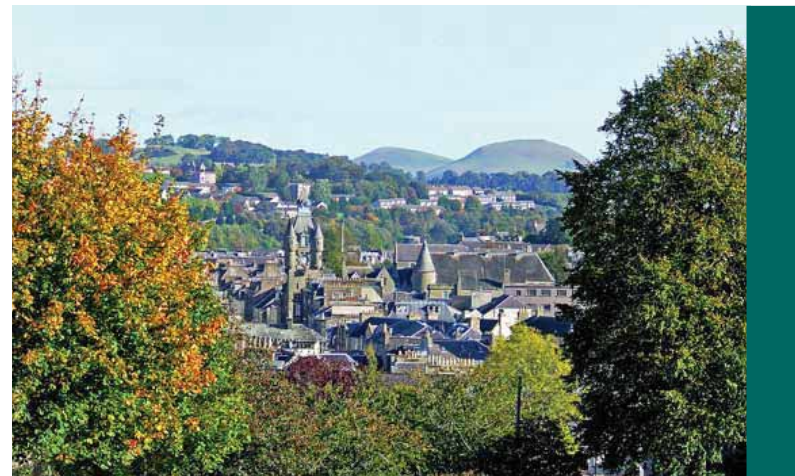




Hawick Town Trail

paths

around Hawick



You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

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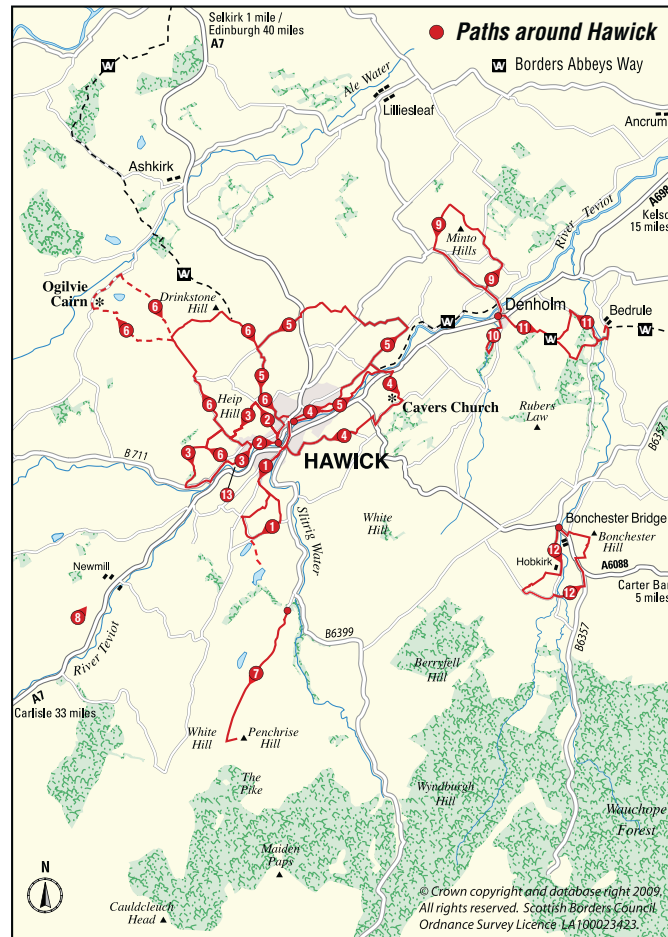
*Text by Scottish Borderpaths and
Scottish Borders Council.
Photographs by Scottish Borderpaths,
Scottish Borders Council, Keith Robeson,
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Lodge Park.
Maps by Wayside Maps and
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Our Scottish Borders
Your destination

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Hawick Horse

Introduction

This booklet describes 13 routes starting from Hawick, Denholm, Bonchester Bridge and Teviothead. The routes are particularly suitable for walkers. Other users may be able to use some sections of these routes although other sections may not be suitable as there may be steps or stiles in place.

The countryside in the area features rolling hills and beautiful river valleys hence the routes described range from short strolls along the River Teviot, following the Borders Abbeys Way, to hill walks. Each route has a summary containing distance, estimated time to complete, start and finish points and an indication of the terrain to be expected. The route descriptions contain directions with wildlife and historical information. Further information is available from Tourist Information Centres. The booklet is a reprint of the original booklet with paths developed by Borderpaths, a partnership project with European funding. We hope that you enjoy these routes and do not encounter any difficulties en route. However, if you do come across a problem whilst on these routes, please report it to Scottish Borders Council Access team on 01835 825060

Hawick and surrounding Villages

Hawick, dating back to the 600s, is the largest town in the Scottish Borders. The town sits in the valley of the River Teviot, and the water from the river and its tributaries, such as the Slitrig Water, formerly powered up to 50 textile mills in the town. Some of these have now ceased production, but some do remain and Hawick is noted for its production of high quality textiles, especially cashmere. Specialist retailers can be found with offers of beautiful garments for you to purchase as a memento of your visit.

Heart of Hawick

Tower Mill, Heritage Hub and Borders Textile Towerhouse are all situated in the centre of the town at the end of the High Street.

www.heartofhawick.co.uk

Tower Mill

The Tourist Information Centre is sited here. A former weaving mill has been converted into a cinema/ theatre, café/ bar, visitor centre and exhibition space. The A-listed 'Tower Mill' building is situated over the Slitrig Water and features a glass terraced seating area, 14 foot victorian water-wheel and under-water cameras so visitors can view the nearby otters, herons, bats and salmon whilst relaxing with a cup of coffee and a bite to eat.

Borders Textile Towerhouse

The heritage and future of Borders textiles is presented within Drumlanrigs Tower, a restored 16th century towerhouse.

Heritage Hub

Formerly the Corn Exchange, now the Scottish Borders archive and local history centre providing research and archive services, including information for those researching their family tree.



Lauries Bridge, Wilton Lodge Park

Wilton Lodge Park

Located to the west of the town by the River Teviot, extends to over 40 hectares. The Park offers a wide range of facilities, from sports areas, floral displays, tree-lined walks, picnic sites, waterfall, walled garden, glass house, aviary, and a museum housing a wide variety of permanent displays of local themes, natural sciences and militaria, as well as visual art.

Neighbouring Villages

Some of the routes also start from the villages of Denholm, Bonchester Bridge, Newmill and Teviothead. Each has its own character and, is worth exploring further.

