

# WALKS AROUND LAUDER

## LAUDERDALE PATHS NETWORK

IN ASSOCIATION WITH LAUDERDALE ROTARY CLUB



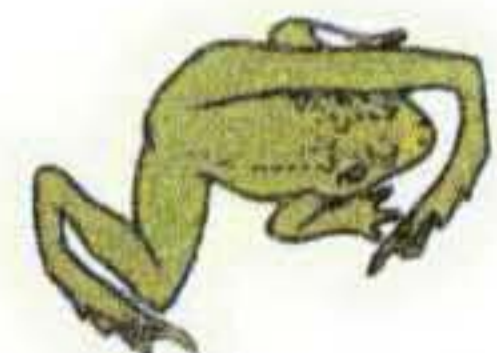
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH LAUDERDALE ROTARY CLUB



Layout & Printing by Toadwine Press  
2006





## LAUDERDALE PATHS NETWORK

The Lauderdale Paths Network (LPN) is a local voluntary group covering the area of Oxton, Blainslie and Lauder that welcomes anyone with an interest in public access. We aim to develop a local paths network in and around Lauderdale. Our objectives are to provide for as many people as possible in terms of open access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including those that are less able, to promote the use of sustainable transport and to encourage the use of safe routes to school. Many of the routes described are marked with the LPN logo:



This booklet has been produced by Lauderdale Paths Network with the help of the Lauderdale Rotary Club. Any income from the sale of this will be used to help maintain paths, and to fund future revisions of the walks booklet

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## INTRODUCTION

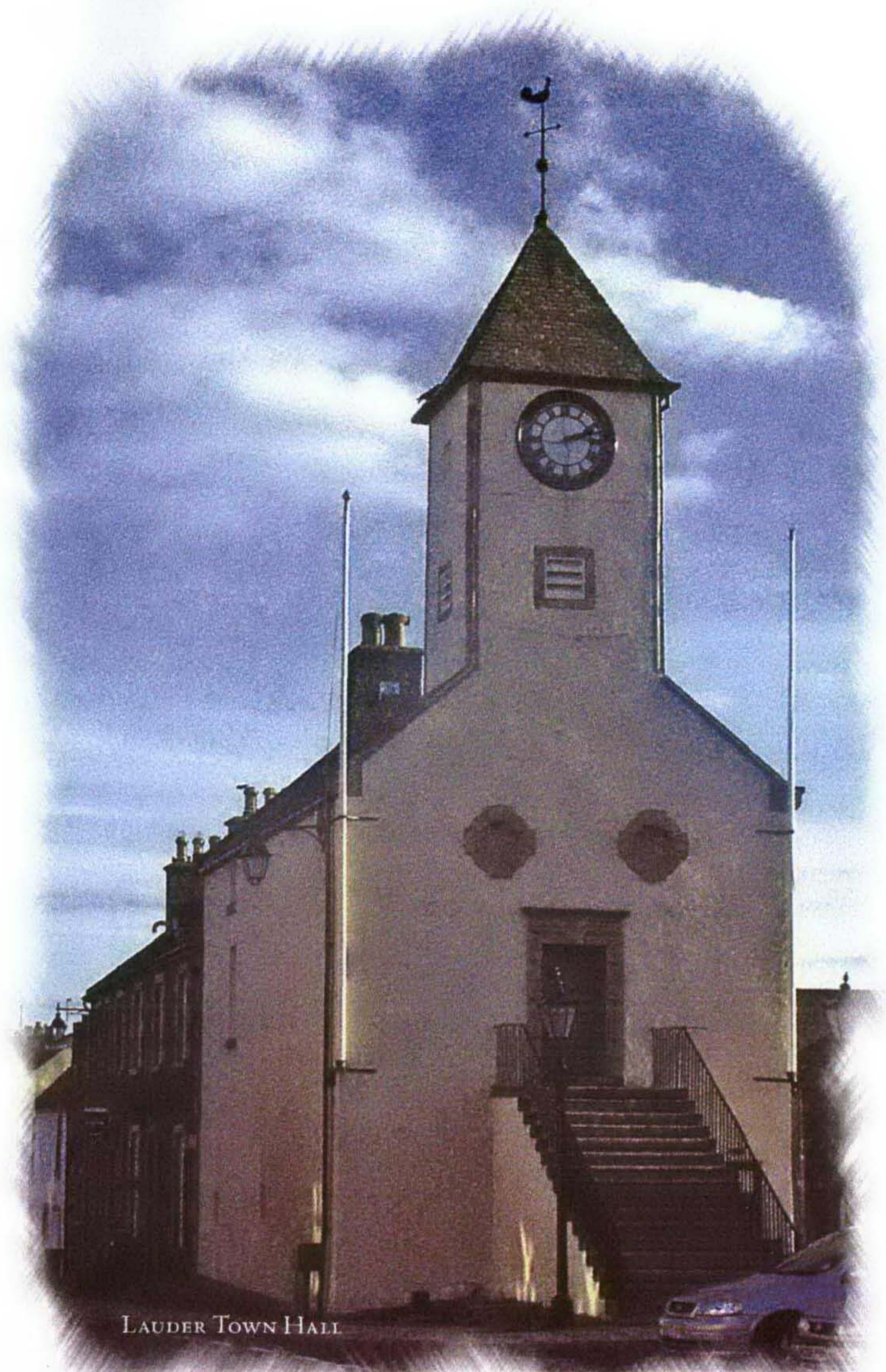
Lauderdale is famed in verse for its rolling landscapes, from the rich red soil of the river haughland to the heather clad tops of its hills. The Leader Water dominates the valley, and the river and its many tributaries with their gorges and wooded cleughs add further variety to the scene. This is a working landscape, with a natural transition from arable fields through grazed pasture to managed grouse moorland.

Walking is a popular pursuit in Lauderdale with routes to suit all, ranging from gentle strolls to more demanding hikes. Lauder Common is a particularly good place to walk, with a variety of habitats, in easy reach of the town. Walkers are welcome to roam freely, but must respect the needs of others and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code summarised at the back of this booklet. Enjoyment of the natural and cultural heritage of the area has to be balanced against the active use of the landscape, which provides a livelihood for the people of Lauderdale.

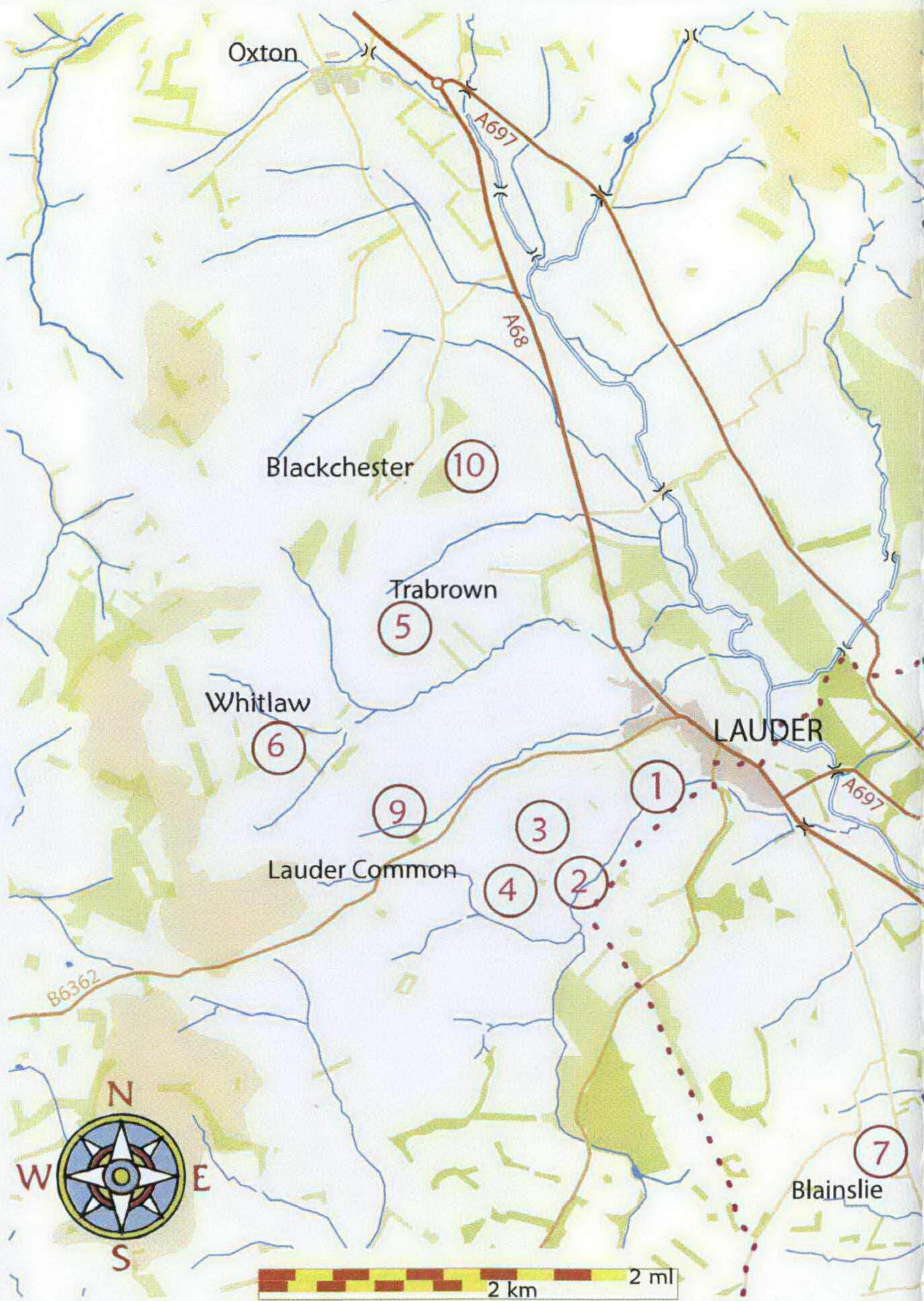
Lauder, the main settlement

of Lauderdale, dates back to the 12th century and is a Royal and Ancient Burgh. The centre of Lauder is a near-perfect example of an 18th century Scottish town. There is a town trail guide available, which provides much interesting information. Just outside the town lies the romantic Thirlestane Castle, seat of the Earls of Lauderdale. Today Lauderdale is a thriving area with an expanding population of over 1800.

The area is covered by the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 338: Galashiels, Selkirk, Melrose, St Boswells and Lauder, which is recommended for all walks.



LAUDER TOWN HALL



Oxton

A697

A68

Blackchester

10

Trabrown

5

Whitlaw

6

LAUDER

A697

9

3

1

Lauder Common

4

2

B6362

N

W

E

S

7

Blainslie

2 km

2 ml




## WALKS

All walks are circular, starting in Lauder and extending towards the letters shown on this area map.

Walk 1: Burnmill	Page 8
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### Legend

Southern Upland Way: 

Walk routes: 



## BURNMILL



- Distance:** 1.5mls/2km      **Time:** 40 mins.
- Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580
- Difficulty:** Easy. Suitable for buggies. Part of route suitable for wheelchairs.
- Terrain:** Level; trainers/shoes are normally adequate
- Description:** This is a delightful short route around the Burnmill area, following the Lauder Burn on good paths through a community woodland of mixed and native trees.

### Walk Route:

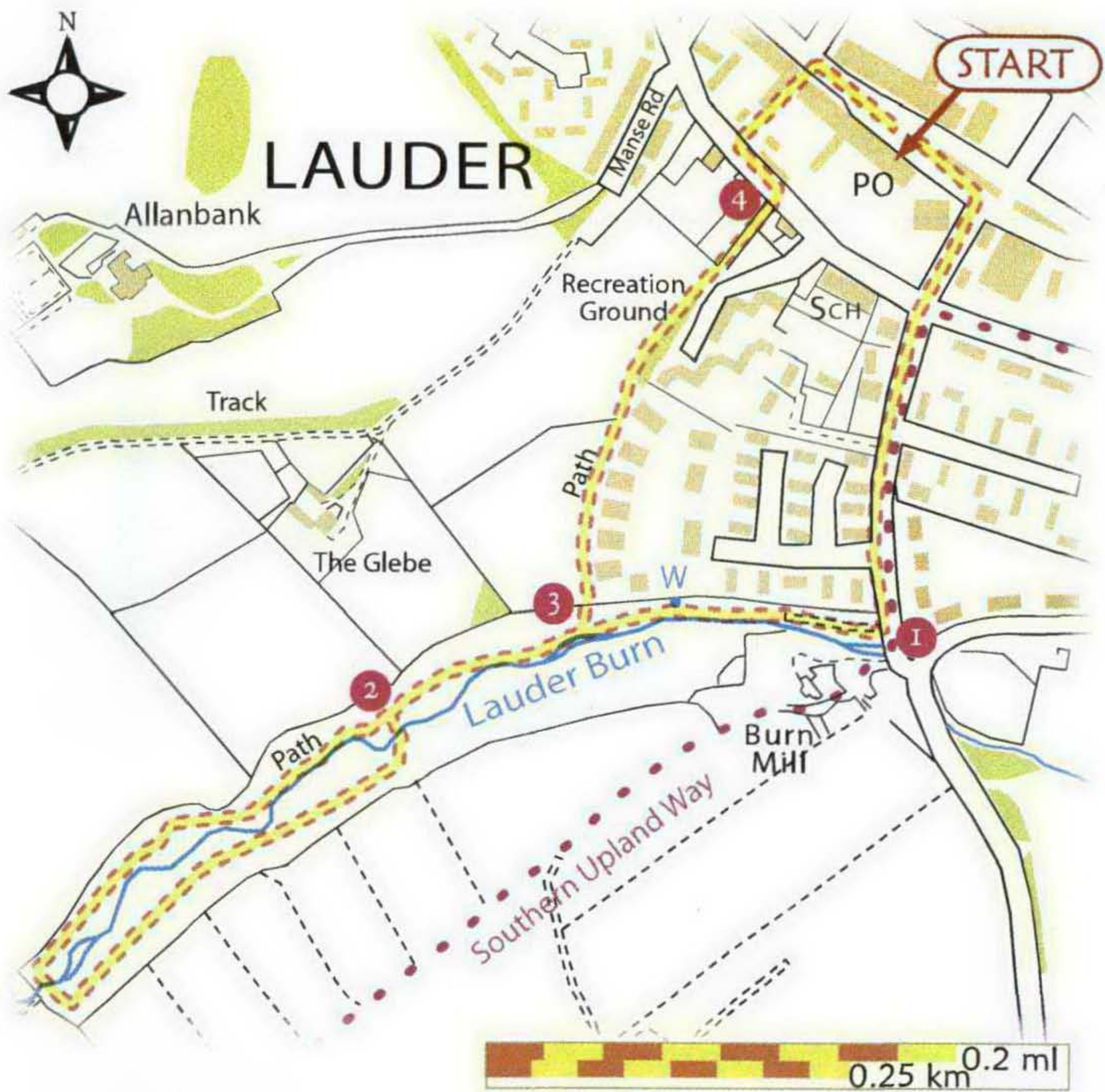
From the Post Office walk south along Mid Row with the Town Hall on the left and turn right into Mill Wynd.

