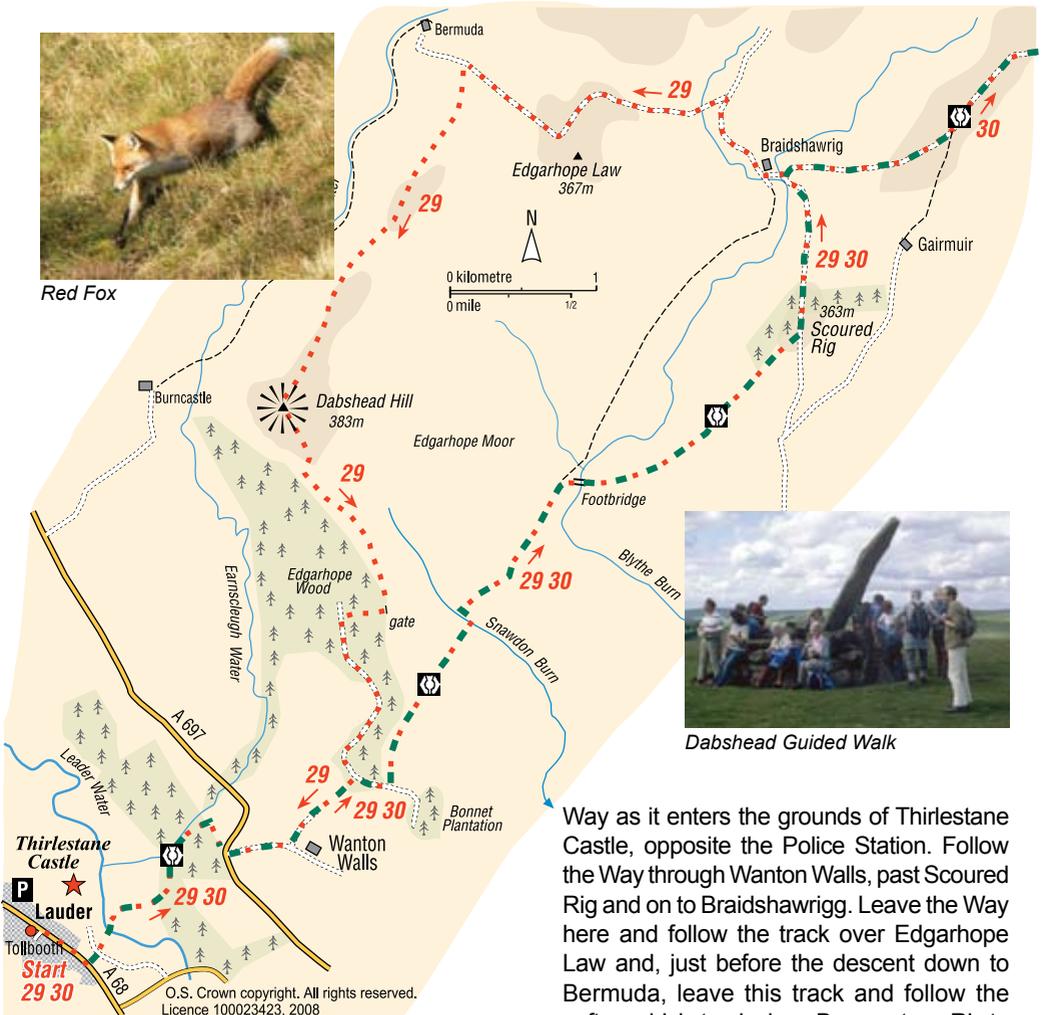
**Start and finish: Lauder Town Centre.**  
**NT530 475.**

From the Burn Mill Car Park follow the Southern Upland Way southwest, up on to Chester Hill. Continue over **Chester Hill** (remember to stop and look back over Lauder as you go through the gate on to the open Hill) and 50 yds/ms past the end of the Golf Course, turn down to the right (just before the Southern Upland way bears left and heads uphill over a ladder stile). Follow this path as it descends down a steep incline leading to a footbridge over the Lauder Burn. Cross the bridge and follow the broad track, bearing slightly right, uphill. After 400 yds/ms, just before the brow of the hill, take the waymarked track to your right, which leads diagonally up the hill towards a small wood (Cuckoo Wood). Keeping Cuckoo Wood on your right, continue diagonally uphill until you reach a wall. Turn right at the wall and keep this on your left whilst continuing downhill along the

edge of the Common. After 700yds/ms you will reach a kissing gate at the corner of the Common. Pass through this and, keeping close to the hedge on your left, pass through a series of three kissing gates until you come to an enclosed track in the corner of the field. Take this track which leads onto the recreation ground. Cross straight over this and turn right onto a path that leads down to Lauder Burn. Pass through the gate, turn left and follow this path down to the footbridge and back to your start point.



Red Fox



Dabshead Guided Walk

## 29. Lauder circular via Braidshawrig and Dabshead Hill.

13m/21kms with 1,240ft/380m climb.

**Start and finish:** As for walk 28

A fine walk along good paths and tracks through forest, across farm land and open moorland. Leave **Lauder**, heading south-east on the A68, and pick up the Southern Upland

Way as it enters the grounds of Thirlestane Castle, opposite the Police Station. Follow the Way through Wanton Walls, past Scoured Rig and on to Braidshawrig. Leave the Way here and follow the track over Edgarhope Law and, just before the descent down to Bermuda, leave this track and follow the softer vehicle track along Borrowstone Rig to Dabshead Hill. Leave the top and follow the track as it heads south. Head up to the right and go through the gate, beside the wood, in the drystone wall and follow along the outside edge of the wood. Just as you come to the top of the rise you will see a gate into the wood on your right. Go through this gate and follow the ride down to the forest track. Turn left and follow this track back to rejoin the Southern Upland Way, to the north-east of Wanton Walls, and follow it back to Lauder.

**30. Lauder-Watch Water Reservoir.**  
*13m/20kms with 1,300ft/400m climb.*

**Start:** *Lauder High Street next to the Tollbooth.*

**Finish:** *Watch Water Reservoir. Return by same route or organise transport.*

This is a relatively easy section of the Way with gentle climbs along good paths and tracks across the moors and over Twin Law Hill towards Longformacus. Leave Lauder, heading south-east on the A68, and pick up the Southern Upland Way as it enters the grounds of **Thirlestane Castle**, opposite the Police Station. Continue following the waymarked route, past **Twin Law Cairns**, to **Watch Water** or on to Longformacus.

**Facilities:** *Watch Water Reservoir*

*Parking: There is parking beside the fishing club at the north-east corner of the reservoir.*