Events

Hawick Common Riding is held in June and is a major event not to be missed. It is a wonderful sight as up to 300 horses and riders follow the cornet to mark the boundaries of the town's common lands. Other events include Hawick Summer Festival and the Reivers Festival.

Toilets and Parking

Public toilets in Hawick are situated in Howegate, Common Haugh Car Park, Cross Wynd, Volunteer Park and Wilton Lodge Park. Toilets are also available at Dean Road in Denholm.

Waymarking and Maps

The walks described in this booklet are not all fully waymarked. An appropriate map should be used in conjunction with this booklet in particular for hill routes.

Routes in this booklet are covered by the following Ordnance Survey maps

- 1:50 000 Landranger 79 Hawick and Eskdale
- 1:25 000 Explorer 331 Teviotdale South

Scottish Borders Festival of Walking

The Scottish Borders Festival of Walking, a week long celebration of walking and the countryside, was the first of its kind in Scotland and has been held annually since 1995. It usually takes place in September and the host town rotates to give a different choice of walks each year. Further details are available from Visit Scotland.



"Walk It" is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders and aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. Our walks are usually short and easy though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients. If you are just starting to become physically active, it is advisable to see your doctor before you start. Suitable routes are marked with the Walk It logo. For information telephone 01835 825060

General Advice

Before setting off on longer walks, always check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly. Remember that weather conditions can change rapidly. Remember that hot weather, causing sunburn and/ or dehydration, can be just as debilitating as rain or snow.

On longer hill walks you should always wear or carry good waterproofs, proper walking boots, windproof clothing, and take food and drink with you. These provisions may not be necessary on the shorter, low level walks, but a light waterproof and refreshments are still worth taking, just in case. When out on the hills, a map and compass should be carried to aid navigation.

Take great care when walking on country roads.

- **Pavements or paths** should be used if provided.
- **If there is no pavement or path**, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light. Keep close to the side of the road. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend (so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you). Cross back after the bend.
- **Help other road users to see you.** Wear or carry something light coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions.

Golf Course

Route 1 Vertish Hill partly goes through Hawick Golf Course. While using the path the Scottish Outdoor Access Code should be noted. Please be considerate to the golf players by allowing them to take shots before crossing fairways, by being quiet and still and keeping dogs under close control (e.g. on a lead) at all times.



Livestock

With the exceptions of paths 13 and 10 (Wilton Lodge Park and Denholm Dean), all of the routes in this booklet pass through livestock farming areas. Please remember that the farmer's livelihood may depend on the rearing and sale of livestock, and always act responsibly. Dogs can be a particular concern for farmers during lambing time (March – May) and when cows are calving (Spring & Autumn).

Dogs therefore should not be taken into fields where there are young livestock. This includes all young livestock such as lambs, calves and foals. In more open countryside where lambs are present, keep your dog on a short lead.

Disturbance at this time can separate young livestock from their mothers leaving them cold, hungry and exposed to predators.

Dogs should not be taken into fields of cattle when they have calves, as the cows see a dog as a threat and may attack it. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. During the bird breeding season (April – June) keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in ground nesting areas. Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, keeping a safe distance from stock and watching them carefully, you should experience little or no difficulty. Please leave gates as you find them and ensure that if you

have to open a gate, you close it securely behind you. Thank you for your cooperation, which will help to ensure that these walks are available for those who follow in your footsteps in future years.

Health Warning!

Germs from animals can cause serious human illness.

Stay safe from diseases when out in the countryside by:

- Washing hands with soap & water (or use wet wipes) after visiting the toilet, after activities, touching animals and before handling, cooking and eating food
- Taking care to avoid spreading animal faeces on footwear
- Avoiding camping or having a picnic on land which has recently been used for grazing animals
- Not drinking untreated water from rivers, streams and lochs
- Avoiding tick bites; cover legs when walking through long vegetation

Contact the Public Health Department for more information 01896 82 5560

Access in Scotland

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code came into effect in February 2005. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act establishes a statutory right of responsible access to land and inland waters for outdoor recreation, crossing land, and some educational and commercial purposes. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives detailed guidance on your responsibilities when exercising access rights and if you are managing land and water. The Act sets out where and when access rights apply. The Code defines how access rights should be exercised responsibly.



Know the Code before you go... Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors! Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The key things are:

When you're in the outdoors:

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

When you're managing the outdoors:

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

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or telephoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



Route 1

Vertish Hill and Williestruther Loch

Start and finish: Common Haugh car park, Hawick.
Distance: 8km / 5 miles.
Time: Allow 2 1/2 hours.
Terrain: Roads, tracks and paths. Some wet ground. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

1. Head towards the town centre. Cross the Albert Bridge over the River Teviot. After the roundabout, turn right up Howegate and follow this road up past the Motte. This huge mound once supported a Norman tower. You can climb the steps to the top for a fine view of the town.
2. Continue and after you reach the brow of the hill head down to the golf course. Turn left before the golf course then right before a housing area on the left. Follow the track uphill and pass through the gate ahead where the track enters a wood. Where the path splits, take the left-hand fork and continue, crossing a series of boardwalks.
3. At the end of the path you will reach a hunt gate, pass through here and follow the right-hand edge of the field. You are quite high up here and have a good view of the valley of the Slitrig Water, leading off to Newcastleton.
4. At the end of this field go through the gate and head down the hard track to the farm steading at The Flex. Follow the track through the steading and onto the minor road. Please note that this is a busy working farm; be aware of moving machinery and livestock. Once on the road, turn right and head uphill, passing Flex House on your left hand side.



5. When you reach the road off to the right you have an option to extend the walk. To do this, head a little further up the road to reach Williestruther Loch on your left. Turn left here and follow the track down to Acreknowe Reservoir. Both of these sheets of water have good bird life including ducks and swans. Return the same way back to the road junction to continue this route.
6. Follow the road as it winds past St Leonard's Farm (site of the hut where the riders gather during the Hawick Common Riding each summer). When you come to a break in the trees on the right, turn in here and follow the break to the edge of the golf course. Follow the waymarked route around the course to the highest point on the hill. Take great care when walking around the course.



Waymarker on Vertish Hill

7. You are now on Vertish Hill, and on a clear day you will get excellent views of the surrounding countryside. From here, follow the waymarked route with the wood on your right until the path descends through gorse to follow another wood this time on your left. At the end of this wood is a fountain.
8. Head straight down the hill towards another wooded area by going to the back of the 11th tee. Pass through the gap in the wood and follow the path round to the left; this meets up with the outward path. From here retrace your steps into the town and back to the Common Haugh.



