

## RIVER TWEED

The Tweed and its tributaries drain much of the land mass of the Borders. The river is a major landscape feature as it runs for 160km/100 miles from its source high in the hills north of Moffat to the sea at Berwick. On the way it passes through or close to Peebles, Galashiels, Melrose, Kelso, Coldstream and a number of attractive villages.

## JOHN BUCHAN

Most people today would remember John Buchan as a novelist. His fast-moving thrillers, many of them starring the secret agent Richard Hannay, are still widely read, and the best-known, "The Thirty-Nine Steps", made a successful transition to the film screen. However, there was much more to his life than that.

Buchan was born in Perth in 1875, the son of a church minister. The family later lived in Fife, Glasgow, and the Borders. After graduating from Oxford, Buchan pursued an enormously varied career which included editing *The Spectator*, serving as Member of Parliament for the Scottish Universities (1927-35), becoming a director of Nelson's the publishers, and twice being High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

In the First World War, Buchan served in the government as Director of Information and wrote many articles about the war, intended to maintain morale at home. In all, he wrote over a hundred books, of which only about 40 are fiction. His biographies and historical studies were regarded as classics in their day.

In 1935, at the age of 60, Buchan was appointed Governor-General of Canada, and took the title Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfeld, his home in Oxfordshire. He died in 1940, shortly after signing Canada's formal entry into World War Two.

The Buchan family had (and retain) many links with the area through which the walk passes. Buchan's brother Walter was Town Clerk of Peebles, a noted local historian, and with John formed the family firm of solicitors, J. & W. Buchan WS, which is still active in the area today. His younger sister Anna wrote novels under the pseudonym O. Douglas. She lived most of her life in Peebles and used it, as 'Priorsford', in her books.

The John Buchan Society, which has members all over the world, maintains close and cordial relations with the Buchan family and with the John Buchan Centre, and has donated a number of exhibits to the latter. Visit [www.johnbuchansociety.co.uk](http://www.johnbuchansociety.co.uk)



## 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 personal 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.

### When you're **managing the outdoors**:

- respect access rights;
- act reasonably when asking people to avoid land management operations;
- work with your local authority and other bodies to help integrate access and land management;
- respect rights of way and customary access;

Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

If you encounter any problems on your walk please contact Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service on 01835 825070 or email: [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)

**This leaflet is also available on tape, in BRAILLE, large print and various computer formats by contacting the above.**



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# John Buchan Way

Peebles to Broughton  
(22km/13 miles)



Front Cover Photo - Hammer Head, Stobhope Head

Our Scottish Borders  
Your destination



On the road below Cademuir Hill

*Yon are the hills that my hert kens weel,  
Hame for the weary, rest for the auld,  
Braid and high as the April sky,  
Blue on the taps and green i' the fauld:  
At ilka turn a bit wanderin' burn,  
And a canty biggin' on ilka lea  
There's nocht sae braw in the wide world's schaw  
As the heughis and holms o' the South Countrie.*

*'From 'The South Countrie' by Jofin 'Buchan*

## Introduction

The John Buchan Way is a route from Peebles to Broughton in the Scottish Borders, a distance of approximately 22km (13 miles). The route is waymarked in both directions, and was opened in spring 2003. It is named after the writer and diplomat John Buchan (1875-1940), who has many associations with the area.

The route mainly follows long-established hill tracks through the Peeblesshire countryside. It has three main ascents and descents which give a total climb of about 800 metres, but this climb is never severe.

The walk can be completed in one day by strong walkers, or can conveniently be split at the halfway point at Stobo by catching a bus.

It is recommended that full hill walking gear is used for this walk, as parts of it can be quite exposed.

Much of the route crosses livestock areas, so please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. If you take a dog with you, please ensure it is on a lead or under close control. During the lambing period (March to May) we recommend that dogs are not taken on this route.

## Maps

Although the route is waymarked and a map is provided in this leaflet, it is recommended that the Ordnance Survey Landranger maps 72 and 73, or Explorer sheets 336 and 337, are taken as back-up and also to give a picture of the wider area around the route of the walk.