*There is a tea room open to the public in the fishing club.*

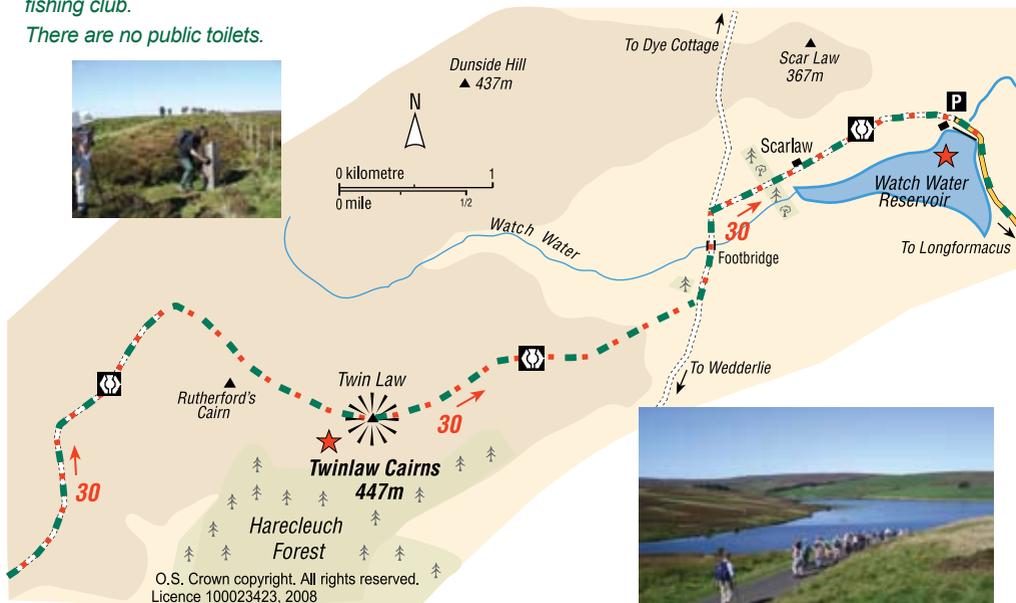
*There are no public toilets.*



Muirburn



Twin Law Hill



Watch Water Reservoir

**31. Longformacus-Abbey St Bathans**  
 (see maps on pages 50 and 51)  
 7m/11kms with 880ft/270m climb.



Green Woodpecker

**Start:** Longformacus.

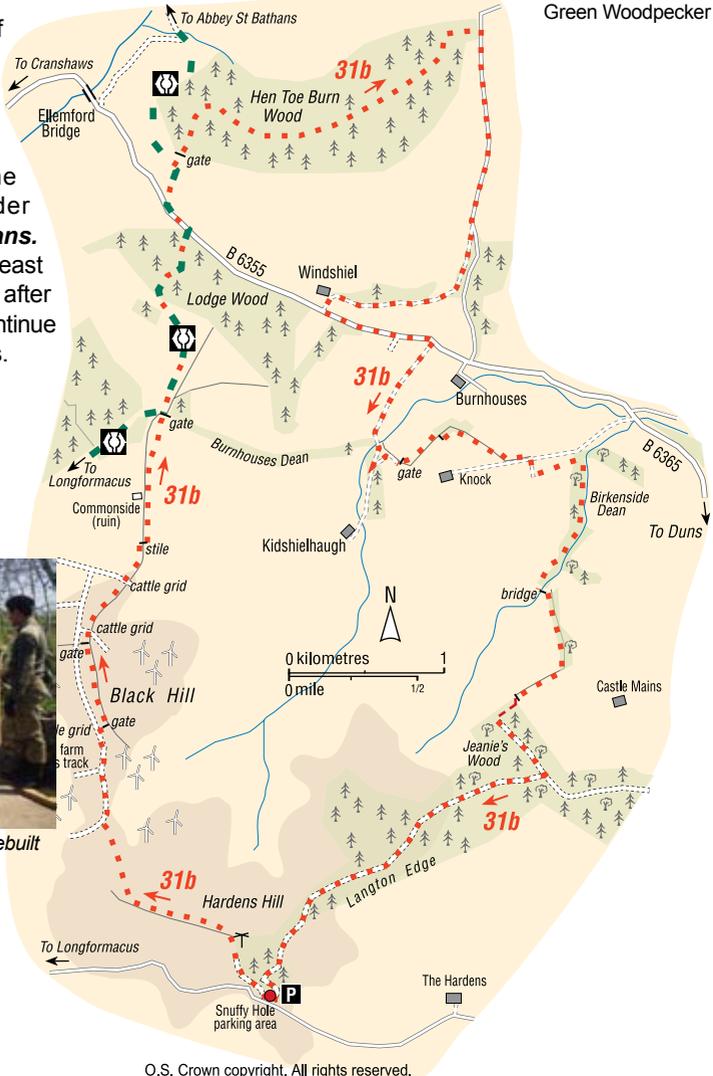
**Finish:** Riverside car park. NT 762 619.

*Return by same route or organise transport.*

A relatively short section of the Southern Upland Way following the waymarked paths and tracks through farmland, over open moorland and along the banks of the Whiteadder Water to **Abbey St. Bathans**. Leave the village heading east and leave the minor road after about 1 1/2 mile/2km and continue over to Abbey St. Bathans.



Abbey St. Bathans bridge, Gurka rebuilt



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**31a. Whiteadder circular via Ellemford.**  
(see map on pages 50 and 51)  
6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mls/11km with 980ft/300m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Riverside car park,  
Abbey St Bathans NT762 618*

Leave the car park and cross the bridge over the Whiteadder River to join the Southern Upland Way (SUW). Turn left and follow the Way upstream to re-cross the River at Abbey St Bathans Church. Go ahead to join the public road and turn right, leaving the SUW. Continue along the road for 600 yds/ms and then take the track up to Barnside on your left, signed Ellemford Bridge. When you reach the farm buildings follow the track as it veers left and goes between the sheds and the farm house. Take the left track and downhill. Follow this track through two gateways, until you enter a field down by the riverside. Follow the field margin on your right, through into the next field and continue across the bottom of this field to a small bridge across a stream. At the other side of the bridge go through the small gate in the dyke, turn right and go through the gate ahead of you. Then, keeping the fence on your left, follow the field margin to reach a gate into the woodland on your left. Enter the woodland and follow the track down to pass in front of Greenhope Cottage. Continue to follow the track for 1 ml/1.5 km until you reach the main road. Turn left onto the road and after 200 yds/ms turn left up a forestry track. After about 1/2 ml/0.75 km you will rejoin the SUW, coming down from your right. Bear left on the track and follow this through the woodland and along the river until you meet the public road. Cross over the road and retrace your steps back to the car park.



*Whiteadder Valley*

**31b. Black Hill and Burnhouses circular.**  
(see map on page 47)  
12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mls/20km with 1800ft/550m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Riverside car park,  
Abbey St Bathans NT762 618.*

Go through the gate to the left of the parking area and follow the track up towards the mast (signed Black Hill). This first section follows an old Right of Way to Ellemford Bridge. (You will note that the route markers have a Scotways disc until you reach the Southern Upland Way markers after Commonsidge. The latter part of the route is marked with the Duns Path discs and arrows). Continue to follow the track up past the mast and after 100 yds/ms, go through a gate, turn left and follow the line of the fence, keeping it on your left. After 3/4 ml/1 km, at the fence junction, turn right and head downhill towards the Wind Farm, leaving the fence behind. On reaching the track, turn right and follow it through the Wind farm to a cattle grid. Turn right before the cattle grid and then, about 50 yds/ms on, left through the gate at the corner of the fence. Follow the fence line, keeping it on your right, until you reach a stile. Cross the stile and continue to follow the fence line, now on your left, through a gate and carry on up to double gates in the top corner of the field, just after

the fence takes two sharp right/left turns. Go through these gates and bearing slightly left towards a fingerpost, join the grassy track that is the route of the Southern Upland Way (SUW). Continue to follow the SUW for  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ml/2 km until you reach a gate and a fingerpost, pointing to "Hen Toe Burn Wood". Go through the gate, turn right, leaving the SUW, and head up to the corner of the wood. Go through the gate, bear left and follow the path along the woodland ride. Follow the path as it turns to the right after 200 yds/ms and continue on this track for about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ml/2.2 km until you reach the other side of the wood. Go through the gate, turn right and follow the road for about 1 ml/1.5 km until you reach the track to Windshiel Farm. Turn right onto this farm track and follow it for 1 ml/1.5 km, turning left through Windshiel farm buildings and walking up to the public road. Turn left onto the road and follow it for  $\frac{1}{2}$  ml/0.75 km until you reach a track on your right, signed to "Kidshielhaugh and The Brambles". Follow this track for  $\frac{3}{4}$  ml/1 km, passing a fingerpost on your left, crossing a cattle grid and then a stream. 100 yds/ms after the stream take the sharp turn on your left, follow the track up and go through the gate into the field at the top. Go through the small gate straight ahead of you, turn right and head uphill along the field margin, keeping the fence and ditch on your right. When you reach a gate, just before the wood, go through, turn left and follow the field margin around, keeping the boundary on your left. After 350 yds/ms go through the gate on your left, turn right and continue around the field edge, for 250 yds/ms, and go through the next gate on your right. Cross over the road and head downhill on the concrete track. At the bottom of the dip turn left and uphill into the field. Follow the field margin round to your left and enter Birkenside Dean at the far side. Follow the woodland path up through the Dean. After  $\frac{1}{2}$  ml/0.75 km, leave the woodland through two small gates and continue along

to the end of the wood. Turn left, at the corner of the wood, and go through the gate which takes you onto Castle Mains. Walk straight ahead for a short distance, avoiding the old sheep dip, cross a stream in the dip and bear slightly left on the other side. When you reach the field boundary follow this uphill for about 0.5km, keeping the fence on your left. Go through a gate and straight on to the corner of the next field. Turn right, keeping the fence on your left, and go uphill, keeping left as you go through the first gate, until you reach the corner of Jeanie's Wood. Enter Jeanie's Wood and continue along the wood edge, keeping to the fence on your right. After 200 yds/ms, turn left and take the track leading into the wood, bearing left and then right to come to a track junction after 500 yds/ms. Turn right, signed "Black Hill", and follow the track for 2 mls/2.75 km back to your start point.