Path by Whitlaw Wood near Vertish Hill



Mute Swans and Cygnets

Route 2

Heip Hill

Start and finish: Common Haugh car park, Hawick.

Distance: 6km/4 miles.

Time: Allow 2 hours.

Terrain: Road, path and open ground. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

1. Leave the car park at the car entrance by the toilets, cross the road, and continue up the hill. Turn sharp left into Langlands Road, then first right into Rosalee Brae and up a steep hill.
2. Where the road bends left, go through the gate and continue ahead on the path by trees, the remains of old hedges. Cross another stile and go uphill, half right, on a clear path. Head for the kissing gate at the top. There is an expanding view over the town with Rubers Law in the distance.
3. Go briefly left on the track and then right on a signed path, still climbing. Go through a kissing gate and walk uphill beside the stone dyke. Go through another kissing gate, cross a stile at the electricity sub-station and at its access gate, turn left and go through a kissing gate onto Heip Hill.
4. Follow the path across the hill slope, sloping downhill towards a stone dyke, then walk along beside the dyke with a gorse-covered slope to your right. There are often cattle on the hill but if you pass quietly they should not disturb you.
5. Cross a dyke at a gate by using the stile or gate. Turn left along the dyke for a short distance and then, turn right on a track. Go up the slope and



keep the fence on your left to go round a large barn, cross the stile and turn right on the track down to Dean Burn.

6. Cross the bridge and follow the track uphill and round to the right and out to a minor road. Go through the gate and turn left along the road, going downhill.
7. At the junction with Overhall Road, cross the road and turn left on the path under the trees. Continue down to the road at a junction, cross the road, go over the bridge and turn right on the road then right again on a path down steps past a lovely small waterfall and into Wilton Lodge Park.
8. Follow the path by the burn past the imposing War Memorial, with Hawick Museum and Scott Gallery on the left. Keep ahead to reach the River Teviot and turn left on the riverside path.



River Teviot, Wilton Lodge Park

9. Enjoy the path beside the river. Pass a footbridge, keeping on the same side of the river. At the park gates, go ahead on the road to return to the car park.

Route 3

Heip Hill and Borthaugh

Start and finish: Common Haugh car park, Hawick.

Distance: 10km/6 miles.

Time: Allow 3 hours.

Terrain: Road, path and open ground. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

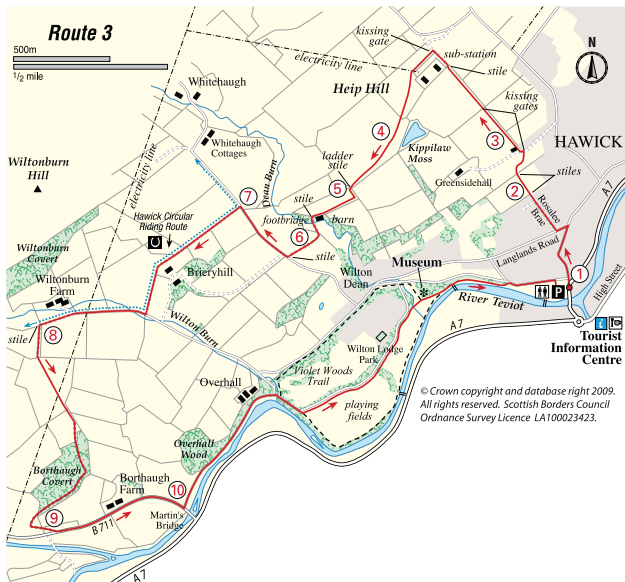
Toilets: At the start.

- 1-6. Follow the directions for Route 2 as far as its point 6, but on reaching the minor road turn right.
7. In about 300 metres, turn left onto the track (Double Dykes) with its riding trail signs. Follow this track to another minor road and turn right towards Wiltonburn Farm.



Borthaugh Covert

8. Pass the access road to Wiltonburn Farm and in a further 90 metres, cross the stile and turn left through a gate. Follow the track uphill and after passing through another gate, go diagonally to your left across the field to meet a track which



takes you towards the wood, known as Borthaugh Covert. Go through the gate into the woodland, follow the track as it winds round to the right along the bottom of the wood towards Borthaugh Farm.

- Where the track forks, keep right and continue along the bottom of the wood and over a stile into a field. Follow the track straight ahead to the electricity pylons where you double back sharply to the left to meet the B711 road at a gate. Turn left and follow this road down to Martin's Bridge.

- Do not cross the river, but instead turn left and follow the minor road along the north bank of the Teviot. After about a mile, bear right across a small bridge over the Wilton Burn and follow the road along the left side of Wilton Lodge Park, passing the Walled Gardens on your left. Prior to reaching the road junction at Wilton Dean, turn right down steps, by a waterfall, into Wilton Lodge Park. Walk back into the town past the museum.

Route 4

Hornshole, Ormiston and Cavers

Start and finish: Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick.
Distance: 10km / 6 miles.
Time: Allow 3 hours.
Terrain: Roads and good paths. Walkit route 7km / 4 miles 12 hours, return is on rough path.

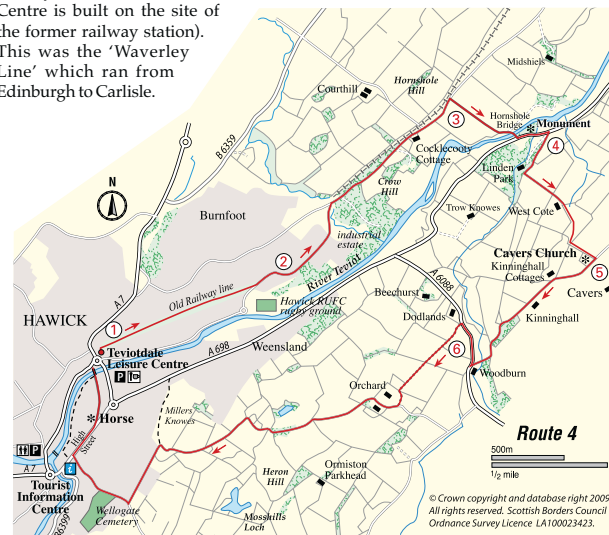
walkit

Shorter version of this route is 7km / 4 miles, 2 hours return is on rough path.