The Town Hall, with its notable clock tower is actually the old town tron - the toll gate where a levy was placed on goods weighed using the tron - and had a prison underneath it.

Continue along Mill Wynd

and after passing the last houses on the right turn right and follow the sign-posted path through the gate (1). Continue along the north side of the burn to the second footbridge (2) and after crossing this turn right and follow the path as it travels along the south side of the burn.

After approximately 200 metres re-cross the burn by way of a raised boardwalk



and turn right along the path to return to the bridge you crossed earlier. Continue along the Lauder side of the burn until the first houses.

Take the path to the left through the gate (3) and follow the path straight up the fenceline through the park until a road is reached.

Turn left and walk past the playground (4). Take the first right through a small car park leading into a short alleyway, to emerge by the corner of the Flat Cat Gallery in Market Street, turning right to return to the Town Hall.

## BIRDS ABOUND

Birds are plentiful in the scrub around the Lauder Burn. Look out for the gaudy yellowhammer, with its refrain of “little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheese”, singing from the tops of shrubs. Flocks of goldfinches and linnets spill in from the nearby arable fields, and in winter the berries are a magnet for visiting thrush flocks. The bobbing dipper uses the burn along with grey and pied wagtails.

#	<u>OS/GPS</u>	<u>REFS.</u>
1	NT 53062	47249
2	NT 52738	47180
3	NT 52864	47265
4	NT 52977	47538



## BURNMILL AND CHESTER HILL



- Distance:** 2.5 mls/3.9km    **Time:** 1.5 hours
- Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580
- Difficulty:** Moderate, with a steep ascent.
- Terrain:** Muddy and uneven in places. Stout shoes or boots recommended.
- Description:** A varied walk on good paths, passing through Burnmill and the wooded haughs of the Lauder Burn, onto Lauder Common. The path follows the old quarry road, before ascending onto Chester Hill, and returning along the Southern Upland Way past a Hill Fort and an old Roman Signal Station

### Walk route:

From the Post Office walk north along Market Place and turn left down a narrow alleyway immediately between the Flat Cat Gallery and the Golden Bannock. Turn left onto Crofts Road and then first right at the end of the playpark, noting the sign to Burnmill at the end of the railings.

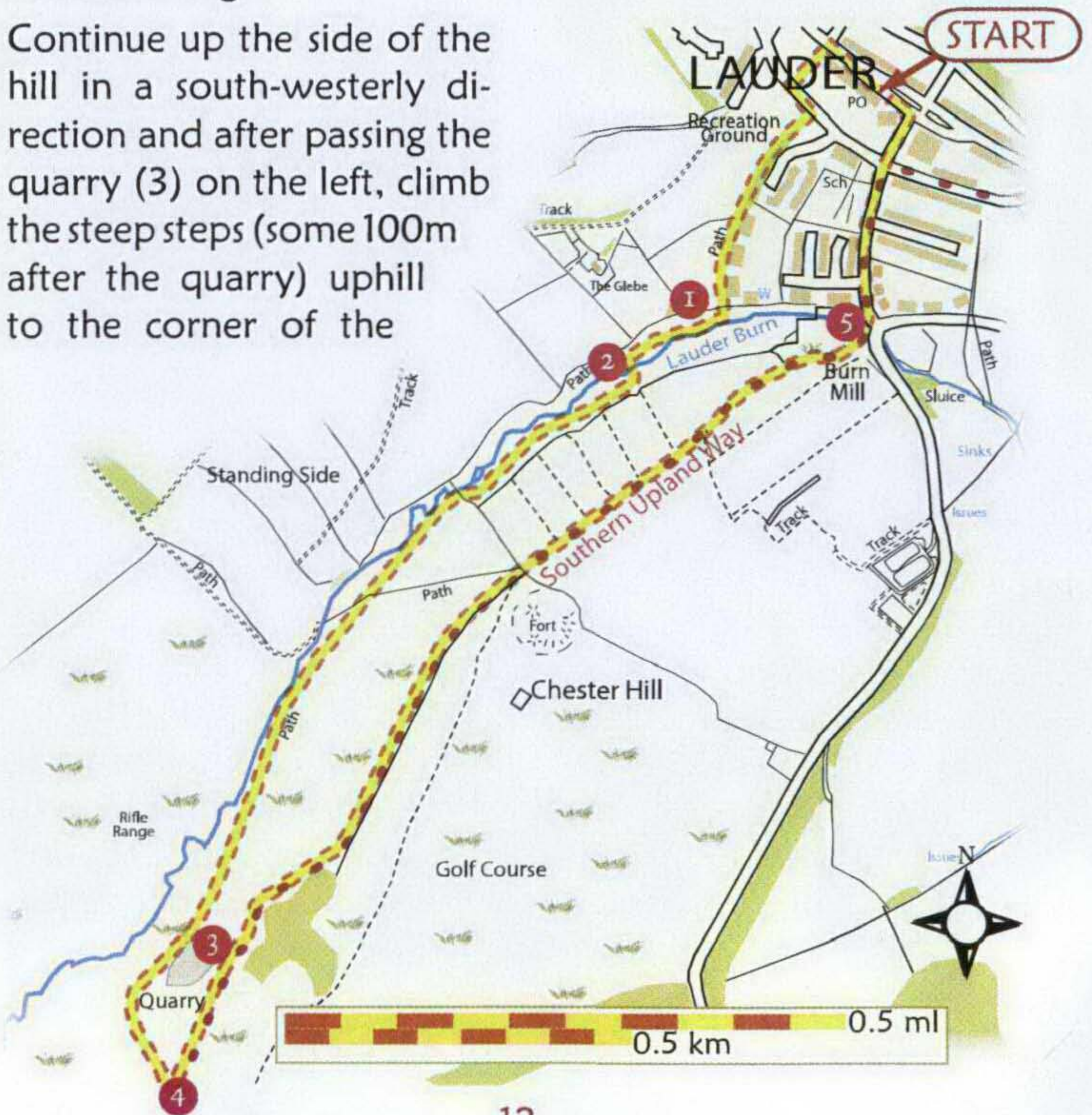
Keeping the fenceline on your left walk down the hill through the park, past the houses and through the gate (1) to the Lauder Burn. Turn right and continue along the north side of the burn to the footbridge (2) and after crossing this turn right again and follow the path as it travels along the south side of the burn.

Carry straight on through the gate onto the Common and over the boardwalk.

This path was originally created for carts to move stones from the small quarry on Chester Hill, which was used to provide stone for the construction of several local buildings.

Continue up the side of the hill in a south-westerly direction and after passing the quarry (3) on the left, climb the steep steps (some 100m after the quarry) uphill to the corner of the

fence that borders Lauder Golf Course. This path zig-zags up the slope via some rails, and may be hazardous in wet weather. It is not suitable for the disabled. The Golf Course lies on Lauder Common and there is free access over it - but please be



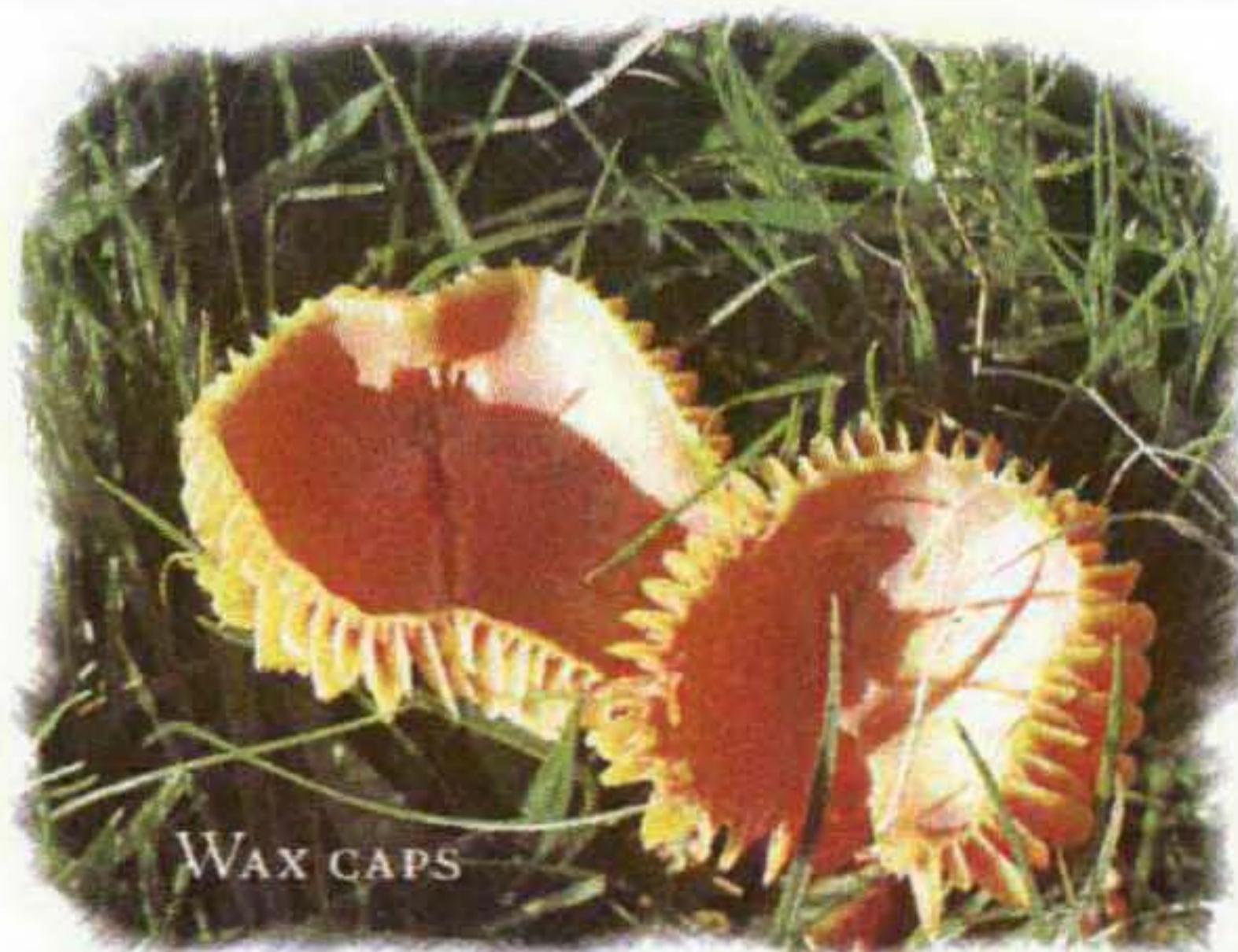
considerate. After pausing to regain your breath and admire the fine views, turn left at the top (4), and join the route of the Southern Upland Way. This travels along the side of Chester Hill with the Golf Course on the right. After passing through a gateway by a mast, the track drops downhill and back to the old Burn Mill.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 52864	47265
2	NT 52738	47180
3	NT 52115	46350
4	NT 52128	46263
5	NT 53013	47244

At Burnmill car park re-cross the Lauder Burn using the footbridge (5) and turn right, on through the kissing gate, then left onto the pavement along Mill Wynd. This can be followed all the way to the Town Hall and the starting point.

### ROMAN FORT

Chester Hill is the site of a small Roman look-out station, and there has been a beacon beside it which has been lit in times of trouble over the centuries. Today the site is used for a short open-air service on Easter Sunday, followed by egg-rolling down the hill.



WAX CAPS

## STANDING SIDE CIRCULAR



- Distance:** 1.8 mls/3km      **Time:** 1.25 hours
- Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580
- Difficulty:** Moderate
- Terrain:** Level but muddy in places. Boots and long trousers recommended
- Description:** This route takes the visitor through the park, along the pretty Burnmill path, following the Lauder Burn onto Lauder Common, and up to Standing Side, returning via the historical Burgess Acres.

