



£1.00

# hawick

## town trail

**The Scottish Borders**  
Scotland's *leading* short break destination®

# historical background

Did you know that Tweed and the twin-set were invented in Hawick? And that Pringle's world-famous diamond pattern jumpers come from the town? The 'Home of Cashmere' has a long and colourful history which can be traced back to at least the 12th century, when the Lovel family were granted land in the area by King David I.

Although Hawick was a market town before the Industrial Revolution, the town boomed during this period. Knitwear, tweed and hosiery are synonymous with Hawick. Records show that in 1771 the town manufactured some 2,000 pairs of stockings; by 1838 this figure was 1,049,676 pairs.

In 1849, just 20 years after George Stephenson won The Rainhill Trials with his engine Rocket, the railway from Edinburgh arrived in Hawick.

It's thought the name Hawick comes from the Old English words haga (hedge or enclosure) and wic (farm), suggesting a farmstead

surrounded by a hedge or wooden palisade. Today's Hawick is predominantly the remnants of a mid- to late-Victorian town. To give you an insight into some of the most interesting sites, these three short walks divide the town into distinct areas.

The oldest part of the town is the area between St Mary's Kirk and the Motte (also written as Mote and Moat), both originated in the 1100s. From here the town spread down Howegate to Sandbed and over the Slitrig Water to the area that is now the High Street. By the 1400s the lands of Hawick had passed to the Douglasses of Drumlanrig, who built Drumlanrig's Tower, where our three walks all begin and end.

hawick



## THE THREE WALKS

*The Slitrig and The Motte is 1.5km / 1 mile long;  
The Teviot and The Park is 3km / 2 miles,  
and Victorian Hawick is 2km / 1.25 miles.*

*Allow 1 hour, 2 hours and 1 hour respectively for the walks.*

We hope you will enjoy walking around Hawick Town Trail and trust that you will have a pleasant stay in the town.



Hawick Rugby Football Club



An electronic version of this booklet is available on Scottish Borders Council's website ([www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk))

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# hawick town trail

hawick

## Walk 1: The Slitrig and The Motte

### DRUMLANRIG'S TOWER (1)

The walk starts from Drumlanrig's Tower at the end of the High Street. The building is recorded as the "Hous and Toure of Hawick" towards the end of the 16th century and is the oldest building in the town. Originally L-shaped and probably located on the site of an earlier building, the tower dominates the crossing of the Slitrig Water.

Ownership eventually passed from the Douglasses to the Scotts of Buccleuch, and then in 1773 it became an inn and coaching stage. The extension of the railway to Carlisle in 1862 saw the demise of the stage-coaches, and the inn became a hotel. This closed in 1981 and the building was renovated in the mid-1990s.

Drumlanrig's Tower is now a museum and visitor centre, with displays that explore the history of Hawick and the tower from mediaeval times to the present day. The

Steve Hislop Commemorative Exhibition is a fascinating memorial to the Superbike champion who died in 2003.

A plaque near the entrance door commemorates the visit of Sir Walter Scott and his guests, poet William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy, in 1803 during their tour of Scotland.

The tower is open daily from Easter to the last weekend in October (wheelchair access). As you explore you will see much of the fabric from the original tower has been incorporated into the present building.



## SLITRIG HOUSE (2)

When facing the entrance door of Drumlanrig's Tower, walk to your left, round behind the tower (a good view of its original form can be seen from the courtyard). From here turn right and then left to Backdamgate. This joins with Slitrig Crescent (known as "the Crescent"), which was built when the burgh was extended in 1799. It was the first street in Hawick to have gas light.

Walking along Slitrig Crescent, you will see Mill House which has a central pilastered doorpiece (the shallow rectangular column that projects slightly from the wall, topped with a classical style capital) and a simple elegance. This house was associated with the corn mill (the three-story building in Mill Path, now converted into housing) which was known as Hawick Mill. Further along the Crescent, the buildings have simpler local detailing and are largely constructed using local whinstone.

In 1868, the Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland describes the Crescent as "a snug and almost romantic position, a curved and beautifully edified terrace called the Crescent".