- Follow the path along the line of a former railway (the Teviotdale Leisure Centre is built on the site of the former railway station). This was the 'Waverley Line' which ran from Edinburgh to Carlisle.



Cavers Church





Hornshole Bridge

2. Follow the pathway until it links on the right with the road at Hamilton Road. Cross to the south footpath on the road. Below to the right is Mansfield Park, the home of Hawick Rugby Football Club. Follow the road to its junction with Burnfoot Road, turn right and follow this minor road east, passing the charmingly-named Cocklecooty Cottage.
3. Continue along this minor road to a junction, where you turn right and descend on the road to Hornshole Bridge. After crossing the bridge over the River Teviot, fork left, passing a monument commemorating the battle fought in this area in 1514, which is more famously marked by the 'Horse' monument in Hawick itself.

walkit

For a shorter version of this walk return from Hornshole Bridge by the Borders Abbey Way.

4. Cross the A698 with care and turn left along it for about 100m. Then turn right up a track, the start of which is on the left of the driveway leading to Linden Park. In about 250 metres swing left, still uphill, to the farm road at Westcote. Keeping the farm

on your right, leave the track, enter a field by way of a gate and go downhill, bearing right at the bottom. Continue uphill for a short distance and after crossing a stile by two adjacent gates, walk uphill along the field edge to the minor road beside Cavers Church, a beautiful early 19th century building in a commanding position with a grand view over the town.

5. Turn right and go along the minor road for about half a mile to reach the A6098 at Woodburn. Turn right and follow the road for about 200 metres, then cross with care and take the minor road on the left.
6. Follow this road to Orchard, where it makes a half-circle round the houses. Follow the road right and up the hill, with excellent views down across the town and the valley of the Teviot. The road goes round several sharp bends before reaching a junction. Turn right and walk down past Wellogate Cemetery into the town centre. Turn right and walk along the High Street past the Horse monument and across the river to return to the Leisure Centre.

Route 5

Clarilaw and Boonraw

Start and finish: Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick.

Distance: 11km/7 miles.

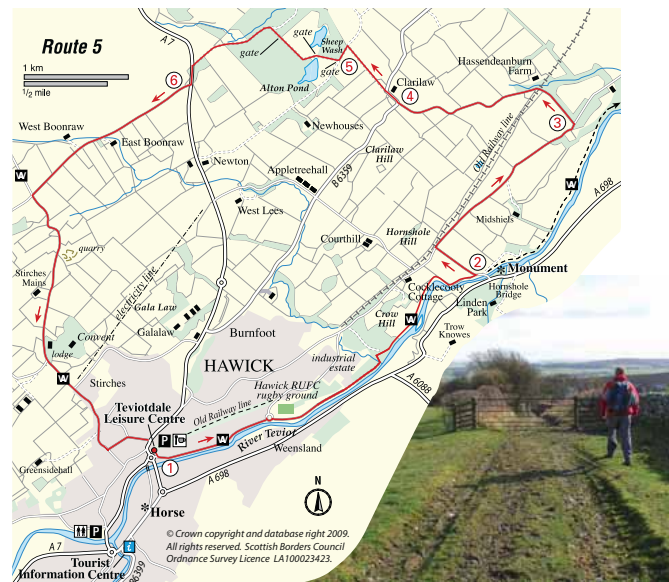
Time: Allow 3 1/2-4 hours.

Terrain: Road and path.

1. Follow the roadside pavement alongside the River Teviot and follow it east for about a kilometre to a roundabout. Keep straight on with the road behind Mansfield Park, home of Hawick RFC.

When the road ends, continue along the track and then path beside the river, for a further 1.5km to Hornshole Bridge. The path can be muddy in places. You are following signs for the Borders Abbeys Way.

2. A short diversion over the bridge to the right will enable you to view the Hornshole Monument (see Route 4). To continue, however, turn left and go up the minor road to the T-junction. Turn right and follow the road, parallel to the old railway for about 1.5km.



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Path near Clarilaw

- At a T-junction, turn left and follow the tree-lined lane up to Hassendean, passing over the old railway.
- Continue with the road round several bends to Clarilaw. Briefly join the B6359 but where this road turns sharply right, go straight on up a track, still climbing (Hawick Riding Route signs). There are good views back across the valley of the Teviot to Rubers Law.
- At a track junction, turn left (the Riding Route goes right here). At the end of the small wood in 200 metres, turn right through a gate. Follow this track through another gate past Alton Pond and continue round the field edge and through a third gate into the wood. At a junction of tracks, turn left. When the track reaches the A7 road at a gate, cross this busy road with great care, turn left and in 100 metres turn right on the minor road for Boonraw.
- Follow the road through East and West Boonraw farms and about 1.5km after leaving the A7, turn left at a crossroads. Continue down this road, passing the convent of St Andrews, to the Stirches area. The road continues downhill into the town. To return to the Leisure Centre, turn



River Teviot

left into Wellfield Road and at its end, turn right down Havelock Street. Cross the A7 with care to the Leisure Centre opposite.



Hornshole Bridge

Route 6

Calaburn and Drinkstone Hill

Start and finish: Common Haugh car park, Hawick.

Distance: 11km/6.5 miles.

Time: Allow 3 hours.

Note: The extension to the Ogilvie Cairn adds a further 6.5km/4 miles (2 hours).

Terrain: Road, track and open ground. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