## Stay Safe

Stay Safe from diseases in the countryside by:

- ◆ Washing hands (or use wet wipes) before handling or eating food.
- ◆ Not drinking untreated water from rivers, streams and lochs.
- ◆ Avoiding camping or having a picnic on land where animals have recently been grazing.
- ◆ Taking care to avoid spreading animal faeces on footwear.

Heading down through Easter Dawyck



Looking to Broughton Heights

## Walking in the Scottish Borders

Walking publications are available at Tourist Information Centres throughout the Borders or tel: 01835 863170 to order a copy.

A week-long **Festival of Walking** is organised in the Borders in early September each year. Inaugurated in 1995, the festival has become established in the Borders events calendar and is enjoyed by walkers from all over the UK and beyond. For more information, see contact details under 'Tourist Information'.

## Tourist Information

For information on all there is to see and do in the Scottish Borders click on [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

There are numerous hotels, inns and cafes in Peebles and there is a café in Broughton.

## Buses

The 91 bus service, operated by Barc coaches, links Peebles with Stobo and Broughton. To check the bus times pop into the VisitScotland Information Centre on Peebles High Street or contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or by visiting [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

## PEEBLES TO STOBO

(11 km/6.5 miles)

The walk starts from Bank House, at the west end of **Peebles** High Street. This was a Buchan family home and was later the offices of J. & W. Buchan, Solicitors.

The John Buchan Story Museum is now located on Peebles High Street in the Chambers Institution. You can read about his life and works and purchase a selection of his books or booklets about his life.

After crossing the bridge keep to the right of the hundred year old oak tree in the traffic island and take the short section of road running uphill. Thereafter follow the waymarkers through the vennels onto Chambers Terrace and Craigerne Lane.

Turn right here through a metal gate and walk uphill beside the wall. At the wall junction, go through the wooden gate and take the right-hand of the three paths, climbing and curving right on to **Cademuir Hill**.

The path joins a power line and continues its steady climb. You are likely to hear, if not see, buzzards here and curlews are often prominent with their mournful cry in the late spring and summer. At a fork, go left, with higher hills visible ahead and to the right. The summit of Cademuir is now clear. At the next fork, go right and continue around the hill on a good grass path.

At a multiple path junction keep ahead towards Cademuir Hill, and at the next fork go left and take the path that runs beside the wall and start descending [or go right to visit the forts on Cademuir, and return to the same point]. There is a superb view of the hills at the head of Glensax, with Hundleshope Heights (685m) prominent.

Follow the lovely path as it curves right and runs easily down past a Scots pine plantation to the road. Just before reaching the road, take the path that parallels the tarmac, a few metres above it, and runs round the base of the hill.

Join the road just past the entrance to **Cademuir Farm**. It swings left and right past **Milton Farm**. Cross the Manor Water, passing picnic tables where you may be tempted to take a break. Turn left along the Manor Valley road to reach **The Glack**.

At the farm go left for a few metres and then right, through a metal gate, and head up through the fields, crossing several stiles. After wet weather this section can be rather damp. The going improves as you get higher. Cross an old dyke, go past the corner of the wood and over a stile at the boundary march between **Woodhouse** and **Easter Dawyck**.

Go straight ahead and then left contouring around the hill, keeping the wall/fence on your right. At the corner of the fence turn right and head downhill again keeping the fence on your right.

Cross the small burn by the bridge, join the farm track and turn right. At the second gate, turn left to follow the fence. Cross the track and go through the small gate and continue ahead to another gate/stile.

Cross, and turn left along the farm access road. Cross the bridge over the Tweed and reach the main road. Turn right to continue the walk, or wait here for the bus if returning to Peebles.