*Stonechat*



*Mountain hare*

**32. Edin's Hall Broch via Edgar's Cleuch.**  
6mils/9kms with 490ft/150m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Abbey St. Bathans car park. NT 762 619. This walk can also be started from the parking area, just off the A6112, at the entrance to Elba Wood.*

Mostly good paths, tracks and roads. From the car park walk downstream between the road and the river for about 200 yds/ms before joining the Duns road. Turn left on the road and follow it up to "Toot Corner", turn left here and follow the path to *Edin's Hall Broch*. For a shorter walk you can retrace your steps back to the start or carry on along the path to Elba, where you cross the Whiteadder Water over a small suspension bridge. Go through the woodland, turn left on to the minor road and follow it up to Moorhouse. Leave the road on the left and follow the track down Edgar's Cleuch to join the Southern Upland Way which will take you back to the start. *A separate leaflet describing the walk, local history and points of interest is available from Visitor Information Centres.*

**32a. Edin's Hall Broch via Blakerstone.**  
5mils/8kms with 390ft/120m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Abbey St. Bathans car park. NT 762 619.*

For a shorter walk follow the directions as for walk 32 as far as the exit from Elba Wood. Instead of taking the minor road all the way to Moorhouse, after about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ml/ $\frac{3}{4}$ km take the track off to your left which leads back to the start. Before reaching the river look for the footpath signs to your right, cross the stile and take the footpath back to the car park.

**33. Abbey St Bathans-Cockburnspath.**  
10mils/16kms with 715ft/220m climb.

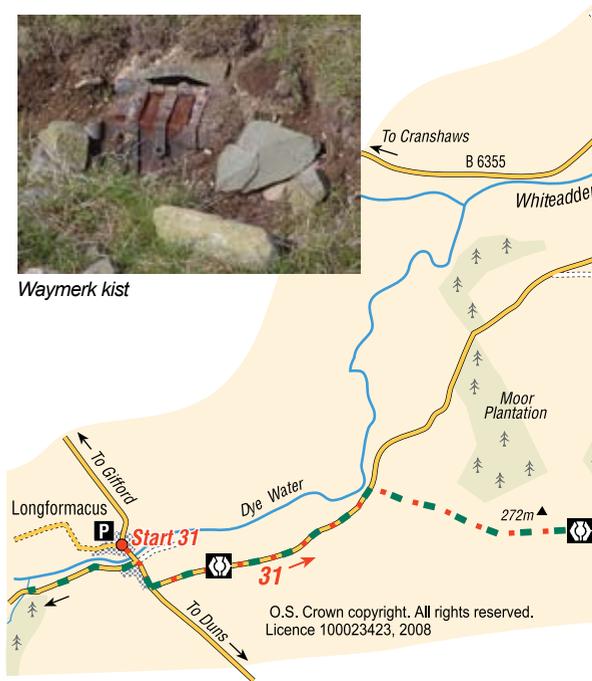
**Start:** *Abbey St. Bathans car park. NT 762 619.*

**Finish:** *Cockburnspath, return by same route or organise transport.*

This is a pleasant and varied section to end the Southern Upland Way, through farmland, woodland and along the cliff top before heading inland again to the finish at **Cockburnspath**. Leave the car park by crossing the bridge over the Whiteadder Water and follow the Way, past **Pease Bridge, Pease Dean** and **Cove Harbour**, to its terminus at **Cockburnspath**. There will be opportunities for some fine views and a chance to discover many points of interest.



Waymerk kist

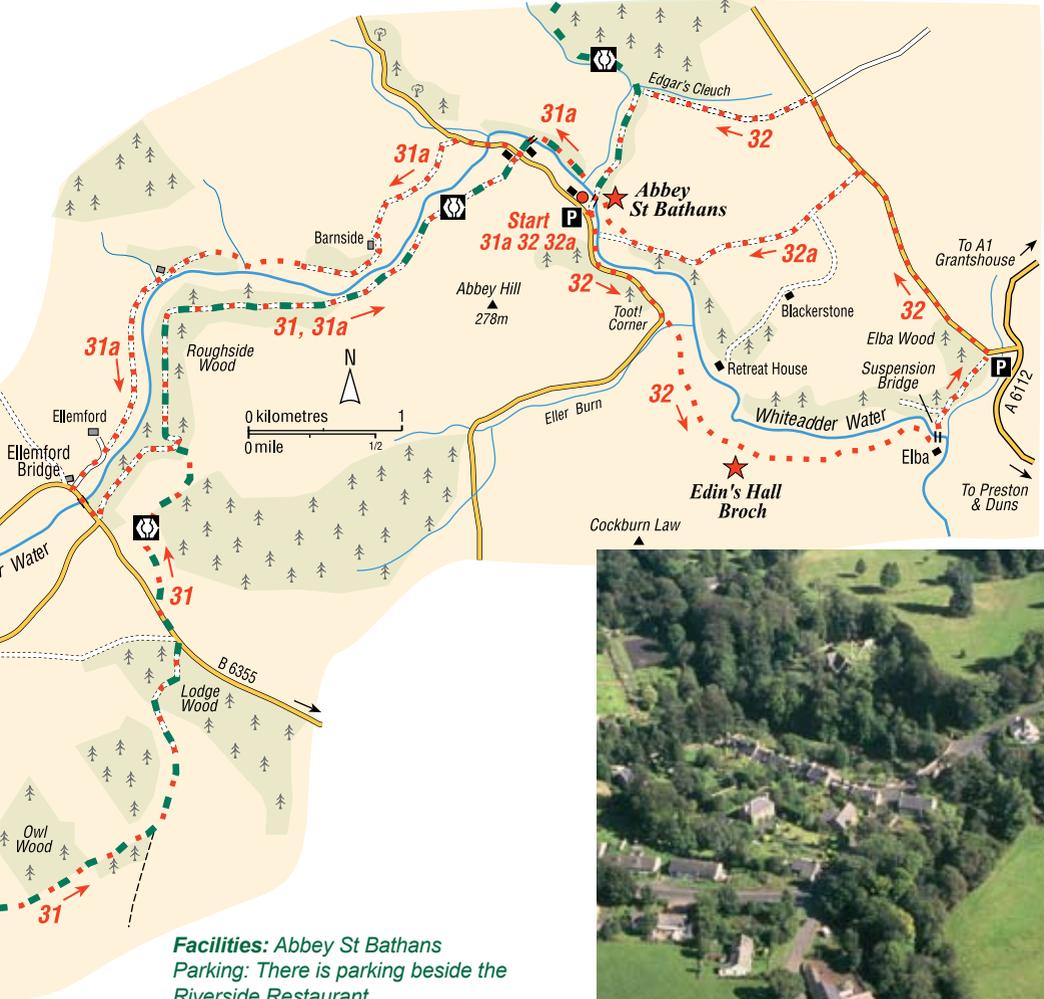


**Facilities: Longformacus**

**Parking:** There are opportunities to park at the north-west end of the village, please park considerately. There are no public facilities in the village. There are two B&Bs



Edin's Hall Broch and Hill Fort from the air



**Facilities: Abbey St Bathans**  
**Parking:** There is parking beside the Riverside Restaurant. The restaurant is open all year round (11-5 Tuesday-Sunday). There are no public toilets.