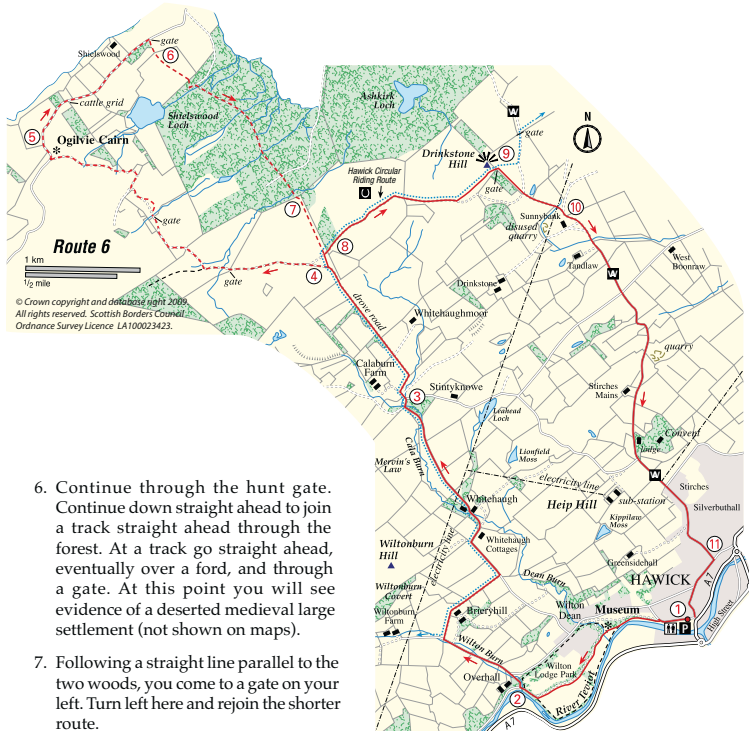
- From the Common Haugh car park, turn left into Victoria Road, then go through the park gates. Follow the path for 250 metres past the Museum and Art Gallery. Continue over the small footbridge, passing the statue of the famous motorcyclist Jimmy Guthrie. Continue along this path to the end of the park.
- Turn right onto the road. Cross Wilton Burn by the road bridge. Turn right. Follow the road uphill. Turn left to the road signposted for Wiltonburn and in a further 600 metres, turn right onto a track, picking up the blue signs for the Hawick Riding Route. In 600 metres turn left on a minor road. Follow this road through Whitehaugh, climbing gently, and continue to the Calaburn Farm road-end.
- Keep following the riding route signs, turning right onto the old drove road, and still gradually climbing with an expanding view behind you. Follow the drove road for 1km to a point where it goes right. At this point the extension to the route goes left, as described below. For the shorter route, resume at point 8 below.
- For the longer route, turn left (west) where the main track goes right heading for a gate ahead. This path is not well defined. Use an O.S. map and compass to navigate this route. After gates, you join a good track which is easy to follow and leads all the way to the Ogilvie Cairn. W.H.Ogilvie was a well-known and much admired local writer and poet whose work perfectly captures the character of the area, and deserves to be better known.
- From the cairn, turn right along the road for 1.5km until you reach a wood. Pass the wood. Enter the field on the right at the first gate and walk up the side of the fence to a hunt gate. Go through and head straight ahead to the edge of the forest.



Borders Abbeys Way near Drinkstone Hill



Drinkstone Hill



6. Continue through the hunt gate. Continue down straight ahead to join a track straight ahead through the forest. At a track go straight ahead, eventually over a ford, and through a gate. At this point you will see evidence of a deserted medieval large settlement (not shown on maps).
7. Following a straight line parallel to the two woods, you come to a gate on your left. Turn left here and rejoin the shorter route.
8. Follow the track, using the riding route signs, heading east over open ground until you can see the triangulation pillar on Drinkstone Hill. Leave the track to continue to the pillar, at 318m, which commands a fine view.
9. Go through a gate at the corner of the wood and turn right, joining a track in about 200 metres. You are now on the route of the Borders Abbeys Way.

10. The track becomes a road and passes the access roads to Drinkstone and Tandlaw Farms. Continue down this road, walking downhill past Convent to reach Stirches.
11. At the bottom of the hill, turn right into Princes Street and follow it along for about 400 metres back to the Common Haugh car park.

Route 7

Penchrise Hill

Start and finish: Stobs. See text below for directions to the start.

Distance: 8km / 5 miles.

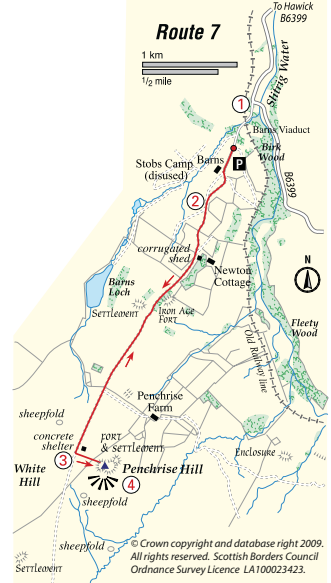
Time: Allow 2 hours.

Terrain: Tracks and open ground. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

Toilets: Hawick.



Penchrise Hill from Newton Hill Fort



1. To reach the start of the walk, take the B6399 Newcastleton road out of Hawick for about 5km. Where the road bends sharply left to cross the Slitrig Water, go straight ahead on a minor road. Travel uphill for about 800 metres and after passing over a cattle grid, park on the left at the side of the track. Looking across the valley you can see a wooden hut - one of the last remains of Stobs Military Camp.
2. Follow the track uphill past Bams House. The track continues to climb steadily for 800 metres to a corrugated shed on your left. About 300 metres further on there is a sparsely wooded area on your left, and directly behind this is the clearly marked Iron Age fort. Continue uphill, past the farm track to Penchrise Farm.
3. Before reaching the high point between White Hill and Penchrise, turn left off the track at a concrete shelter and continue via the gate to the summit of Penchrise Hill, a superb viewpoint for the whole of the surrounding area. There was also an Iron Age fort on this site.
4. Return to the track and turn right. Retrace your steps and return to the start.

Route 8

Newmill from Teviothead

Start: Teviothead, on A7 13km/8 miles south-west of Hawick.

Finish: Newmill, also on A7. Regular bus service back to Teviothead.

Distance: 12km/7.5 miles linear.

Terrain: Path, track and open hill. Much rough, wet ground. Boots and full hillwalking gear essential.

Toilets and Refreshments: Inn at Newmill.

1. This is a rough hill walk, not waymarked in any way, and is not described in detail here, nor is a map provided. It is suitable only for experienced walkers who can navigate with the OS map and compass, but is included as it gives excellent views and links two interesting places on the A7.
2. Park tidily at Teviothead or off the A7 on the minor road to Falnash, being very careful not to block any accesses or gateways. Go up the track past Dryden, diverting to look at the Scott Riddell Monument. Return to the track and continue uphill to Dryden Fell.

