

Turn right in a short distance onto the B711 towards Hawick, then left after 1/2 mile (5) along the north bank of the River Teviot. Take a right turn off this minor road in a further 1/2 mile to skirt the north side of Wiltton Park and re-enter Hawick on Wiltton Park Road. Turn right again at the next two T junctions. The entrance to Upper Common Haugh car park and the end of the trail is then less than 1/4 mile away along Victoria Road, on the right hand side.

On reaching the cottages, carry straight on along a dirt track to a ford - use the footbridge a short distance downstream to cross the river. The bridge and path are rather narrow, so it is best to dismount and push until the track is regained on the far side of the river.

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Carry straight on at a crossroads, beyond which the road dips then rises again before making a steep and twisting descent down to the A7 at Branxholm Bridgend (care required). Turn left here (use the footway on the north side of the trunk road if preferred), then right and right again, just after crossing over the River Teviot into a lane leading to some farm cottages.

Turn right at the next T junction (2) onto the B711 then left at Borthaugh, about 1/2 mile along the B711, onto a dirt track leading to a ford over the Borthwick Water. Cross the river using a footbridge some yards downstream - it will be necessary to dismount here as the start of the path to the footbridge is awkward and the path is very narrow. Remount at the dirt track beyond the ford and continue straight on at some farm cottages along a tarred road.

Turn left out of the vehicular exit on the north side of the car park into Victoria Road, then left again, just after passing the park entrance, into Wiltton Park Road. Turn left in about 1/4 mile (just beyond another entrance to the park) (1), to follow the park boundary, and left once more at a T junction with the River Teviot, now close at hand on the left.

Turn right at a T junction immediately adjacent to the A7 trunk road (3). This marks the start of a 5 mile long section of hill road to Woodburn. The road climbs about 550 feet in 3 1/2 miles - (it's not continuous climbing, as the ascent is broken up by a couple of downhill sections) - to a summit just beyond the second of two gates across the road (remember to shut the gates after passing through).

There are some good views along this stretch, particularly from the first minor summit looking south-west to Upper Teviotdale, and from the final summit looking west to Craik Forest.

Beyond the summit (6m), which marks the end of any significant climbing on this trail, the roads drops quite steeply past the entrance to Chisholme House and Woodburn Farm, to cross the Borthwick Water - the river will be followed for much of the return to Hawick. Bear right at a junction just beyond the bridge (4), continue straight on at Burnfoot (ignoring a fork to the left) and reach a T junction at Robertson (5). Turn right towards Hawick.

The next 3 miles along the B711 give mostly easy going past Highchesters to Borthaugh where the outward route is rejoined. Turn left off the B711 at junction (2) beyond Borthaugh along the north bank of the River Teviot.

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Vertish Hill Loop - 7 m / 11 1/2 km

Roberton - 14 m / 22 1/2 km

Denholm - 14 1/2 m / 23 km

Local Cycling Trails

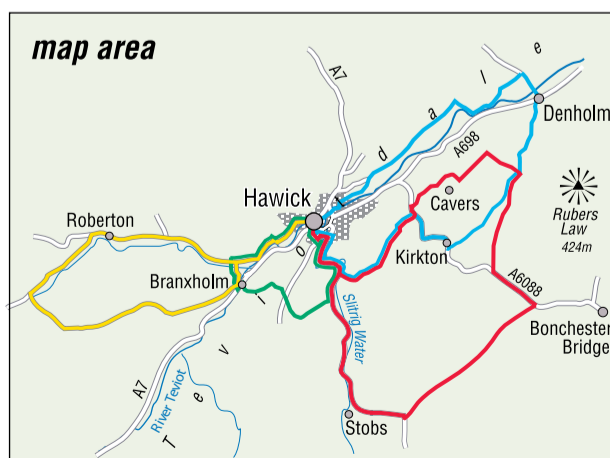
The starting point for the routes described in this leaflet is Upper Common Haugh car park, not far from the south end of the High Street, but on the opposite side of the River Teviot, adjacent to the A7 trunk road avoiding the town centre.