Almost opposite the Kirkwynd Bridge is John Laing of Hawick's factory. When David Laing of Dicksons & Laings (see Wilton Mills) died, his sons went their separate ways, with Walter staying at Wilton Mills and John striking off on his own to start this firm. Right next to the factory is an impressive three-storey building, Slitrig House, which was the home of John Laing. He gradually built the factory on land he owned around the house from 1831. Unlike his fellow manufacturers, who liked to live 'near the shop', Mr Laing decided to live right beside it.

The house eventually passed into the ownership of the Red Cross until it was bought back and became the offices for the factory in the mid-1980s.

## ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH (3)

Continue along Slitrig Crescent until you reach St Cuthbert's Church (on the right-hand side) which was completed in 1858 by Sir George Gilbert Scott, the leading architect of the Gothic Revival, who could count the Albert Memorial, St Pancras Station and Glasgow University among the 1,000

buildings he designed. The church contains fine stained glass windows, one of which commemorates the Duke of Buccleuch, who paid for the building. The chancel screen was designed by the architect Sir Robert Lorimer. Beside the church is the former rectory, which is now private housing.

### **FORMER FIRE STATION (4)**

Now head back along Slitrig Crescent and cross the Slitrig Water via the Kirkwynd Bridge. This sandstone bridge with a single arch was built in 1864 and replaced a wooden footbridge. It neatly joins the Burgh extension and the older part of Hawick surrounding St Mary's Kirk - the church you can see up on the bank ahead of you as you cross the bridge.

On the left is the area called 'The Village' and on the right is Slitrig Bank with its imposing three-storey block of early 19th century flats facing the Slitrig Water and beyond them is the former fire station.

The fire service for Hawick, using horse-drawn tenders, was provided from this

building. Records show a fire engine was purchased for the town in 1809. The arched entrance - with a roundel window above - is now blocked up, but still visible. The fire station moved to Commercial Road in 1910, and then to its current location at Wilton Hill in the 1970s.

Go back to Kirk Wynd and head up to St Mary's Kirk.

### **STMARY'SKIRK(5)**

The site of St Mary's has been a place of worship for many centuries - it is first mentioned in 1183. In 1214, a church was erected here and consecrated to the memory of St Mary by Adam, Bishop of Caithness, who had formerly been an Abbot of Melrose. The Kirk was rebuilt in 1763. After a fire in 1880 it was rebuilt again. The tower is the only surviving part of the earlier building. Its position on



*St Mary's Kirk*



the hill means St Mary's can be seen from a great distance, so for many years, pocket watches all over the town were set to its clock.

St Mary's was where James Paris Lee, the inventor of the Lee-Enfield rifle, was baptised. Lee was born in Hawick in 1831 but his family emigrated to Canada when he was 4 or 5 years old. In 1879 he patented a bolt-action magazine rifle, and in 1895 the Lee-Enfield Mark I rifle first appeared, and was used through both World Wars. Today a small plaque commemorating Lee is set into the wall. If you are trying to trace Hawick ancestors who might be buried at St Mary's, there is a complete inventory of the kirk's graves in the Public Library.



Moat Park

## MOAT PARK (6)

From St Mary's, continue along to the junction and turn left into Drumlanrig Square and then uphill along the Loan to Moat Park. You will see the entrance to the park just after Drumlanrig St Cuthbert's Primary School on the left-hand side.

The Motte - the large mound of earth - dates from the 12th century and was built by the Lovels. On the way up to it you will pass a seat made in the form of a medieval siege weapon which was used to hurl rocks at fortifications.

A Norman construction, the Motte is about 7.6m (25 feet) high and a wooden tower would have been at the top, with defensive ditches all around it. There would also originally have been a small settlement around the base of the Motte protected by a wooden palisade.

The Motte plays an important part in the annual Hawick Common-Riding, when the principal, the Cornet, climbs the steps to welcome the sunrise and sing the town song which includes the words 'Teribus, ye Teri

Odin', which is believed to invoke the Norse Gods Thor and Odin: 'Thor be with us, both Thor and Odin'.

This is also why you may hear people from Hawick being called 'Teries'.

## **WEST PORT (7)**

Return now to Drumlanrig Square through the site of the West Port. A stone plaque on the wall of No 2 Loan indicates that this was the site of the port. This was the western gate to the town in medieval times and was on the main road to Carlisle.

