



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:

- o take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely;
- o respect people's privacy and peace of mind;
- o help land managers and others to work safely and effectively;
- o care for your environment and take your litter home;
- o keep your dog under proper control;
- o take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.

When you're managing the outdoors:

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

Find out more by visiting
www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot
or phoning your local NatureScot Office



This publication is available on tape, in braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the Ranger Service below.

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

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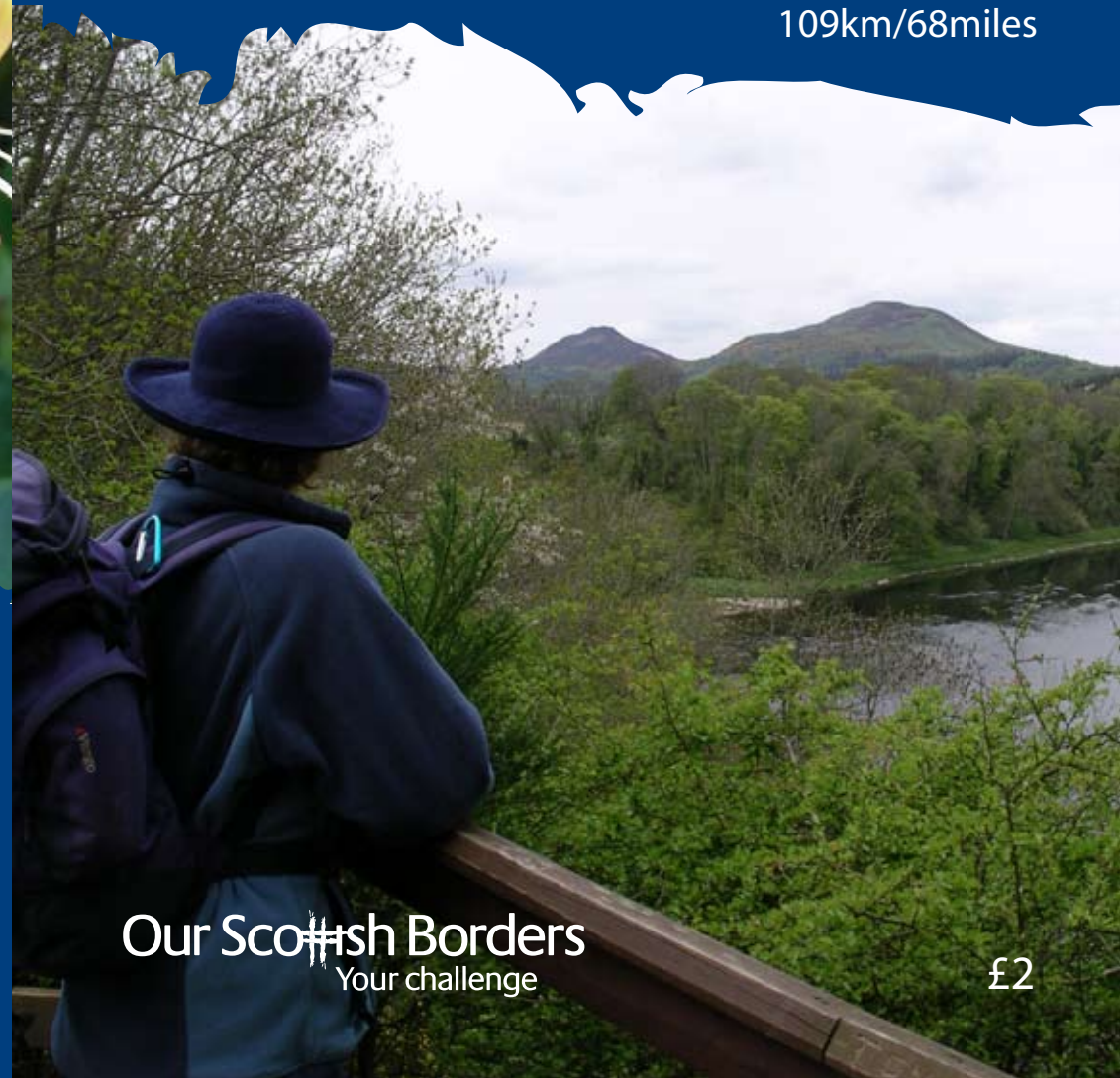
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Scottish Borders Abbey's Way

CIRCULAR WALKING ROUTE

Jedburgh - Hawick - Selkirk - Melrose - Dryburgh - Kelso

109km/68miles



Our Scottish Borders
Your challenge

£2



The Borders Abbeys Way

provides an opportunity to explore the central part of the Scottish Borders area. Abbeys, towns villages and other points of interest are all part of this trail. The countryside of the area is a working landscape that changes throughout the year and over the years as well. Along the way look out for a few of the many locations locally which have some connection with David I.

above photo: Roxburgh Castle ruins
front cover: The Eildons and Tweed from near Dryburgh

King David I

David I reigned as King of the Scots from 1124 to 1153.

David developed Scotland's trading economy through development of Royal Burghs. This included the establishment or extension of trading privileges at the Royal Burghs of Berwick, Roxburgh, Jedburgh, Selkirk and Peebles. David is credited with establishing Scotland's first coinage, with royal mints at Roxburgh and Berwick. David introduced the feudal system from England and invited Norman families to settle in Scotland as local overlords and administrators of justice. Some built castles. Construction work was carried out at castles in Berwick, Jedburgh and Selkirk.

David established four monasteries in the region:

- ◆ Trefontains nunnery (Abbey St Bathans) 1118
- ◆ Selkirk Abbey c1119 (moved to Kelso by 1128)
- ◆ Melrose Abbey 1136
- ◆ Jedburgh Abbey 1138
- ◆ Dryburgh Abbey 1150 (part of abbey building programme approved by David I)

The Borders Abbeys Way in the Scottish Borders

A circular route linking the historic border towns and villages of Jedburgh, Denholm, Hawick, Selkirk, Melrose, St Boswells, Kelso and Jedburgh.

Total distance

approx 109km/ 68miles

Total ascent

approx 1300 metres/ 4200 feet

Paths

riverside paths, tracks, road, forest rides, farm fields, old railway lines and old drove roads

Historic ruined Abbeys

Melrose, Dryburgh, Kelso and Jedburgh

Rivers

Teviot, Tweed, the Jed Water, and the Ale Water.

Countryside

hill farms, lowland farmland, forests,

Wildlife

grey heron, goosander, grey wagtail, yellowhammer, skylark, buzzard, brown hare, tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies, also wild garlic, red campion, mountain pansy, rowan and silver birch.

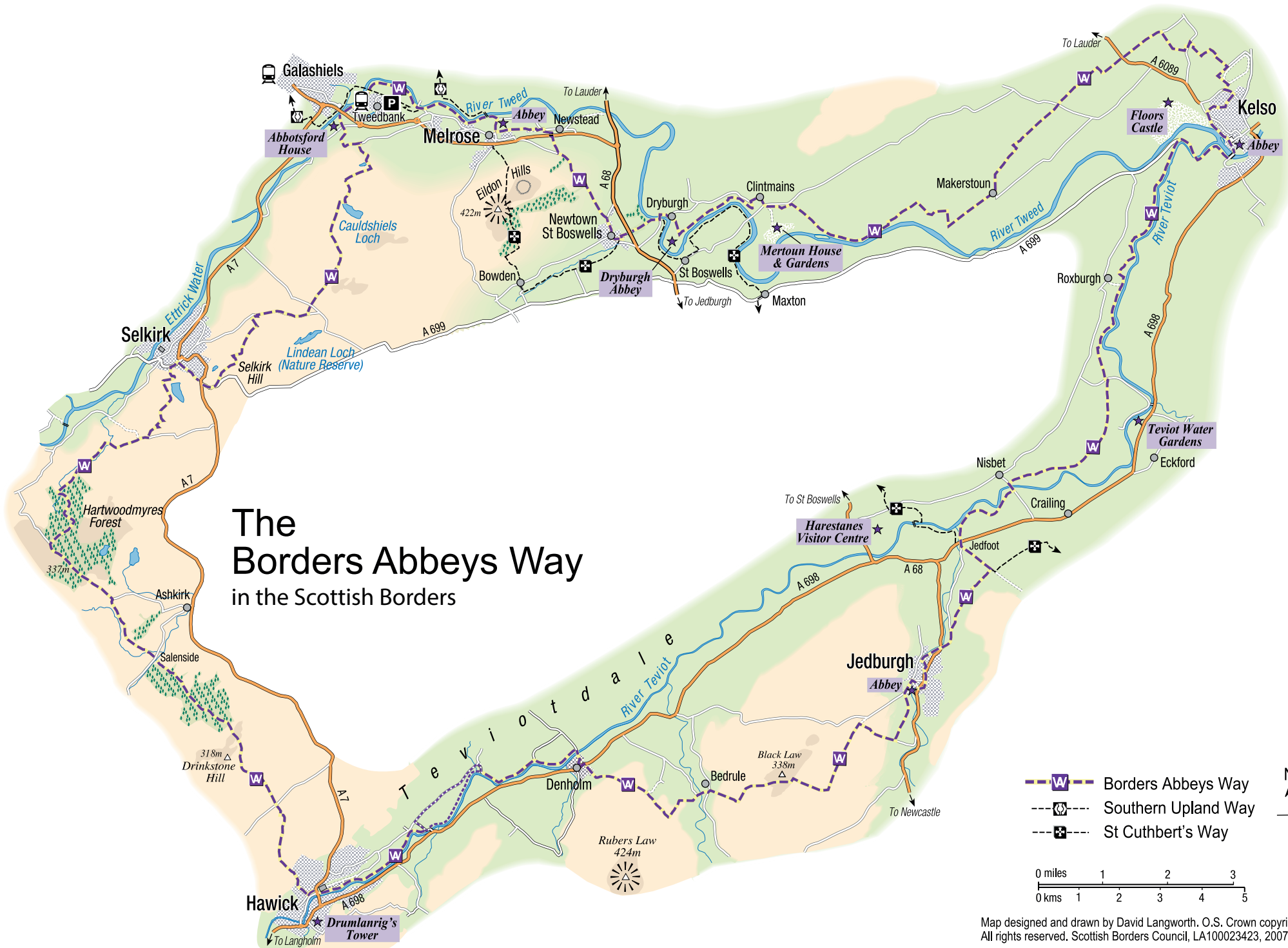
The route is waymarked throughout, in both directions, with an 'AW' symbol denoting 'Abbeys Way'.

This booklet describes the route in five stages:

- ◆ Jedburgh to Hawick 23km/ 14 1/2 miles
- ◆ Hawick to Selkirk 19km/ 12 miles
- ◆ Selkirk to Melrose 16km/ 10 miles
- ◆ Melrose to Kelso via Dryburgh 29km/ 18 miles
- ◆ Kelso to Jedburgh 22km/ 13 1/2 miles



The Borders Abbeys Way in the Scottish Borders



Map designed and drawn by David Langworth. O.S. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Scottish Borders Council, LA100023423, 2007

Wildlife on the Borders Abbeys Way



Lowland farmland and meadows

The Borders Abbeys Way provides a chance to spend some days in the heart of the countryside of the Scottish Borders. You will see the countryside at work with arable and livestock farming activities, such as sowing and harvesting of crops and feeding cattle, going on along the route depending on the season. On the country lanes and fields look out for brown hare, yellowhammer, meadowsweet, tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies.

Rivers and riverbanks

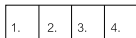
The route takes you along the Jed Water, the Rivers Teviot and Tweed and also crosses the Ale Water near Ashkirk and the Rule Water at Bedrule. Taking a few minutes to look over the river may reward you with views of grey heron, goosander, grey wagtail, oystercatcher, mallard, dipper and, if you are lucky, possibly even an otter. Riverside trees include alder and willow and plants along the riverbank include marsh marigold and wild garlic.

Upland farmland and hill ground

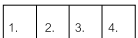
The route traverses higher ground at a number of locations including Black Law, the edge of Rubers Law, Drinkstone Hill, Wollrig and between Selkirk Hill and Cauldshiels Loch. The short climbs involved should be rewarded with views for some distance in all directions. You will have the chance to look out to the Liddesdale Hills the Cheviots, the Tweedsmuir hills and the Moorfoots. You may see a skylark chirping high in the sky above you, or hear a buzzard mewing. Selkirk Hill is excellent for wild flowers. Look out for mountain pansy, tormentil, heath bedstraw, heather, blaeberry, wild thyme and wild orchids.

Forestry and woodland

You should be able to see a variety of forest trees including Sitka spruce, Scots pine and larch within plantations. Small areas of rowan, cherry and oak are often planted too. Native and Semi-natural woodland can be seen along the route. This includes some riverside woodland and the Glen in Newtown St Boswells. Oak, ash and alder may be seen in these woods. Look out for signs of badger, fox or roe deer. Under the trees look out for woodland flowers such as wood sorrel, primrose, and red campion.



top. Fox 1. Straw bales 2. Alder 3. Cattle 4. Wild garlic



top. Red campion 1. Wild cherry 2. Badgers 3. Wood sorrel 4. Pseudocone galls on spruce



Information on the Borders Abbeys Way

Maps

The route of the Borders Abbeys Way is covered by the Ordnance Survey Landranger maps 73, 74, 79 and 80 and OS Explorer maps 331, 338, 339 and OL16.