Aerial view of Longformacus



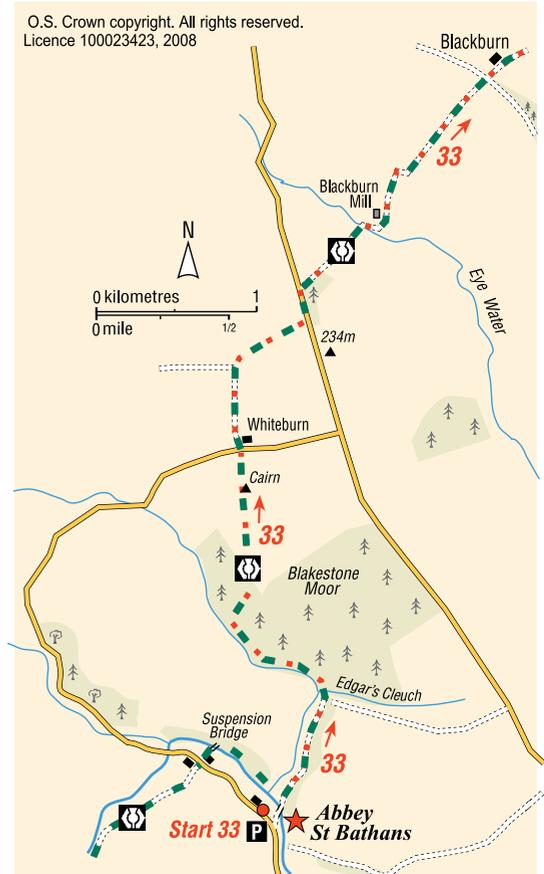
Abbey St Bathans Church

### 34. Pease Dean and Penmanshiel circular.

3mls/5kms with 490ft/150m climb.

**Start and Finish:** Parking area at Pease Bay Caravan park NT 793 706.

A walk along paths and tracks through different woodland habitats from the Scottish Wildlife Trust at **Pease Dean Reserve** to the commercial forestry of Penmanshiel Wood (*there is an exceptionally fine view out to sea on the return back along the top of Penmanshiel Wood*). From the car park cross the burn by the footbridge beside the road and then turn left into the reserve along the route of the Southern Upland Way. Follow the Way up through the reserve and, crossing the road with care, carry on into Penmanshiel Wood. In 100 yds/ms leave the Way, take the lower track at the junction, and continue to follow this



level track for about 1ml/1½km to another junction. Take the left-hand track here and follow the Southern Upland Way up the hill and back round the wood to the bridge over Pease Dean. Cross the **Pease Bridge**, with care (admiring the views into the Dean) and, immediately you leave the bridge, turn right into the reserve. Follow this path back down the Dean and return to the start point.

### 34a Pease Dean Circular.

2mils/3kms with 160ft/50m climb.

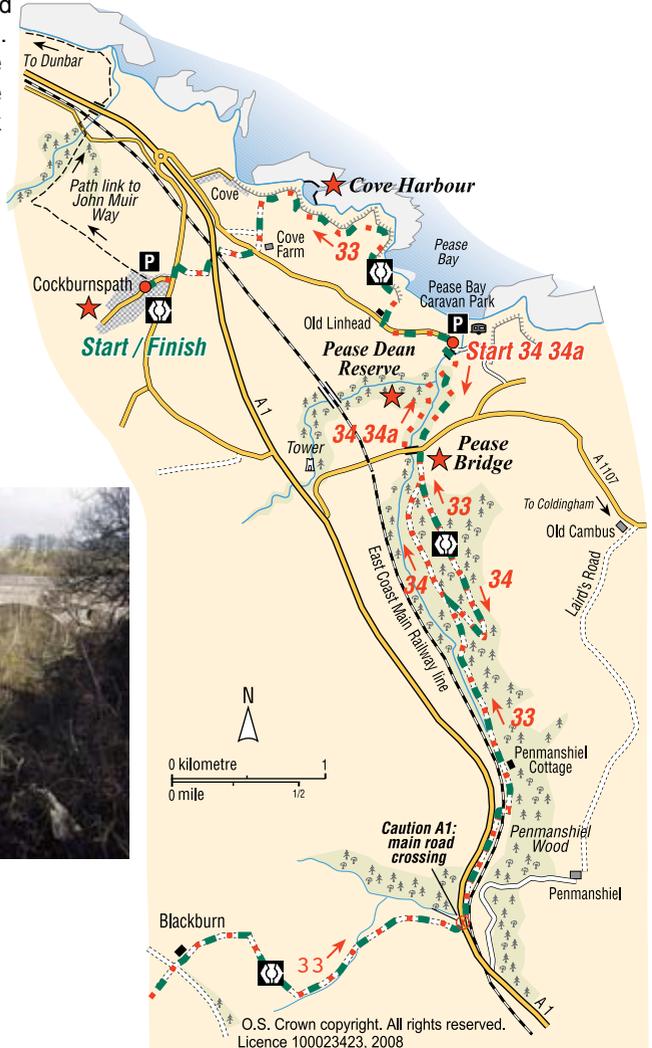
**Start and Finish:** Parking area at Pease Bay Caravan park NT 793 706

For a shorter walk follow the directions for walk 34, but do not cross the road and go into Penmanshiel Wood. Instead cross over the Pease Bridge, turn right back into the reserve and follow the path back down the Dean to the start.

**Facilities:** Pease Bay  
**Parking:** Opposite to Entrance to the Caravan Park.  
There is a shop, restaurant and bar at the Caravan Park. There are no public toilets but you could ask to use those at the caravan park.



Pease Bridge

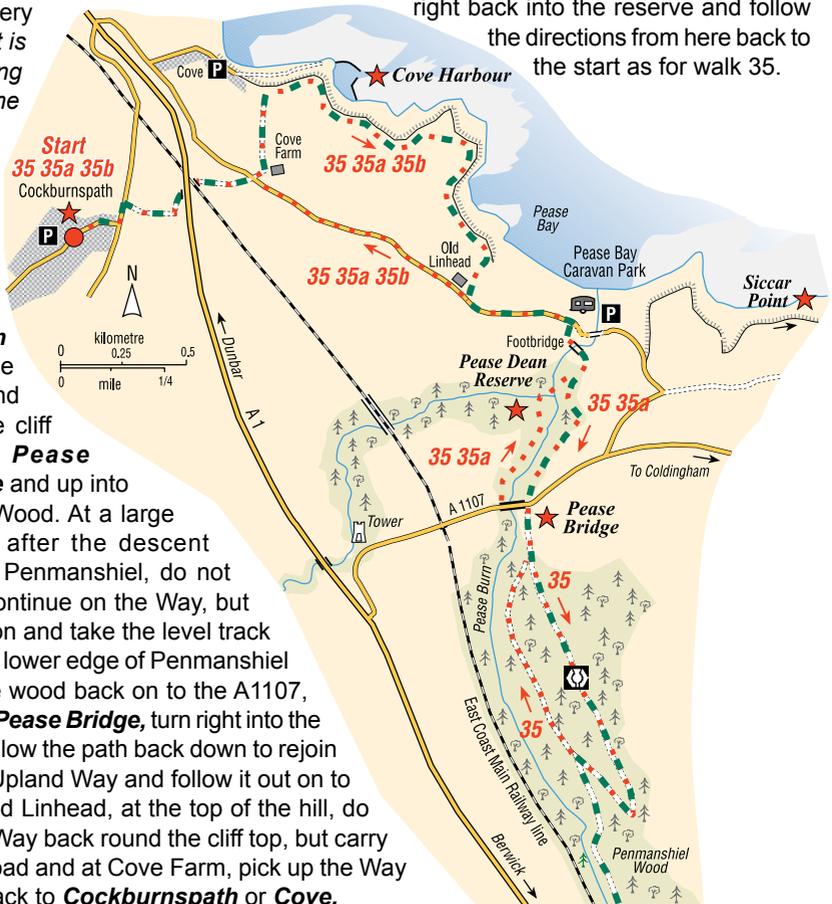


### 35. Cockburnspath Circular via Cove, Linhead, Pease Bridge and Penmanshiel.

8mils/13kms with 585ft/180m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *Parking area either in the centre of Cockburnspath or Cove NT780 717.*

A fine walk with gentle gradients following good paths and tracks through ever changing scenery and habitats (*it is well worth taking a little extra time and effort and going down to Cove Harbour before continuing round the cliff top*). From **Cockburnspath** follow the Southern Upland Way along the cliff top, through **Pease Dean Reserve** and up into Penmanshiel Wood. At a large turning area, after the descent down through Penmanshiel, do not turn left and continue on the Way, but carry straight on and take the level track back along the lower edge of Penmanshiel Wood. Exit the wood back on to the A1107, cross over the **Pease Bridge**, turn right into the reserve and follow the path back down to rejoin the Southern Upland Way and follow it out on to the road. At Old Linhead, at the top of the hill, do not follow the Way back round the cliff top, but carry on along the road and at Cove Farm, pick up the Way and follow it back to **Cockburnspath** or **Cove**.