No 14 Loan was where James Hogg, who wrote the words for the Common-Riding song 'Teribus' in 1819, died. The tune of the song is much older - it dates back to at least the 16th century. Hogg - not to be confused with the 'Ettrick Shepherd' of the same name - called the song 'The Colour', but it is better known now as 'Teribus'. An old copy of the tune is preserved in the town's library. However, it only vaguely resembles the tune used today.

The area now known as Drumlanrig Square was not always as wide - a row of thatched houses known as the Auld Mid Row ran down the centre, and the sides were known as Back Row and Fore Row.

The Mid Row houses had fallen into disrepair, unfit for habitation. The 1861 Census shows the 11 houses were home to 171 people - an average of 15.5 per house! In 1884, after the people of Hawick collected sufficient money to buy the houses from the owners, they were then demolished.

The Brown Memorial Fountain and Clock, - designed by the renowned Edinburgh-born, Hawick-based architect James P Alison - was added to the square in 1910. Auctioneer William Brown, who had left Hawick in his teens and died at Alloa, left provision in his will for the fountain and clock to be erected in the town.

From Drumlanrig Square, head down Howegate, which still follows the medieval line. At the end of Howegate, turn sharp right up Silver Street. This narrow street is one of the oldest in Hawick. It was here that



a Chartist Association store was opened in 1838.

The first day's sales at the Silver Street premises were £7, and its success soon caused a lowering of prices in neighbouring shops. Eventually, other branches opened in the town and by 1854 the Association was absorbed into the Co-operative Society. By 1940, the Co-op's yearly turnover was recorded at £345,911.

### **TOWER MILL (8)**

You are close to Tower Mill (known as Elliot's Mill) now and have a clear view of the arch supporting this impressive mill, which was built in 1852 and spans the Slitrig Water.

The Auld Brig which previously spanned the Slitrig here is thought to have been built in the 13th century and was a narrow, two-span structure. The parapets and east side of the bridge were washed away in a spectacular flood in August 1767 when the Slitrig rose 6.6m (22 feet) in just two hours.

The parochial school, the corn mill, and 15 houses - complete with two inhabitants - were

carried away by the waters. The damage was extensive, but there was miraculously no loss of life, with those washed away being dragged half-drowned from the Teviot.

The Slitrig Water has broken its banks many times over the years - a plaque on the side of Drumlanrig's Tower is roughly 1.5m (5 feet) above the pavement level and marks the height of the flood of 1846.

After 600 years of service the Auld Brig was demolished in 1851 at the expense of hosiery manufacturer William Elliot, who erected his mill on the site to replace an earlier mill which occupied just one side of the river.

Perhaps in remorse for the destruction of the ancient bridge the Town Council offered a silver medal for a commemorative poem about the Auld Brig, which was won by a Miss Agnes Douglas.

Initially, the Tower Mill was powered by a waterwheel, but a Lancashire boiler was added in the 1860s as the water flow was insufficient in the summer months when the water was low. The waterwheel was connected up to an

electric generator in 1900 to supply electricity to the owner's house in Buccleuch Street.

Tower Mill is a focal point for the 'Heart of Hawick' project, a £10 million-plus redevelopment of the Mill and the old Corn Exchange buildings, plus improvements to Drumlanrig's Tower, the town centre and a new foot/cycle bridge over the River Teviot (see William Beck's Stocking Shop (28)). From c. Easter 2007 Tower Mill will provide access to a theatre/cinema, exhibition space, a visitor information centre and a café/bar, as well as workshops for arts and media businesses.

### **THE HERITAGE HUB (9)**

On the site of the former Corn Exchange, will be home to the Registrar Service and a state-of-the-art archive and family history centre from c. Easter 2007. The Corn Exchange was begun in 1864, but the arch it was being built on collapsed before the foundation stone could be laid, and it was finally completed in 1866.

Before turning left into Kirkstyle, pause for a different view of St Mary's, at the top of the hill on the right. Return to Drumlanrig's Tower and the end of the first walk.

## **Walk 2: The Teviot and the Park**

### **TOWERKNOWE (10)**

Leaving Drumlanrig's Tower, head across to Drumlanrig Bridge right at the end of the High Street.