Buses

The Borders Abbeys Way is well served by buses. There are direct bus services linking the start and end of each section.

The 95 links Edinburgh, Galashiels, Selkirk, Ashkirk, Hawick and Carlisle.

The 20 links Hawick, Denholm, Jedburgh, (Eckford) and Kelso.

The 67 links Kelso, Clintmains road end, St Boswells, Newtown St Boswells and Melrose.

Other bus services link these towns and villages with Peebles, Edinburgh, Berwick-upon Tweed and other locations.

For timetable details, contact:

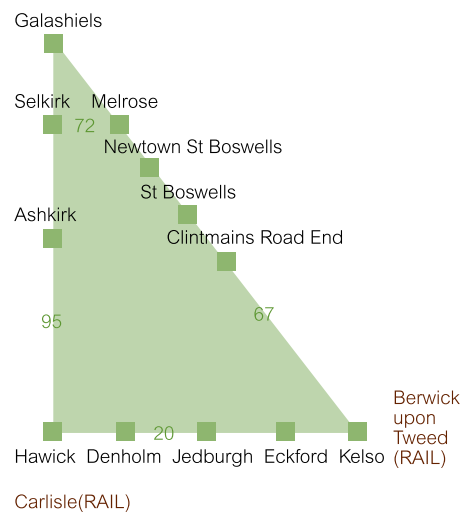
Traveline on 0871 200 2233

www.travelinescotland.com, or ask at any Tourist Information Centre in the region.

For this walk, if you are using buses it may be worth considering using the bus at the start of your day. The walk can then be done at your own pace.

Bus Routes

Edinburgh (RAIL, AIRPORT)
Galashiels/Tweedbank (RAIL)



Toilets

Toilets are available in towns at the start and end of each section. Disabled access toilets (RADAR key) are also available in each town. Other public toilets are shown on maps and mentioned in the text for each section.

Car Parking

There are car parks shown on the maps for each section. Please do not park elsewhere along the route, and never block access gates or farm roads.

The Borders Abbeys Way Path



Please note that this is a route especially suitable for walkers due to steps, stiles, kissing gates and the nature of the terrain. However some sections may also be suitable for cyclists and horseriders.

The Borders Abbeys Way should not be confused with the Four Abbeys Cycle route. This also links the Borders Abbeys and is marked with blue cycle signs.

Along the way you may see blue signs with a horseshoe marking paths including the Buccleuch Country Ride and the Hawick Circular Route. These routes are particularly suited to horseriders.

Scottish Borders Council wishes to thank the many land owners, land managers and farmers along the way whose support has made this route possible.

Visitor Information

For accommodation, travel, visitor attractions and activities in the Scottish Borders area. Local Information Centres (Jedburgh, Hawick other) or visit www.visitscotland.com

Look up www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking

- ◆ Paths around Towns booklets (Hawick, Galashiels, Selkirk, Melrose, Kelso)
- ◆ Town Trail Guides (Hawick, Jedburgh, Selkirk, Melrose, Kelso)

Purchase from Northern Heritage www.northernheritage.co.uk 01670 789940

Rail Links

The Borders Railway was opened in September 2015. From Edinburgh, trains travel to Midlothian and the Scottish Borders.

Stations on the Waverley Route are Edinburgh Waverley -Brunstane, Newcraighall, Shawfair, Eskbank, Newtongrange, Gorebridge Stow, Galashiels and Tweedbank.

Websites

Official websites for long distance paths in the Scottish Borders.

www.scotborders.gov.uk/bordersabbeysway for the Borders Abbeys Way

www.stcuthbertsway.info for St Cuthbert's Way

<https://dgtrails.org/southern-upland-way> for The Southern Upland Way



Calculating your walking time

The path has been described in five-six days walks. Alternatively most of the route can be done in shorter sections and could to be completed over a greater number of days

Everyone walks at a different pace so the time taken per section will vary a lot depending on various factors. Some walkers use Naismith's rule to estimate time of a walk.

If you know the average time it takes you to walk a kilometre then multiply this by the number of kilometres and add 30 minutes per 300metres of the total climb. Sections with climbs and those over rough terrain will take longer. The fitness level of your group may also be reduced by the size of your group, carrying heavy packs and the weather. Remember to allow time for breaks too.

Aim to finish before darkness falls at the end of the day- mid afternoon in the middle of winter. Navigating and walking in daylight is easier. Walking in the dark

may alarm farm animals and disturb people whose houses are adjacent to the path. In forest areas, there may be control of deer by shooting at night.

Advice to Walkers

Before setting out check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly. Bring with you water to drink and a packed lunch. Ensure you are well equipped for walking in the hills and countryside. Clothing should include a good pair of walking boots and warm and waterproof clothing (jacket/trousers). Gloves, hat and scarf, whistle and torch, a hot drink, spare pair of socks and jersey and emergency rations should be carried in a rucksack or similar, especially during the winter months. Carry a fully charged mobile phone. But be aware that some sections of the route may be out of range for some mobile phone networks. There are good quality outdoor clothing shops in Hawick, Jedburgh and Kelso.

Access in Scotland

A summary of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code is shown on the back cover of this booklet.

The full code describes the responsibilities of users and land managers when in the countryside.

Visit www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot for further information.

An excellent spirit of cooperation exists throughout the Scottish Borders and there is generally no difficulty found whilst out and about in our beautiful countryside. The way is clearly marked with waymarkers. Please use gates and stiles to cross fences/walls wherever possible. While on farm and forest road tracks please remember that they are used by agricultural machinery, and care should be taken. Cyclists and horseriders may also be encountered on these tracks. While walking on farm and forest road tracks it should be remembered that they are used by agricultural machinery and care should be taken.

Livestock

The code gives advice on access to the countryside with a dog. In exercising access rights you must keep your dog under proper control. Dogs are a great cause of concern for farmers, especially during lambing time (March to May) and when cows have young calves with them (mainly in the spring and autumn although some farms do calf all year round). Cattle and sheep, particularly those with young should not be approached. Dogs must not be taken into fields with cattle when they have young, as the cows see the dog as a threat and may try to attack it, nor should they be taken into fields containing sheep with young lambs.

Go into a neighbouring field. In more open country if there are lambs around keep your dog on a short lead and keep distant from them. During the bird breeding season (April to July) keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in countryside areas. Ground nesting birds can be found in areas such as moorland, forest grassland and riverbanks. Even without a dog, cows with calves can still react aggressively to your presence so keep a safe distance from them and watch them carefully.

Let someone know your route

Make sure someone knows where you are going and what your expected time of arrival is. Make sure you inform them as soon as possible on your safe return. This booklet includes outline maps of the route, however, it is advisable to carry and use the relevant Ordnance Survey Map.

Know the Code before you go...

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot or telephoning your local NatureScot Office



Planning your walk on the Borders Abbeys Way

Many people find that using buses allows them to walk the Borders Abbeys Way to a timetable that suits them. There are many possible itineraries and as it is a circular route it is possible to start at any point along the route.

Itinerary 1

It is possible to do each of the five or six sections one after another and stay in the location where you arrive each evening.

Itinerary 2

By using buses it is possible to do the route staying in the same accommodation for the whole route. This would fit in with a favourite accommodation provider, or if you live locally, or for using self catering accommodation for a week.

It is even easier using a car. Drive to the finish point of your day and get the bus to the start. Then you can do the route at your own pace.

Based in Hawick, Selkirk or Galashiels, Melrose, Jedburgh or Kelso

Use buses to reach your start point and/ or return from your start point as it suits.

- Day 1 - Jedburgh to Hawick
- Day 2 - Hawick to Selkirk
- Day 3 - Selkirk to Melrose
- Day 4 - Melrose to Clintmains road end to St Boswells
- Day 5 - Clintmains road end to Kelso
- Day 6 - Kelso to Jedburgh

Itinerary 3

Another option is to stay in two or three locations possibly over a series of weekends. The following itinerary could be done using campsites and using Bed and Breakfast or Hotels, e.g.

Arrive at Selkirk (2 nights)

- Day 1 - walk Selkirk to Hawick, bus back to Selkirk
- Day 2 - walk Selkirk to Melrose
Arrive at Melrose (2 nights)
- Day 3 - walk Melrose to Clintmains and St Boswells, bus back to Melrose
- Day 4 - bus to Clintmains, walk to Kelso, bus to Jedburgh
Arrive at Jedburgh (2-3 nights)
- Day 5 - bus to Kelso, walk to Jedburgh
- Day 6 - walk to Hawick, bus to Jedburgh or depart



Itinerary 4

Eleven medium length sections to complete the Borders Abbeys Way using bus links

- Day 1 - From Denholm, bus to Jedburgh, walk Jedburgh to Denholm
- Day 2 - From Hawick, bus to Denholm, walk Denholm to Hawick
- Day 3 - From Hawick, bus to Ashkirk, walk Ashkirk to Hawick
- Day 4 - From Selkirk, bus to Ashkirk, walk Ashkirk to Selkirk
- Day 5 - From Selkirk, walk to Abbotsford and Tweed Bridge (bus back from Kingsknowes, Galashiels)
- Day 6 - From Melrose, bus to Tweedbank, walk Tweedbank to Melrose
- Day 7 - From Melrose, walk to Newtown and circular via Eildon Hills
- Day 8 - From Newtown, walk to Clintmains road end, circular via Dryburgh Abbey and a section of St Cuthberts way
- Day 9 - From Kelso, bus to Clintmains road end, walk Clintmains road end to Kelso
- Day 10 - From Kelso, bus to Eckford (Kalemouth Bridge) walk to Kelso
- Day 11 - From Jedburgh, bus to Eckford (Kalemouth Bridge) walk to Jedburgh

walkit

Paths to Health

Walk it is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders which aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. We have chosen short walks in each of the five sections in this book which are appropriate for Paths to Health walks. Our walks are usually short and easy though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients. For information about Walk it telephone 0300 100 1800 or email walkit@scotborders.gov.uk

Paths to Health walks

Some easy short walks are possible and are listed within this booklet and marked with a footprint symbol on the map. Walks of 20 minutes-2 hours can be done using some sections of the Borders Abbeys Way. Most of these routes can be reached by public transport.

Look out for

- ◆ Countryside Visits booklet
- Easy Access to the Countryside



Jedburgh

Jedburgh Abbey

Coming into the town from the south on the A68, the visitor is greeted with the majestic ruin of Jedburgh Abbey. Founded in 1138 by David I, it occupies a commanding position overlooking the Jed Water. The 12th century abbey church is one of Scotland's most outstanding medieval buildings. This house of Augustinian canons from Beauvais in France was deliberately located close to the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon monastery and stones from a nearby Roman fort can be seen in its fabric. King Alexander III was married to Yolande de Dreux here in 1285 and King Edward I of England stayed here during the wars of independence (his soldiers took the roofing lead for siege engines). The abbey (and the town) bore the brunt of attacks by the English and their allies seven times between 1409 and 1545 and was fortified in 1548 by French allies of the Scots. The story of the abbey is told in an interpretation centre and the cloister and domestic ranges have been excavated and laid out to view.

Now cared for by Historic Scotland, it is open to visitors all year round. Admission charge.



Situated in the valley of the Jed Water, Jedburgh is a true border town, being only 10 miles/ 16km from the border at Carter Bar. It has been a Royal Burgh for over 800 years. Up on a hill overlooking the town is Jedburgh Castle Gaol, built on the site of the old castle and now open to the public as a museum.

The town is surrounded by very attractive, well-wooded countryside. The St Cuthbert's Way long-distance path from Melrose to Lindisfarne, opened in 1996, passes along the Roman Road, Dere Street, less than 2 miles/ 3km from the town.

Along the way Jedburgh to Hawick

Lowland and Upland farmland

In the low lying fields near Jedburgh and between Denholm and Hawick mixed farming is found. Fields may be used to grow crops of wheat or barley in a rotation with grass. The grass may be grown as a crop and cut for hay or silage. You may see black bags holding the cut grass which is preserved for winter feed. Sheep and cattle may graze the grass at other times.

In the upland areas cattle or sheep graze the pasture. Areas of heather, tormentil and other upland plants may be seen. Look out for signs of badger, especially near the shelterbelts of forest in this section.

Bedrule

There has been a place of worship at Bedrule Kirk, in its peaceful setting, for many centuries. The present building dates from 1804, and has superb modern stained glass windows. A mound nearby marks the site of Bedrule Castle, the 16th century seat of the Turnbulls. The route crosses the 18th century Bedrule Bridge over the Rule Water - a name said to mean 'roaring', which is appropriate when the water is in spate.