**Stobo Kirk** is a short distance along the road, and is well worth a visit. More information is found in the panel.



John Buchan



Walker below Penvalla

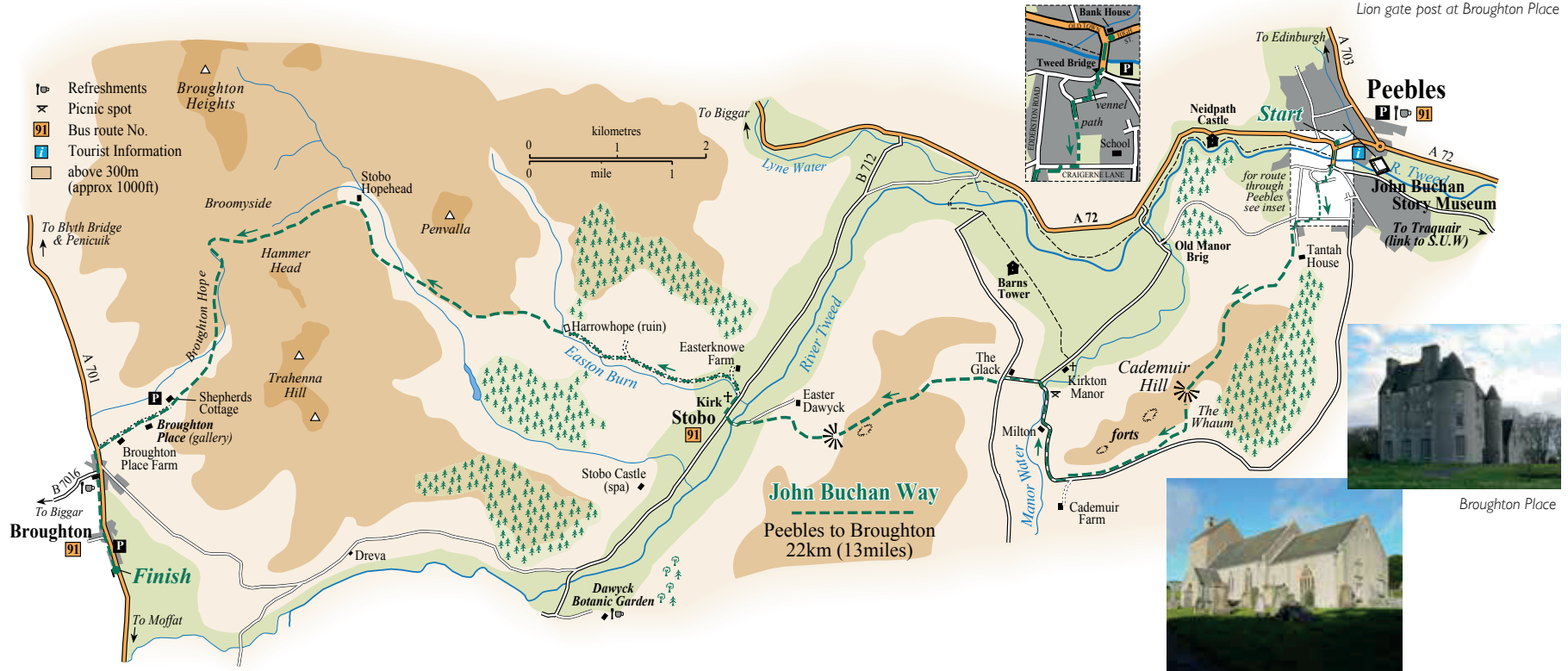
## PEEBLES

Peebles is built around the confluence of the Eddleston Water and the River Tweed. Peebles was already a Royal Burgh by the time of King David I (1124-53). Although Peebles was relatively untouched by the Borders conflicts, it was occupied by Cromwell's army in 1650-51. Interesting remains include the Cross Kirk, dating back to the late 13th century.

Peebles is today a busy and lively town with interesting shops in the High Street and a wide range of accommodation, restaurants, cafes and other services for the visitor. The surrounding countryside offers unlimited opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding.



Lion gate post at Broughton Place



Broughton Place



Stobo Church

### JOHN BUCHAN STORY MUSEUM

The Museum is housed in the Chambers Institution at the entrance to Tweeddale Museum, Art Gallery and Library on Peebles High Street and the Go Tweed Valley Information Centre is close by.