This area is called Towerknowe and is essentially built around Drumlanrig Bridge (originally called the Slitrig Bridge) with its two flat arches. Funded through public subscription in 1776 and built to carry traffic for which the Auld Brig was unsuited, subsequent increases in traffic led to the bridge being widened twice, in 1828 and 1900.

The buildings around here range from the late 18th century with plain Scottish detailing, through to early 19th century classically influenced buildings.

A fine example is the former Hawick branch of the Commercial Bank (you can see the night safe still in the wall) with its Italianate styling. The Bank relocated from Buccleuch Street to these new premises, built by Hawick's Thomas Harkness in 1852.

The highly decorative stonework is by an Edinburgh-born 'hewer' called Alexander Pirnie, who settled in Hawick.

Towerknowe was the town's market place after the traders were moved from the Sandbed in 1815, having previously been relocated from the area around the Town Hall.

Records show that Hawick had a fleshmarket, butter market, meal market, saltmarket and horsemarket.

Additionally, this was the area where workers could be hired.

The Gazetteer says: "Markets for cattle and for hiring servants are held on the 17th of May and on the 8th of November; for sheep on the 20th and 21st of September; and for horses and cattle on the third Tuesday of October. A market for hiring hinds and

herds is held generally on the first, second, and third Thursdays of April."

### **SANDBED (11)**

Continue past Howegate on your left, to bring the Sandbed on to your right-hand side - a busy area where a total of five streets meet. Sandbed was previously a more enclosed area than it is today, and it's hard now to imagine markets being held here.

### **BUCCLEUCH STREET (12)**

Go into Buccleuch Street - which was constructed in 1815 - to see another part of the town which resulted from the expansion of Hawick at the start of the 19th century. Buccleuch Street was just part of a grand road entering the town from Carlisle and the South and is still known locally as the "New Road". It is lined with fine examples of early 19th century buildings. There is some suggestion that the famous engineer Thomas Telford - who was born in neighbouring Dumfries & Galloway - was involved in the project. Telford is probably best-known for projects such as the Menai Bridge and Caledonian Canal, but it is recorded that he



Sandbed

was commissioned to carry out surveys of the Edinburgh to Carlisle route, which did include Hawick.

### **TEVIOT CHURCH (13)**

Just before Hawick High School, turn right into St George's Lane. On the right-hand side is Teviot Church which was Hawick's first Free Kirk built after the religious upheaval of "The Disruption" in 1843, when 474 ministers left their churches and manses. The present building dates from 1916 and was designed by James P Alison, but contains elements of the earlier structure.

A choice can now be made between two routes. Either cross the Teviot by the footbridge (the Lawson bridge) at the end of St George's Lane or follow the path behind the High School to walk along the bank of the River Teviot and into Wilton Lodge Park, to cross further up-river by the next footbridge (the Laurie Bridge).

### **WILTON LODGE (14)**

Both routes lead to Wilton Lodge and park. The 43 hectares (107 acres) of parkland are used all year round. The grounds have

something for everyone - riverside walks; floral displays; a magnificent walled garden; a waterfall; monuments and sports facilities.

Wilton Lodge, which was the Langlands estate from around 1290 until 1790, has undergone several transformations in its history and most of the present building dates from extensive renovations in 1859. The house and grounds were purchased for £14,000 by the Town Council for the people of Hawick after the last member of the Pringle family - the owners of the estate - died without an heir in 1890.

Since 1910, Wilton Lodge has been home to a museum. Today, The Hawick Museum and Scott Art Gallery reflects manufacturing, domestic life and the rich history of Hawick.



Wilton Lodge Park

There is a fine war memorial (paid for through public subscription) in the park which was unveiled in 1921. Below the towering 8-metre (27-foot) cenotaph, designed by James B Dunn of Edinburgh, is a bronze statue of the 'Spirit of Youth Triumphant over Evil' by Alec Leslie of London. The memorial was constructed by Messrs J Marshall of Hawick. The lamps - which are lit continuously - are modelled on those on the Burgh arms.

Further on is a memorial to the men of Hawick who lost their lives in the Boer War in South Africa between 1899 and 1902.

Also in the grounds are memorials to the motorcycle champions Jimmie Guthrie who was born in 1897 and died whilst taking part in the 1937 German Grand Prix, and Superbike hero

Steve Hislop (known as Hizzy), who died in a helicopter crash in 2003. An essential place to visit, the park is 16 times winner of Scotland in Bloom and winner of Beautiful Britain in Bloom.