### Walk Route:

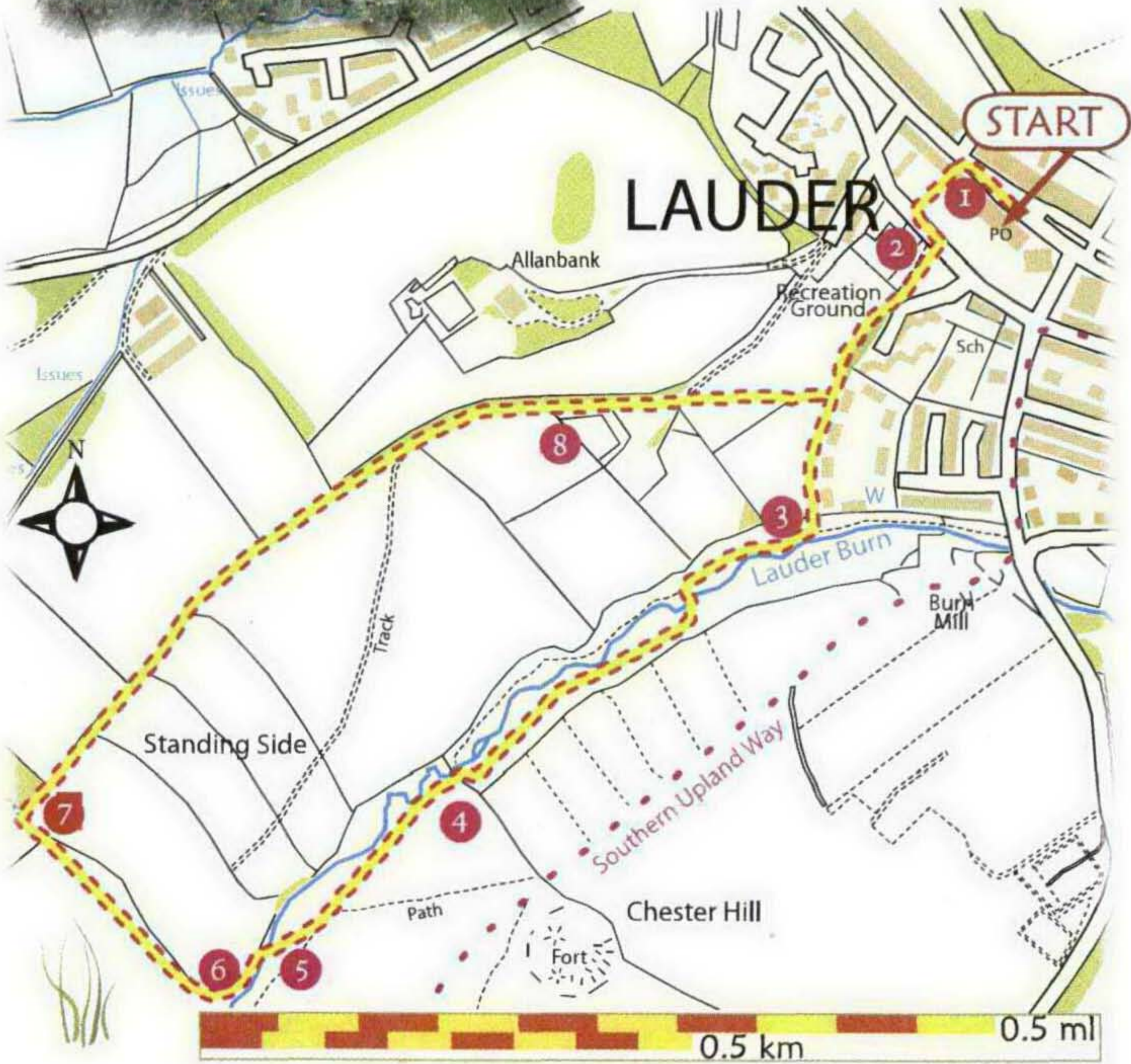
From the Post Office walk north, away from the Town Hall, with its clock tower, until you reach the Flat Cat Gallery (1), with its handsome tiger sign. Turn left into a little alleyway between the gallery and the Golden Bannock, continuing up to Crofts Road. Turn left at the top, and then right at the end of the play park railings (2). At the bottom of the play area is a signpost

pointing down to Burnmill. Keep the fenceline on your left and go down the hill to the gate at the bottom and onto the Burnmill Path (3).

Continue along the north side of the burn to the footbridge and, after crossing here, turn right and follow the path as it travels along the south side of the burn. Carry straight on through the gate onto the Common (4) and over the boardwalk (only necessary when the



burn is flooding!). Continue up the side of the hill for a short distance to where the path forks, with obvious steps (5) leading down to a footbridge across the burn. Once crossed, turn left and walk along the north side of the burn across the extended boardwalk.





Shortly after you step off the boardwalk (6) turn right and walk uphill taking the steep path through the whins, breathing in the heady coconut aroma.. At the top of the hill turn right through the kissing gate by the noticeboard (7) and follow the top edge of the field through a series of three kissing gates. The path then drops slightly and goes through another kissing gate (8) onto an enclosed rough track with old walls on either side. To the north of this lies the old manse. Follow this track until the recreation ground is reached and walk straight on over the grass to the far side of the playing fields. Turn left onto the path by the fence and retrace your steps back to Crofts Road and then to the start point.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 53019	47619
2	NT 52977	47538
3	NT 57864	47265
4	NT 52497	47001
5	NT 52343	46832
6	NT 52237	46757
7	NT 52082	46936
8	NT 52436	47323

### BURGESS ACRES

The small strip fields on either side of the Lauder burn are known as the Burgess acres, and are still owned by townsfolk. In order to become a person of standing in the community one had to own one of these strips before being eligible to purchase a Burgess Ticket, which in turn entitled the bearer to become a Burgess. One of the privileges of Burgess status was the right to graze livestock on Lauder Common, a practice that survives to this day through the Lauder Sheep Company, which still requires its members to possess a Burgess ticket.

## BURNMILL and CUCKOO WOOD



- Distance:** 3.4mils/5.5km      **Time:** 1.5–2 hour
- Start/Finish:** Burnmill Car Park NT 53040 47226
- Difficulty:** Mostly good paths, but some steep climbs.
- Terrain:** Muddy and uneven in places. Stout shoes or boots recommended.
- Description:** This is a longer circular route taking in the western-most part of Lauder Common and the Lauder Burn. The route follows the old quarry road along the side of Chester Hill, picks up the Common Riding route at Whiteknowe end, and returns via a new Community Woodland on to Standing Side and the historic Burgess Acres.

### Walk Route:

From the Burnmill Car Park (1) take the footbridge across the burn and then turn immediately left onto the Burnmill path. Follow this path along the burn, keeping the burn on your left until you come to a section of boardwalk that crosses over the burn. Turn right once you have crossed this and go through the gate

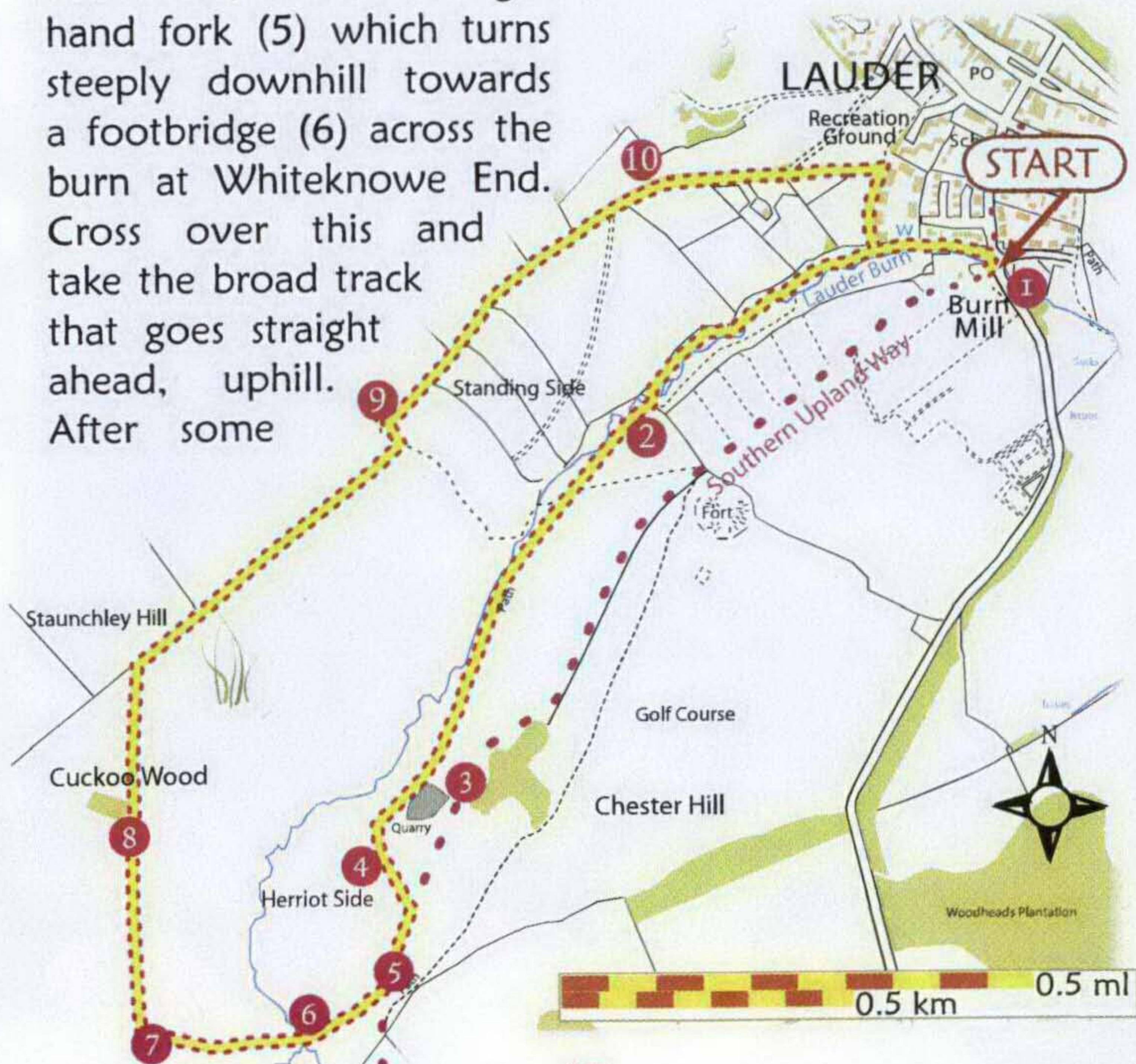


onto the Common (2). Follow the broad track up to the quarry, (3) and shortly after this take the steep steps (4) that zig-zag up the hill. Pause at the top by the edge of the golf course to take in the views, before turning right along the Southern Upland Way. As the SUW descends Chester Hill and veers left, take the right hand fork (5) which turns steeply downhill towards a footbridge (6) across the burn at Whiteknowe End. Cross over this and take the broad track that goes straight ahead, uphill. After some

300m take the waymarked track to your right (7), which leads diagonally up the hill towards a small plantation, Cuckoo Wood (8).

Look out for the large owl box within the stell walls.

Keeping Cuckoo Wood on your left, at the edge of the wood continue diagonally uphill towards the dyke.



Turn right at the wall and keep this on your left whilst continuing along the edge of the Common. After about 500m you will reach a kissing gate with a noticeboard by it at the corner of the Common (9). Pass through this and keeping the hedge on your left pass through a series of three kissing gates until an enclosed track is reached in the corner of the field (10). Take this track, which leads onto the recreation ground. Cross straight across this and turn right onto a path that leads down to Burnmill. Pass through the gate and turn left onto the Burnmill path and back to the footbridge at the car park.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 53040	47226
2	NT 52496	46999
3	NT 52105	46366
4	NT 52129	46264
5	NT 52037	46004
6	NT 51912	45934
7	NT 51500	46029
8	NT 51621	46325
9	NT 52082	46936
10	NT 52436	47323

### COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

To commemorate the Millennium, a series of three woodland areas were created: along the Lauder Burn at Burnmill; at Cuckoo Wood (the dyke was restored and the area extended); and at Millennium Wood, to the north of Cuckoo Wood by the Stow Road. The latter is rather special as it was carefully planted with native Scots Pine from a relic Caledonian Pine population in the Highlands, which was in danger of dying out. Each year cones are collected and the seeds propagated to be eventually planted back in Glen Loyne.

See page 25

## TRABROWN CIRCULAR



**Distance:** 3.5mls/5.6km      **Time:** 1.25 hours

**Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Terrain:** Country road and rough track. Boots recommended during wet weather.

**Description:** The route takes you right through Lauder to the track of an old railway line, which is pleasantly grassed over. A short section of country road takes you up to the old Lauderdale Hunt Kennels, and back along a well-defined farm track onto Lauder Common and across the Harry Burn, returning along the edge of the Common back into Lauder.

### Walk Route:

Leave the Market Place and walk northwards on the Edinburgh Road until you reach the petrol filling station (1) on the left. Turn left onto the minor road before the garage. Do not follow the road as it swings into the housing estate to the left

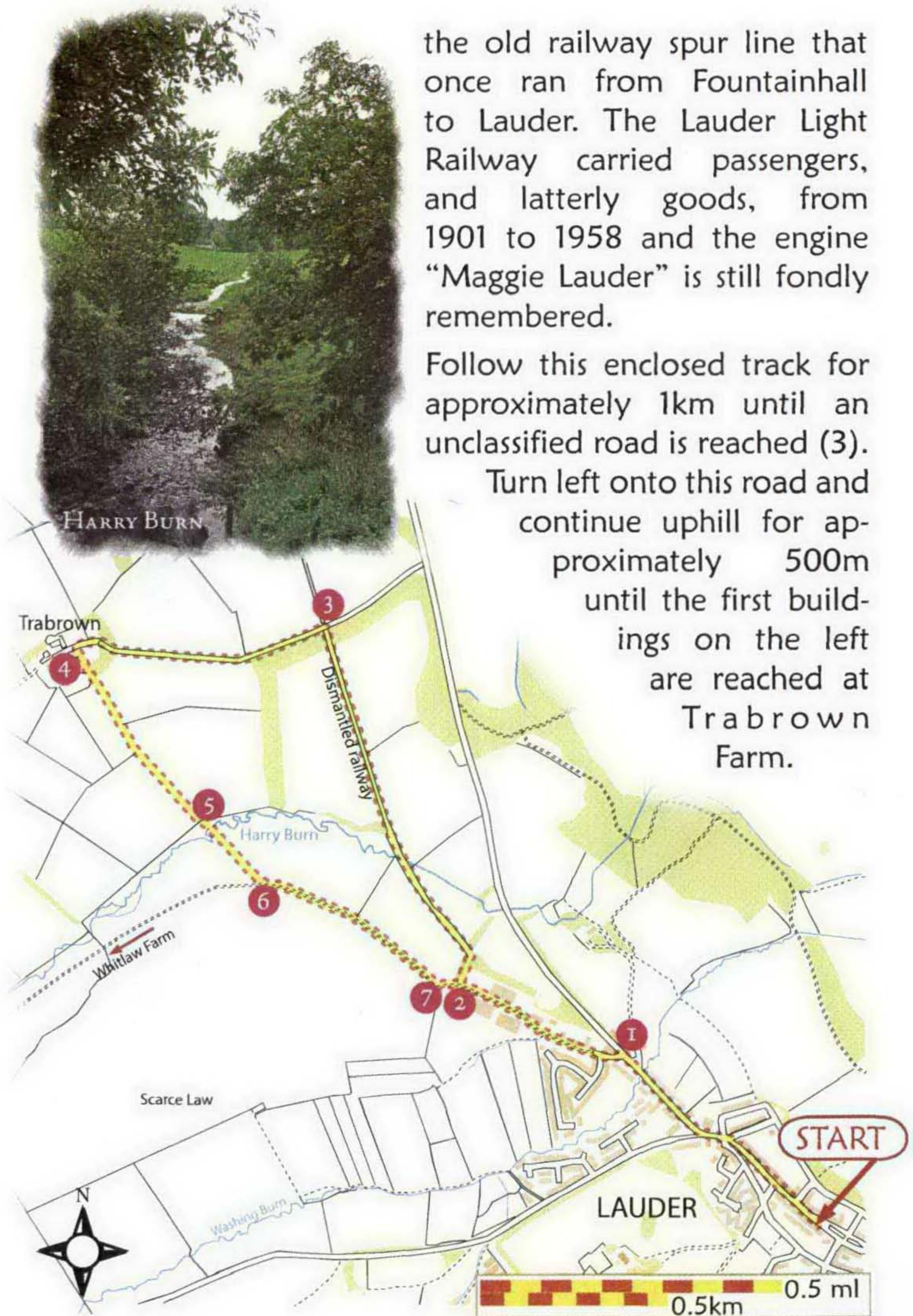
but carry straight on along the footpath and through a small industrial estate. Immediately after passing the Fire Station, turn right onto a sign-posted path (2) through a gateway.