This museum follows the stages of an extraordinary career and a life lived to the full. Using personal artefacts, family photographs and Buchan's own writing, a truly remarkable story is told.

The John Buchan Story is open from 10am to 1pm Monday to Saturday from Easter Weekend until the end of October.

### STOBO KIRK

According to tradition, Stobo Kirk stands on the site of an even older foundation associated with St Kentigern (also known as St Mungo). A stained glass window in the kirk depicts the legendary magician Merlin being baptised by the saint.

The kirk is Norman in layout and may date from as early as 1120. It was the most important church in upper Tweeddale for many centuries. The church was altered in the subsequent centuries, but retained many Norman features.

### CADEMUIR HILL

Hilltops were natural places for fortification and security in prehistoric times, and Cademuir has two impressive forts. The main fort on the upper part of the hill extending to over 2ha is surrounded by ramparts, and contained at least 35 small circular dwellings.

A second fort is located at the south-west end of the summit. The fort had a stone wall, remains of which are still visible, and an additional defence in the form of chevaux de frise. These are large, sharp projecting stones set firmly into the turf - at least 100 of them - and designed to halt charging enemies.

## STOBO TO BROUGHTON (11km/6.5 miles)

200 metres from the road-end to Easter Dawyck you pass the entrance to Stobo Kirk. The walk, however, takes the next opening on the left.

Past the cottages, turn left over a stile onto a lesser track by the Easton Burn. Continue along the track as signed, climbing gently, with a good view of the hill named Penvalla ahead. 'Pen' meaning 'end', 'head' or 'hill' is a fairly common name element in the Borders.

Pass through a gate at sheep pens and cross the stile at a second gate. Then be sure to take the left fork. It is waymarked but can still be easily missed. Walk beside the plantation and continue to reach the ruined cottage of **Harrowhope**, in a wonderful setting. 'Hope' in this area means a side valley.

Turn left in front of the cottage and cross the burn by the footbridge. Walk uphill to the pine trees, pass through them, climbing steadily, and cross the dyke by the ladder stile, with **Penvalla** filling the view ahead.

Continue on a clear grassy track towards the gap ahead, with an expansive view behind. As you top the rise, **Broughton Heights** appear ahead and to the right. Keep right and follow the lovely old track round the hill, descending slowly towards the Hopehead Burn. Pass an old round sheep stell, cross the burn and climb to join the main track. Turn right and walk up to **Stobo Hopehead**. This is surely one of the most remote houses in the Borders, 6km (4 miles) up a track from the road.

Turn left with the track before the house, and at the gathering shed go left as signed up a rough path on the open hill, with the Well Burn below to the right. Keep to the same height for a while before starting to climb again towards the obvious gap in the hills ahead.

Pass an unusual hexagonal stone stell then higher up, keep left at a fork then swing right and left, aiming for a gate at the low point of the saddle.

Go through the gate and walk half-right on a cleared strip in the heather. In about 250 metres, go left as signed to start the long descent to Broughton. Keep low down with the path, which soon improves into a broad grassy track giving delightful walking with the Hollows Burn chuckling away down to your left.

Before long you can see **Broughton Place** ahead. Cross the burn and climb steadily to the left of the small wood.

There is an expansive view, taking in Culter Fell to the left and ranging round to Tinto on the right. Descend to the gate and walkers' car park at Shepherd's Cottage and continue past **Broughton Place**.

Walk down the access road past **Broughton Place Farm** to the main road, cross and turn left. The pavement starts in about 200 metres, and at the junction with the B7016 Biggar Road is the welcome sight of the Laurel Bank Tearoom. The John Buchan Way continues through **Broughton**, passing on the right (shortly after the shop) Broughton Green, the home of John Buchan's mother's family, the Mastertons.

You may choose to continue through the village and turn right down the brewery road then left over a bridge that will lead you onto the dismantled railway line. This route continues all the way to Biggar along an easy flat grassy surface. Biggar is a charming old market town in the next local authority region of South Lanarkshire.