### **UPPER COMMON HAUGH (15)**

Follow the signs from Wilton Lodge Park for 'town centre' and head back to the town along Victoria Road. At the cauld (or weir), bear right to walk beside the river and through the Upper Common Haugh (a haugh is a flat meadow by a river). This area, the Coble Cauld, is particularly popular during the summer months and salmon can be seen jumping as they make their way up the river to spawn in the autumn.

The area gets its name from the fact that before the Albert Bridge was built, a coble (small boat) was the only means of crossing the river:

Looking left, you will see the new Community Hospital, which replaces the old Cottage Hospital on Buccleuch Street. The new hospital is on the site of the old Pringle factory warehouse - the firm's factory is in Noble Place. Pringle was founded in Hawick in 1815 by Robert Pringle.



Wilton Lodge Museum

**ALBERT BRIDGE (16)**

Continue along the path (not crossing the Lawson Bridge, which would take you back to St George's Lane) until you reach Albert Bridge which enters Sandbed from the north. From here you can see the futuristic James Thomson foot/cycle bridge - named after the Hawick-born poet - which crosses the Teviot in a single, 40-metre span and was built in 2005.

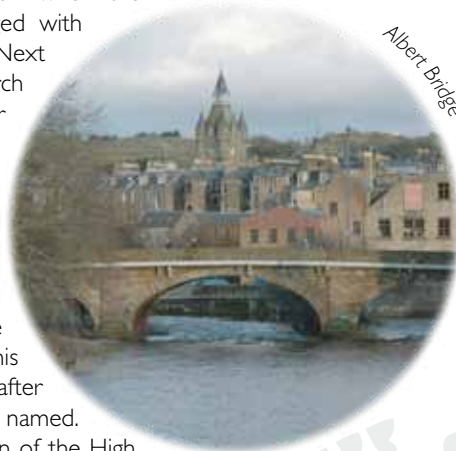
A local community group involving the Burns Club and the Hawick Archaeological Society has worked with Scottish Borders Council to place a specially commissioned memorial to James Thomson, who died in 1888, at the north end of the bridge. It was designed by Hawick sculptor William Landles. James Thomson wrote the words to 'The Star o' Robbie Burns' and several Common-Riding songs.

The Albert Bridge is on the site of the Teviot Bridge, the first bridge over the Teviot into Hawick, which was built in 1741. The present three arch bridge dates from 1865 and was designed by the engineer A Wilson. By 1898

it was appearing on the Ordnance Survey map as Albert Bridge, the name which it bears today. Cross the bridge into Sandbed.

**OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (17)**

Immediately adjoining the bridge is the former Orrock Church. Built in 1874, it served as a church until 1951 when the congregation merged with that of St Mary's. Next to the Orrock Church is the former Grammar School, built in 1824 with the bequest of the Reverend Alexander Orrock, who was the minister here from 1691 until his death in 1711, and after whom the street is named. Only on completion of the High School in Buccleuch Street in the 1860s did schooling move from here.



Albert Bridge



- 1 Drumlanrig's Tower
- 2 Slitrig House
- 3 St Cuthbert's Church
- 4 Former Fire Station
- 5 St Marys' Kirk
- 6 Moat Park
- 7 West Port
- 8 Towermill
- 9 The Heritage Hub
- 10 Towerknowe
- 11 Sandbed
- 12 Buccleuch Street
- 13 Teviot Church
- 14 Wilton Lodge
- 15 Upper Common Haugh
- 16 Albert Bridge
- 17 Old Grammer School
- 18 Carpet Close
- 19 South Port
- 20 37 High Street
- 21 Town Hall
- 22 Walter's Wynd
- 23 "The Horse"
- 24 43-45 North Bridge Street
- 25 Public Library
- 26 Teviotdale Leisure Centre
- 27 Wilton Mills
- 28 William Beck's Stocking Shop
- 29 Thomson Bridge
- 30 Mill Port