Continue on for a short distance and turn left onto the track bed of what was

the old railway spur line that once ran from Fountainhall to Lauder. The Lauder Light Railway carried passengers, and latterly goods, from 1901 to 1958 and the engine “Maggie Lauder” is still fondly remembered.

Follow this enclosed track for approximately 1km until an unclassified road is reached (3).

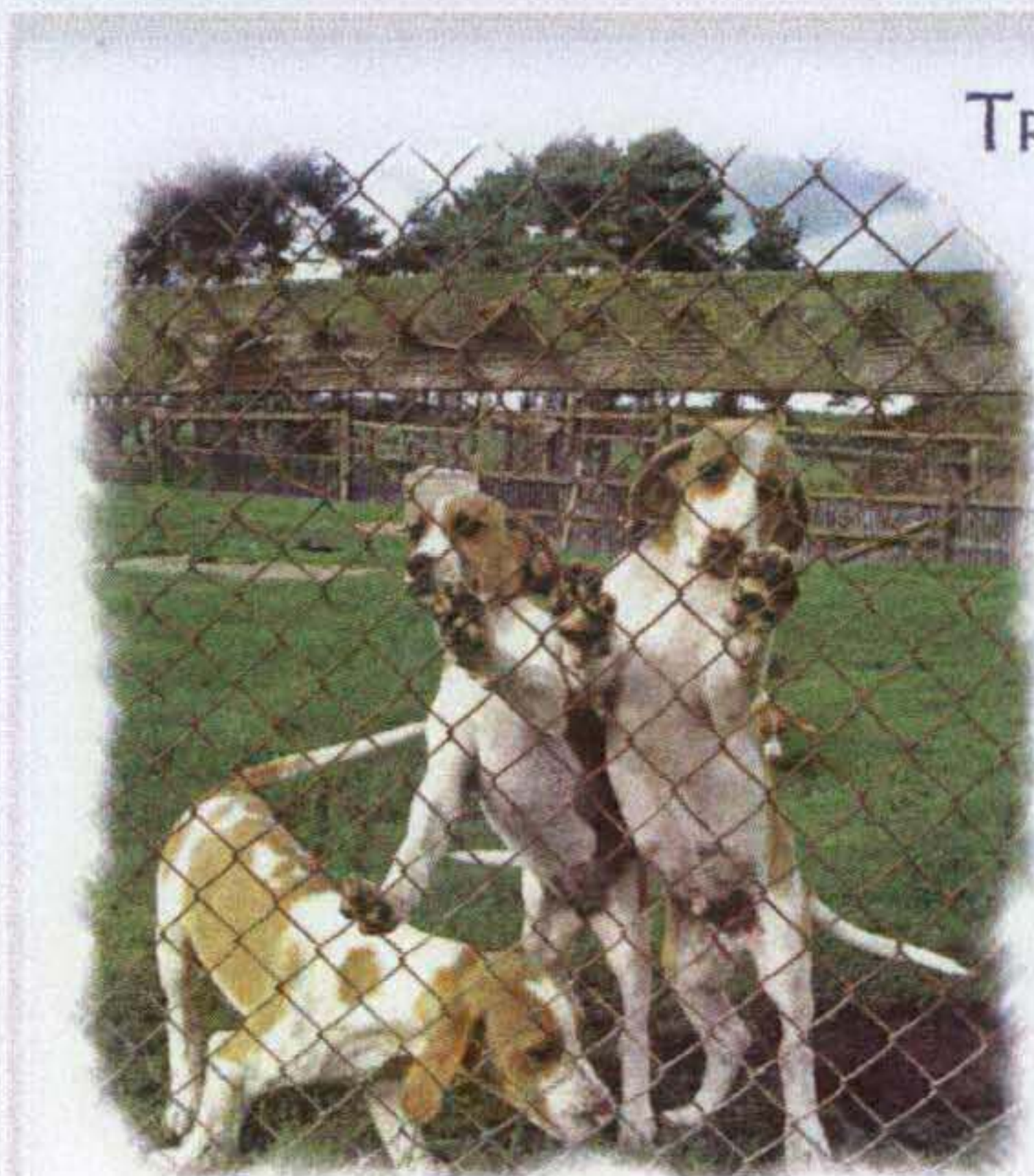
Turn left onto this road and continue uphill for approximately 500m until the first buildings on the left are reached at Trabrown Farm.



The kennels are slightly further on to the right (if you reach these you have gone too far!). Look for the sign-posted track (4) on the left - the drive to the little cottage forms the track - and follow it downhill to the Harry Burn.

At the bottom of the hill pass through the hunt gate (5) and cross over the Harry Burn (if you don't want to get your boots wet choose a narrow stretch to step across) and up the slight incline onto the gravelled road (6) leading from Lauder to Whitlaw Farm. Turn left onto this track and continue over the cattle grid (7) at the start of the Industrial Estate to head back to the start point in the town centre.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 52540	48010
2	NT 52118	48227
3	NT 51755	49160
4	NT 51098	49130
5	NT 51416	48657
6	NT 51553	48491
7	NT 52057	48216



### TRABROWN HUNT KENNELS

The kennels at Trabrown have housed the hounds of the Lauderdale Hunt (established 1889) for over 50 years. Running the hounds is still a popular pastime in Lauderdale, although foxes are now shot rather than caught.

## TRABROWN HILL & WHITLAW



**Distance:** 5.4mls/8.7km      **Time:** 2-2.5 hours

**Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Terrain:** Mainly tracks and country roads.  
Boots recommended during wet weather.

**Description:** The route takes you right through Lauder to the track of an old railway line, which is pleasantly grassed over. A section of country road takes you past the old Lauderdale Hunt Kennels, before a series of well-defined farm tracks lead you to Whitlaw Farm and back along the course of the Harry Burn onto Lauder Common and into Lauder.

### Walk Route:

Leave the Market Place and walk northwards on the Edinburgh Road until you reach the petrol filling station (1) on the left. Turn left onto the minor road before the garage. Do not follow the road as it swings to the left into the housing estate, but carry straight on along

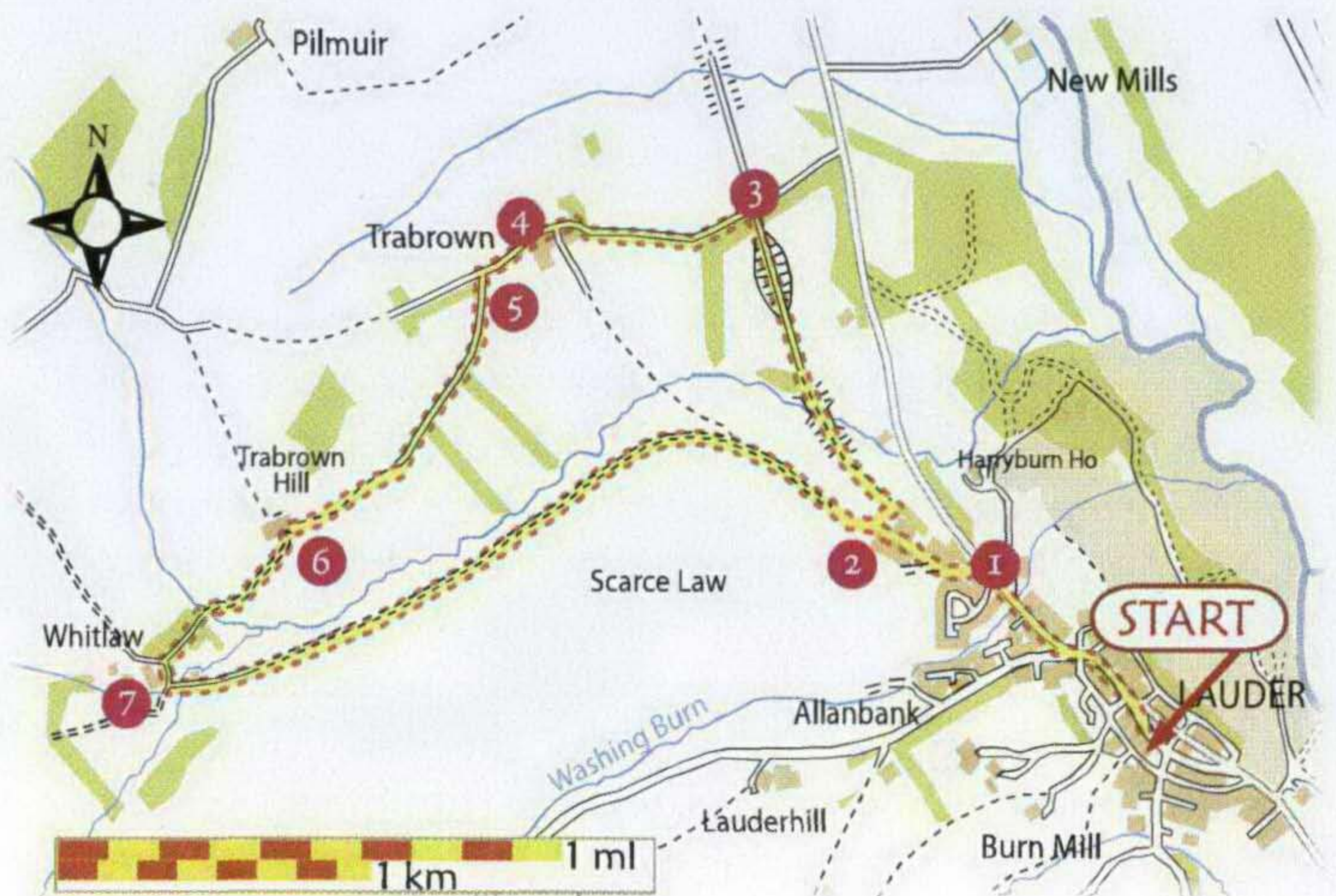
the footpath and through a small industrial estate. Immediately after passing the Fire Station, turn right through a sign-posted gateway (2). Continue on for a short distance and turn left onto the track bed, of what was the old railway line. Follow this track for approximately 1km until an unclas-



sified road is reached (3). Turn left here and continue on past the many buildings that make up Trabrown Farm and Lauderdale Hunt Kennels, (4) onto the track beyond. After following this track for a 100m or so, turn left onto the green lane before the wood (5). Keeping the wood on the right follow this track as it passes between

wall and fence until a gateway is reached. Watch out for small birds along the hedge here and partridges in the field. Pass through the gate onto the open field and keeping to the wall on the left, walk on past a derelict building on the right and on to the cottage known as Trabrown Hill. Just prior to the cottage, turn left through the gate (6).

#	OS/GPS REFS.
1	NT 52540 48010
2	NT 52118 48227
3	NT 51755 91604
4	NT 51012 49075
5	NT 50864 48977
6	NT 50223 48189
7	NT 49828 47754




Follow the track as it swings right past the front of the cottage. Continue to follow this rough road as it passes along the side of the hill and then drops down towards the wood at Whitlaw Farm (7). Cross over the cattle grid into the wood with Whitlaw House on the left and continue into the steading. Past the cottages turn left and walk downhill to a junction of tracks where you bear left again onto the gravelled



road re-passing Whitlaw from the other side. The final 2km section of the walk along the gravelled road takes you back to the industrial estate and then to the start point in Lauder town centre.

### THE HARRY BURN

The path passes on either side of the Harry Burn, affording fine views to both north and south of the typical haughland of a moorland edge burn. Flowers such as Yellow Iris, Branched Burr-Reed, Water Forget-me-Not and Sneezewort add form and colour over the seasons.

 A waymarked path not otherwise described in this booklet takes you from the field gate above Cuckoo Wood across open moor to Millennium Wood, with access to a ride through the wood in the top right hand corner. This path continues over the Stow Road and cuts across the Common to link up to the Whitlaw Road at the cattle grid, which can then be followed back into Lauder.

## SOUTH BLAINSLIE CIRCULAR



**Distance:** 6.8mls/11km      **Time:** 3-3.5 hour

**Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Terrain:** Good paths, tracks and road, walking boots recommended as stretches can be muddy. The final section is on a stretch of tarmac road which can be busy. Feet can be sore and tired by this point!

**Description:** This is a varied route following a section of the Southern Upland Way above the Lauder Burn before swinging away towards Woodheads Farm. The SUW is eventually left for waymarked paths leading through mixed farmland to Upper Blainslie where old tracks are followed down past the sawmill to Middle Blainslie. The relatively quiet minor road is then followed through the village and back to the A68, with a wide verge that can be taken for the short distance into Lauder.

### Walk Route:

From the Post Office walk south along Mid Row and turn right into Mill Wynd onto the hill road for Galashiels. Follow the Southern

Upland Way signs past the church and continue to the footpath sign-posted for Burn Mill (1).