### 35a Cockburnspath Circular via Cove, Linhead and Pease Bridge

5mils/8kms with 325ft/100m climb.

**Start and Finish:** *As for walk 35*

For a shorter walk, follow the route for walk 35, past **Cove Harbour** and through **Pease Dean reserve**. Do not cross the road and go into Penmanshiel Wood. Instead cross over the **Pease Bridge**, turn right back into the reserve and follow the directions from here back to the start as for walk 35.

**Facilities: Cove**

*Parking: There is a car park in the centre of the small village. There are no public facilities*

**Facilities: Cockburnspath**

*Parking: There is car parking in the centre of the village. There are no eating places, but there is a small shop. There are public toilets just up the street from the garage.*

**35b. Cockburnspath circular via Cove and Old Linhead**

*3 1/2 mls/6kms with 160ft/50m climb.*

**Start and Finish:** *Parking Area either in the centre of Cockburnspath or Cove  
NT780 717*

For an even shorter walk, that still includes the dramatic cliff top walk but without too much climb, follow the Southern Upland Way out of Cockburnspath past Cove Harbour and along to where it joins the old road at Old Linhead. From here turn right and follow the road back to rejoin the Way at Cove Farm and hence back to start.



*Cockburnspath Church*



*Information shelter, Cockburnspath*



*Penmanshiel view to North Sea*

## Features, places and notes of interest

### Abbotsford House

In 1811 Sir Walter Scott bought the old farmhouse, called Cartleyhole (locally known as clarty hole because of its poor condition), along with 110 acres/44 ha of land. To quote Scott "... a *small property delightfully situated on the side of the Tweed, my native river... I intend to build a beautiful little cottage upon the spot*". He renamed it Abbotsford after the nearby river crossing and set about shaping the estate to his liking. The house was built in phases from 1817-1824. The house gives the impression of having been built by committee, but nevertheless it is a magnificent building and was one of the first to be built in the Scots Baronial style, which flourished in Victorian times. Built into the house and garden walls are many carved and inscribed stones from sites across south-eastern Scotland. The house is open to the public, from March to October, and is well worth a visit.

### Abbey St. Bathans

Although there has never been an abbey here, local tradition has it that a Christian settlement was founded here, in the 7th century, by a visiting missionary called Bothan or St. Bothan. What is certain is that a priory of 12 nuns was founded at St. Bathans by Ada, a daughter of William the Lion in the 12th century. Although the priory was extensively damaged in 1545, by the English army, it may have been rebuilt and fragments survive in the north, south and east walls of the present building.

### Ashiestiel Bridge

Built in 1884, by John and Thomas Smith from Darnick, near Melrose, as a replacement for an earlier bridge that had collapsed. Built of whinstone, on construction this was the longest (130ft/40m) single-span rubble arch bridge in the world and still might be.



Ashiestiel Bridge

### Blackhouse Tower

It is said to have been a Douglas (one of the largest and strongest families of the Borders during the 15th and 16th centuries) stronghold for centuries. The tower is thought to have been used by the Good Sir James Douglas, who played a valiant role along with Bruce in the struggle for Scottish independence during the early part of the



Blackhouse Tower

14th century. Sir James was also known as Black Douglas, for his swarthy looks, and it is possible that Blackhouse derives its name from that. Sir James was killed whilst taking the heart of Robert the Bruce on a holy crusade. A traditional ballad “The Douglas Tragedy” tells of Lady Margaret Douglas fleeing with her lover, Lord William, pursued by her father and her seven brothers. A fight reputedly took place, on nearby Bught Rig, in which all nine men died or were mortally wounded. *Rise up, rise up, now Lord Douglas, she says. And put on your armour so bright. Let it never be said that a daughter of thine. Was married to a lord under night.* This is also the place where James Hogg, who was shepherd here, from 1790 to 1800, first met Sir Walter Scott.

### Blue Cairn-Covenanter’s well

The Covenanter’s Well is situated at a place where conventicles used to be held. Conventicles were outdoor Presbyterian church services held in defiance of the Government of the time. The authorities occasionally broke the meetings up by force. This one is in a hollow close to Bluecairn Farm and the first meeting, held 1676, was reputedly attended by about 4,000 people.

### Bowhill House and Estate

Acquired by the 2nd Duke of Buccleuch in 1747, so that his son could stand for parliament in Roxburghshire or Selkirk, from the Jacobite, James Veitch. Bowhill is the work of several architects. The original house dates from c. 1708 but was almost completely rebuilt in 1812-19, with other additions in 1830, 1833 and 1874-76 .

### Captain’s Road

Thomson’s map of 1824 lists the “Captain’s Road” as a drove road from St. Mary’s Loch to Tushielaw, linking in with others from Peebles and then on to Hawick.

### Cheese Well

According to tradition, travellers passing the well left an offering of cheese, or other food, to the fairies of the well. This altruism stemmed from a desire for security, as travellers had enough to worry about with the weather and possible attack by bandits without having to worry about offending the “wee folk” as well.

### Chester Hill Fort

This type of defended farmstead is attributable to the Iron Age (c.700BC-450AD) and was a defended farming settlement. Forts are usually considered to be a purely practical response to hostile environments, but their massive construction may have had as much to do with the display of status, hierarchy, wealth and power, as with physical defence.

### Cockburnspath

An ancient village formed around its market square. The Mercat Cross in the centre of the square dates from c1503, built to commemorate the marriage of James IV, of Scotland, to Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII, and a treaty of “Perpetual Peace” between the two countries. When France and England went to war, the moral obligation of the traditional French alliance proved stronger than the English treaty, and James was killed at “Flodden” in 1513. The parish church dates from the 16th century, but is on the site of an earlier church, and has an interesting round tower set into the west gable. The oldest house in the village is Sparrow Castle, a 16th century manor house.



Cockburnspath Church

### Cove Harbour

Entered by a 180ft/55m tunnel from the access road. The tunnel dates from the 1750's and once contained caves (both natural and man made) used for storage. Those leading from the tunnel were blocked off in 1981 for safety. A landing place since at least the 17th century, the present harbour dates from 1831. At the top of the harbour track is the fishing hamlet, which in the later 19th century, accommodated a Glasgow Boys Artists colony.



*Cove Harbour*

### Dryburgh Abbey

Built around 1140 by the Order of Premonstratensians (also known as White Canons) from Alnwick. They were a reformed group of Augustinians and this was their first, of only six houses, in Scotland. Like Melrose it was laid waste in 1322 by the English and rebuilt with financial aid from Robert the Bruce. The Chapter House contains traces of the earliest (12th century) painted ceiling in Scotland.

### Dryhope Tower

Built in 1613, possibly a rebuild as an order was made by James VI against Wat of Harden for its demolition in 1592, this was the birth place of Mary Scott the "Flower of the Yarrow" in 1550. It was Mary who is said to have served a meal to her husband, old Wat of Harden (from whom Walter Scott claimed descent), of an ashet containing nothing but a pair of spurs. A hint that if Wat wanted to eat, he would have to get on his horse and go raiding for some more cattle. Dryhope Tower has recently been consolidated and can now be visited.