Denholm

The attractive village of Denholm is centred on its large Green and the monument to John Leyden, poet and oriental scholar. Born in 1775, Leyden exhibited an amazing facility for languages, and eventually mastered or had some knowledge of several dozen. He spent part of his life in the Far East, and died in far distant Batavia in 1811.

At the south-west corner of the Green is the Text House, with its enigmatic four-part inscription 'Tak Tent in Time, Ere Time be Tint, All was Others, All will be Others'. Denholm was the birthplace of Sir James Murray (1837-1915), who became editor of the New English Dictionary in 1879 and devoted most of the rest of his life to this massive work.

1. Walkers on Black Law 2. Ewe with lamb 3. Badger 4. Bedrule Church 5. Leyden Monument



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Jedburgh to Hawick

Upland and lowland farmland, views, riverside woodland

Path surfaces - tracks, upland grassland, fields, road and riverside path

Distance - 23km/ 14 1/2 miles approx

Total ascent - 350 metres/ 1150 feet approx

Jedburgh to Hawick

This is a varied route, with a fairly steady climb from Jedburgh town centre and later a steep section up the side of Merlin Wood onto the side of Black Law. There follows a gradual descent through mainly agricultural land to the village of Denholm and into Teviotdale where the route follows the north bank of the River Teviot into Hawick.

This may be done in two shorter sections between Jedburgh and Denholm, and Denholm and Hawick. Use the bus to your start point or at the end.

Maps

The section described here is covered by OS Landranger maps 79 and 80 and OS Explorer maps OL16 and 331.

Buses

Service 20 between Jedburgh and Hawick. The journey time between Jedburgh and Hawick is about 25 minutes.

For timetable details, contact:
Traveline on 0870 608 2608
www.travelinescotland.com, ask at the bus stance in Jedburgh or Hawick, or any Tourist Information Centre.

Car Parking

There are car parks at Murray's Green, Jedburgh, next to the Tourist Information Centre and bus station, and at Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick. There is also a large car park at the Common Haugh on Victoria Road, Hawick. Roadside parking is usually possible in Denholm but please use consideration and do not block access.



1. Common buzzard 2. Skylark 3. Yellowhammer 4. Grey heron
 5. Grey wagtail 6. Oystercatcher 7&8. Goosander

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Visitor Information

There are Information Centres at Murray's Green in Jedburgh and Tower Knowe, Hawick. For opening times and other information see **www.visitscotland.com**

Toilets

There are public toilets at Murray's Green, Jedburgh, at Dean Road in Denholm, at the Common Haugh car park, Victoria Road, Hawick Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick also has toilets.

Refreshments

There is a selection of shops including bakeries, and general stores in Jedburgh, and Hawick. There is a wide selection of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both towns. There are some stores, and hotels with public bars in Denholm.



Paths to Health

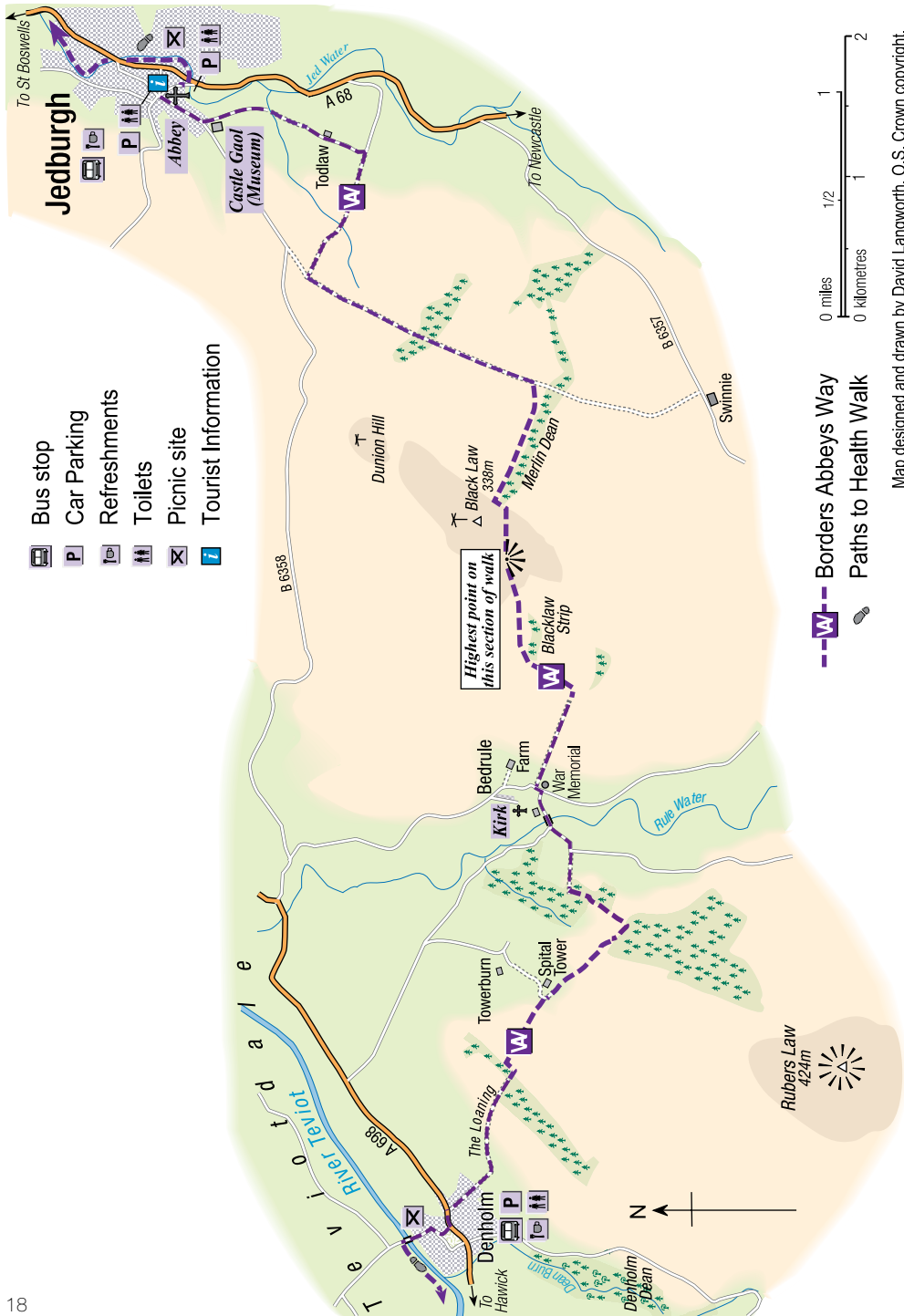
Short easy walks on this section include

Teviotdale Leisure Centre

Follow the old railway line from the Leisure Centre and retrace your steps or return via the pavement by the River Teviot on the Borders Abbeys Way. Level tarmac path.

Denholm Riverside

Follow the Borders Abbeys Way along the riverside and retrace your steps to return. Fairly level grass path and road.



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The Borders Abbeys Way Jedburgh to Hawick

Part 1 Jedburgh Abbey to Denholm

From **Jedburgh Abbey**, pass along Abbey Place to the Square. Turn left into Castlegate and go uphill to the **Castle Gaol**. At the Gaol (now a museum), bear left into Gala Hill and go downhill until the road ends. Keep left over the small bridge and join the track on the other side. Pass **Todlaw House** on the left and follow the narrow tarmac road to a junction. Turn right, and head uphill on a rough track.

Eventually, after a number of bends, the track meets the old road (now a track) from Jedburgh to Swinnie at a T-junction. Turn left onto this track, and continue to follow it to the second coniferous plantation at **Merlin Dean**.

At the plantation, turn right as signed. After crossing the bridge, climb up the hill, keeping close to the plantation. At the end of the plantation, turn left through the small gate and continue along the top of the wood and through a second small gate. Turn immediately right here through yet another small gate and onto the open hillside with the radio masts and the summit of **Black Law** on the right.

Bearing slightly left and away from the fence on the right, follow the waymark posts on the hillside. After crossing the brow, the distinctive shape of Rubers Law appears ahead and to the left. Continue downhill towards the right side of the small wood known as **Blacklaw Strip**, and after crossing the stile, go down the side of the wood. On

leaving the wood bear left, cross the burn and pass over a stile onto a track. Turn right at the second gate and go down the farm track to the minor road. To reach the Bedrule Kirk, a short diversion from the route may be taken here, otherwise turn left. After passing the **War Memorial**, turn right downhill and over the bridge spanning the Rule Water at **Bedrule**. The road swings sharply to the right. Almost immediately turn left and follow the minor road uphill (signposted for Bonchester Bridge). Follow this road for approximately 400 metres to where it turns sharp left.

Go straight on here and follow the track to a plantation. In a further 100 metres, follow the track left and after crossing the stile into the field, turn right and follow the fence to the first gate. Cross the stile, adjacent to the gate, and go straight on along the edge of the field. Turn left at the edge of the field and follow the wall to a gate. After passing through the gate, go across the field. After crossing a ladder stile and then a small burn, join the track leading towards the buildings at Spital Tower. When the track swings right, cross the stile and follow the fence and over another stile. Turn left over the small bridge and proceed up the left side of the fields. At the top of the hill, turn left and continue along the side of the wood to the first gate on the right. Go through the gate and cross a stile onto the track known locally as **The Loaning**. In about a kilometre you reach the A698 Hawick/Kelso road in **Denholm**.

The Borders Abbeys Way Jedburgh to Hawick

Part 2 Denholm to Hawick



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Hornshole Bridge

In **Denholm** Turn left then first right, keeping the Village Green on your left. Follow the road round to the right and then turn left, to cross the bridge spanning the River Teviot. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left onto the path on the north bank of the Teviot.

Follow the path which runs along the floodbank, then for a short distance on to the track on the right. On returning to the floodbank and after crossing two stiles, go up wooden steps and follow the edge of the field along the top of the bank before dropping down onto the minor road. Turn left onto the road and follow it for approximately 1.5km to the cottage at **Knowetown**. The Borders Abbeys Way ends here and starts again at Hornshole Bridge. You can reach Hornshole Bridge in two ways. Either follow the riverside path by leaving the road (yellow arrow), crossing the footbridge over Hassendeans Burn and following the riverbank path, or follow the road as shown on the map. Please respect the privacy of owners if using the riverside path. On reaching **Hornshole Bridge** by either route, steps take you back onto the riverbank for a pleasant journey of about 1km to the point where the Boonraw Burn joins the Teviot.

Continue straight on along the track which eventually joins the road that leads into Mansfield Road. With the

river still on the left, continue along Mansfield Road and before reaching the traffic lights, take the last turning on the right which leads uphill to the Teviotdale Leisure Centre and the end of this section of the Borders Abbeys Way.

The old railway line is an attractive alternative route for the last 1km of the section. To get there turn right at the roundabout by Mansfield Park and climb the steps in the tunnel ahead of you. After the steps turn left to follow the old railway towards the **Teviotdale Leisure Centre**.

To reach Hawick town centre, turn left after the Teviotdale Leisure Centre. In the town centre, the **1514 Horse memorial** is one of the bus stops and is also a good place for a photograph. **Drumlanrig Tower** is also in Hawick.



Hawick

Set in bonnie Teviotdale, Hawick is the largest of the Border towns and is internationally famous for its fine quality knitwear. You will find big names and small businesses whose products can be bought in the many specialist shops. A textile mill can be seen at Peter Scott's in Buccleuch Street in Hawick. In former times there were many mills along the banks of the Teviot and its tributary streams, notably the Slitrig.

Hawick-born folk are known as Teries from the town's motto 'Ye Teribus y Teriodin', which is thought to derive from an ancient rallying call used in battle. You will find this motto carved on the plinth of the famous Horse Statue at the junction of the roads from Selkirk and Jedburgh. From here the long High Street, busy with shops, heads south to the Tourist Information Centre and to the museum located in the historic Drumlanrig's Tower. This is a romantic monument with a dark history, woven into the fabric of Hawick, and a stronghold of cross-Border warfare.

There are many fine buildings of historical interest in Hawick and a Town Trail leaflet describing them is available. The award-

winning Wilton Lodge Park on the banks of the River Teviot extends to over 100 acres with riverside and treelined walks and a walled garden with superb floral displays. The Hawick Museum and Scott Gallery reflect the town's history and also house exhibitions.

The Hawick Common Riding is held annually in early June and commemorates an event in 1514 when Hawick men defeated a body of English soldiers, capturing their banner. Other regular events include the Reiver Festival in Spring and the Summer Festival in August.

The river Teviot runs alongside the route as it flows through the town. Goosander can be seen in the winter months. Look out for ducklings, swan, grey wagtail, sand martin and heron.

Wilton Parish Church dates from 1860 and was designed by J.T. Emmet. The adjacent church hall has unusual spiralled brick chimneys.

Stirches Convent or to give it its proper title, St. Andrew's Convent. (originally a former house) was restored and extended by J. P. Alison in 1900. Since 1926 it has been a Roman Catholic Retirement Home for Ladies.