Four colour coded, signed routes are both described and illustrated on the map overleaf - for the most part, the routes keep to minor roads and family groups and inexperienced cyclists should be quite happy using them. Two of the trails use short sections of the A6088 road, but don't be deterred by the A classification as the road is usually fairly quiet.

As with most of the previous leaflets in this series, it is necessary to give a 'health warning' about the hilliness of the routes - the topography dictates that this will be the case - but there is a reward in the form of many fine views and exhilarating downhill runs.

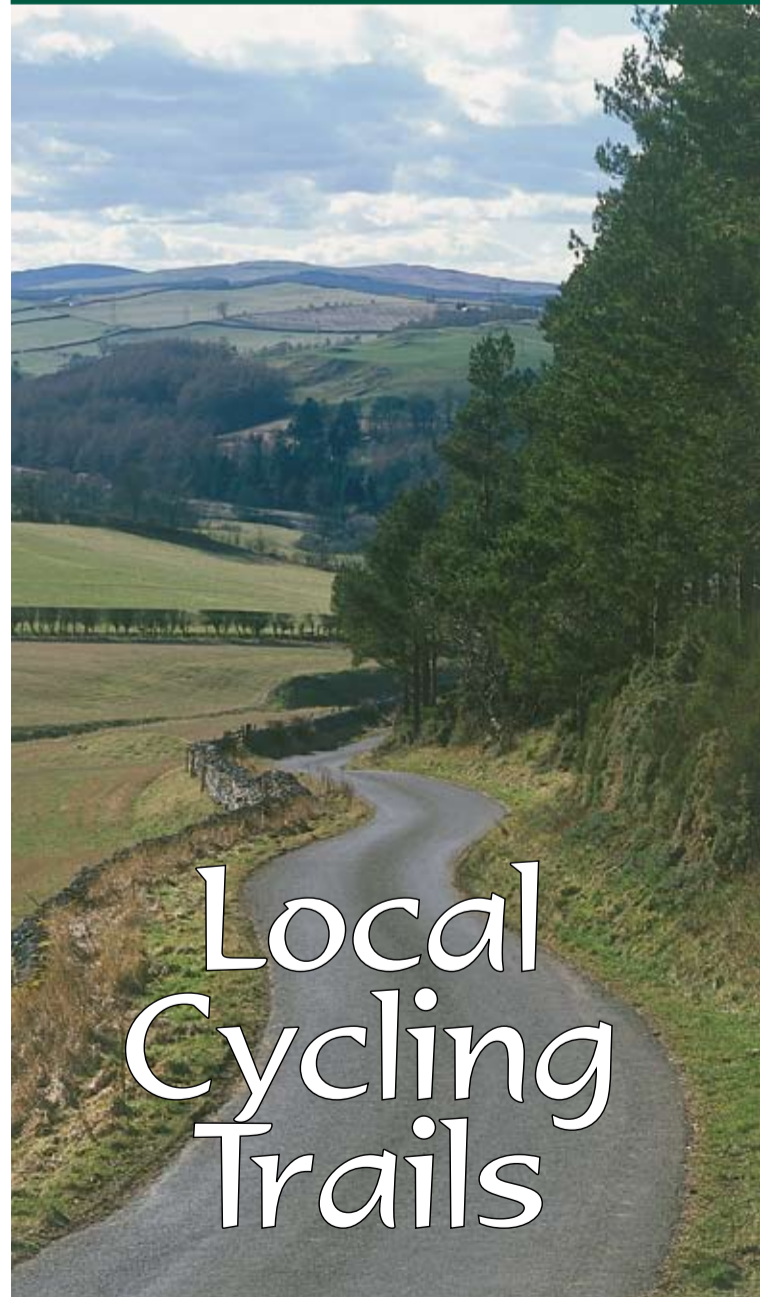
In addition to the four Trails described here, a slightly longer route of 20 miles can be followed by combining the blue and red trails, while combining the green and yellow trails gives a challenging route, in terms of ascent, 16 miles long.