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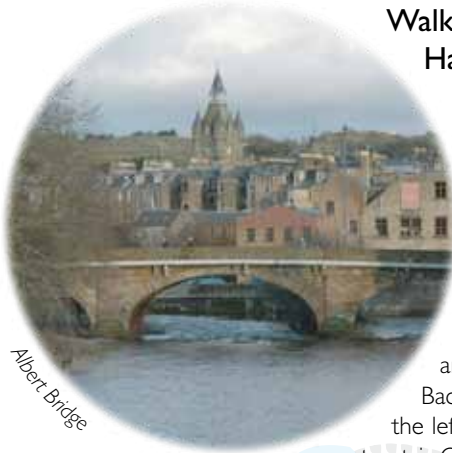




### **CARPET CLOSE (18)**

Near the southern end of Orrock Place is a close on the right-hand side which was known as Carpet Close, since carpets were made in a large factory nearby from 1752 to 1806. Walk back over Drumlanrig Bridge and you will be back at Drumlanrig's Tower and the end of the second walk.

### **Walk 3: Victorian Hawick**



*Albert Bridge*

When facing Drumlanrig's Tower, walk round to your right and go a short distance along Towerdykeside and first left into Backdamgate. On the left, at the top of the street, is Crown Close which was named after the Crown Hotel on High Street. This hotel closed some years

ago and was converted into offices. Crown Close was home to stables and a blacksmith's shop which served the Tower when it was a coaching inn.

### **SOUTH PORT (19)**

Continue up the hill past the blacksmith's anvil along Allars Bank (Staney Brae) until you come out at Cross Wynd (also signed as Allars Bank) and then turn left to head down into High Street. This was one of the primary entries into the town and it was the main road from the south until the 1830s.

Set into the pavement on the right-hand side is a marker indicating where the Cross Well, one of Hawick's early water supplies, was located. As you meet the High Street, you can see one of Hawick's many bank buildings in front of you, the Royal Bank of Scotland, at numbers 31 to 35 High Street, which was built around 1870 and originally housed the National Bank of Scotland.

Another building of note is No 11 High Street, the birthplace of the Right Hon James Wilson (1805-1860), the founder of The

Economist. This was also the office of the first Hawick savings bank, which was established in 1815 as the Hawick Bank for the Savings of Industry. Now a Lloyds TSB, the bank was also the largest TSB branch office in the south of Scotland. Until the Lloyds merger in 1995, the TSB was the oldest, continually existing savings bank in the British Isles.

### 37 HIGH STREET (20)

Next to the bank at number 37 High Street there is a bronze plaque above the shop front. This commemorates the introduction of stocking-frames in 1771 by local magistrate Bailie John Hardie. He purchased four stocking-frames whilst on a business trip to Glasgow and brought them back to the town, thus earning himself the title 'Father of the Hawick knitwear industry'.

### TOWN HALL (21)

At the junction of Cross Wynd and High Street stands the Town Hall. This building, presently local offices for Scottish Borders Council, was completed in 1886 in the Scots Baronial style at a cost of £16,000. The

imposing corner tower with its clock on the four faces is a landmark in the town.

The plans were prepared by Edinburgh architect James Campbell Walker, and the building occupies the extended site of the first Town House, which had been built in 1781 at the more modest cost of £300, and was demolished in 1884. This in turn had replaced the original, thatched, two-storey tollbooth and jail.

Changing times have cost Hawick her Mercat Cross which once stood by the corner of Cross Wynd near the present Town Hall. The cross was taken down in 1762 and the stones sold for the grand sum of 11 shillings and 6 pence (57p).



## WALTER'S WYND (22)

Just as there is a South Port, there is also a North Port. Called Walter's Wynd, this lane is located between numbers 47 and 49 High Street and makes its way towards the Teviot. Continue along High Street for the moment to numbers 65 to 67 (opposite O'Connell Street), which were built in 1885 by Michael Brodie as the Hawick Co-operative Society Store.



The Horse

Although the Co-op moved from the building in 1987 and the shops have changed, the wonderful detailing on the upper façade remains unaltered. Baker Street marks the edge of the former Co-operative Society property and leads down to the Lower Haugh and the Teviot, just as Walter's Wynd does.

The name of O'Connell Street is a reflection of Hawick's radical past. Daniel O'Connell

was an Irish patriot, statesman, barrister and reformer known as 'The Liberator', who died in 1847.