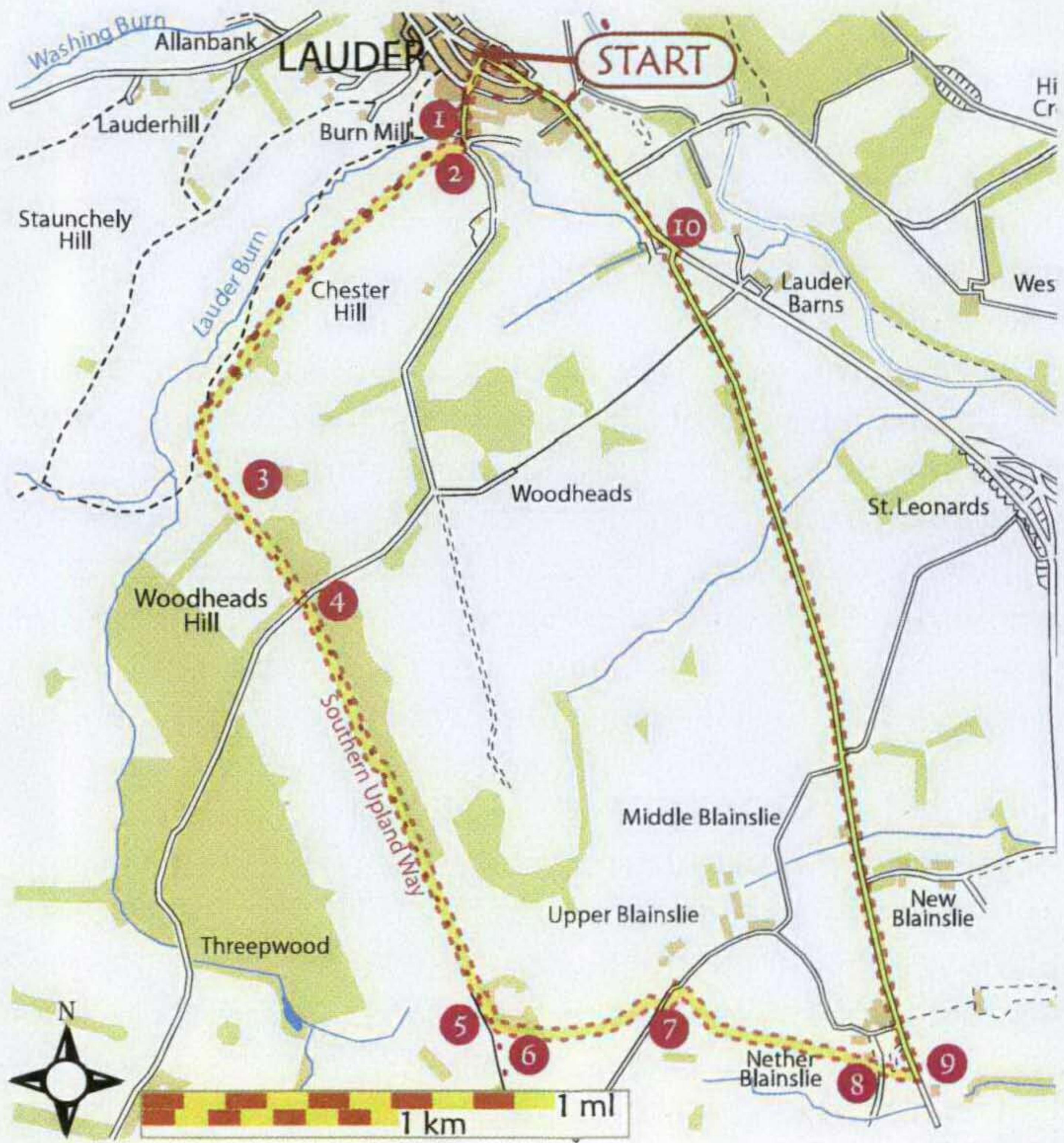
Turn right along the path and then immediately left

across the footbridge into Burnmill car park. Follow the SUW path (2 climbing steadily up Lauder Common to reach the edge of Lauder Golf Course.

Look out for the characteristic wild mountain pansy in

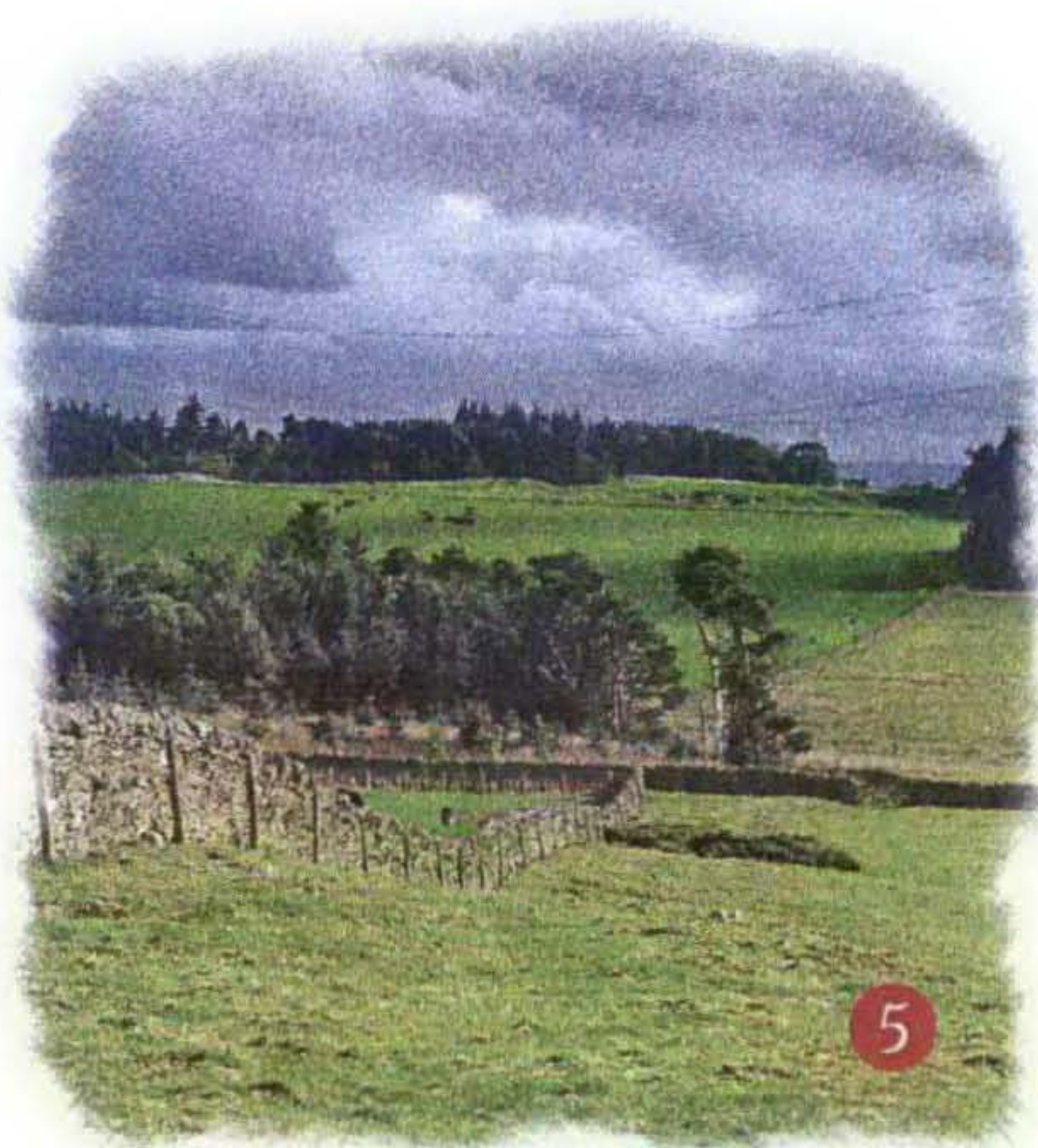
the short turf here, and in autumn, colourful waxcap fungi.

Walk along the edge of the hill keeping the golf course on the left. Continue along the SUW until the far corner of the Golf Course is



reached (marked by a large cairn). At this point the SUW veers left, and drops slightly to a stile (3). Clamber over this, still following the SUW, before climbing up the side of a wood to the Lauder/Galashiels road (4) at Woodheads Hill.

After carefully crossing the road, continue on along the left side of a number of large fields



until the track passes along the side of a small plantation, also on the left. You will pass through an enclosed section of path at this point (5). Look out for the SUW treasure chest along this stretch! Turn right along the LPN-sign-posted route off the SUW immediately at the end of the enclosed section of track (6). (In front of you the SUW climbs for a short distance to a trig point, but don't take this path). Follow the LPN route keeping the fence on your left past a small pond down to the minor road (7) (Fordswell to Upper Blainslie). Turn left onto the metalled road and then immediately right onto a waymarked path. Please ensure that all gates are left as you find them! Keep to the right edge of the field, round a sharp bend to the left, through a hunt gate (8) and past the working sawmill. This section can be a bit boggy. Continue straight over a path that crosses the one you are on, until you reach the road (9) at Middle Blainslie. Turn left here, walk past the newly refurbished community hall and follow the minor road for 3.5km until it meets

with the A68 (10). After carefully crossing over the trunk road, turn left and walk back into the town along the verge, facing the on-coming traffic. After crossing the road on the right leading to Thirlestane Castle there is a pavement. The castle is an impressive sandstone edifice with parts dating back to 1590, and is still lived in today by the Maitland-Carew family, along with the ghost of a Grey Lady. It is open to the public and well worth a visit.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 53062	47249
2	NT 53032	47201
3	NT 52047	45949
4	NT 52436	45425
5	NT 53130	43827
6	NT 53173	43760
7	NT 53836	43828
8	NT 54383	43677
9	NT 54837	43551
10	NT 53879	46804

### SUW

The Southern Upland Way is the longest marked footpath in Scotland stretching over 212 miles from Portpatrick in the West to Cockburnspath in the East. Along the way a number of unusual chests (chists) have been secreted, each designed by a different artist. In each of these chists can be found treasure - waymerk coins with different designs that can be collected en route.



## BRAIDSHAWRIG &amp; DABSHEAD HILL CIRCULAR



**Distance:** 13mils/21 km      **Time:** 5.5-6 hours

**Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580

**Difficulty:** Hard

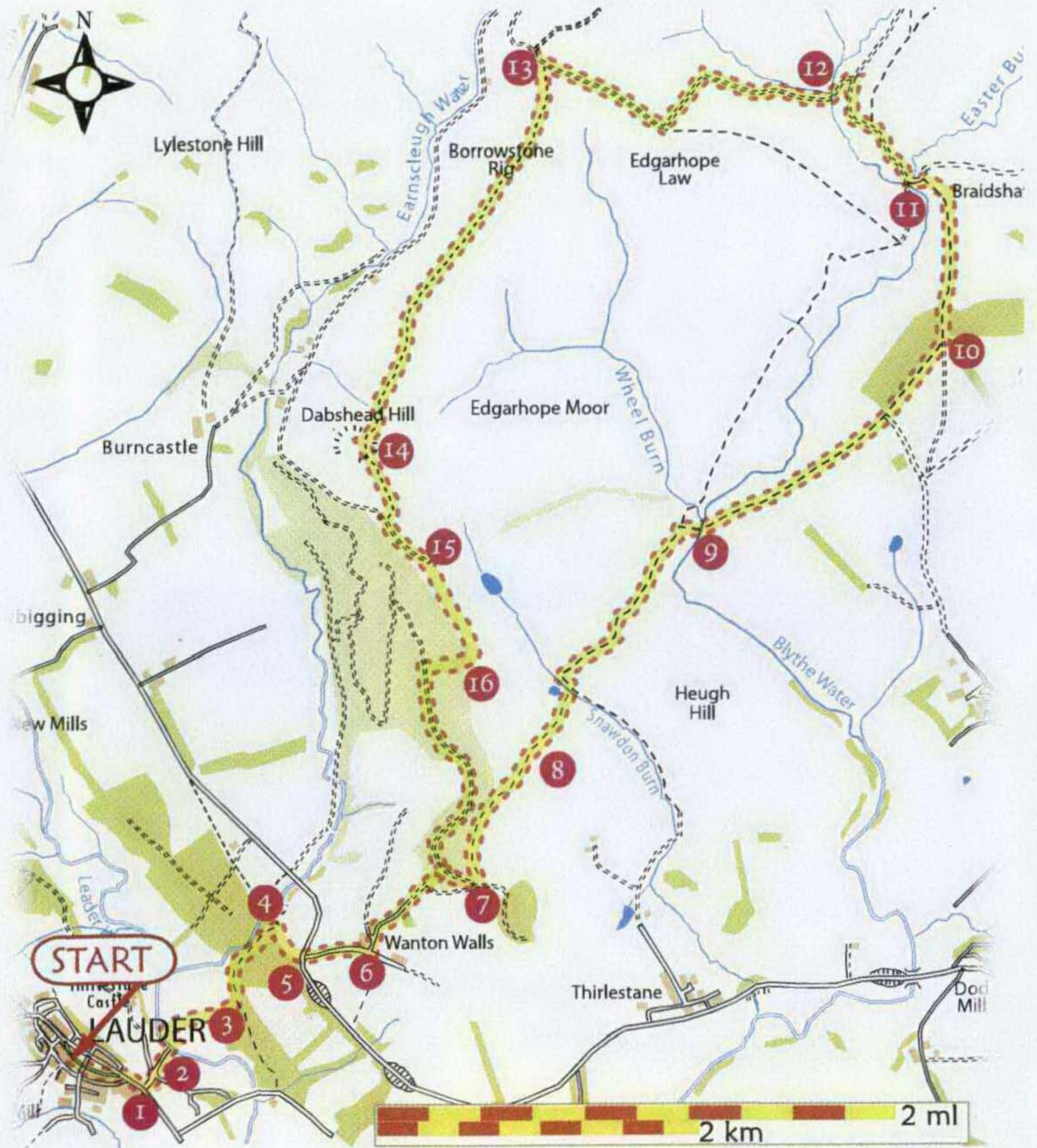
**Terrain:** Good tracks and single track roads over some fairly high ground with a mix of woodland, rough grazing and grouse moors. The higher ground can be subject to mist and poor visibility. An ordinance survey map is recommended. Let someone know of your planned route.

**Description:** This is a challenging circular route taking you across the tops of the Lammermuir Hills. The route crosses the Leader Water at Thirlestane Castle, passes through woodland above the Earnscleugh Water and follows the Southern Upland Way to Wanton Walls. From here it climbs through Edgarhope Wood to rough pasture above, which soon turns to managed grouse moor. The path crosses the Blyth Water and leaves the SUW at Braidshawrig, from where you walk over Edgarhope Law before following the edge of the escarpment above the Earnscleugh Water to the hill fort on Dabshead Hill. Return is via Edgarhope Wood and Wanton Walls. Please note that sections of this route crossing over grouse moorland may be temporarily closed during the shooting season and walkers should respect any notices to this effect for their own safety.