The trails are described in one direction only - there is, of course no reason why they should not be tackled in the opposite directions to those recommended, but this must be done without the benefit of comprehensive signing.



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Hawick



Local Cycling Trails

The Scottish Borders
Scotland's leading short break destination

About 1/2 mile inside the 30mph limit, turn left over the Slitrig Water into Kirk Wynd, then bear left through Drumlanrig Square. Turn right at the top of the square into Beaconsfield Terrace, then right again at a T junction with Buccleugh St (A7). Turn left almost immediately into St Georges Lane and cross the Teviot for the final time.

Keep straight on along this very pleasant lane, ignoring two turnings on the right, to a summit near the entrance to Kaimend Farm, before making a steep, winding descent (care required) to meet the B6399 (7). Turn right for the final easy leg back into Hawick.

Alternatively, carry straight on at (5) and follow blue triangle signing to approach junction (6) from the opposite direction.

At the next junction (5), about 1/4 miles from Denholm, follow the main road round to the left, then turn right off it just beyond Whitriggs Farm. A fairly gradual climb leads to the summit of this road, beyond which there is a rapid descent to Kirkton. Turn right onto the A6088 then leave it after about 1 1/4 miles of winding descent at a left turn opposite a war memorial (6).

Turn right towards Denholm, which lies just a short climb beyond the next crossing of the Teviot. Turn right and then left in the village to skirt the east side of the green and reach a T junction with the main A698 road (6m). Turn right, then left at the west end of Main Street into a minor road heading south-west.

Farm and descend to a cross roads (7).

Keep straight on for the next 2 1/2 undulating miles, ignoring a turning to the right and two minor roads coming in on the left. Turn right at Knowetownhead shortly beyond a steep descent through trees. The road then follows the north bank of the River Teviot for some distance, before bearing left to make a steepish but fairly short climb away from the river. Pass Hassenden Bank

Cottages (8). Turn right to leave the town behind.

At the east end of Duke Street (7) dismount to re-cross the river. Turn right along Mansfield Road, then left at a roundabout into Hamilton Road. This road climbs fairly steeply away from the river, then winds through an industrial estate to a T junction at Burnfoot

Cross the River Teviot by a footbridge and turn left at the far end down a ramp into Teviot Road. Turn left shortly (probably between parked cars) onto a tarred path following the river. Carry straight ahead along the path until it merges with Laidlaw Terrace (1) and do likewise at the next two road junctions, still following the river downstream.

Leave the car park on foot by the main pedestrian exit on the east side and cross Albert Road to a path on the far side - you can now start cycling.

Turn right onto the B6399 towards Hawick. The road soon starts to descend, steeply at first before easing somewhat at Stobs where it enters the valley of the Slitrig Water, which is followed all the way back to Hawick. The outward route is rejoined shortly before re-entering the town at (2) and is followed back to Upper Common Haugh.

Cavers and Stobs - 19 m / 30 km

Leave the car park on the south side over Lawson footbridge, which leads into St. Georges Lane. Turn right at the far end into Buccleuch St., then first left into Buccleuch Place. Turn left at the top of this road into Drumlanrig Square and bear right through the square into Kirk Wynd to reach a T junction (1), immediately beyond the bridge over the Slitrig Water. Turn right and leave Hawick on the B6399, following the river upstream.