Along the way Hawick to Selkirk

Forestry at Salenside and Hartwoodmyres

The trees in these forests have been planted commercially. The trees used include Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, larch, pine and fir. The timber is felled in sections and the areas replanted. Wood will be used for paper, building and fencing amongst other uses. Look out for woodland flowers such as wood sorrel and primrose and signs of roe deer.

Upland areas at Drinkstone Hill and near Wolrig

Sheep and cattle are farmed in these areas. Listen for curlew, buzzard and skylark.

The Bishop's Stone

An undressed boulder built horizontally into the base of the dyke. It was thought to have been placed here to mark the boundary of the lands belonging to the Bishops of Glasgow, who owned most of the land in Ashkirk parish from as early as the 12th century.

Bowhill

Bowhill House, ancestral home of the Dukes of Buccleuch, can be seen from Hartwoodmyres forest. The Gilkeekit bridge is part of a path linking the Borders Abbeys Way from Middlestead farm to Bowhill paths.

The Haining

The Haining mansion house, can be seen at the Selkirk end of the Hawick to Selkirk walk. The original house, which was built in 1794, was re-modelled in 1819 and was damaged by fire in 1944. It is interesting to note that to the left of the house on the small Peel Hill, lay the long demolished medieval Selkirk Castle.

1. Hartwoodmyres Forest 2. Logs 3. Blackface Ewe with lamb
4. The Haining Stables 5. The Haining Doocot 6. The Haining



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



Hawick to Selkirk

Farmland, forestry, views

Path surfaces - Roads, farm tracks, forest rides

Distance - 19km/12miles approx

Total ascent - 350metres/1150feet approx

Hawick to Selkirk

This section of the Way starts with a long, steady climb out of Hawick and Teviotdale onto the side of Drinkstone Hill and into typical Border hill farming countryside, and some forestry. The route then drops down into the valley of the Ale Water near the village of Ashkirk and then proceeds by way of the old track, known as the Thief Road, to Wollrig. After following a stretch of minor road to reach the highest point of the section at Hartwoodmyres Forest the route passes through the forest and continues down past Middlestead, Brownmoor and The Haining to enter Selkirk at the West Port.

Heading from Selkirk to Hawick is a good way to do this section as it allows for good views towards Hawick and the Liddesdale hills going downhill on the road at the end of the days walk.

This section may be done in two shorter stages between Ashkirk and Hawick and Ashkirk and Selkirk. Take the bus to Ashkirk and walk along the road to join the route back to your start point.

Maps

The section described here is covered by OS Landranger maps 79 (Hawick and Eskdale) and 73 (Peebles and Galashiels) and by OS Explorer maps 331 and 338.

Buses

There is a regular bus service between Hawick and Selkirk (service 95). The journey time between Hawick and Selkirk is about 30 minutes.

For timetable details, contact:

Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

www.travelinescotland.com, enquire at the bus stances in Hawick or Selkirk, or at any Tourist Information Centre in the region.

1. Badger 2. Toad 3. Fox 4. Rabbit 5. Brown hare
6. Wood mouse 7. Roe deer 8. Weasel

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Car Parking

There are large car parks at the Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick and off the Market Square in Selkirk. Please do not park elsewhere along the route, and never block access gates or farm roads. There is a small car park at Hartwoodmyres.

Tourist Information

There are Tourist Information Centres at Tower Knowe, High Street, Hawick and at Halliwell's House, off the Market Square in Selkirk. For opening times and other information see www.visitscotland.com

Toilets

There are public toilets at the Common Haugh car park, Victoria Road, Hawick and in the Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick. In Selkirk there are public toilets just off Market Square.

Refreshments

There are shops including bakeries, and general stores in both Hawick and Selkirk. There is a range of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both towns.



Paths to Health

Short walks on this section include

Hartwoodmyres Forest Paths

- follow the Borders Abbeys Way for a short distance from the entrance to the forest and return on one of the waymarked routes managed by Buccleuch Estates. Forest tracks and woodland paths.

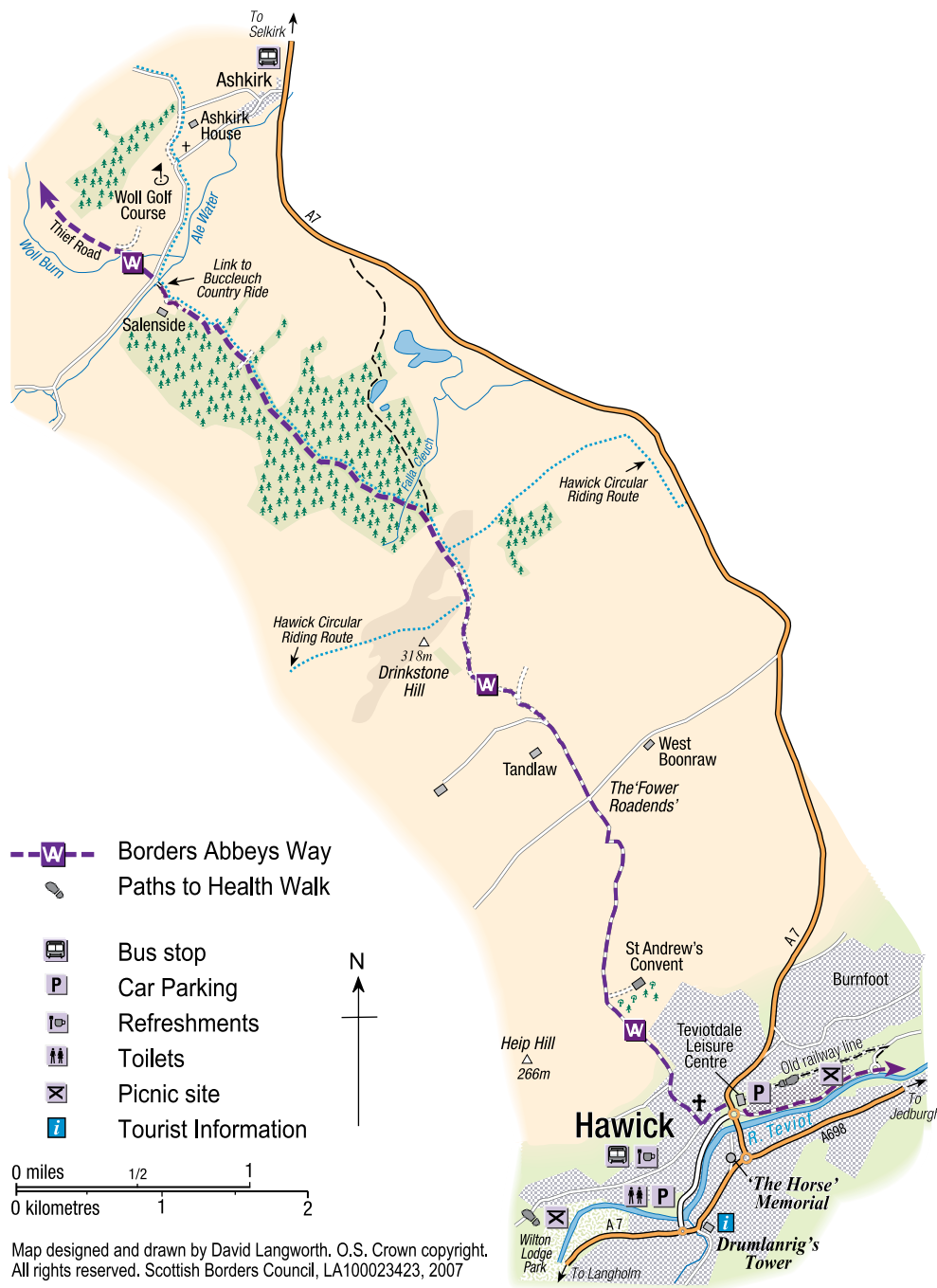
Wilton Lodge Park in Hawick.

Level tarmac paths.

Bowhill Estate (parking/ admission charge in season) Woodland tracks and paths and estate roads.

The Borders Abbeys Way Hawick to Selkirk

Part 1 Hawick to near Ashkirk



Leave the **Teviotdale Leisure Centre** and cross the A7 road into Princes Street. Continue along Princes Street for approximately 200 metres and turn right uphill into Dickson Street. Continue up Dickson Street, passing **Wilton Parish Church** on your right. Go straight up this road and continue uphill, eventually leaving the town. The road narrows now, and as you continue, you pass the imposing red tiled **St. Andrew's Convent**.

Continue straight on past the entrance to the convent and follow the road through a series of dips. An extensive view opens up on the right, looking across the A7 to Rubers Law. Looking back from time to time on this section, there are also good views beyond Hawick to the Liddesdale Hills. After a further 2km a minor crossroads is reached, known locally as **'The Fower (Four) Road ends'**.

Pass straight over the junction onto the single track road, which takes you past roads on the left, the first leading to **Tandlaw** and the second to **Drinkstone Farm**. You now join a track, which is followed to the top of the hill. You will have completed 200 metres/ 650 feet of climb from Hawick. Here you fork left over a stile. Follow the track for a further 200 metres and after passing over the stile, follow the clearly defined track which continues uphill and to the

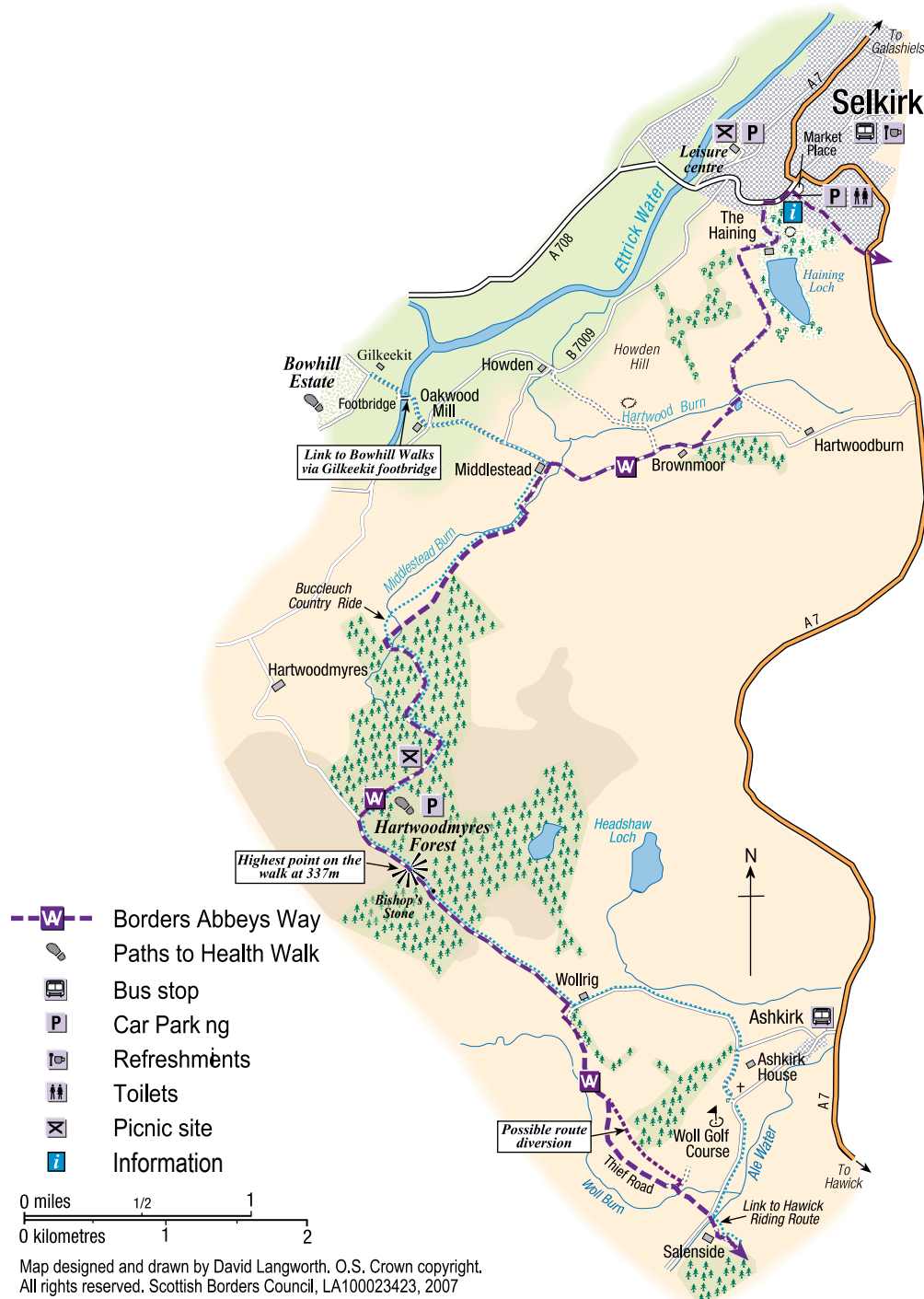
right. You eventually join the Hawick Circular Riding Route and after passing through the gate, follow the track parallel to the fence on the left until a second small gate is reached. After passing through the gate, go downhill and slightly to the right to another gateway. Pass through the gate and then go slightly left, through forestry, down to the burn, **Falla Cleuch**.