### Walk Route:

Leave the Market Place and follow the Southern Upland Way signs, heading south along the A68 trunk road,

keeping to the pavement on the left. After passing the Police Station on the right take the first opening on the left (1) and head downhill



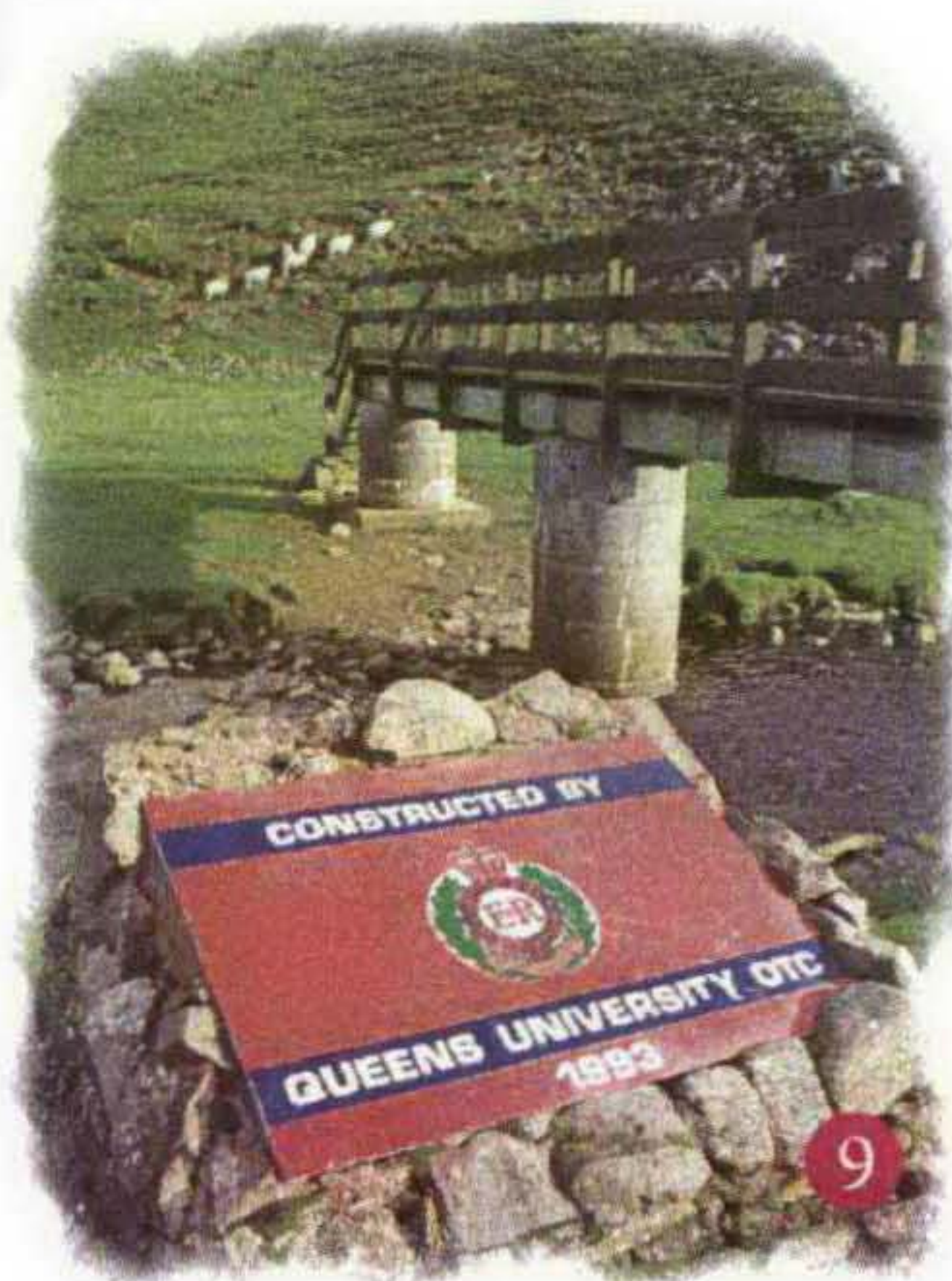


into Thirlestane Castle grounds. Cross over the River Leader via the bridge (2) and then angle left towards the stile (3) in the fence, keeping to the side of the field. Head up the hill to the north, turning left at the top and follow the obvious track through a pleasant wood above a steep gully. Pass through the gate at the top of the wood (4) and turn right up the track onto the A697 (5).

Cross over the main road with care onto the tarmac road opposite and continue uphill to Wanton Walls Farm (6).

Continue to follow the SUW through the farm steading and uphill past the water works (a white building) on your right and into a conifer plantation. After a short distance into the plantation follow the SUW sign to the right, to emerge at a tall stile across the wall (7) Turn left and head towards the next stile, keeping the woodland to your left. Thereafter head NE across open moorland past the SUW fingerpost (8) continuing NE to a cattle grid. Turn left here, past a pond on your left over another stile, and turn immediately right up the hill. Follow the SUW over the hill and head down to cross Blythe Water via a high footbridge (9) (this was constructed by the army after previous attempts were washed away!). The track then continues NE, over a cattle grid at Scoured Rig (10) and down to Braidshawrig.

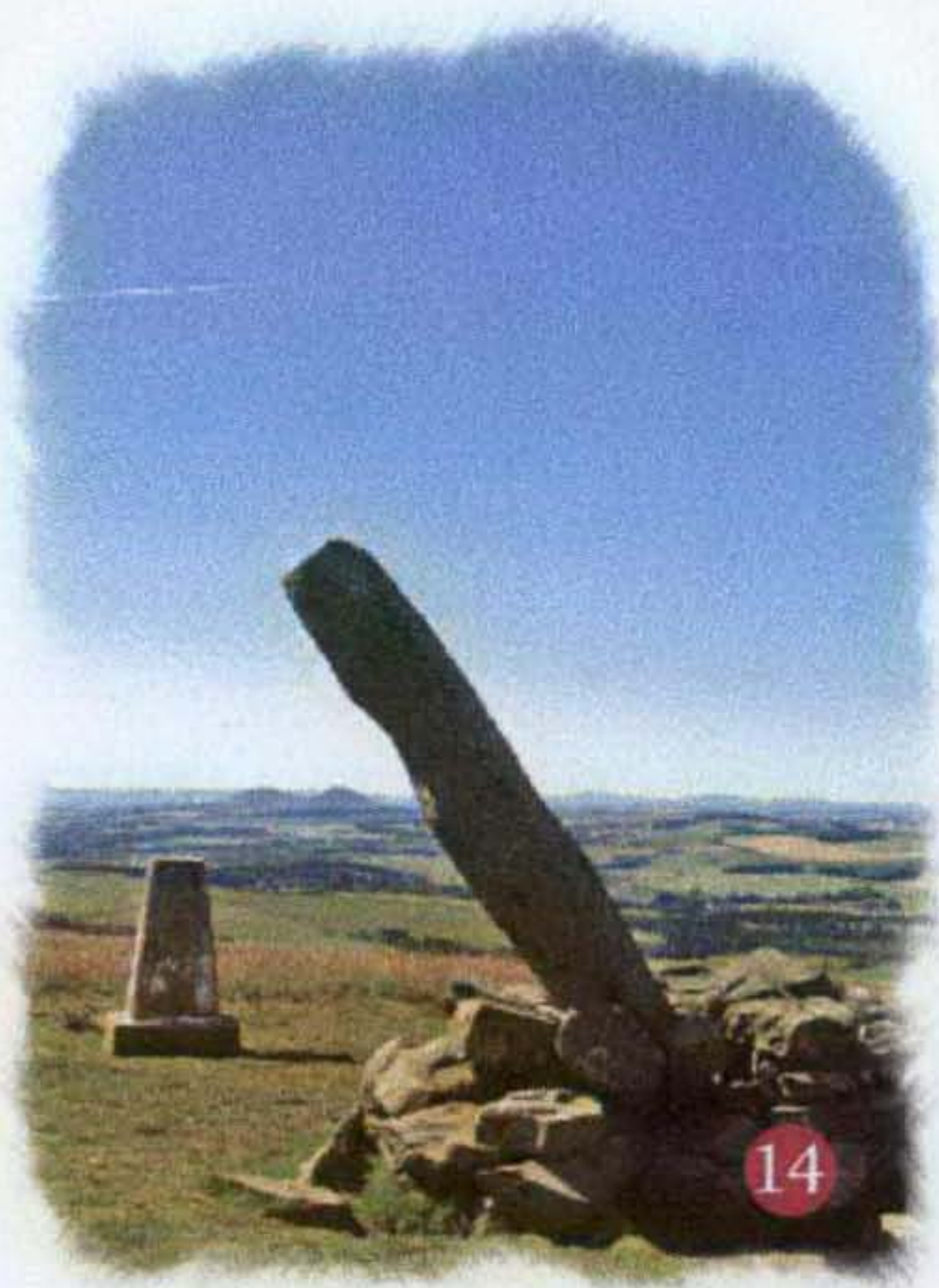
Follow the track down to Braidshawrig to where it swings right at which point you leave the S U W and turn left over



the bridge (11), thereafter following the track as it veers right and passes between the farmhouse and sheds. Follow this track with the burn down on the left until you come to a junction of tracks. Take the track to the left, which drops down and crosses the burn (12). The track then climbs over Edgarhope Law and turns right towards the descent down to Bermuda. This and other unusual names commemorate famous battles.

Before the path drops steeply down, bear left (13) and follow the rough track that takes you along the edge of Borrowstone Rig to Dabshead Hill (14). The Lang Stane on the top of Dab's Head was erected in 1845 to commemorate the marriage of Lady Mary Maitland, and may have been part of Lauder market-cross.

From the top of the hill continue to follow the track diagonally south and then head up to the right to pass through a gate in the drystane wall beside the wood (15). Continue along the outside edge of the wood, passing a large pond below you to the left, and just as you come to the top of the rise you will see a dilapidated gate into the wood on your right (16). Go through this gate and follow the ride down to the forestry track. At the bottom turn left and follow this track back to rejoin the Southern Upland Way to the north-east of Wanton Walls and retrace your steps back to Lauder.



## MOORLAND WILDLIFE

On the edge of the moorland above Wanton Walls lies Edgarhope Forest, a largely coniferous plantation with typical animals such as red squirrel, crossbills and siskin. The rush pasture beyond comes alive in the spring with the calls of waders – snipe, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Continue your ascent onto the grouse moor and you are bound to hear the “go back” cry of red grouse. If you are even more fortunate you may hear the strange bubbling call of lekking blackcock. Other wildlife to watch out for are Mountain Hare, which turn white in the winter, merlin, dunlin, adder and the large-eyed Emperor moth.



### # OS/GPS REFS.

1	NT 53463 47377
2	NT 53611 47611
3	NT 53805 47798
4	NT 54275 48312
5	NT 54402 48157
6	NT 54808 48191
7	NT 55440 48610
8	NT 55679 49229

9	NT 56809 50717
10	NT 58292 51881
11	NT 58125 52808
12	NT 57620 53320
13	NT 55875 53523
14	NT 54707 51236
15	NT 55189 50513
16	NT 55410 49604

## LAUDER COMMON CIRCULAR



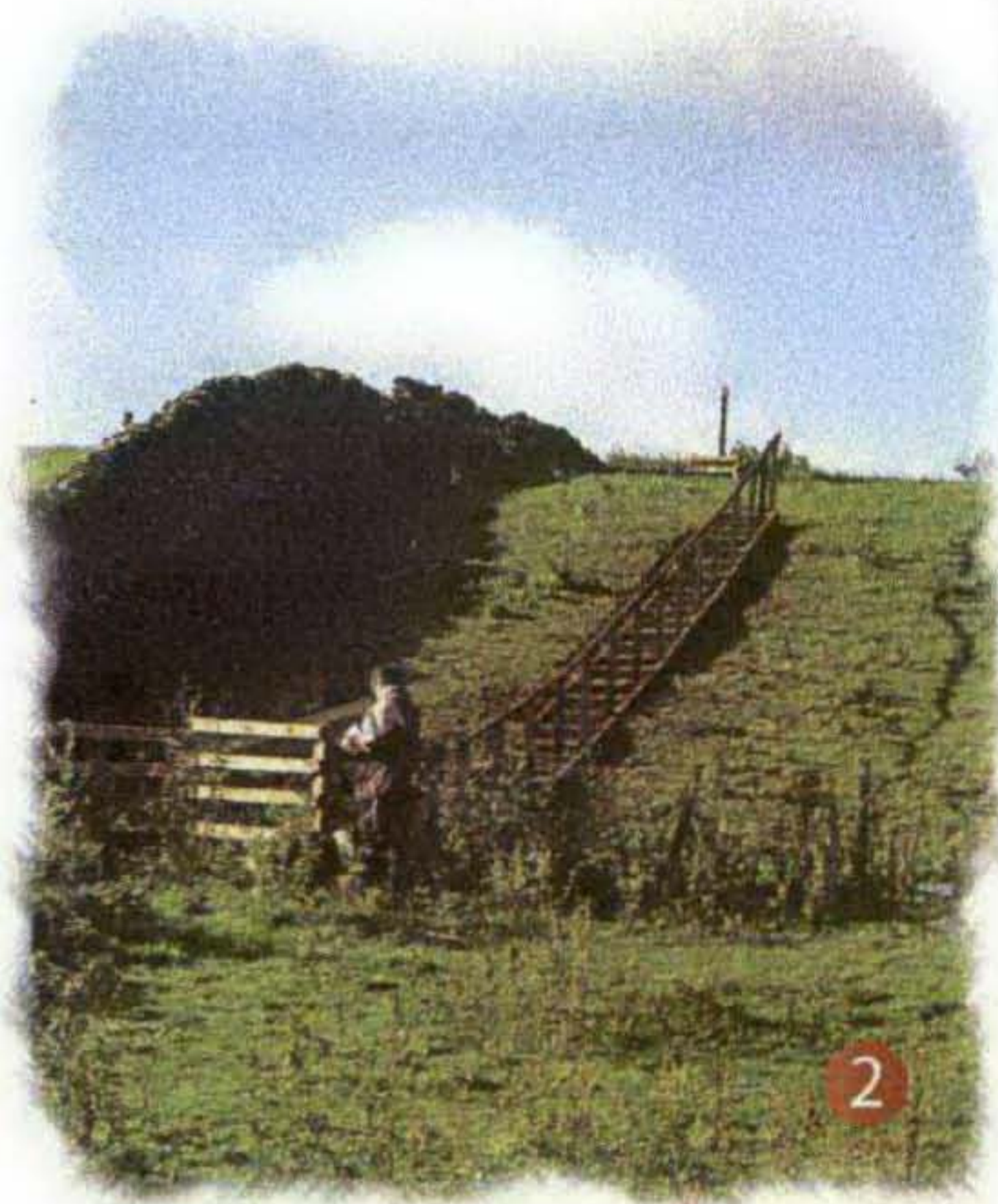
- Distance:** 8mils/13km      **Time:** 4-5 hours
- Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580
- Difficulty:** Moderate
- Terrain:** This walk takes you over some rough and potentially muddy ground. Check the weather forecast and take appropriate clothing. A map is recommended.
- Description:** The walk essentially follows the Lauder Common Riding route. The boundaries of the Common are ridden each year, historically to check their integrity. The path therefore takes in all parts of the Common, starting and finishing in the Town Centre. Part of a historic drove road, the Girthgate is followed, as is the Southern Upland Way. The route takes in the moorland tops of the Common and provides fine views