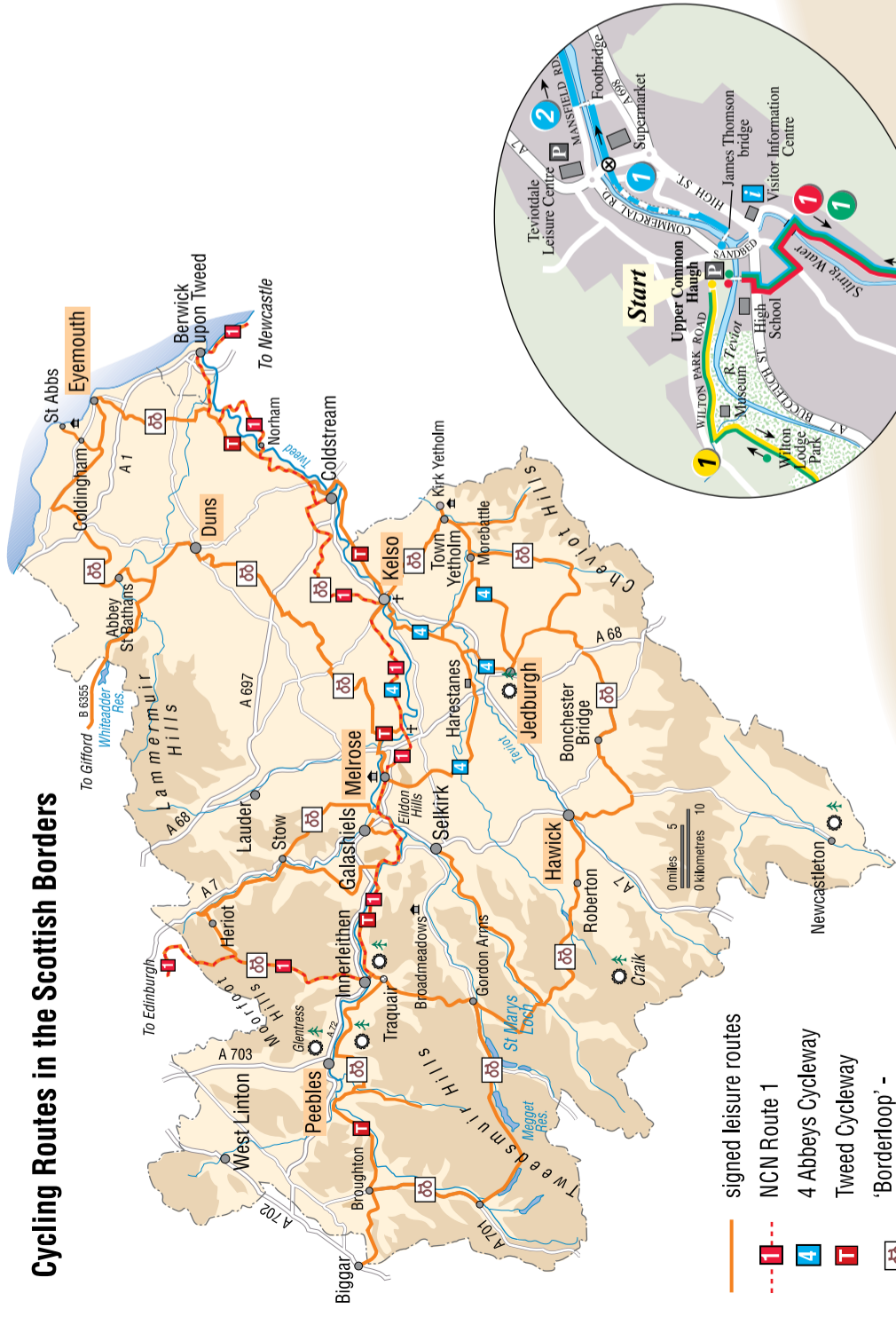
About 1/2 mile after leaving the 30mph zone, take the first turning on the left into a narrow lane (2), which climbs steeply up a wooded dean before making a long descent past Ormiston to the war memorial on the A6088 at Cauldmill (3) (ignore a private road diverging to the right on this section).