*Dryhope Tower*

### Edin's Hall Broch

More often associated with northern Scotland and the Islands, this Broch is one of only 3 known in the Scottish Borders. Enclosed in the remains of an earlier hill fort or settlement are the remains of a massive stone tower. This has walls 2 metres high and up to 6 metres in thickness, around a circular inner courtyard, which contain chambers and a section of staircase which would have led to upper stories. There are a number of secondary enclosures within the main ramparts, which contain the remains of house sites. The tower and complex would have been in use about 2,000 years ago.

## Eildon Hills

It is tempting to think of the Eildon Hills as long dead volcanoes, but in fact only Little Hill (situated between Mid and West Hills) is of truly volcanic origin. The three main hills are a result of activity deep below the earth's surface, some 350 million years ago, which has been exposed after millions of years of weathering and erosion through the various ice ages. The hills are mainly composed of acid rocks which in turn have weathered to produce acid soils. As a result much of the hills are covered in heath consisting of Heather, Blaeberry and Wavy hair grass. Little Hill is made of a more basic rock and supports a different vegetation, including many different wild flowers and herbs. The lower slopes of the hills are based on the older sedimentary rocks which have weathered to produce a more fertile soil that can support farming, both arable and livestock. The Iron Age Fort on top of North Hill is the largest one in southern Scotland. Originally constructed in the 10th century BC, the 20 acre site contains the remains of almost 300 house bases.

## Elibank Castle

This late 16th century tower house occupies a commanding position overlooking the River Tweed. Elibank was formerly known as Eliburn. In 1511, James IV granted a Crown charter to Catherine Douglas (widow of John Liddale) and their son John, of the whole lands and forest stead of Aleburn. In terms of the charter the Liddales were obliged to build an adequate house of stone and lime with hall and chamber, barn, cattle-shed, stable, dovecote, garden, orchards and beehives. The house that they built was certainly not the castle now in ruins. This castle was probably built by Sir Gideon Murray who acquired Elibank from John Liddel in 1594-5. It was here that Willie



*Elibank Castle*



*Meg and Willie Sculpture*

Scott of Harden, son of Auld Wat and Mary Scott, was imprisoned for cattle rustling. It was whilst imprisoned here that Willie met, and later married, Sir Gideon's daughter Margaret (muckle mouthed Meg).

### Ettrick Kirk

There has been a church on this site since the 16th century, although the present church dates from 1824. There is a memorial stone from 1619 built into its main elevation. The church is largely unspoilt, with its laird's loft, pulpit and fittings. It was here, in the early 18th century, that the Calvinistic Reverend Boston lived and worked. The strong sermons of "Boston of the Ettrick" swelled the congregation from 57 attending his first communion to 770 people who were in attendance for his last sermon. In the graveyard, amongst others, lie the remains of Tibbie Shiel, James Hogg, Hogg's mother and grandfather William Laidlaw. Laidlaw, also known as Will o' Phaup, was reputedly the last man in the Ettrick valley to be able to speak the language of the fairies.

### Galashiels

Galashiels was originally a small forest steading on the south bank of the Gala Water. One of the first recorded mentions of the place comes from the end of the 15 century when it was known as "Galowaschelis". At that time it was a Royal hunting lodge on the estate of the Pringle family. No trace of the original settlement can be found today, but the home of the Pringles "Old Gala House" can still be seen. Old Gala House was built in 1583, around the remains of a tower that was built in 1457, with further additions made in the 18th and 19th century. The house is now a museum and contains a painted ceiling, dated 1635, that was rediscovered in 1952.

Galashiels was granted the rights of a "Burgh of Barony" in 1599 which marks the start of the commercial growth of the town. In 1622 the parish of Galashiels was formed out of two old parishes, Lindean and Boldsyd (now Boleside). Until 1790

Galashiels was little more than a village, with only the church manse and one other house having slate roofs. With the rapid development of its weaving industry, in the late 18th century, the town expanded to cover both banks of the Gala Water and grew into a thriving centre of textile mills. The Old Parish and St. Paul's Church at the top of Scott Crescent was built in 1878-81. Its main feature is the articulated steeple that was finished in 1885 (a pair of peregrine falcon have successfully nested in the spire from 1999 to 2004). The stone for the church was from Belses quarry at Ancrum but the large granite pillars, which support the roof, came from Peterhead in Aberdeenshire.



*Galashiels from Langlee*

### Gattonside

On record as early as the 12th century and probably originated as a grange (monastic farm) belonging to Melrose Abbey. The chain bridge built in 1826 by Redpath, Brown and Co originally as a toll bridge was completely reconstructed in 1991. Gattonside was also the home of Sir David Brewster, born in Jedburgh in 1781, who invented the kaleidoscope and the holophotic system of lighthouse

illumination, amongst other things. His achievements are commemorated by a cape in Greenland and a mountain in Antarctica that bear his name.

### **Glen House**

This Scottish Baronial style mansion was designed by David Bryce. Built in 1854 for Charles Tennant of the St Rollex Chemical Works, near Glasgow, and named after the Tennant's farm in Ayrshire. Charles Tennant's grandfather discovered the use of chemical bleach and, in its day, St Rollex was the largest chemical works in the world. During the Second World War valuable paintings from the National Gallery of Scotland were stored in the cellars here, as a precaution against air-raids in Edinburgh.

### **Innerleithen**

Just a kirk hamlet comprising of thatched cottages, unevenly spaced, until around 1790. With the opening of the first mill (Caerlee) in 1788 and the medicinal spring being publicised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, "St Ronan's Well" published in 1824, the town expanded rapidly. Robert Smill's Printing Works, preserved by the National Trust for Scotland, are on the main street and open to the public.

### **James Hogg**

Hogg lived from 1770-1835 and is widely remembered as "The Ettrick Shepherd". Hogg was the son of a poor sheep farmer whose farm failed and young James was obliged to go to the herding when he was only seven. At the age of twenty, Hogg took up employment as a shepherd at nearby Blackhouse (1790-1800) and he began to read voraciously as well as gaining knowledge of Borders tales and ballads from his mother. He started writing

poetry and later prose and it was whilst he was shepherding at Blackhouse that he was introduced to Sir Walter Scott by Willie Laidlaw, son of Hogg's employer at Blackhouse. During this time Hogg wrote "Storms", a vivid account of the men of Blackhouse searching for their sheep after the severe blizzards during the winter of 1894.

Scott greatly assisted Hogg with his writing by introducing him to publishers and Edinburgh high society which set him on the road to fame and literary success. Hogg at his best was outstanding and among his greatest works is "The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner", an astonishing psychological thriller way ahead of its time.

There is a monument marking Hogg's birthplace in the Ettrick Valley near Ettrick Church (NT 263 303) and another commemorating his life standing on the edge of Oxcleuch Haugh at the south end of St. Mary's loch. (NT 237 204).



*James Hogg Statue, St. Mary's Loch*

## Lauder

A medieval burgh founded in the 12th century when King David I granted the town and lands to the Norman, Hugh de Morville. Lauder is unique in the Scottish Borders in that it still retains its medieval shape of a wide main street with two “back lanes”.



*Aerial view of Lauder and Thirlestane Castle*

## Melrose Abbey

Melrose Abbey, founded in 1136 by David I, for Abbot Richard and his monks from Rievaulx in Yorkshire, was the first Cistercian abbey to be built in Scotland. By the 14th century Melrose Abbey was a huge centre of wealth and commerce, one of the wealthiest in the country. The Abbey farmed large areas of land, had flocks of sheep totalling more than 15,000 and built up trade in wool and skins with Flanders, France and Italy. Most of the surviving work dates to the 15th century which underwent restoration work in 1822, by John Smith under the supervision of Sir Walter Scott. The remains of Scott and the heart of Robert the Bruce are buried in the Abbey grounds.

## Minch Moor road

This is an ancient drove road and was also used by Scottish Monarchs, staying

at Traquair hundreds of years ago, when going on hunting expeditions into the old Ettrick Forest. It was along the Minch Moor road that the Marquis of Montrose fled after his defeat at the battle of Philiphaugh in 1645. Sir Walter Scott's mother crossed it in a “coach and six”, when a girl, to attend a ball in Peebles. The route is also mentioned on Roy's map of 1747-55, as the Peebles to Selkirk road.