### Walk Route:

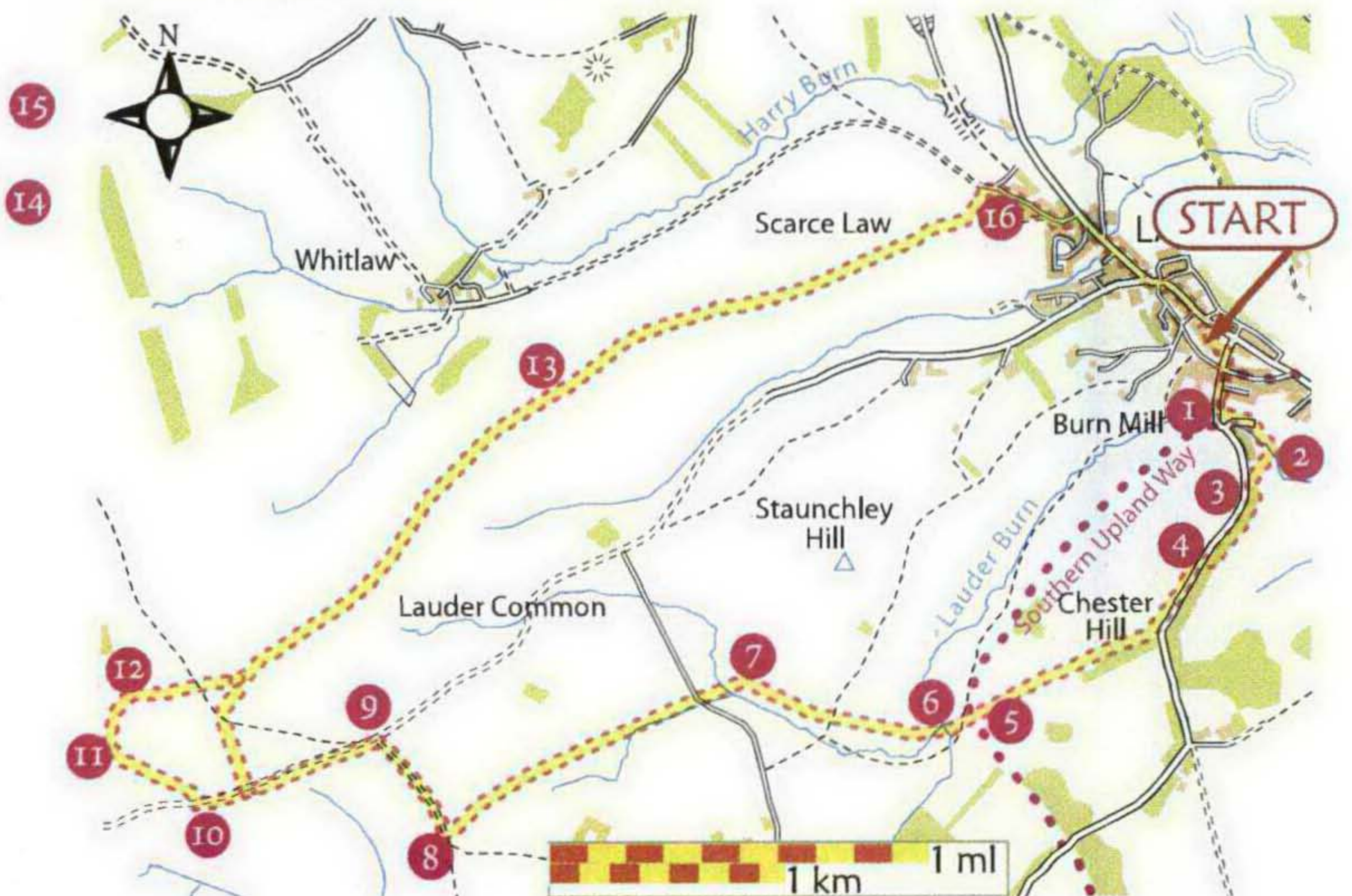
Leave the town centre, walking south past the Town Hall on your left, and take the first right into Mill Wynd. Continue to the round stone Lauder sign at the bottom. There is a

fingerpost (1) in the corner of the field on the opposite side of the road in front of you, with a cycle track leading diagonally across the field. Take this path until you reach the side of the burn and then continue along the

burnside until a footbridge (2) is reached.



Cross over and go straight up the steps up the hill until you reach the small cemetery car park (3). Taking care on the short section of road, turn left until you reach a small wood some 50m further on. A clear path enters the wood here, and continues through the wood, running parallel to the Galashiels road. Follow this until you emerge at a clearing opposite the entrance (4) to the Golf Course (itself part of Laud-



er Common). Carefully cross the road and take the small gate to your left once in the car park. Follow the broad track from the gate (passing the pond) for some 800m all the way round the edge of the Golf Course. Shortly after passing the cairn in the far top left hand corner you emerge onto Chester Hill



through a gate (5) in the corner. Here you join the Southern Upland Way; turn left for a short distance,

until a path forks off the SUW to the right. Follow this as it descends the hill down a steep incline leading to a footbridge (6) over the Lauder Burn. Cross the bridge and follow the broad track straight ahead of you. This track eventually passes through a gate in the wall at the top of the hill (7). Turn left beyond the gate, and follow the path parallel to the wall, which demarcates the boundary of the Common, before crossing the farm road to Muircleuch. The path then goes up towards Stell Wood, where a broad grassy track leads northwards, parallel to, but at a distance from the edge of the Common to your left and the Stow road to your right. Eventually the path takes a right turn (8) up a farm track (following the course of Girthgate, an old drove road) and onto the Lauder to Stow road (9). Turn left and carefully follow the Stow road for some 300m. Here a broad path leads up the hill before

swinging right onto a clear ride along the ridge of the Common. Alternatively, continue along the Stow road for a further 100m and take the next path diagonally off to your right (10), which leads up to the Burgess Cairn (11) by the dyke at the edge of the Common. If you reach the cattle grid that marks the edge of the Common, together with the stone trough (the Watering Stane) that



is the resting place for weary horses at the furthest point of the Common Riding, then you have gone too far! From the cairn there are good views across to Cathpair and the Moorfoot Hills. Continue upwards from the cairn and head eastwards (12) to meet up with the broad path along the ridge. Follow this route towards Lauder, along the tops

over heather moorland until

it eventually drops to a field gate (13). Continue through this field, keeping the wall on your left, with views north to the Whitlaw Road and the Harry Burn. Go through the next gate (14) and onto Scarce Law. Carry straight on over



the brow of the hill, until the rather indistinct path turns into the obvious track that takes the riders all the way down to the industrial estate at the edge of Lauder. Turn right over the cattle grid (15) 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 into Lauder and the Market Place.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 53095	47224
2	NT 53269	47106
3	NT 53177	46982
4	NT 52987	46634
5	NT 52131	46054
6	NT 51912	45934
7	NT 51232	46249
8	NT 50178	46048
9	NT 49479	45901
10	NT 48516	45619
11	NT 48338	45885
12	NT 48360	45960
13	NT 50196	47423
14	NT 50914	47670
15	NT 52057	48216

### COMMON RIDING

Traditionally the boundaries of the Common were checked annually with due ceremony in order to establish territorial rights. The modern festival was revived in 1911 to mark the occasion of the coronation of George V. The standard bearer in Lauder is known as the Cornet, who presides over a week-long festival in the first week of August, culminating in the Common Riding itself on the last Saturday of the week. A cavalcade of horses makes the circuit, led back to the War Memorial by a pipe band.

*Safe oot, Safe in!*



## BLACKCHESTER FORT CIRCULAR



- Distance:** 7.5mils/12km      **Time:** 3-4 hours  
**Start/Finish:** Lauder Post Office NT53068 47580  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Terrain:** This walk takes you largely along good paths and tracks, however, parts may be muddy, particularly around Pilmuir steading. Check the weather forecast and take appropriate clothing. A map is recommended.

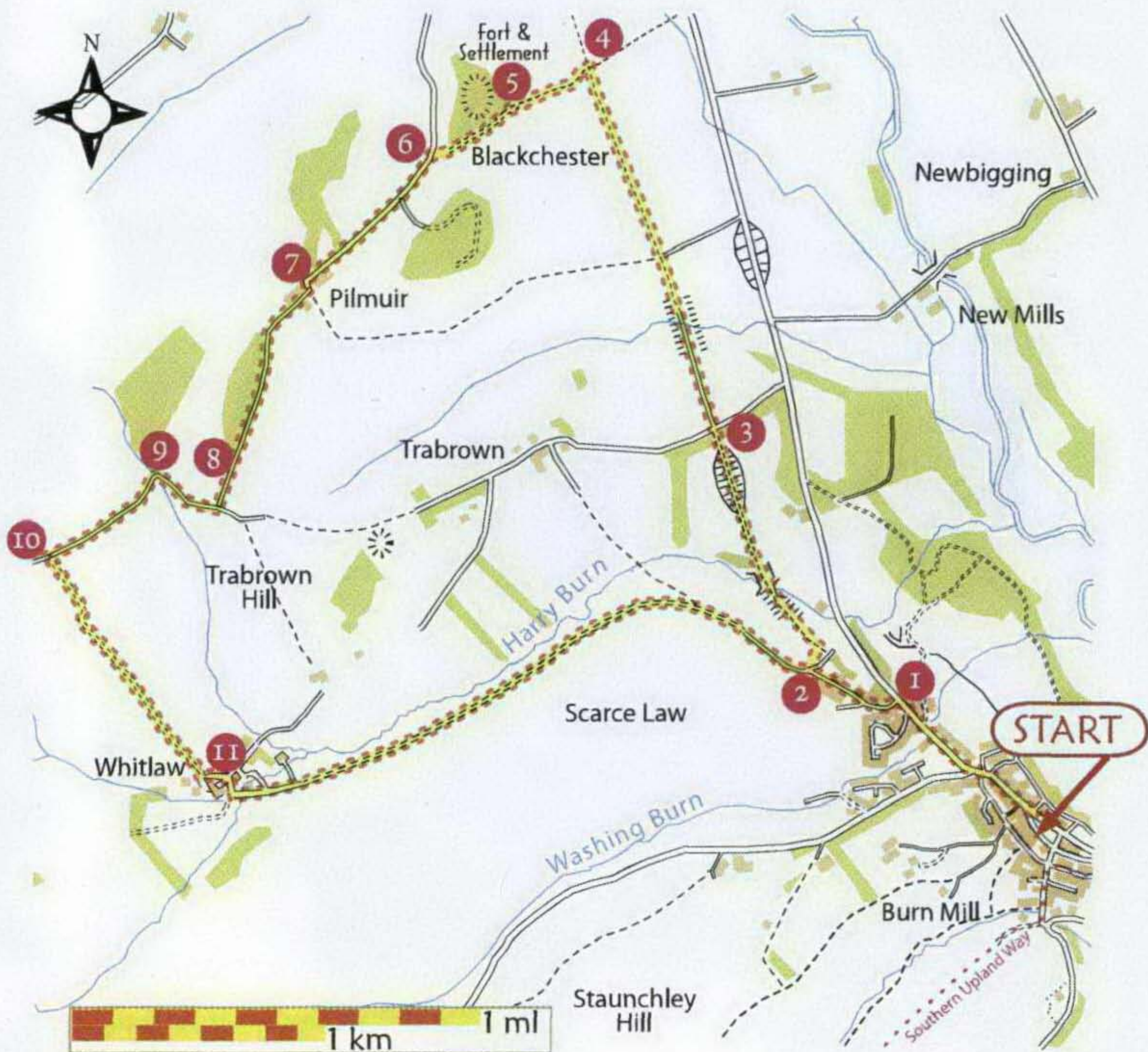
**Description:** The walk follows the old railway line towards Blackburn, then turns sharply uphill to the early-British hill fort at Blackchesters, commanding fine views of Lauderdale. The return is over pleasant hill country via Pilmuir to Whitlaw and back along the edge of the Common into Lauder.

### Walk Route:

Leave Market Place and walk northwards on the Edinburgh Road until you reach the petrol filling station (1) on the left. En route you pass the war memorial on your left and the Lauder-

dale Hotel on your right, which started life as a temperance inn! Turn left onto the minor road before the garage. Do not follow the road as it swings to the left into the housing estate, but

carry straight on along the footpath and through a small industrial estate. Immediately after passing the fire station, turn right through a sign-posted gateway (2). Continue on for a short distance and turn left onto the track bed of the old railway. Follow this track for approximately 1km until an unclassified road is reached (3). Cross straight over the Trabrown road and continue along the old branch line, which retains remnants of railway architecture (note the gates in particular), for a further 1.5km until the obvious path ends



in an arable field (4). There is a track leading down to the A68 on your right just beyond this point. Turn sharp left and walk straight up the steep hill to the gate (5) at the corner of the small wood in which the outline of Blackchester Fort can be seen. Take the track along the edge of the wood, emerging onto a minor road immediately after passing Blackchester



Cottage (6) on your right. Continue uphill along the minor road to Pilmuir Farm



(7). After passing the farmhouse on the left the track doglegs to the left and right through the steading, passing farm cottages on the left and deteriorates into a track (this may be muddy at times). Continue along this path past a conifer

plantation on the right and through a gate onto the open hill (8). Follow the left-hand edge of the field to the bottom and turn right to where the track passes through a pleasant valley and then turns left over the burn (9). The track at this point is an old drove road, fenced on both sides, and can be followed once more uphill to a gate (10). Turn left into pasture and follow the track down into Whitlaw Farm (11), keeping the wall on your left. Carry on through the steading, crossing the Harry Burn, until the gravelled road leading to this small settlement is reached. Keeping the Harry Burn on your left take this road for the 2km back to the industrial estate where you started, and then carry on back into Lauder.