3. Carry on, heading north to High Seat with expansive views over the surrounding countryside. From High Seat, descend to the west side of Broadlee Loch to pick up a cross-track, and head east. The track is soon crossed by the ancient earthwork known as the Catrail, believed to date from the 6th century AD.
4. Continue with the path until a minor road is met at GR 418113, and turn right. Pass Branxholme Wester and Easter Lochs, both of which hold good birdlife. Leave the road at GR 439119 and turn right on a track which leads over Branxholme Braes to the village of Newmill, again with good views along the way.
5. There is an inn at Newmill, and a good bus service back to Teviothead, where you should not miss the Celtic Jewellery workshop and exhibition. Near the church at Teviothead is a memorial to Johnnie Armstrong, one of the most famous of the Border Reivers of the past.

Route 9

The Minto Hills

Start and finish: Denholm Village Green.

Distance: 8km/5 miles.

Terrain: Road, track and path. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

1. To start the walk follow the B6405 and Borders Abbays Way signs from the north-east corner of the green. Cross the bridge over the Teviot. From here head straight along the road to the

crossroads. Turn right here and go uphill along the minor road to the pretty village of Minto. Go through the village between the houses and the golf course and head towards the hills. You pass Minto Church, built in Gothic style in 1830.

2. Once out of the village, follow the road round to the right. In a further 200 metres you come to a gate and stile on the left. Cross the stile and follow the track that crosses the field. Cross the next stile and follow the track to the saddle between the two hills.



Minto Hills

3. From here you can climb up to the left to reach the summit of the higher of the two Minto Hills at 276m, and on a fine day, you can enjoy wide views over the Border countryside.
4. Retrace your steps back to the saddle and cross the stile by the gate. You could also climb the lower hill, but if you do so, please retrace your steps to the saddle as this hill is very steep on its northern face. Go around the side of the hill to the north-west. Cross the stile and aim for a wood across the field to reach a gate.
5. Cross the stile here, follow the track beside the wood and head for the old bridge over the disused railway line. Before the bridge, cross the stile on the left and walk down the bank on to the line. This is the former Waverley Line that ran from Edinburgh to Carlisle via Hawick.
6. Turn left on the line and follow it along, crossing two stiles, until you reach the old bridge over the road.
7. Before the road turn right on a track then turn left on the road, passing under the bridge and return to Denholm.



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Route 10

Denholm Dean and Village

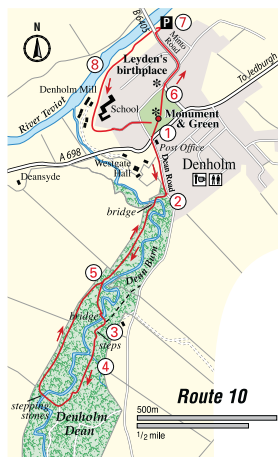
Start and finish: Denholm Village Green.

Distance: 3km/2 miles.

Terrain: Road and paths. Boots recommended for burn crossing and wet stretches.

walkit

1. Go to the west end of the Village Green and cross over the road carefully, noting as you do so the Text House with its enigmatic message. Turn left up Westgate and pass the Post Office on the left and Westgate Hall on your right. Westgate Hall is a 17th century building with its lintel dated 1663.
2. Head straight on up Dean Road for 200 metres until you see a gate on your right. Go through the gate. Cross the stile and follow the path down the steps and across the bridge which spans the Dean Burn. Continue along the path as it rises above the water; when it forks, go left and downhill towards the burn again. Cross a second bridge, climb steps and follow the path along through the trees. The path climbs more steps to reach a wider path.



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3. For a shorter walk avoiding the burn crossing, continue up the path to the left to reach the road. Turn left and return to the village go to point 5.



Denholm Dean



Leyden's Birthplace

4. Turn right here and follow the path back to the burn, where you can cross at low water by way of a series of stones.
5. Follow the path as it rises to the other side of the valley where you will reach another wider path. Go right here, passing a huge old beech tree with multiple trunks which has many names and initials carved on it. The path continues beside fields with a view across Denholm to the Minto Hills. Finally it descends to bring you back to the original route at the fork. Turn left and return to the road. Turn left on the road. Retrace your steps back into the village of Denholm and the Green. There is an interpretation board on the south side of the Green with interesting historical information.
6. The Leyden Monument is prominent on the village green. Erected in 1861, it commemorates Dr John Leyden, who was born in Denholm in 1775. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University, and went to India to work in this field. However, he became fascinated by the culture of the East and was eventually said to be able to understand no fewer than 34 languages and dialects. He died of fever in Java in 1811. Leyden was also an accomplished poet and helped Sir Walter Scott gather material for the Border Minstrelsy. Cross the Green and head for the north-east corner, following Minto Road as it goes round a sharp left-hand bend. Note the thatched cottage on the left, which was Leyden's birthplace.
7. Before you reach the bridge spanning the River Teviot, go right into the small parking area and follow the path which leads left, under the bridge on to the river bank, passing the stone abutments of another, long-gone bridge. Here you may see heron, goosander and mallards. Continue along the path which rises to pass at the back of the houses.
8. This path eventually leads you to the back of the Primary School. Once past the school, turn left at a lamp-post. Go back into the village at the opposite end of the Green near Westside Mill. This is a three-storey building with its upper floors having small square windows which would each light a stocking-making machine. It has now been converted into a house. You are now back on Denholm Green.

Route 11

Denholm to Bedrule

(A section of The Borders Abbeys Way)

Start and finish: Denholm Village Green.

Distance: 8km / 5 miles.

Terrain: Road, track and path. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

This route follows a section of the Borders Abbeys Way path from Denholm to the attractive small village of Bedrule.

1. Leave Denholm by the main road, heading east (towards Jedburgh). Turn right into The Loaning. The road narrows and then becomes a track. Keep straight on, climbing steadily. Follow the track as it bends left, with a fine view over Denholm to the Minto Hills. Continue to a narrower path next to a wood.
2. At the top of the rise, with a grand view of the Teviot Valley extending down to the Waterloo Monument in the distance, go over a stile, through a kissing gate and turn left. Rubers Law comes into view to the right.