## Newark Castle

Newark dates from the 15th century (first mentioned in 1423). From first floor to wallhead Newark is the work of Sir Thomas Joffray, 1467, having passed back to the crown (it was the royal hunting seat in the Ettrick Forest) from the Earls of Douglas in 1455. The royal coat of arms on the west gable may mark the grant by James III of the Lordship of the Ettrick Forest to his Queen, Margaret of Denmark. According to ballad the “outlaw Murray” came before James IV on charges of treasonably occupying the Ettrick Forest. Murray claimed to have won the lands from the English and saw it as his not the Crowns. A sensible compromise left Murray making feudal obeisance to King James and the Monarch appointing the reiver Sheriff of Ettrick Forest.

## Pease Dean Reserve

Purchased in 1988 by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, with funding from the Nature Conservancy Council, the World Wide Fund for Nature and donations from the public, the reserve is managed by local volunteers of the Trust. The woodlands lying within the twin valleys are remnants of what was once an extensive broadleaf forest and for this reason the reserve has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is managed accordingly.

## Pease Bridge

Built in 1786 by David Henderson, mason/architect, at the time of construction thought to be the highest (130ft/39m) stone built bridge in the world. The design incorporates pierced spandrels at the top of the main piers to lighten the load.



*Pease Bridge*

## Philiphaugh

Philiphaugh is best remembered for the battle in 1645, where the Marquis of Montrose was defeated by Earl Leslie and the Covenanters. After the battle, Sir John Murray of Philiphaugh put in a compensation claim to the government for the sum £12,014 18s 4d as recompense for the damage caused to his estate during the battle. Montrose fled over the Minch Moor road and tried to gain sanctuary in Traquair House. The Laird pretended not to be at home and Montrose continued his journey and escaped to Norway. In 1650, when Montrose came back to Scotland in support of Charles II, he was beaten again and taken to Edinburgh, where he was executed. James Graham, 1st Marquis of Montrose, who had signed the Covenant in 1638, was hanged by the Covenanters 12 years later.

## Rhymer's Stone

see Thomas the Rhymer

## St. Mary's Loch

This is the largest loch in the Scottish Borders and was formed during the last ice age by glaciers flowing down the Yarrow and Megget valleys. These glaciers bit deep into base rock to form a trench, now filled with up to 46 metres/150 feet of water, at the deepest point of St. Mary's Loch. Originally there would have been just one loch, St. Mary's Loch and Loch of the Lowes were formed as a result of debris flowing down the Crosscleuch and Ox Cleuch burns to form the isthmus on which Tibbieshiels Inn now sits.

## St Mary's Graveyard

The graveyard is on the site of the now vanished St Mary's Chapel, destroyed by fire in 1557. This chapel was of great age. An annual service, called "The Blanket Preaching" taking place here in July, is thought to have its origins in the conventicles of the 17th century, when covenanting ministers had a blanket held over their heads in bad weather.

## Selkirk

A textile town and former shoe making centre, whose inhabitants are still called "souters" after their trade. In 1113 Earl David, the future King David I, founded an abbey in Selkirk and there was also a royal castle here. It was in Selkirk that Sir Walter Scott held court as Sheriff of Selkirkshire and his courtroom is still open to visitors.

### Siccar Point

It was here that the 18th century geologist, James Hutton, discovered the non conformity of the rocks which make up the earth's surface. This prompted him to write his "Theory of the Earth" which is the foundation for modern geology.

### Thirlestane Castle

In the late 16th century John Maitland became "Chancellor of Scotland" and it was he who commissioned the "new" castle, an unusual rectangular block with a large round tower at each corner. In 1670-77 the later Duke of Lauderdale, a close friend of Charles II, commissioned Sir William Bruce to transform the castle into a palace. Bruce engaged Robert Mylne, the King's Master-Mason, Dutch joiners and painters and plasterers straight from finishing contracts at Holyrood to carry out the work. Further alterations carried out in 1840-41 give it its particularly lively skyline. The castle is open to the public and houses The Border Country Life Museum and an extensive collection of historic toys.

### Thomas the Rhymer

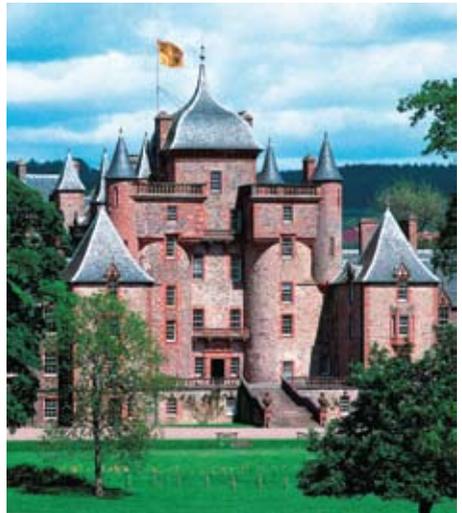
Thomas the Rhymer was a real person who lived in Erceldoune (Earlston) during the 13th century.

Legend tells how Thomas fell asleep beneath a tree on the side of the Eildon Hills and awoke to see a lady "the Queen of the Fairies" on a dappled grey horse. Thomas was entranced by her and allowed himself to be led away to "Fairyland". He stayed there for what he thought was three days, but was in fact seven years. When he left Fairyland he was given the gift of speaking the truth and was told prophesies of significant events that would take place in Scotland.

Thomas became famous, both as a poet and, as someone who could foretell the future. His rhymes have been popular for hundreds of years and are some of the earliest examples of Scottish poetry.

### Three Brethren

These three cairns stand on Yair Hill to mark the boundary of three properties that meet here. Linglie (part of Selkirk common land), Foulshiels (part of Bowhill estate and birthplace of the African explorer, Mungo Park) and Yair.



*Thirlestane Castle*

### Tibbieshiels Inn

The Inn dates back to the time when Isabella Richardson (whose maiden name was Shiels) was forced to take in guests when her mole-catcher husband, Robert Richardson, died in 1824 leaving her with six children to support. She died in 1878 at the age of 95. The Inn became a favoured meeting place of James Hogg, Sir Walter Scott and others in the literary circles of Edinburgh.

## Traquair church

There has been a church on this site since 1116, the present church was rebuilt in 1778 and altered in 1821. A memorial to a Traquair-born blacksmith, Alexander Brodie, was placed in the graveyard by his nephews and nieces. The memorial credits Brodie as the inventor of the Register Stoves and Fire Hearths, that were used in Her Majesty's ships for 30 years.

## Traquair House

Said to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. The core, probably 15th century, main block was extended to its present form through the 16th and 17th centuries. Situated in part of the royal hunting forest of Etrick this was, by repute, a favourite residence of Scottish kings. Many Scottish and English kings have sheltered here since the visit of Alexander I in 1107. The lands at Traquair were granted to James Douglas by Robert the Bruce. The lands passed through many hands until, in 1478, the Earl of Buchan bought the lands for the sum of 70 Scots Merks (£3.75p) to bestow it on his son James Stuart, and that was done in 1491. From this James Stuart, the first Laird of Traquair, the present family are descended. The Bear Gates (1737-38) were closed in 1796 after the death of the 7th Earl's wife. Another story has it that the Bear Gates or "Steekit Yetts" (stuck gates) were closed by the 5th Earl behind Prince Charles in 1745, with the promise that they would not be opened again until a Stuart was restored to the throne. The house is open to the public during the summer months and the 18th century brewhouse has been restored and Traquair ale is now produced and is available to visitors.



Traquair House

## Twinlaw Cairns

The two large cairns are thought to have been built on the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds.

*"And they biggit twa cairns on the heather  
They biggit them roond and high  
On the top of Twin Law Hill  
Where they twa brithers lie"*

The above ballad tells the story of the death of two brothers, traditionally buried here. Separated shortly after their birth, the two fought as champions for opposing Scots and Saxon armies. The champions fought hard, not knowing that they were brothers parted in their youth, and were both mortally wounded in the combat. The cairns have been rebuilt as they were flattened by Polish army tanks on manoeuvres during World War II.