Turn left onto the A6088, leaving it in less than 1/4 mile by turning right. A short dip over a burn is followed by a mile of intermittent climbing - a wide view opens out over Teviotdale on the left beyond the distinctive Cavers church. The road bends right at the summit then takes a sharp left hand bend on the following descent, at which point Rubers Law comes into view to the south-east. Turn right at the bottom of the following long straight (4).

The road continues to descend past East Middle Farm, followed by a rather steeper ascent to the next minor summit, beyond which the next junction is reached. Turn right here, now heading south-west past Whitriggs Farm. A long, gradual ascent ends when the A6088 is encountered for the second time - turn left here (5).

The next mile is something of a switchback to Hawthornside, where the main road bears left - turn right off it into a minor road heading south-west. This climbs fairly gradually for a mile or so, and gives extensive views on the left. Beyond the summit it is generally easy cycling for the next 2 1/2 miles through open hill country to a T junction with the B6399 (6). The most interesting prospect on this section is straight ahead with the road heading almost directly towards the shapely summit of The Pike (463m).

Turn right onto the B6399 towards Hawick. The road soon starts to descend, steeply at first before easing somewhat at Stobs where it enters the valley of the Slitrig Water, which is followed all the way back to Hawick. The outward route is rejoined shortly before re-entering the town at (2) and is followed back to Upper Common Haugh.



- Green route: Vertish Hill loop - 7 miles / 11.5 kms
- Yellow route: Roberton - 14 miles / 22.5 kms
- Blue route: Denholm - 14 1/2 miles / 23 kms
- Red route: Cavers and Stobs - 19 miles / 30 kms
- 1 Colour coded route directions - refer to text for details