After crossing the burn, continue uphill, keeping the dyke and then the fence on your right. Follow the grass track as it proceeds along the left side of an older plantation to the brow of the hill before it drops down to meet a more clearly defined track. Follow this track straight ahead for approximately 800 metres until a small gate is reached at a track junction. After passing through the gate, follow the path between the plantation and the wall for a short distance, before entering a small wood. On leaving the wood, follow the waymarked route and join a clear track past a house on the left (**Salenside**). After approximately 150 metres, cross a bridge over the Ale Water onto a minor road. Turn right onto this road.

(To reach Ashkirk and the A7 continue along this road bearing left at the road junctions (2km))

The Borders Abbeys Way Hawick to Selkirk

Part 2 Ashkirk to Selkirk



After 80 metres, turn left over a stile. You are now on what is known as the **Thief Road** that takes you along the left side of the field. Pass over a ladder stile onto the golf course. Please give way to any golfers in play and beware of any golf balls in flight. Follow the waymarked route which will take you across a bridge on the left that crosses the burn and across to the other side of the course. Turn left here, and follow the track that runs parallel with the fence and then the wall, on your right. There may be a diversion in place here which will be waymarked.

Continue to follow this track through a small forest and into a field. On reaching the small wood at the top of the hill, carry straight on for a short distance, again keeping the fence on the right, until you reach a second track. Turn right onto this track and continue to the gateway that leads onto the minor road at **Wollrig**. Cross the stile, turn left onto this road and continue for 2km, climbing steadily. The top of this road is the highest point of this section of the walk at 337m/ 1105ft. There is an extensive view looking back, with the Cheviot Hills clearly visible in good conditions. Turn right into the parking area at **Hartwoodmyres** and follow the forest track straight ahead for about 1km. Follow this road as it continues downhill, first swinging to the left and then to the right as it does so. Then take the second forestry road on the left. Continue on this road for 400 metres to where it swings left and drops over **Middlestead Burn**. Turn right as the road rises. After 50 metres, do not follow the riding route through the gate but turn right and continue between the fence and the wood, to a wall. Pass through the gap in the wall, cross the stile and turn right onto the farm track where you rejoin

the riding route. Go on for approximately 150 metres and pass through another gate. After a further 400 metres you reach a double gate. Follow the track to yet another gate, with a wetland area on the right, and then continue for approximately 300 metres on the farm track that takes you through **Middlestead** farm steading and onto the minor road. Please take care passing through the steading, as there may be farm vehicles working here. There may also be cows. Keep your dogs on a short lead or under close control here.

Turn right onto the road and follow it for about 1km. After passing **Brownmoor Farm** on the right, the road drops downhill. On reaching the small lay-by on the right, turn left and cross the stile into the field. Follow the right edge of the field to the corner. Turn left and continue to the stile ahead. After crossing the stile and the bridge over **Hartwood Burn**, turn right over a stile along the field edge and over a further stile. Continue to follow the field edge for 50 metres until a farm track is reached. Turn left onto this farm track and in 800 metres; follow the track to the left across the field. If you look to the right you will see the **Haining Loch** through the trees. After passing an old stone dovecote on the right you reach a stile. Follow the path into the wood and turn right onto a track that continues past the stable buildings on the right. The track swings left onto the driveway that leads to **The Haining** mansion house, which is visible on the right. Continue down the driveway and pass under the arched gateway onto the road at the **West Port**. Turn right and go uphill into Selkirk's **Market Square** to end this section of the Way.



Selkirk

The Ancient and Royal Burgh of Selkirk stands above the Ettrick Valley. Sir Walter Scott was Sheriff here for thirty-three years and his former courtroom features a fascinating audio-visual presentation telling the story of Scott's long associations with the town and its people. Halliwell's House, one of the town's oldest buildings, now houses a museum and also the Tourist Information Centre, while Clapperton's Photographic Studio is a working museum and photographic archive.

Selkirk's Common Riding has a tradition dating back to the Battle of Flodden in 1513, and today as many as 400 horse riders take part in this annual event. The twin valleys of Ettrick and Yarrow contain some of the most glorious scenery in the Scottish Borders. The area's rich heritage provided inspiration for writers such as Sir Walter Scott and James Hogg. At Bowhill House, not far from Selkirk, is an exhibition on the life and work of Hogg, the poet known as the Ettrick Shepherd.

"Kirk'o'the Forest"

Selkirk Old Parish Church. According to local tradition, it was in the original parish church on this site that William Wallace was named 'Guardian of Scotland' in 1297 in the aftermath of his victory

at the Battle of Stirling Bridge. The present ruin dates from 1748 and the churchyard contains many interesting gravestones.

The area around Selkirk Hill was once part of the ancient Ettrick Forest. Around 1113, King David I granted land in this area to monks from Tiron in Normandy, so that they might build an abbey here. Selkirk Abbey was probably founded in the vicinity of Lindean Church to the north. The abbey was short lived and was relocated to Kelso around 1128 when the monks complained to the king that the land at Selkirk was not suitable. The grant of this land was reaffirmed to the town in 1535 to recognise the heroic Souters (Selkirk people) who fought and died at the battle of Flodden in 1513.

Selkirk Hill

The area of Selkirk Hill (140 acres/ 56 hectares) has moor, ponds, trees and meadows. It is managed by a group of local people with an interest in the area. Work is done to enhance the wildlife interest of the area and to maintain paths in good condition. In the summer months common spotted orchid, mountain pansy, heath bedstraw and harebell can be found in the meadows and yellowhammer can be heard singing from the hawthorn bushes.

Along the way Selkirk to Melrose

Halfcrown Corner

'Halfcrown Corner' is so called after the half crown payment that was made by Sunderland Hall estates as a payment to the men who originally planted the woodland here in the mid 1800's. (Half a crown was equivalent to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p).

Cauldshiels Loch

During the winter months ducks such as tufted, mallard and goosander can be seen on the water and in the spring coot and great crested grebe breed here. If you are lucky you may see the unusual courtship display of the grebe. The willow and birch woodland at the edge of the loch provides cover and food for small birds like redpoll, bullfinch, siskin, and long tailed tit. The mature coniferous woodland is home to roe deer, badger and great spotted woodpecker.

Abbotsford

Abbotsford House (originally Cartleyhole) was renamed, rebuilt and lived in by Sir Walter Scott between 1812-1832. The house is open from March to October and at the entrance to the house, there is a café which can provide a welcome break.

The ford across the River Tweed

This ford is used in June each year by the horses and their riders during the Galashiels Braw Lads Gathering.

Redbridge Viaduct

This stone built bridge was built in the late 1840s to carry the Edinburgh to Hawick railway, which opened in 1849. The line was later extended to Carlisle and although the rail service ceased in 1969 it is still commonly known as the Waverley Route.

Lowood Bridge

This bridge is visible from the route by the river at Lowood. The bridge was built in 1826 By Messrs. Redpath, Brown and Co. for a construction fee of £600. In due tradition a bottle containing newspapers and coins was inserted into a stone by R.W.M. Alexander Stevenson. This may explain the other name given to this bridge - The Bottle Bridge.



- 1.
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- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

1. Souter in wall 2. Cauldshiels Loch 3. Abbotsford House
4. Galashiels Braw Lads Gathering 5. Redbridge Viaduct 6. Sheep



Selkirk to Melrose

Farmland, views, riverside

Path surfaces - road, upland, tracks, riverside paths

Distance - 16km/ 10 miles approx

Total ascent - 300 metres/ 1000 feet approx

1. Butterwort 2. Red campion 3. Rowan 4. Scabious
5. Orchid 6. Heather 7. Silver birch 8. Mountain pansy

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Selkirk to Melrose

This section of the way climbs out of Selkirk to cross Selkirk Hill, which is a haven for wildlife and flowers. The route gradually rises through farmland to Cauldshiels Loch by using one of the Borders ancient drove roads. A short road section descends down to the River Tweed by Abbotsford House, where the route follows the south bank of the river to Melrose.

This section may be done in two shorter walks between Selkirk and Tweedbank via Abbotsford and between Tweedbank and Melrose.

Walk from Selkirk to Abbotsford and cross the Tweed bridge to the bus stop (on the A7 near Kingsknowes at the edge of Galashiels) to return to Selkirk. From Melrose take the bus to Kingsknowes or Tweedbank and join the route back to your start point.

Maps

The section described here is covered by OS Landranger map 73 (Peebles, Galashiels) and by OS Explorer map 338.

Car Parking

There are large car parks situated off the Market Square in Selkirk, at the abbey in Melrose and a small car park at Cauldshiels Loch. There are also a few parking spaces at Gunknowe Loch at Tweedbank. Please do not park elsewhere along the route, and never block access gates or farm roads.

Tourist Information

see www.visitscotland.com

Buses

For timetable details, contact:
Traveline on 0871 200 2233
www.travelinescotland.com

Toilets

There are public toilets at Selkirk, just off Market Square and in Melrose at Abbey Street.

Refreshments

There is a selection of shops including bakeries and general stores in both Selkirk and Melrose. There are a range of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both towns.



Paths to Health

Short walks on this section include

Selkirk Hill - follow the Borders Abbeys Way from the A699 or Buxton and walk across the hill, return using a different route.

Lindean Reservoir - circular walk near the route.

Tweedbank Family Nature trail - From Gunknowe Loch follow the signs to join the Borders Abbeys Way at the river and return to the loch. Level tarmac paths and grass.

Lowood - from the car parking area between Lowood Bridge and the A6901, follow the Borders Abbeys Way by the riverside and after walking under the Redbridge viaduct climb up the steps to join the Southern Upland Way to return to the start. A fairly level tarmac path and grassy riverside path.

Melrose riverside - From Melrose walk upstream on the riverside and retrace your steps to return. Fairly level tarmac, woodland and grassy paths.

The Borders Abbeys Way Selkirk to Melrose

Part 1 Selkirk to Cauldshiels Loch

From Selkirk Market Place head uphill on the one way street, Kirk Wynd, passing on the left hand side a bakers shop which proclaims that it is "Home of the Selkirk Bannock". On your right you pass the "Kirk 'o' the Forest". Follow this road straight on to reach a junction. From here continue straight ahead as the road dips then rises again through an area of houses.

Continue until you reach the main road (A7) at the top of the hill. **Take care to cross safely**, straight over the main road, and keep to the left-hand pavement. In about 100 metres, just past a group of houses, turn off the road to the left on to **Selkirk Hill** and follow the waymarked path.

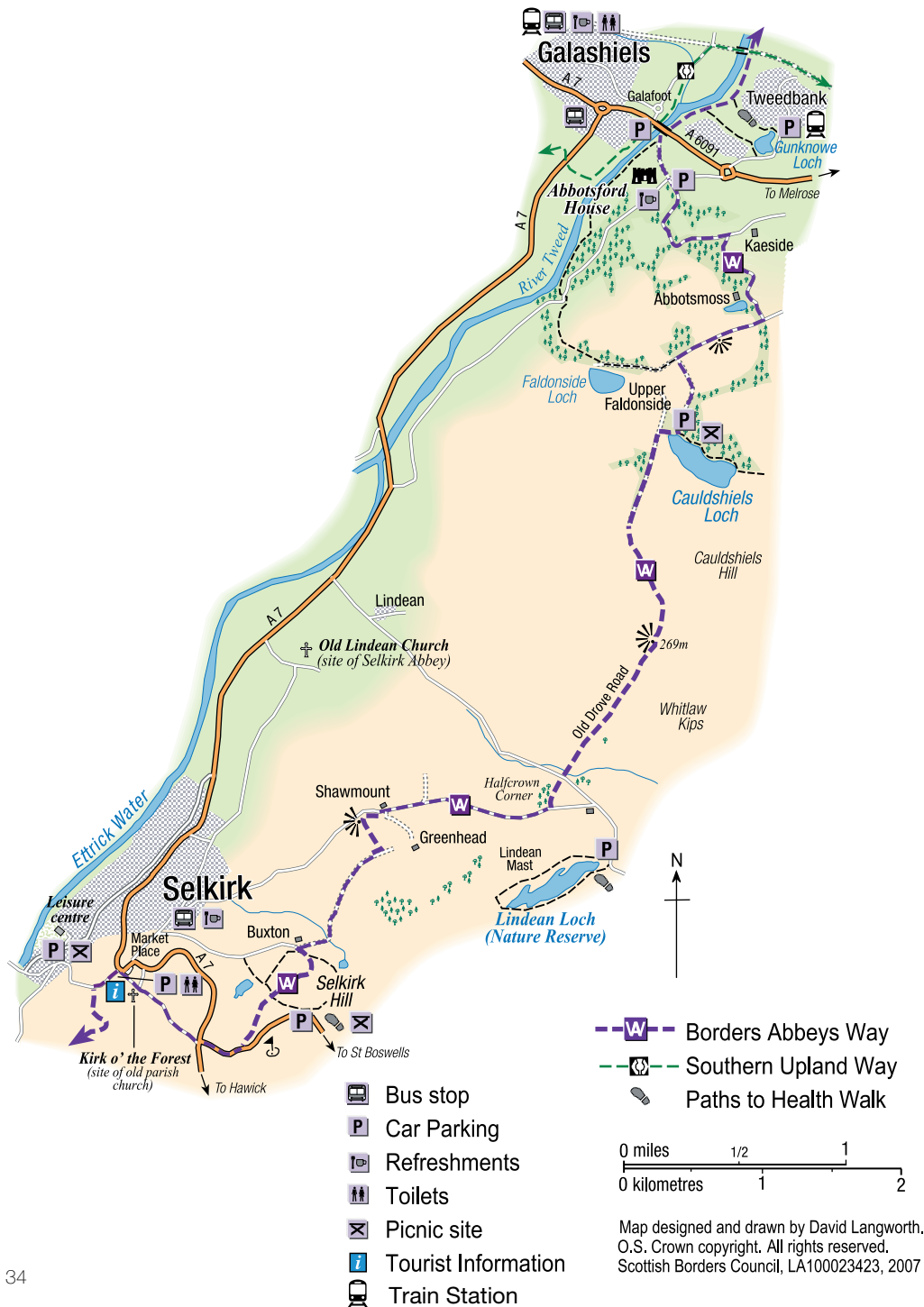
Exit the hill at the kissing gate and go right along the rough track. At the end of the track, pass through the small gate and follow onto the farmland. This old track is lined by hawthorn and skirts the edge of **Bell Hill**. Before **Greenhead Farm**, go through a small gate as directed on the left and follow the field edge to the top where there is a seat with a view back over Selkirk and the hills overlooking the Yarrow Valley. Follow the waymarks around the field edges until you reach a minor road near **Shawmount**.