## "THE HORSE" (24)

At the far end of the High Street stands the 1514 Memorial known locally as "The Horse". This impressive equestrian statue commemorates the victory of local youths over English invaders under the colours of the Abbot of Hexham at nearby Hornshole in 1514, barely a year after the disaster at Flodden. During the skirmish, the Abbot's banner was taken and triumphantly carried back to Hawick.

Hawick's Horse is the centrepiece of the symbolic events commemorating this day during the Common-Riding every June when the Cornet (the principal) 'busses' the bronze flag of the statue by tying blue and gold ribbons - the towns' colours - on to its staff. The memorial was erected in 1914 and was paid for by public subscription. A total of £1,440 was raised and the statue was executed by Hawick-born sculptor, William Francis Beattie. He went on to serve as a

major with the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War and was killed in action in 1918.

Look across the road to the jeweller's shop and you will see the 'Teribus Clock' on the front of the building, which was the brainchild of jeweller Hamish Smith. This automaton clock has three horses and riders representing the Hawick Common-Riding Cornet and his Right- and Left-Hand Men which appear every quarter of the hour, to the strains of 'Teribus'. The clock was designed and constructed entirely in Hawick, and erected in 1996.

### **43-45 NORTH BRIDGE STREET (24)**

At the top of this street is the curiously-titled Coffin End coffee shop, named for the shape of a long line of shops which jutted out here, the feature of a previous building before the current grand premises were built.

Make your way along North Bridge Street, which was built between the mid-1800s and 1900. The double-fronted No 17 was a former mid-Victorian doctor's house.

A clear Art Nouveau influence can be seen in many of the buildings of North Bridge Street. The architect James P Alison designed numbers 43 and 45 as his house and office - look out in particular for the letter box and mosaic work on the steps. These new buildings must have made a tremendous impression as their styling was so different to anything built before in the town.

### **PUBLIC LIBRARY (25)**

At the end of North Bridge Street (on the left) is the Public Library which was built in 1904 with a £10,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie, the world-famous philanthropist who was born in Dunfermline. Carnegie himself opened the building. Cross North Bridge, which was built in 1832 to be a second crossing over the Teviot. It originally had four arches but the north and south arches were filled in when it was widened in 1882 and it is now pedestrianised.

Once over the bridge, you are in the Wilton area of Hawick. This was once a separate settlement with its own parish church, but the two came together in 1861 with the re-



organisation of local government. However, the name lives on in the cricket team - the Hawick and Wilton.

### **TEVIOTDALE LEISURE CENTRE**

**(26)**

On the right is the Teviotdale Leisure Centre which was built in 1983 and has many leisure facilities including the largest swimming pool in the Scottish Borders.

The Centre is on the site of the former railway station which was the first station built by the North British Railway when Hawick was at the end of the line. In

1862 when the line was extended to Carlisle a new station was erected with the platforms partly extended over the river.



Public Library

The famous Waverley Line from Edinburgh to Carlisle closed in 1969.

The Waverley Line was generally acknowledged as one of the most scenic routes in the country. Directly over the road is the former Station Hotel. As the railway curved sharply and was in a dip, the signalman could ring a bell in the Hotel from the signal box to warn of oncoming trains.

Although long since removed, the route of the railway can still be traced through the town.

### **WILTON MILLS (27)**

Go back towards North bridge and turn right to walk up river along Commercial Road towards the Victoria footbridge, which you will be crossing. Along this road were some of the mill buildings which made Hawick great.

The former Wilton Mills buildings dominate Commercial Road. Also called Dicksons & Laings, the firm was founded in 1810. This was the first mill in Hawick to have power

looms, purchased from Manchester in 1832 and transported to the town by horse and cart.

Dicksons & Laings produced both hosiery and tweed, and continued to do so when some mills abandoned hosiery to concentrate on the lucrative tweed trade in the 1860s.

Perhaps the most striking feature of Wilton Mills is the clock tower. In the mid-1800s Walter Laing had pressed for the 'new' Wilton Parish Church to have a clock as part of the building. The architect was against the idea, and got his way, so the persistent Mr Laing built his own clock tower at the factory.

In 1908, mill owner's son Ivan Laing became Hawick's first Olympian when he was chosen to play hockey at the Games. He scored the first hockey goal in the first ever Olympic hockey match. He died in the First World War at Cambrai aged just 32, after surviving the Somme two months earlier.