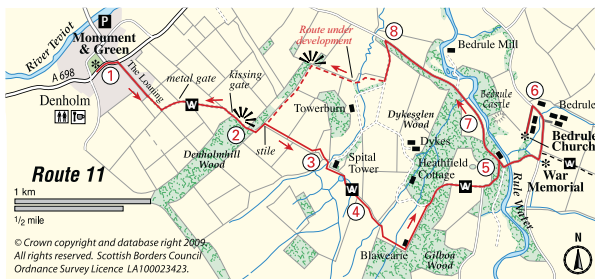
3. Cross another stile and turn right down to the track leading to Spital Tower. Turn right before the house, as signed, and follow the track round into the fields. At the end of a small fenced copse, go straight ahead to a ladder stile in the next dyke. Continue on the same line, making for a gate in the next dyke.
4. Go through this gate and turn right, left round the field edges. At the far end of the field continue through the gate. At the corner of this field cross the stile and join a forest track. Continue to the next junction and turn right, to the road.
5. Go out along the road. At the junction, turn right and cross the Rule Water on a lovely old bridge. The river's name may come from an old word meaning 'roaring', certainly appropriate when it is in spate. Climb to the War Memorial and turn left.
6. Ignore the next Abbeys Way sign (turning right up a track), and instead continue along the road, turning left and then left again past a row of cottages to visit Bedrule Church. The building dates from 1804, but there has been a church here for

much longer than that. The interior has superb modern stained glass windows. A mound nearby marks the site of the medieval Bedrule Castle, a seat of the Turnbull family.

7. You can simply return by the same route, which is no hardship, but for a slightly different circuit, go back down to the bridge and follow the road round to the right (signposted for Denholm). Walk along this quiet road, with the Rule Water on your right, past the entry to Bedrule Mill.
8. In about 1km, turn left along the road for Towerburn and Spital Tower. Follow this road for a short distance. A new route for this section is currently under development. Please follow the waymarked route to join the Borders Abbeys Way. Retrace the outward route back to Denholm.



Borders Abbeys Way near Bedrule



Denholm Green

Route 12

Bonchester Bridge and Hill

Start/finish: Bonchester Bridge village. Leave Hawick on the A698 heading east towards Jedburgh and in 2km turn right on A6088 for 7km to Bonchester Bridge.

Distance: 8km / 5 miles (shorter route 7km / 4 miles omits the hill).

Terrain: Road, tracks and open hill. One steady ascent. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

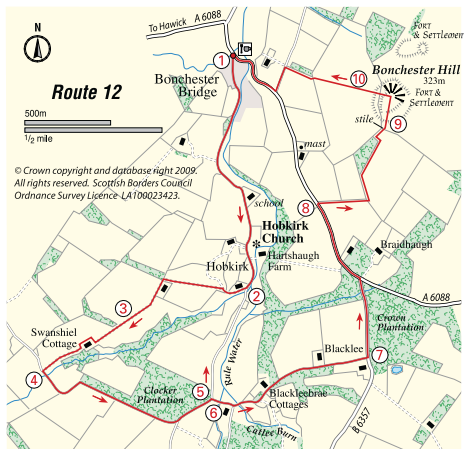
Facilities: Inn in Bonchester Bridge serving bar meals and drinks, toilets at the inn for customers.

This pleasant route explores the countryside around the attractive village of Bonchester Bridge and the longer option includes the summit of Bonchester Hill, which as well as providing expansive views holds a large Iron Age fort.

1. Start by heading south along the minor road signposted to Hobkirk. About 200 metres down this route, there is a parking area by the bottle banks. Pass Hobkirk Primary School and reach Hobkirk Church. There has been a church here for many centuries, although the present building is largely Victorian. It has a distinctive square tower. The west door is usually open if you want to look inside. The large graveyard includes an area devoted to the Scott family, with no fewer

than five memorials to men called Walter Scott.

2. Continue along the road, passing Hartshaugh Farm on the left, and take the next entry on the right (to Nether Swanshiels). Go past the house and continue on the track, climbing gently towards farm sheds. Go to the right of the sheds. Cross a stile and turn left to continue along the fields.
3. Go through a small section of shelter belt woodland by crossing a stile and boardwalk and then back into the field. Pass behind Swanshiel Cottage. Follow the path to the access track for the house and out to the road. Please go quietly on this section and respect the privacy of the occupants.



Hobkirk Church

4. Turn left on the road and go round two sharp bends, continuing beside Clocker Plantation. Swing left, and at a junction make your choice.
5. For the short routes, simply turn left here and follow the road back to Bonchester Bridge.
6. For the longer route, turn right and cross two bridges, over the Rule Water and Catlee Burn, in quick succession. After the second bridge there is a fine view of Rubers Law away to the left. A long, steady climb past Blackleebrae Cottages and Blacklee leads to a T-junction.
7. Turn left on the B6357 and go along with Crown Wood, owned and managed by the Borders Forest Trust, on your right. At the next junction, opposite the entrance to Braidhaugh, turn left on the A6088.
8. At the end of the first field, go right, and through the gate as signposted. Continue going up the field edge, along the line of old Beech trees, cross two stiles, and turn left, then right, keeping the fence always on your left. Keep climbing steadily, to reach a stone dyke, and cross it at its corner.
9. Head up to the summit of Bonchester Hill. You cross two very distinct ditch and bank formations, the defences of a large Iron Age fort which once occupied the whole summit area. Although it is only 323m high, the hill commands a superb view, with Rubers Law standing out, the distant Eildon Hills beyond and the village at your feet. Take your time and enjoy the panorama to the full.
10. When you are ready to leave, head directly down towards the village (due west), crossing the dyke by a stile. Soon pick up a narrow strip of wood as a guide, and head towards it. There are often cattle in this area, so if you have a dog with you please keep it under very close control. Cross a stile and go down the left-hand edge of the wood. Go through the stile at the road, and turn left. At the junction turn right, cross the Rule Water and return to the village, perhaps for a well-earned drink at the inn.

Route 13

The Teviot, Wilton Lodge Park and Violet Woods

Start/finish: Common Haugh Car Park, Hawick.

Distance and terrain: Shorter version on Fairly flat tarmac paths 1½ miles/2km
Tarmac paths and woodland paths Violet woods circular 2 miles/3km

Time: allow 1-2 hours or more to explore the museum and other points of interest

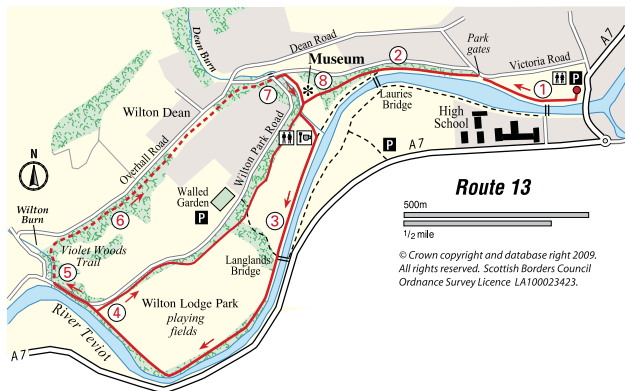


Violet Woods

walkit

1. Follow the river upstream along the edge of the car park and through the gates of Wilton Lodge Park.
2. Continue along the main drive to the museum.
3. Following the riverside path, stay on the flat tarmac path to the far end of the park, where it meets a road.