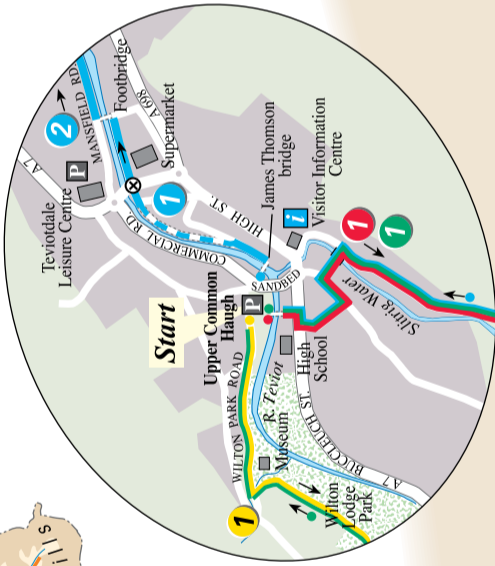
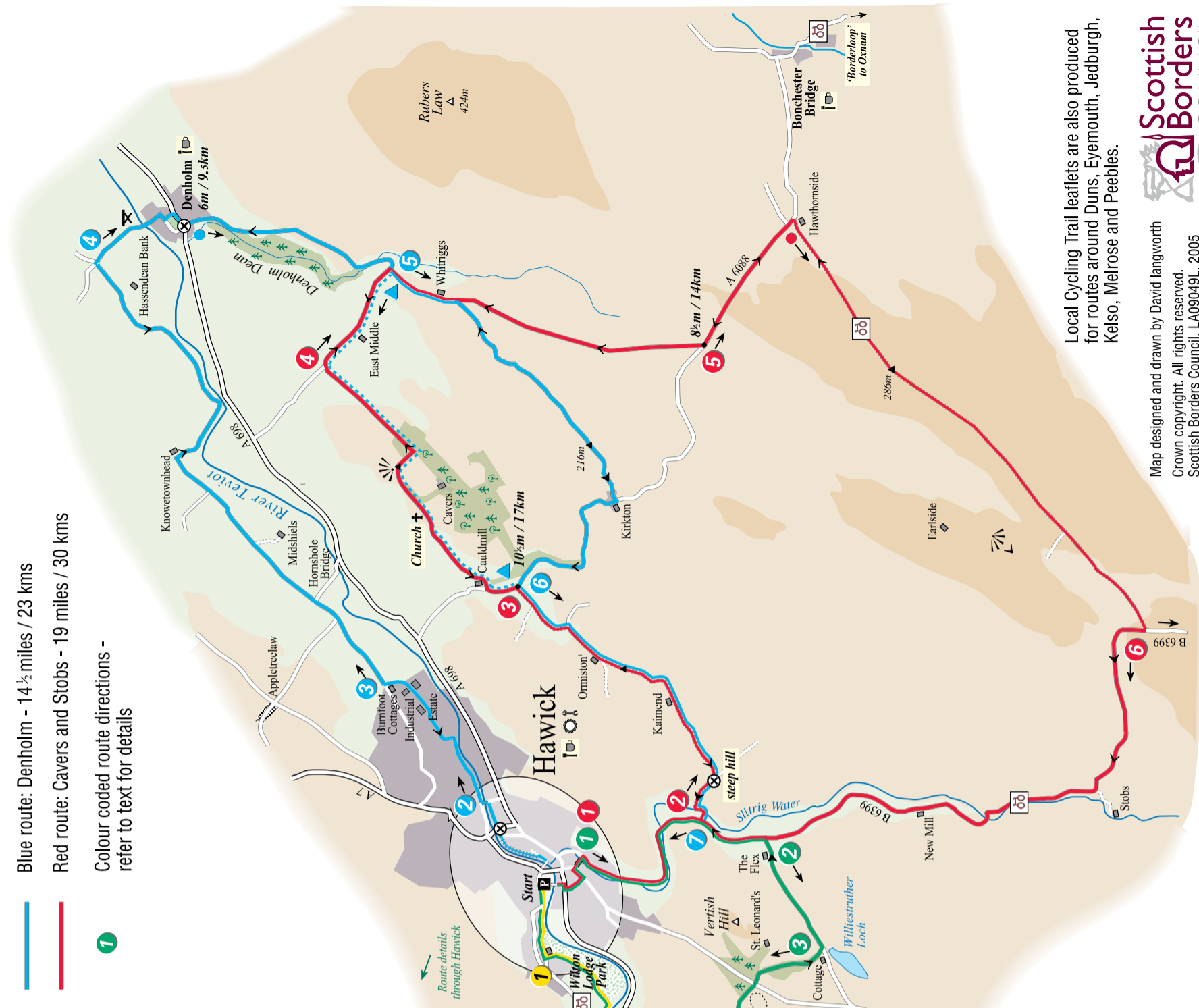
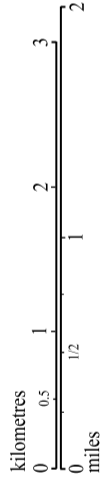
- signed leisure routes
- 1 NCN Route 1
- 4 4 Abbeys Cycleway
- 1 Tweed Cycleway
- 1 'Borderloop' - Scottish Borders Cycle Tour
- 1 Local Cycling Trails
- 1 Melrose
- 1 Mountain Bike Forest Trails

Key to symbols

- Route information:**
- traffic-free section of route
 - / Viewpoint
 - ▲ Summit (Height in metres)
 - > Gradient/Steep Gradient (arrows point downhill)
 - ⊗ Caution
 - 3m 5km Distance from start of route
- Facilities:**
- ⊗ Picnic site
 - I Refreshments
 - P Car Parking
 - i Visitor information
 - ⊗ Cycle shop: hire/repair
- Other routes:**
- 1 'Borderloop'

Cycle Shops:
 Hawick Cycle Centre
 Mart Street
 Tel 01450 376033

Teviot Cycles
 11 Oliver Place
 Tel 01450 377611



Local Cycling Trail leaflets are also produced for routes around Duns, Eyemouth, Jedburgh, Kelso, Melrose and Peebles.

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