#	OS/GPS	REFS.
1	NT 52540	48010
2	NT 52118	48227
3	NT 51755	49160
4	NT 51262	50539
5	NT 50948	50414
6	NT 50626	50223
7	NT 50192	49805
8	NT 49845	49054
9	NT 49515	48977
10	NT 49110	48670
11	NT 49828	47754

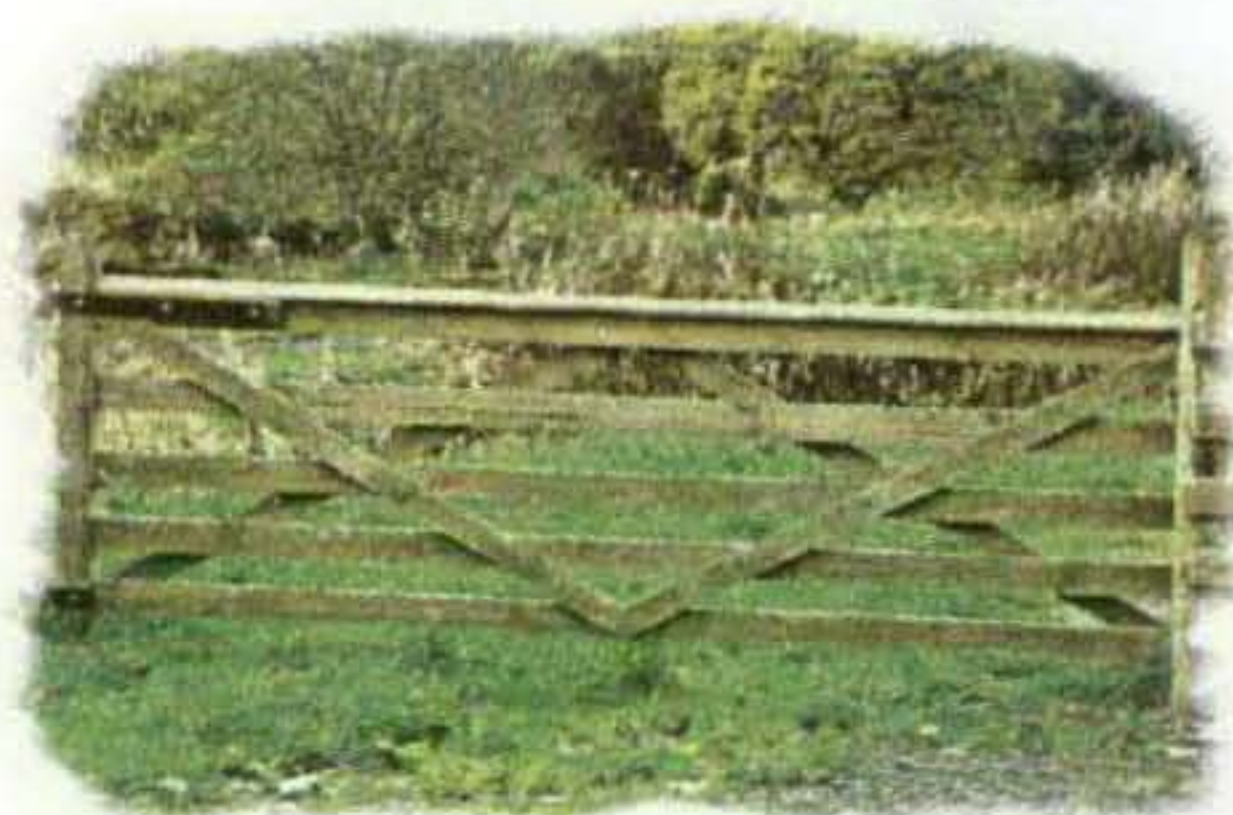
### LAUDERDALE PLOUGHING MATCH

In 2003, the year this stretch of path was re-opened, the fields on either side of the railway north of Trabrown were the site of a grand ploughing match. There is a strong tradition of competitive ploughing in Lauderdale, no doubt aided by the fine fertile red soil. This takes its distinctive colour from the underlying Old Red Sandstone rock.

## GATES

Regional differences in dykes, fences and gates add local character. Whilst walking in Lauderdale you might come across several different types of gate along the paths, which have been alluded to in the text:

Field gates are traditional barred gates with generally a chain and hook, used to allow the passage of vehicles and livestock. Please leave these as you find them.



Kissing Gates - these are designed to allow the passage of people ( and some cleverer dogs!) but not livestock, particularly sheep.



Hunt Gates - these are designed so that a horse and rider can pass through without the need for the rider to dismount, and so the 'latch' mechanism is operated from above.



# THE SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

Know the Code before you go .....

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gave rights of access to land in Scotland and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code came into effect in February 2005. 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.

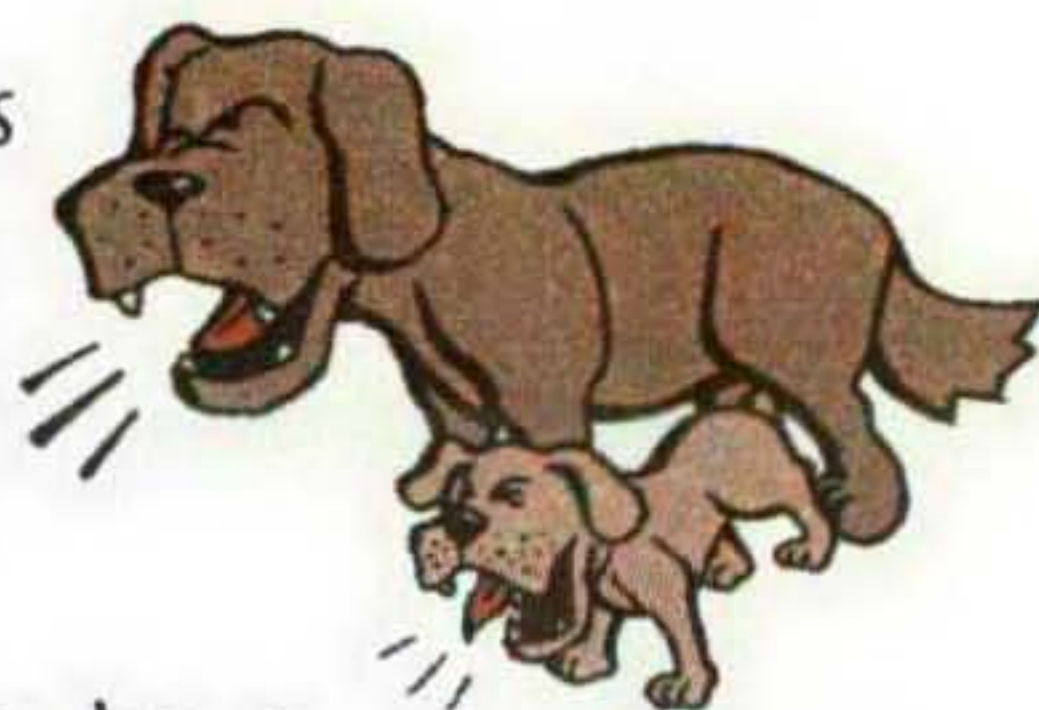
When you're managing the outdoors:

- 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 <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com> or by telephoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

## LIVESTOCK AND DOGS

The walks in this booklet pass through livestock farming areas. Please remember that the farmer's livelihood may depend on the rearing and sale of livestock, and always walk responsibly. Dogs can be a



particular concern for farmers during lambing time (March - May) and when cows are calving (Spring & autumn). Dogs therefore should not be taken into fields where there are young livestock. This includes all young livestock such as lambs, calves and foals. In more open countryside where lambs are present, keep your dog on a short lead. Disturbance at this time can separate young livestock from their mothers leaving them cold, hungry and exposed to predators.

Dogs should also not be taken into fields of cattle when they have calves, as the cows see a dog as a threat and may attack it and you. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, keeping a safe distance from stock and watching them carefully, you should experience little or no difficulty. During the bird breeding season (April - June) keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in ground nesting areas such as rough grazing and moorland. Please leave gates as you find them and ensure that if you have to open a gate, you close it securely behind you. Thankyou for your cooperation, which will help to ensure that these walks are available for those who follow in your footsteps in future years.

## SAFETY NOTE

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet was correct at the time of publication. Walkers follow the description of routes at their own risk, however. No liability is accepted by the authors for any loss, injury or damage arising out of, or in any way connected with the persons undertaking or attempting to undertake any of the walks described in this booklet, howsoever caused. We advise you to inform someone of your walking intentions. All walks have been carefully checked by members of LPN and the Lauderdale Rotary Club and the contents of this booklet reviewed by the Scottish Borders Council Access Officer. Our aim in publishing this digest is to provide for safe and enjoyable walking. Please select the walk(s) that suit your capabilities. Before setting off on longer walks, always check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly, but remember that weather conditions can change rapidly. On hill walks it is recommended that you should carry wind and waterproof clothing, wear walking boots and take food and drink with you. A map and compass should be carried to aid navigation.

## NEXT

It is hoped that future revisions of this brochure will be made and additional walks added as the Lauderdale Paths Network is expanded. One of our main goals is to extend a network of core paths to provide links between Oxton, Lauder and Blainslie without having to use the busy trunk road, so hopefully as new routes are opened these can be accommodated within the guide. If you have any trouble with any of the walks contained in this brochure, have any comments or indeed suggestions for new walks then we would like to hear from you. Please contact the LPN via the Lauder Community Council Secretary.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all the landowners and managers who have generously given permission for us to publish details of routes passing over their land. Thanks also to all those members of LPN and the Lauderdale Rotary Club who proposed and checked routes and



to Neil Mackay, Scottish Borders Council Access Officer, who checked the contents of the booklet. Photographs were kindly supplied by Angela Mercer, Roger Hyam, Martin Lunghi and Mike

Baker of the Scottish Borders Council Rangers Service. Many thanks to Martin Lunghi for the layout design and production of this publication.

This booklet has been produced as part of a larger project involving the improvement of access and amenities on Lauder Common.

This project is being part-financed by the European Community Scottish Borders Leader+ 2000-2006 Programme. Funding has also been gratefully received from the Scottish



Landfill Tax fund via ENTRUST (administered by the Berwickshire Community Councils Forum Environmental Group), the Scottish Borders Council Common Good Fund and the

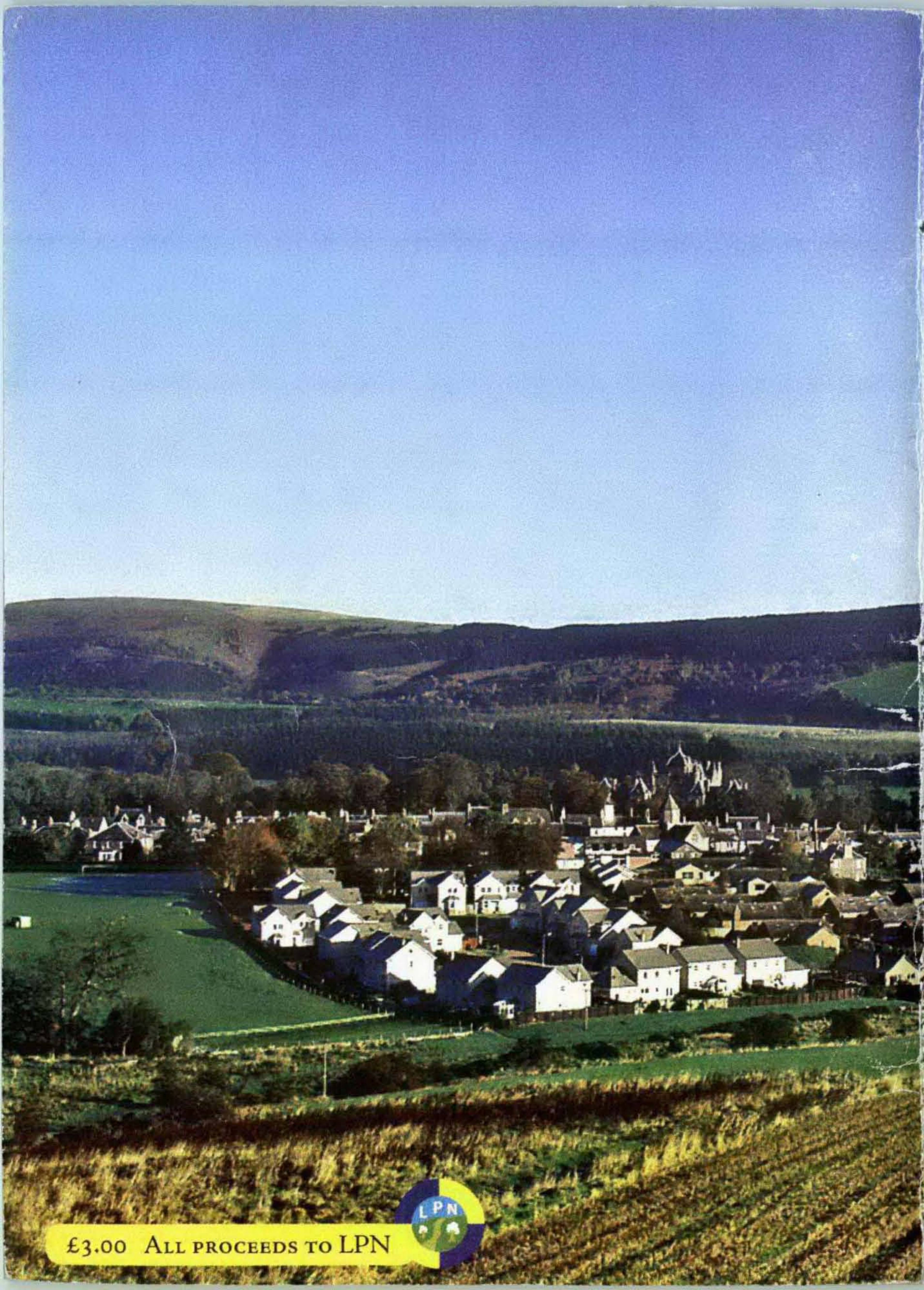
Lauderdale Development Trust.

Finally we would also like to thank the many volunteers who have helped with path work to provide an in-kind contribution of time and sweat.



Europe and Scotland  
Making it **work together**

THIS PROJECT IS BEING PARTFINANCED BY  
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SCOTTISH  
BORDERS LEADER+ 2000-2006 Programme



£3.00 ALL PROCEEDS TO LPN