4. For the easy access option turn right, keeping the playing fields on your right, to return to the museum along a tarmac path.
For the Violet Woods route turn left for 50 metres on the road. Before the burn turn right following the millennium woodland path uphill by the Wilton burn.
5. Keep following the path through the woods to the right.



Hawick Museum and Scott Gallery

6. If you look carefully you will see dog violets; the woodland is named after them. The woodland path continues parallel to the road until eventually it descends to the road at a junction.
7. Cross the road and the bridge, then turn right onto steps, to descend to a waterfall and a path by the Dean Burn, back to the museum.
8. From the museum turn left to return to the car park by the main driveway.

Wilton Lodge Museum and Scott Gallery
Exhibitions may be seen here. Free Entry. Nearby are the fountain, the wishing well, the scented garden, a large war memorial, and memorials to motorcyclists Jimmy Guthrie and Steve "Hizzy" Hislop. Also in the park look out for floral displays, tennis, putting, crazy golf, a picnic area and a park café.



Steve Hislop



Jimmy Guthrie

Further Route Suggestions

Information on these and other routes is available from Visit Scotland and at the Tourist Information Centre.

- The Forestry Commission has a waymarked circular walk in **Craik Forest**, reached by taking the A7 south from Hawick for about 3km and then turning right onto B711 to Robertson, and following the signs to Craik. The main walk, to a waterfall, is about 6km (3.75 miles) with a shorter option.
- There is another forest walk at **Northhouse Plantation** (Buccleuch Estates). The start is reached by taking the A7 south from Hawick for about 8km, then turning left as signposted on the minor road to Skelphill.
- **Rubers Law**, a prominent local landmark, can be climbed from Denholm or from several other directions. Walkers are welcome but there is no set route to the summit. Please ensure that you close all gates behind you and try not to disturb livestock. The summit holds a significant Iron Age fort and commands superb panoramic views.
- A short walk leads to **Fatlips Castle**, a 16th century tower set on the Minto Craggs. Leave Denholm by B6405, cross the Teviot and take the first minor road on the right. Follow this road for about 3km until you are directly below the castle and park carefully so as not to obstruct traffic. Follow the path which climbs steeply through the trees to see the castle, a former seat of the Turnbulls.

Please take great care on this walk as there are very steep drops and the path is not easy. Boots or strong shoes are essential and children should be kept under careful watch.



Walkers on Rubers Law



The Borders Abbeys Way

The Borders Abbeys Way passes directly through Hawick and provides an excellent opportunity to explore the central Scottish Borders area. Abbeys, towns, villages, rivers, countryside, wildlife and other many points of interest are all part of this 109 km (68 mile) trail linking the historic towns and villages of Jedburgh, Denholm, Hawick, Selkirk, Melrose, St Boswells, Kelso and Jedburgh. Regular public transport is available to and from Jedburgh, Denholm, Ashkirk and Selkirk allowing for linear walks back into Hawick. A full booklet is available from Visit Scotland. Details also at www.scotborders.gov.uk/bordersabbesway

Hawick Town Trail

The route of the Hawick town trail is outlined on the back of this booklet. A separate booklet is available for a small price from the Tourist information Centre or is available online at www.scotborders.gov.uk

Buccleuch Country Ride - Hawick Circular Riding route

A set of maps outlining these horse-riding routes may be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre.

Local Cycling Trails - Hawick

A leaflet describing four colour coded signed routes is available from the Tourist Information Centre or is available online at www.scotborders.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

These routes and this booklet were initially developed by the local Hawick Community and local landowners as part of the Borderpaths partnership project. They are now managed by Scottish Borders Council. The co-operation of farmers and landowners in developing these routes is gratefully acknowledged. Scottish Borderpaths was a partnership of public agencies aimed at developing outdoor countryside access in Scottish Borders. Much of the funding at that time came from the European Union whose assistance is acknowledged.

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Contact Information

Heart of Hawick

www.heartofhawick.co.uk

VisitScotland Borders

Shepherd's Mill, Whinfield Road, Selkirk, TD7 5DT.
Accommodation Bookings: 0845 22 55 121
Tel: 01835 863170
email: bordersinfo@visitscotland.com
www.visitscotlandborders.com

Scottish Borders

Tourist Information Centres

Jedburgh, Peebles and Melrose, Kelso, Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.

Opening dates and times vary
For Information: Tel: 01835 863170

Scottish Natural Heritage

(Information on Scottish Outdoor Access Code)
Lothian & Borders Area Office
Tel: 01896 756652
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Traveline (for public transport information)

Tel: 0871 200 2233 www.traveline.org.uk

Scottish Borders Council

Town trail, cycling routes and Hawick Museum.
www.scotborders.gov.uk
Scottish Borders Countryside website:
www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess

Access & Countryside Team & Walk It

Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA
Tel: 01835 825060
email: outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk
email: rangers@scotborders.gov.uk
email: walkit@scotborders.gov.uk

Friends of Wilton Lodge Park

www.fwlp.co.uk

Other websites

Forestry Commission Trails
www.forestry.gov.uk
www.scotborders.gov.uk/bordersabbesway
For further information on walking in Scotland, visit: www.walkingwild.com

Mountain Rescue Team - Scottish Borders

It is considered best practice to alert the MRT to all incidents where a casualty is located on a hill, moor, upland or other countryside, or missing on such ground even if the Ambulance Service has been requested.

To call the MRT to such incidents the following procedure should be followed:

1. Dial 999
2. Ask for Police
3. Tell the Police that you require Mountain Rescue

Tell the Police why and where you require the MRT.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information and advice contained in this booklet is correct at the date of publication. However, it is always for you to assess whether completing a route is within your capability, using your common sense and your knowledge of your own state of health and fitness, competence and experience. No liability is accepted by the authors or publishers for any loss, injury or damage, arising out of, or in any way connected with, any person or persons undertaking or attempting to undertake any of the routes described in this booklet, howsoever caused.