Cauldshiels Loch

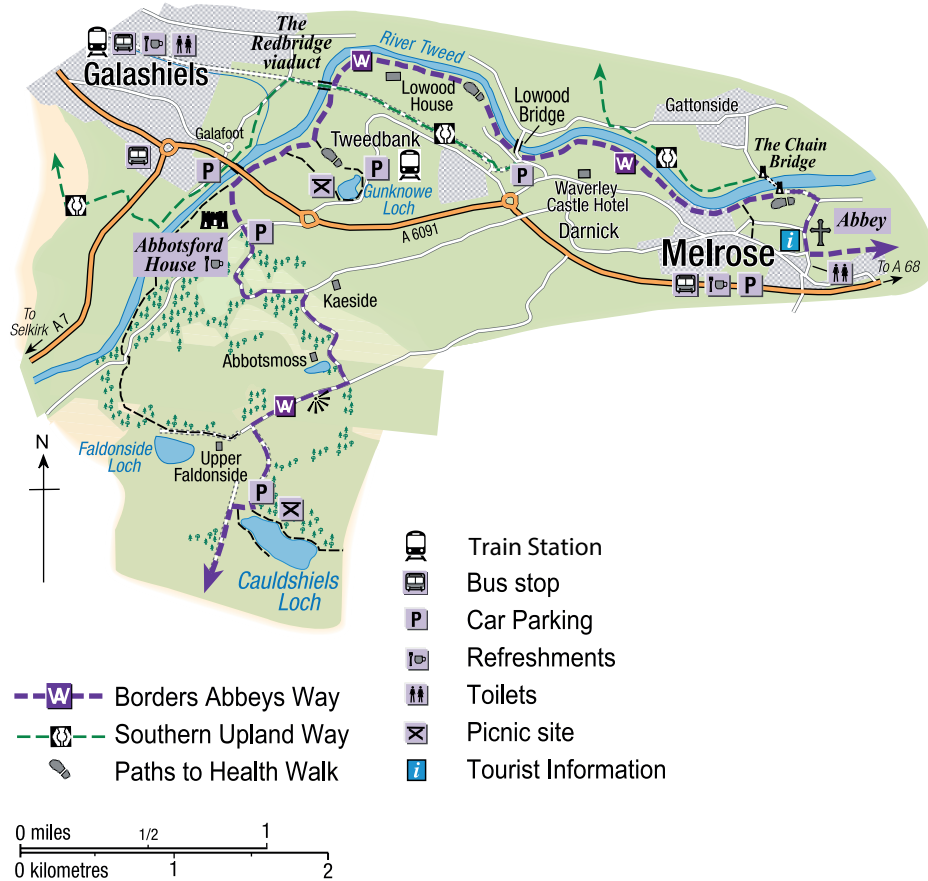
Go right here and follow the road uphill until you reach a white fence and gate on the left-hand side. Go left through the gate and keeping to the right, head down the track behind the stables.

This area is known locally as '**Halfcrown Corner**'. Cross the road and head forward on to the track. This is an old drove road, which would have been used for driving cattle from Scotland to the markets in England. Continue through a series of gates keeping the dyke on your right over **Whitelaw Kips** and on to **Faldonside Moor**. Pass through a sheep handling area and follow the track up before turning right to **Cauldshiels Loch**.



The Borders Abbeys Way Selkirk to Melrose

Part 2 Cauldshiels Loch to Melrose Abbey



Map designed and drawn by David Langworth. O.S. Crown copyright.
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From Cauldshiels Loch leave the loch through the car park and follow the track down to the road where you turn right. Notice the excellent views to the Eildon Hills here. Take the next left and continue until you reach the T-junction. Go left here and follow the minor road down to the car park at **Abbotsford**. Head straight across the road on to the track which leads to **the ford across the River Tweed**.

Before you reach the Tweed head up the wide track to your right leading to the road bridge. Pass under the bridge and continue along the path by the Tweed until you reach the **Redbridge Viaduct**.

Pass under the viaduct and continue along the river path. The path continues in front of **Lowood House** and then through some woodland to exit onto a drive. Go left here and cross the main road at the end of the drive. Head uphill on the pavement and then turn left over the stile following the river path, now shared with the **Southern Upland Way**. The path goes through the riverside meadow passing the back of the **Waverley Castle Hotel** built on Skirmish Hill, the site of the last clan battle to be fought in the Borders in 1526.



Abbotsford House

At the cauld, built to divert the water from the river through the lade to the Abbey Mill, continue on the riverside path to the **Chain Bridge**, then go straight on and turn right onto the road which leads up to **Melrose Abbey**.



Melrose

Melrose Abbey

Melrose Abbey was founded in 1136 by King David I. It was built by a colony of Cistercian monks. Although this was one of Scotland's wealthiest monasteries, it suffered badly in the wars that ravished much of the Borders in the medieval period. The magnificent rebuilding of the church in the late 14th and early 15th centuries was a result of damage caused by the English in 1385. The 16th century Commendator's House is now a museum and the Chapter House contains the burial casket of a heart, thought to be that of King Robert I "The Bruce". Robert the Bruce was a renowned Scottish patriot, who brought nationhood to Scotland in the 14th century. He had sponsored the rebuilding of the abbey after an English attack in 1322.

In the care of Historic Scotland.
Admission Charge.

The town of Melrose sits at the foot of the Eildon Hills. The town is steeped in history, and at its centre is the magnificent ruin of Melrose Abbey. The River Tweed, famous for its salmon fishing, flows just outside the town, and to the east is the site of Trimontium, a major roman fort. A fine exhibition describing this site can be found at the Ormiston Institute in Melrose Square. Melrose Rugby Club, which was founded in 1877, hosted the original seven-a-side rugby tournament. Melrose is an excellent town to explore and relax in, perhaps before starting this section of the Borders Abbeys Way.



Along the way Melrose to Kelso

Newstead

The village was the home of the masons who built Melrose Abbey in the early 12th century and Priorswalk was their route between Newstead and the abbey.

Rhymer's Stone

Thomas the Rhymer or Thomas of Ercildoune lived sometime between 1220 and 1297. He was thought to have the gift of prophecy and many of his predictions came true over the years. His Stone marks the reputed site of the Eildon Tree, from where he is believed to have delivered his prophecies.

Newtown St Boswells

Despite its name, a community was recorded at Newtown as long ago as 1529. The village used to be a major centre for milling the area's grain and the monks of Melrose Abbey used to bring their cereal to be ground here. When the railway came, the village became a centre for communication and livestock markets were started. 'The Mart' is still a major part of village life today.

Newtown Glen

The deciduous woodland of Newtown Glen has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It supports a wide range of wildlife and has a marvellous array of flowers in the spring.



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1. Mercat Cross, Melrose 2. Priorswalk, near Newstead 3. Rhymer's Stone
4. Newtown Glen 5. River Tweed 6. Eildon Hills and Tweed



Dryburgh Abbey

This abbey was founded by the Premonstratensian Order in about 1150 under the patronage of Hugh de Morville, Constable of Scotland and Lord of Lauderdale. It was part of the abbey building programme approved by King David I. The abbey church was built in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, but has been severely quarried and little survives today.

The best preserved buildings are the east cloister range and include a 16th century Commendator's House inserted into the canons' dormitory. Like all of the Border Abbeys, Dryburgh was devastated on various occasions by English forces, including 1322, 1385, 1544, and 1545. By the 17th century, the building had ceased to function as a working abbey. Much of the current village of Dryburgh was developed by

David Stuart Erskine, the 11th Earl of Buchan. He also rescued the remains of the abbey from a local farmer who was using it as a source of stone. The abbey grounds are the burial place of Sir Walter Scott and Field Marshal Earl Haig.

In the care of Historic Environment Scotland. Admission Charge.

Dryburgh Bridge

The bridge was built in the 20th century, replacing an earlier bridge by Capt. Samuel Brown, to allow Dryburgh villagers to cross the river.

Temple of the Muses

The Temple features a modern statue in a refurbished model of a Greek pavilion, Erected by the Earl of Buchan.

The Wallace Statue

This impressive red sandstone sculpture of William Wallace is found in the woods a few hundred metres off the route. It was erected by the Earl of Buchan, was formally unveiled in 1814 and is the handiwork of John Smith, from Darnick. It was repaired in 1991.

Makerstoun

The village dates back to the 12th century, when King David I granted it to Walter Corbet. Makerstoun Parish Church was built in 1808. Close to the foot of the bell tower is a sundial and pedestal gifted by General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, once Governor General of New South Wales.

The River Tweed

It is approximately 156km (97 miles) in length and drains about 4000 square kilometres of southern Scotland and northern Northumberland. The Tweed is internationally famous for its fishing and more Atlantic salmon are caught on it than on any other river in the European Union. Much bird life can be seen, including mute swan, oystercatcher, swallow and sand martin.



- 1.
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- 4.
- 5.

1. Dryburgh Bridge 2. Temple of the Muses 3. The Wallace Statue 4. The Eildons from Dryburgh 5. Dryburgh Orchard Gates



Melrose to Kelso

Country lanes, riverside paths, arable farmland, views

Path surfaces - road, tracks, woodland path.

Distance - 29km/ 18 miles approx

Total ascent - 175 metres/ 575 feet approx

Melrose to Clintmains (road end) 10km/ 6 miles

Clintmains (road end) to Kelso 19km/ 12 miles

From Melrose to St Boswells village via Dryburgh Abbey, Clintmains and St Cuthbert's Way 13km/ 8 miles

Melrose to Kelso via Dryburgh

Melrose to Clintmains road end via Newtown St Boswells and Dryburgh Abbey (10km/ 6 miles)

This is easily the shortest section of the Way and offers a range of possibilities.

It is a relatively easy route, which could be completed on the same day as one of the adjoining sections. Alternatively, the section could be combined with spending time exploring Melrose to fill a day. A more attractive and longer option would involve following St Cuthbert's Way between Melrose and Newtown St Boswells. This allows the opportunity to climb through the Eildon Hills and would add 2½ km and around an hour onto the section. St Cuthbert's Way is also fully waymarked with its own distinctive symbol.

Clintmains road end to Kelso

(19km/ 12 miles)

The scenic countryside on the northern side of the River Tweed is explored on this section of the route, using a combination of riverside paths and country lanes and tracks. Most of the section is relatively flat and easy terrain, but it is a long section of the Borders Abbeys Way.

Maps

This part of the route is covered by OS Landranger maps 73 and 74. Melrose to St Boswells via Dryburgh can be found on OS Explorer map 338, while the Newtown St Boswells to Kelso part of the route is on map 339.

Buses

There is a bus service between Melrose and Kelso that also meets the Borders Abbeys Way at Newtown St Boswells and at the main road near Clintmains (service 67).

Other bus routes can also be used between

1. Hawthorn flower 2. Bramble leaf 3. Dog rose flower 4. Blackthorn flower
5. Hawthorn fruit 6. Bramble fruit 7. Dog rose fruit 8. Blackthorn fruit

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Melrose and Kelso, or be combined to reach Newtown St Boswells or Clintmains. The journey time between Kelso and Melrose is about 30 minutes.

For timetable details, contact:

Traveline on 0871 200 2233

www.travelinescotland.com, or any Tourist Information Centre in the region.