## Wallace Statue

Built of red sandstone, by John Smith in 1814, this image of the “Guardian of Scotland”, towering some 7 metres high, is complete with double-handed sword and saltire shield. The Earl of Buchan had originally wanted a statue of Burns, but on seeing the quarried stone, it was readily agreed that only a martial figure could do justice to the stone.



*Wallace Statue, near Dryburgh*

## Wallace's Trench

Lying on the western side of Browne Knowe, no one is sure why this earthwork was built, but it may have been to control traffic on the drove road. However, this impressive earthwork was probably constructed during the early medieval period (450 to 1100AD) as a land boundary to mark the territory of the native Britons (to the west) and the Angles (to the east).

## Walter Scott (Sir)

Scott, born in Edinburgh in 1771, spent much of his boyhood in the Borders and was made Sheriff of Selkirk in 1799. After some translation from German he published “Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders” in 1802 and then his own poems, beginning with “The Lay of the Last Minstrel” in 1805. His first novel “Waverley” was published in 1814. Faced with financial disaster in 1826, Scott undertook to pay off a debt of almost £100,000. Working to produce as many works as possible ruined his health and Scott died in 1832 at the age of 61.

## Walkerburn

In 1846 Walkerburn was no more than a farmhouse, steading and four farm cottages. At this time Henry Ballantyne entered into negotiations with Thomas Horsburgh of Pirn for a nearby plot of ground, beside the Walker Burn, on which to build a woollen mill. Under the terms of the feu contract permission was given to build a cauld across the Tweed and a lade, 1 mile long 28 feet wide and 3 1/2 feet deep, was built to supply the flow of water to power the mill. Tweedvale mill was finally erected and opened in June 1855. Realising that the success of the mill would in many ways depend on the quality of the work force, Ballantyne built three new blocks of houses at the same time as the mill and by the time of the census in 1891 the population of Walkerburn had grown to 1,288. Walkerburn has some very fine Victorian houses and still has an interesting cast iron urinal, a unique survivor in the Borders, that was erected in 1897.

### Watch Water Reservoir

Constructed in 1954 to supply water to central Berwickshire, this is the largest body of water in the eastern Borders. Along the south western slope above the reservoir it is possible to make out the long strips of "Rig and Furrow". These are the remains of ancient cultivation of the land formed by ploughing the ground in linear strips over a number of years and similar features can be seen throughout the Borders.

### Waverley Line

Between 1844 and 1849 the North British Railway Company built the "Border Union" line to link Galashiels and other Border towns with Edinburgh. This route was later named the "Waverley Line" in honour of Sir Walter Scott, after his novel "Waverley". The line was continued on to Carlisle in 1862 and in 1876 the Midland Railway reached Carlisle and the Waverley route was complete and able to compete with other routes through England. The line was closed to passengers, in 1965, as part of the Beeching review of the rail network. It was closed completely in 1969, against strong opposition, but moves have been made in recent years to re-open at least part of the route back down to the Borders.

### Waverley Castle Hotel

Built in 1869-71, and extended in 1876, of pioneering construction. Probably the earliest mass concrete building in Scotland.

### Yair Bridge

Built c.1760 to accommodate the first turnpike road from Edinburgh to Carlisle, which was created by an act of parliament in 1764. In 1818 the 90 mile journey from Edinburgh to Carlisle took 11 hours.



*Watch Water Reservoir*

### Yair House

Built in the Georgian style in 1788 to accommodate the Pringles moving from nearby Whytebank. Alexander Pringle had to part with Yair estate in 1759. His son, with East India Company profits, bought back the estate and commissioned the house to be built, on what is one of the best locations fronting the Tweed in the Borders.

## Further information

More information on the history of the region can be found in:

***Early Settlers in the Borders***

by Dent, J and McDonald, R.

***Christian Heritage in the Borders***

by Dent, J and McDonald, R.

***Warfare and Fortifications in the Borders***

by Dent, J and McDonald, R.

***Farm and Factory: Revolution in the Borders***

by Dent, J and McDonald, R.

***Heritage Sites in the Borders***

by Dent, J and McDonald, R.

The above books are available from Scottish Borders Council. Tel: 01835 824000 or from local Visitor Information Centres.

***Borders and Berwick: an illustrated architectural guide to the Scottish Borders and Tweed Valley*** by

Charles Alexander Strang (published by The Rutland Press)

## Contact Information

### VisitScotland Borders

Jedburgh Tourist Information Centre  
Murray's Gate  
Jedburgh, TD8 6BE  
Information Service Tel: 01835 863170  
Accommodation Bookings:  
Tel: 0845 2255 121  
Email: [bordersinfo@visitscotland.com](mailto:bordersinfo@visitscotland.com)  
[www.visitscottishborders.com](http://www.visitscottishborders.com)

### Scottish Borders

#### Tourist Information Centres

##### *Open All Year*

Kelso, Jedburgh, Peebles and Melrose.

##### *Open April to End October*

Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.

For Information: Tel: 0870 608 0404

### Scottish Natural Heritage

*(Information on Scottish Outdoor Access Code)*

Lothian & Borders Area Office

Tel: 01896 756652

[www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

### Traveline

*(for public transport information)*

Tel: 0871 200 2233

[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

### Scottish Borders Council

[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

### Countryside Ranger Service

Harestanes, Ancrum, Jedburgh,

TD8 6UQ. Tel: 01835 830281

Email: [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)

### Access Officer

Council Headquarters,  
Newtown St Boswells, Melrose,  
TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835 825060  
Email: [outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk)

### Other websites

For further information on walking visit:  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess)

[www.southernuplandway.gov.uk](http://www.southernuplandway.gov.uk)

[www.walkingwild.com](http://www.walkingwild.com)

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Mountain Rescue Team - MRT

Alert the MRT to all incidents where someone is injured or missing on a hill, in moor, upland or other countryside.

To call the MRT to such incidents:

Dial 999 and ask for the Police

Tell them:

1. That you require Mountain Rescue.
2. Your Location (ideally, a Grid Reference). Including a named feature that you are near.
3. How many casualties there are and what is wrong with them. Are they getting worse?
4. What your party looks like, including what equipment you have with you.

Most of all STAY CALM.

You can get this document on tape, in large print and various other formats by contacting us at the address below.

In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of publication that you would like clarified.

Business Services Manager, Planning and Economic Development, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA. Telephone 01835 825060.  
e-mail: [ped@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:ped@scotborders.gov.uk)



*Tweed Valley*



*Pikestone Rig looking to Broad Law*

## Notes

# SHORT WALKS

## on the Eastern Section of THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

The Southern Upland Way is Britain's first official coast to coast long distance footpath. It runs 212 miles/340 kms across Southern Scotland, from Portpatrick on the south-western coast to Cockburnspath on the eastern coast. The route takes in some of the finest scenery in the South of Scotland and offers superb and varied walking opportunities, still undiscovered by many enthusiasts.

The Way goes through many rough and remote upland areas providing a real challenge for the experienced walker whilst some parts lie within easy reach of towns and villages and are suitable for families and the less ambitious.

Passing through Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire and The Scottish Borders, the route is managed by the ranger services of the various Local Authorities with funding support from Scottish Natural Heritage.

Southern Upland Way related leaflets include: SUW general information, Accommodation List,

Short Walks (Western section), Geology, Killing Times (Covenanters), Wildlife, Birds in Conifers, Place Names and Archaeology.

Available from:

Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service  
Harestanes

By Ancrum

Jedburgh TD8 6UQ

Tel: 01835 830281

email [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[www.southernuplandway.gov.uk](http://www.southernuplandway.gov.uk)

### FIND OUT MORE

There are many interesting booklets covering walking in the Scottish Borders, most of which are available from local Visitor Information Centres in Jedburgh, Peebles, Selkirk, Melrose, Hawick, Eyemouth and Kelso.

For further information about walking, accommodation, eating out, events and attractions please contact: VisitScotland on +44(0)1750 20555 or visit their website on [www.scot-borders.co.uk](http://www.scot-borders.co.uk)



*Tweed Valley*



£2.50p when sold