Dicksons & Laings went into receivership in 1909 with debts of some £56,000.

Further along is the site of Messrs William Watson & Sons' Dangerfield Mills, which originally wove shawls, blankets and shepherds' check - but was to become the birthplace of tweed.

In 1832, a London merchant misread the name 'Tweel' (or 'twill', a type of weave) on a quantity of woven material from William Watson's, and re-ordered 'Tweed'. William Watson seized the opportunity to market this 'new' fabric, Scotch Tweed.

In 1983 the Watson family finally sold the mills, and 176 years of William Watson & Sons came to an end. The carding sheds and spinning mill were totally destroyed by fire in 2003, including some unique machines dating back to 1879.

As you approach the bridge you will see the Shorts of Hawick factory. Shorts was originally in Drumlanrig Square when the firm was called Highland Hose and manufactured tartan socks. In 1984 they moved to the Ladylaw Centre, and then relocated to this factory in 1999. In 1991 they changed their

name to Shorts of Hawick. The business manufactures cashmere and cashmere blends. This factory originally belonged to another famous Hawick knitwear name, Peter Scott's, which is based in Buccleuch Street and offers fascinating factory tours.

Cross the Teviot again by means of the Victoria Footbridge to Lower Haugh and Teviot Crescent. This bridge was built in 1991 and replaced a bridge built in 1851. Teviot Crescent was largely constructed in 1832 and was home to middle-class workers.



James Thomson Bridge

### **WILLIAM BECK'S STOCKING SHOP (28)**

If you turn right after the Victoria bridge and walk along the side of the Teviot, you are walking parallel with High Street, which is hidden on your left.

Across the river you might just be able to make out the signwriting on the side of the former Victoria Steam Laundry. Business declined with the introduction of the domestic washing machine, and the laundry closed down in the 1990s. The last operator of the laundry was George Stanger, father of 1990 Grand Slam try-scoring rugby hero, Tony.

When you reach the Health Centre on the left-hand side, you are at the site of the former Robert Pringle & Sons' Rodono Mills - the place where the twin-set was invented. By the 1930s, knitted underwear was losing its appeal, and women's fashions generally became more body-hugging.

A young Austrian designer called Otto Weisz was working for the company and introduced the 'classic twin-set' of a sweater and cardigan and by the 1950s Hawick's twin-sets in either cashmere or lambswool were the height of fashion around the world. It was also at this time the term 'knitwear' came into use. Just after the Health Centre, set back from the road and beside the 'snake like' walkway, is a

building with a row of regular, small windows on the first floor.

This is the back of no 21 High Street, or William Beck's Stocking Shop, and was built around 1800. This building took knitting a step closer from a cottage industry to the mills on the opposite bank of the river. The windows were regularly spaced and sized to provide daylight for each worker and this must have been a tremendous benefit in the days before gas and electric lighting.

The building was converted into houses in 1991 by the National Trust for Scotland as part of their 'Little Houses' scheme.

Further along you can see the new Thomson suspension bridge (29), its single span of 40 metres (131 feet) supported by stays from two steel pylons extending 17 metres (56 feet) above its deck.

There are steps at the end of this next section of the walk. As an alternative, go up the walkway and past the Stocking Shop, and on to the High Street, turning right for Drumlanrig's Tower and the end of this walk.

If you choose this alternative route, you can still look down on Mill Port from Drumlanrig Bridge.


### **MILL PORT (30)**

At the end of Teviot Road lies Mill Port, which gets its name from a gateway by a corn mill which once stood here. The mill was the one which was destroyed in the 1767 flood.

From Mill Port you can see at close hand the point at which the Slitrig Water and the River Teviot join. Looking south you see Drumlanrig Bridge and the imposing mass of the Tower Mill beyond. To the west is Albert Bridge and the new Thomson suspension bridge.



Walled Garden, Wilton Lodge Park



By going up the steps, you arrive at Tower  
Knowe. With a final look up the High Street,  
return to Drumlanrig's Tower and the end of  
this walk.

These are short walks, and not everything  
can be covered, but we hope this has given  
you a flavour of the town and hope you will  
return again soon.

hawick



This leaflet is also available in large print and various computer formats by contacting the Planning and Economic Development on 01835 825060



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