Car Parking

There are public car parks in Melrose and Kelso town centres. If parking elsewhere along the route, never obstruct roads or gateways. Please do not park in the Historic Environment Scotland car park at Dryburgh except for the duration of your visit to the abbey.

Tourist Information

For information see

www.visitscotland.com

Toilets

There are public toilets at Melrose, Newtown St Boswells, St Boswells and Kelso

Refreshments

There is a selection of shops including bakeries and general stores in Melrose and Kelso. There are also stores in Newtown St Boswells (and St Boswells). There is a range of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both Melrose and Kelso.

Paths to Health



Short easy walks on this section include

Priorswalk

Follow the route from Melrose Abbey to Newstead village and retrace your steps to return.

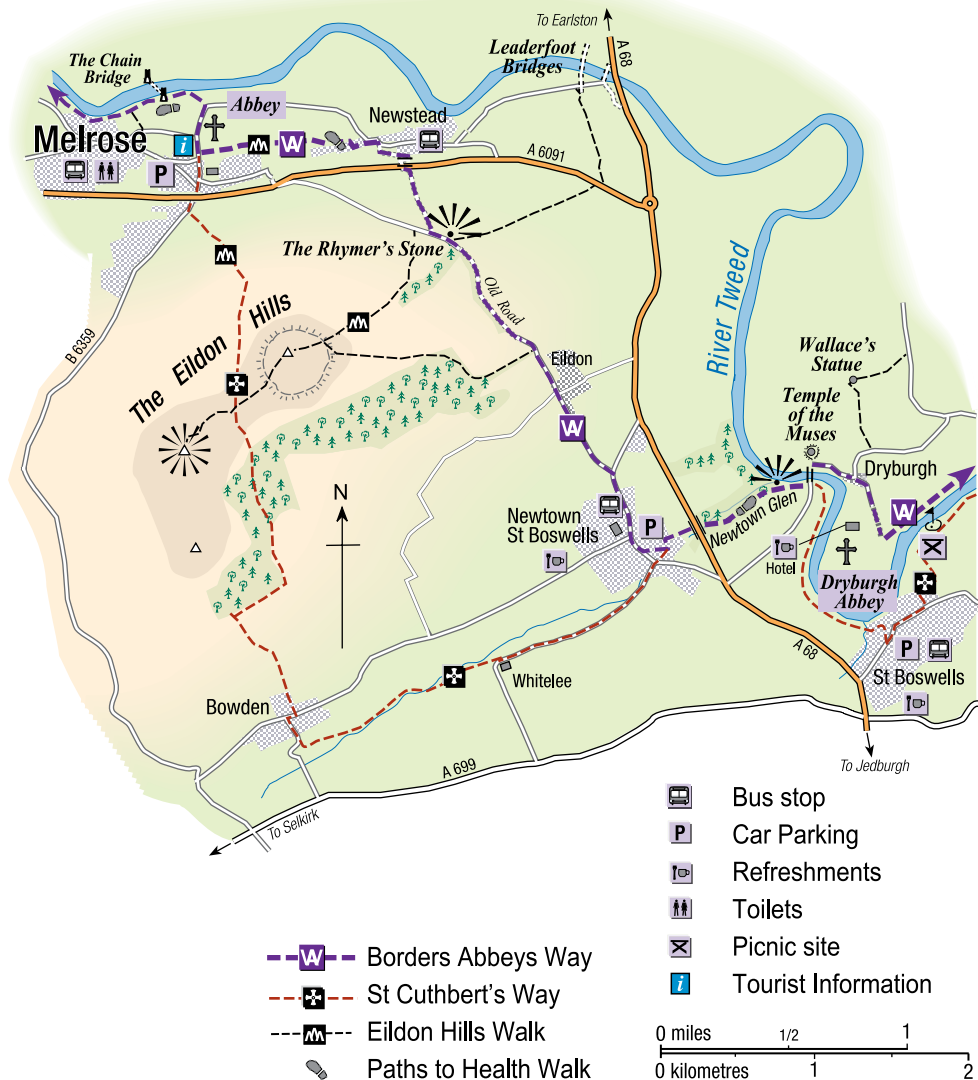
Newtown Glen

Start in the village of Newtown St Boswells and follow the path for about 1km through this ancient woodland. Retrace your steps to return.

The Cobby riverside walk in Kelso (short level grassy path)

The Borders Abbeys Way Melrose to Kelso

Part 1 Melrose Abbey to Newtown St Boswells



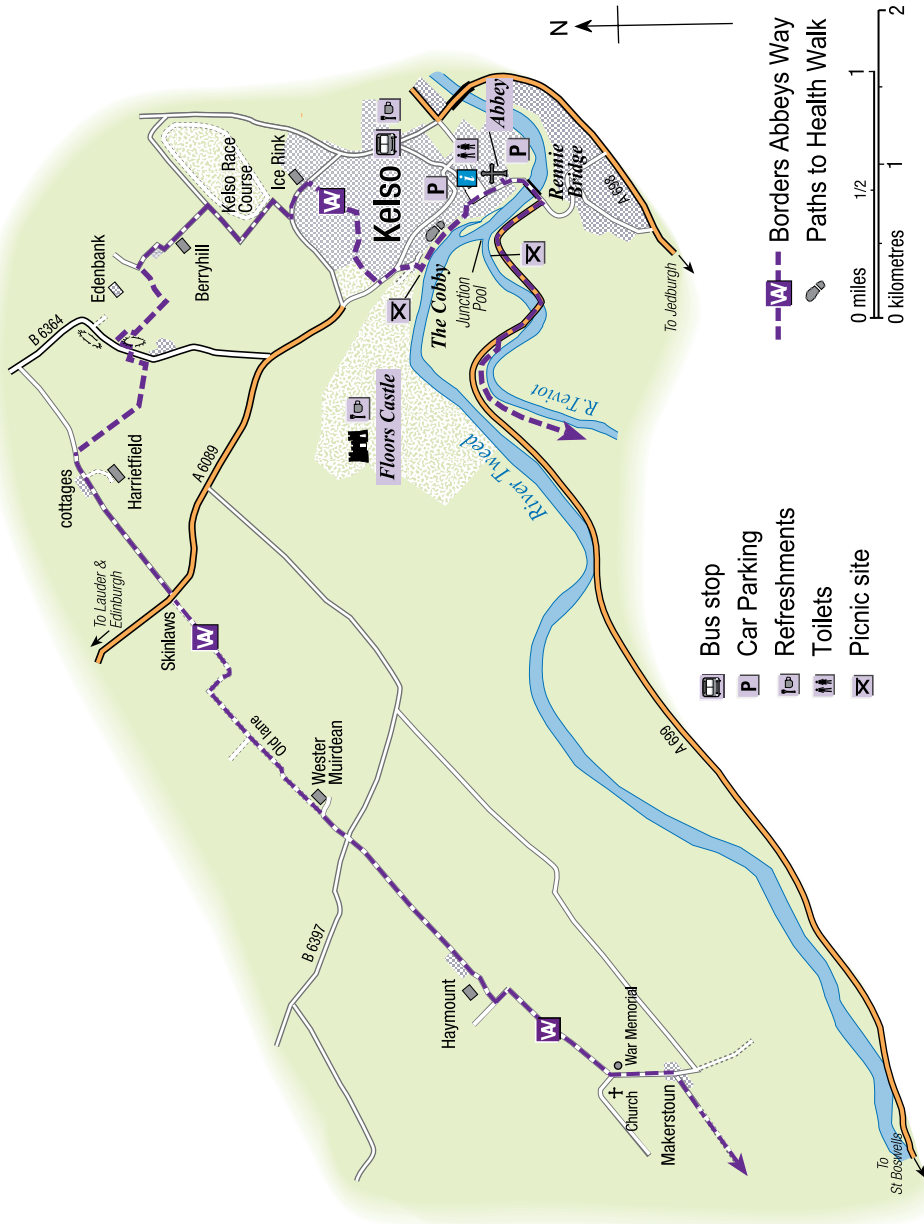
Map designed and drawn by David Langworth. O.S. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Scottish Borders Council, LA100023423, 2007

From **Melrose Abbey**, go up Abbey Street, then turn left onto the path at the end of the railings (Priorswalk). Follow this path, turning left after a bridge, to reach a housing estate. Go straight ahead for about 150 metres, and then turn left along a narrow path in front of a small row of houses. Follow this path for 800 metres until reaching a road. Turn left, then right, up a track at the road junction.

You are now at the edge of **Newstead**. Follow the track under the old railway bridge, through the subway under the bypass and up the slope, with Eildon Hill North to your right. When meeting the road, turn left, passing the site of the Eildon Tree and the **Rhymer's Stone**. Follow the road (the former main road between Melrose and Newtown St Boswells, but now closed to through traffic) for 2km to a junction at **Newtown St Boswells**. Turn right, and using the pavement, follow the road into the village, passing the headquarters of Scottish Borders Council, a 1960s building that dominates the village, on your right. When reaching the Bank of Scotland building, turn left onto Tweedside Road to join St Cuthbert's Way.



North Eildon from Rhymers Stone



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The Borders Abbeys Way Melrose to Kelso

Part 3 Makerstoun to Kelso Abbey

At the road junction turn left. From this road, **Makerstoun Church** can be seen to the left. Before the church, turn right at the **war memorial** and pass the former school. Follow this minor road through attractive rolling farmland, turning left, then right, past the farm and cottages of **Haymount**, eventually to meet a main road.

Cross this road carefully and go straight ahead, towards and then past the farm of **Wester Muirdean** (another place that fell victim to the Earl of Hertford), taking the rough old lane ahead as the road bends to the right. This lovely old lane eventually reaches a main road. This spot (**Skinlaws**) was a toll point for the 1799 Whiteburn to Kelso Turnpike. Cross carefully and go straight ahead on a minor road with wide verges, passing **Harrietfield**.

200m after a row of cottages, turn right onto a track between fields, towards the distant Cheviots. When the track meets a road, go straight across, taking care. Go through a gate into a field. Turn left and follow the edge of the field past a large mound and around to another gateway. The mound is known as Kaim Knowes and is a large deposit of material left by retreating glaciers about 12,000 years ago. Go through the gate and follow the left-hand edge of the field to a gate onto an old grassy lane. Turn left to the end of the lane, then right, up a quiet road,

past **Berryhill**, to the edge of **Kelso Racecourse**. The course is the home of Borders horse racing and was opened in 1822. It was also voted as 'Britain's Friendliest Racecourse'. Turn right, then left, around the Racecourse, following the road to a junction. Turn left and follow the pavement for 300m. Just after the golf clubhouse and opposite the **ice rink**, turn right on a tarmac path and straight on through a housing estate.

With the home of Kelso rugby club, Poynder Park, ahead of you, zigzag down the hill. Turn right to follow the path parallel to the road at the bottom. Eventually meet the road with Croft Park on your right and follow it to the main road ahead. Turn left, then right at the next junction. After 100m, turn right, down to the grassy bank of the Tweed.

Turn left along what is known as the **Cobby Riverside Walk**, which is flooded occasionally by the river, with the spire of Kelso North Parish Church to the left. At the end of the Cobby are what remains of the foundations of the water mill that was associated with the abbey. Go up the ramp, then straight ahead into the town centre. Turn right, passing The Square, formerly a large market place and the hub of the town from the Middle Ages, to reach the ruins of **Kelso Abbey** on your left.



Kelso

Kelso Abbey

Kelso's history is closely linked with that of the abbey, the first of those founded by King David I in the 12th century. Tironesian monks moved here from Selkirk around 1128 and founded the oldest and, at one time, the largest of the Border Abbeys. Kelso was very wealthy and this coupled with its proximity to the English border meant that the abbey was a natural target for marauding English armies. The buildings were attacked on several occasions before finally being dismantled by Spanish mercenaries on behalf of the Earl of Hertford in 1545. What little remained of the abbey was repaired by the Duke of Roxburghe in 1866. The impressive west end of the Romanesque church with its unusual transepts and central tower still remains.

In the care of Historic Environment Scotland.
Free entry.



The centre of Kelso, a cobbled square, has a most attractive, almost French feel to it, enhanced by a number of fine buildings dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The square was once used as a cattle market. Opposite the abbey is Turret House (1678), which formerly held the Kelso Museum. The former town hall in The Square now houses the Tourist Information Centre.

Floors Castle, home of the Duke of Roxburghe, was designed by William Adam in the 1720s. Originally called Fleurs, Floors Castle was extensively redesigned by William Playfair between 1837 and 1845. Parts of the castle are open to view in the summer months. The castle can be seen from the Way, on the opposite side of the river, near the Junction Pool.

Along the way Kelso to Jedburgh

The Teviot

The Tweed and Teviot rivers meet just outside the town at the Junction Pool. From the Junction Pool upstream look out for fish jumping. Salmon, trout and grayling are some of the fish that anglers catch from the river.

Roxburgh Castle

This was once one of the most important strongholds in Scotland. In the 12th century, this was one of the four principal Royal Burghs in Scotland (the others were Edinburgh, Stirling and Berwick), and a Royal Mint was sited here.

Old Railway Lines

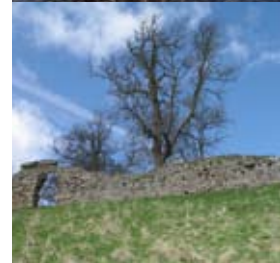
The Roxburgh Viaduct, designed by John Miller, dates from 1847 and is a typically confident piece of Victorian engineering, striding across the river on a curve; its high brick arches at once, powerful and elegant. Signs of the old stations at Ormiston, Nisbet and Jedfoot may be seen along the route. Between Nisbet and Jedfoot it is possible to see the route of the long gone rail bridge across the Teviot.

Dere Street

This old Roman road was built by Agricola in around 80AD. Dere Street originally ran from York to Perth, and the section through the Borders is very well preserved.

The Jed Water

Walking along the easy paths adjacent to the Jed in Jedburgh allows for great views of the river wildlife. Grey wagtail, mallard and heron may be seen in the river. Other birds use the cliffs on the opposite bank of the river as nest and roost sites.



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

1. Kelso Abbey Cloisters 2. The Junction Pool 3. Teviot Bridge
4. Roxburgh Castle 5. Walkers by the Teviot 6. The Jed Water



Kelso to Jedburgh

Riverside, old railway lines, farmland

Path surfaces - riverside paths, tracks, road

Distance (to Jedburgh Abbey) - 22km/ 13 1/2 miles approx

Total ascent - 100 metres/ 330 feet (mainly level) approx

Kelso to Jedburgh

This is a fairly flat and reasonably easy route, largely beside the River Teviot. There is one moderate climb towards the end of the section along the Roman Road, Dere Street, followed by a gradual descent into Jedburgh.

This section may be done in two shorter walks between Kalemouth and Kelso and Kalemouth and Jedburgh. Take the bus to the junction of the A698 and the B6401 near Teviot Water Gardens and walk along the road to join the route back to your start point.

From the route, to reach the A698 at Kalemouth turn South at Ormiston and follow the road for about 1.5km, crossing the bridge at Kalemouth. Turn right to reach the road junction for the B6401 where the bus route passes. The bus stop is in Eckford.

Maps

The section described here is covered by OS Landranger map 74 (Kelso) and by OS Explorer maps OL16 and 339.

Buses

A regular bus service between Kelso and Jedburgh (service 20). This service crosses the route at Jedfoot as well as connecting the two towns. It also goes to Eckford and goes past the road junction of the B6401 and the A698 near Kalemouth. Journey time between Kelso and Jedburgh is 25 minutes.

For further information, contact:
Traveline on 0871 200 2233
www.travelinescotland.com

1. Small tortoiseshell 2. Small copper 3. Red admiral 4. Peacock
 5. Meadow brown 6. Painted lady 7&8. Common blue

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Car Parking

There are large car parks at The Knowes, Kelso, adjacent to the start of the walk; and at Murray's Green, Jedburgh, next to the Tourist Information Centre and bus station. There is limited parking space in Roxburgh village. Please do not park elsewhere along the route, and never block access gates or farm roads.

Tourist Information

There is a Tourist Information Centre at Murray's Green in Jedburgh. For opening times and other information see www.visitscotland.com

Toilets

There are public toilets at Kelso and at Murray's Green, Jedburgh.

Refreshments

There is a selection of shops including bakeries and general stores in both Kelso and Jedburgh. There is a range of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both towns.



Paths to Health

Short easy walks on and near this section include

Jedburgh Riverside

Follow the riverside path through the town and return the same way or find another route through the town. Path is tarmac and fairly level.

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre

Waymarked routes available (Visitor Centre is open April to October, paths open all year) Hard surfaced fairly level paths.

The Borders Abbeys Way Kelso to Jedburgh

Part 1 Kelso Abbey to near Kalemouth, Eckford

From Kelso Abbey, follow the signs out to the main road, turn left, and cross Rennie's fine bridge over the River Tweed, which has stood here since 1803. Turn right on the A699, pausing to admire the grand classic archway ahead, designed by James Gillespie Graham in 1822 and once the main entrance to the long-demolished Springwood Park House.

Follow the road as it swings left at the point where Teviot and Tweed meet. This is one of the most favoured (and expensive) salmon fishing beats on the Tweed, and is much in demand. Go right with the road, to cross the Teviot by another lovely old bridge, dating from 1795. In a further 250 metres, cross the wall on the left by a stile and go down steps to the riverside path. As the path swings left with the river, the ruins of **Roxburgh Castle** are seen on the steep slope to the right. This fortress once dominated Roxburgh town, of which no trace now remains.

Continue along the riverside path for nearly 3km. You may see mallard, moorhen, mute swan, oystercatcher and heron along this stretch of the river. The path eventually leaves the river to climb a bank and continue along a field edge, giving a good view of **Heiton Mill** across the river.

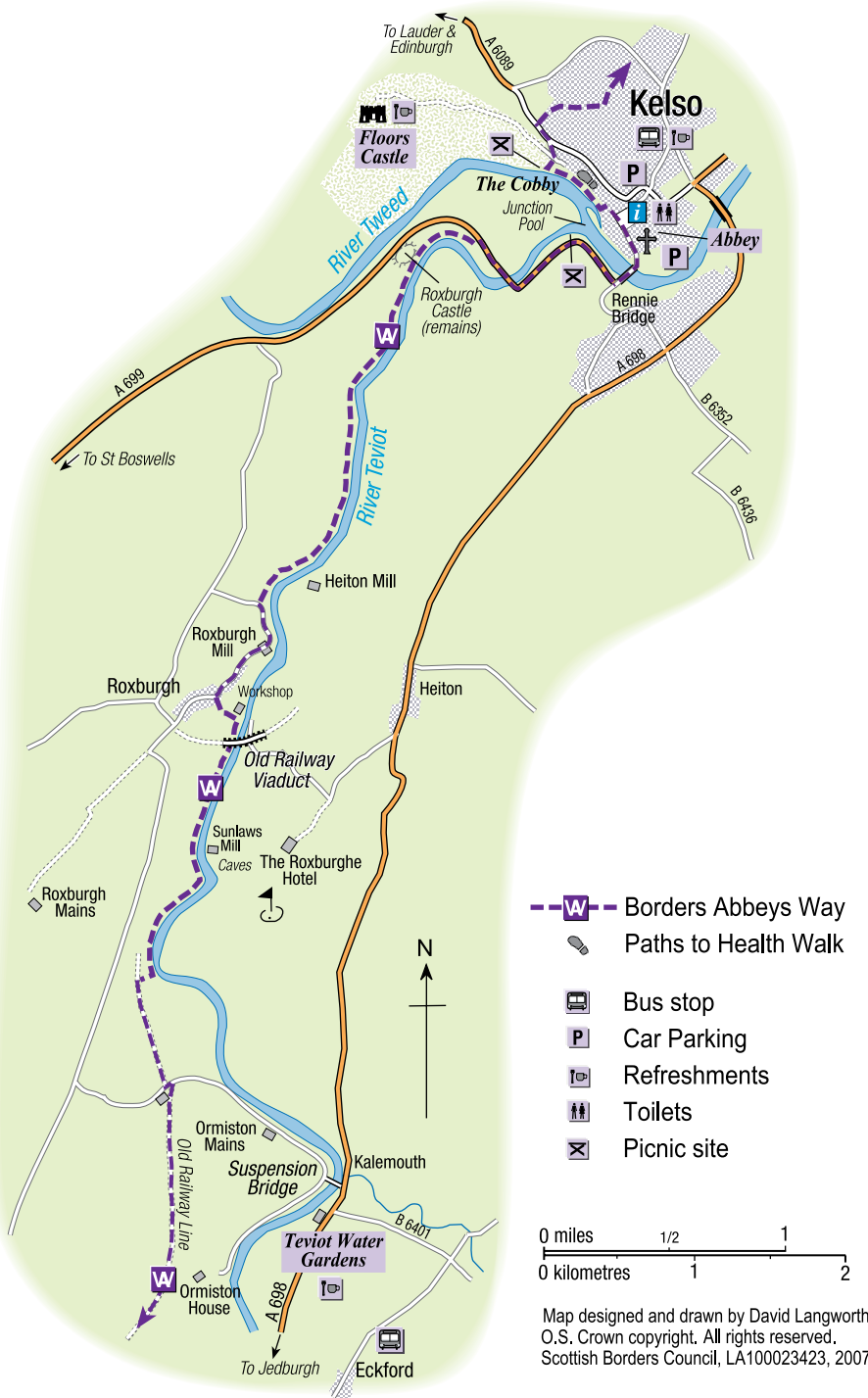
A stile leads you on to a minor road. Turn left through **Roxburgh Mill Farm** and continue towards **Roxburgh** village, with

the imposing former **railway viaduct** an unmistakable marker ahead of you. The path goes left, down a lane past a furniture workshop, and back to the river to turn right under the viaduct.

A short diversion to the right here would take you into Roxburgh village. The bus shelter has panels on the history of the village. In the field to the right are the remains of Wallace's Tower, a 16th century stronghold of the Ker family. A bridge is suspended from the viaduct to give access to the east bank of the river and up to the village of Heiton.

Continue along the river bank for about 2.5km. Across the river is **Roxburgh Hotel**; in its extensive grounds is the championship-standard Roxburgh Golf Course. There are also five sizeable **caves** in the river bank. One is called the Horse Cave. Legend has it that it was used as a hiding place for Bonnie Prince Charlie's horses in 1745 while he and his Jacobite army were marching from Kelso to Jedburgh.

As you draw level with an island in the river, turn right at the dyke, following the edge of the field uphill to a stile and steps which give access to the old railway line. Turn left and follow the line for about one kilometre, leaving it down steps to a minor road.



The Borders Abbeys Way Kelso to Jedburgh

Part 2 near Kalemouth, Eckford to Jedburgh



Turn left for a few metres, cross the road and continue up the track as signed. This track soon rejoins the old railway line, which is followed for more than 3 kms, a flat and easy path, to **Nisbet**, with the river swinging through a series of broad curves away to your left.

On reaching the road at Nisbet, turn left and cross the river. Once across, turn immediately right down some steps to follow the flood bank and then the riverside for about 800 metres. At a track turn left then turn right as signed to rejoin the old railway line for a final section to **Jedfoot**, where the Jed Water joins the Teviot. From this stretch there is a fine view across the river to the **Wellington Monument** on Peniel Heugh, a noted Borders landmark which can be reached by a signposted route from the Harestanes Visitor Centre.

A stile leads you out to the A698 road (the Caddy Mann tearoom is about 400 metres to your left here). Cross the road with great care and follow the signs (also now showing St Cuthbert's Way) to the start of **Dere Street**, a clear track leading straight uphill. The track is followed for about 800metres, before you leave it to turn right (St Cuthbert's Way goes straight on). Go down a path which leads in turn to the access road at **Mount Ulston**. Follow this road downhill to join another road. Turn left and follow this road down to the A68.



Old Railway line near Ploughlands

Cross the road with care and take the riverside path which starts opposite. Follow the path which becomes a road. Where two bridges cross the river, cross the first bridge. Continue, keeping left and joining a path that passes through a subway under the road. Continue to follow the riverside path, and after 800metres you will have a good view of the abbey ahead of you. Pass under a subway to the roadside opposite the end of this section, at **Jedburgh Abbey** (see page 14).

Visiting the Borders Abbeys

The four Borders Abbeys on this route are in the care of Historic Scotland.

There is an admission charge for Melrose, Jedburgh and Dryburgh Abbey. A Borders Explorer pass is available from any of these abbey shops. Allow between thirty minutes to an hour or more to explore each of these abbeys. The abbey shops in these locations have literature, souvenirs and postcards for sale and are open to all. Entry to Kelso Abbey is free of charge.

Further information Historic Scotland

www.historicenvironment.scot

Historic Scotland Head Office,
Longmore House,
Salisbury Place,
Edinburgh,
EH9 1SH
Tel: 0131 668 8600.

Visitor Information Centre Jedburgh
Tel 01835 863170



Application for your free Borders Abbeys Way Completion Certificate

Get this page stamped (or write in the location and date) when you visit as you walk the route

Jedburgh Abbey -- Hawick (write in date of visit) - Selkirk Halliwells House Museum -- Melrose Abbey--
Dryburgh Abbey - Kelso Abbey (write in date of visit)

Name _____

Address _____

Name to appear on certificate _____

Date completed route _____

Comments on route (continue on a separate sheet of paper if wished)

Please post this page (a photocopy will be accepted) with a stamped self addressed envelope to Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service, Outdoor Access Team Regulatory Services, Council HQ Newtown St Boswells MELROSE TD6 0SA or email us with a scan of the page or other evidence of your walk to rangers@scotborders.gov.uk or show this completed page to staff at one of the above manned Abbeys or visitor information locations

Back cover Know the code before you go A5 panel(same as leaflets)