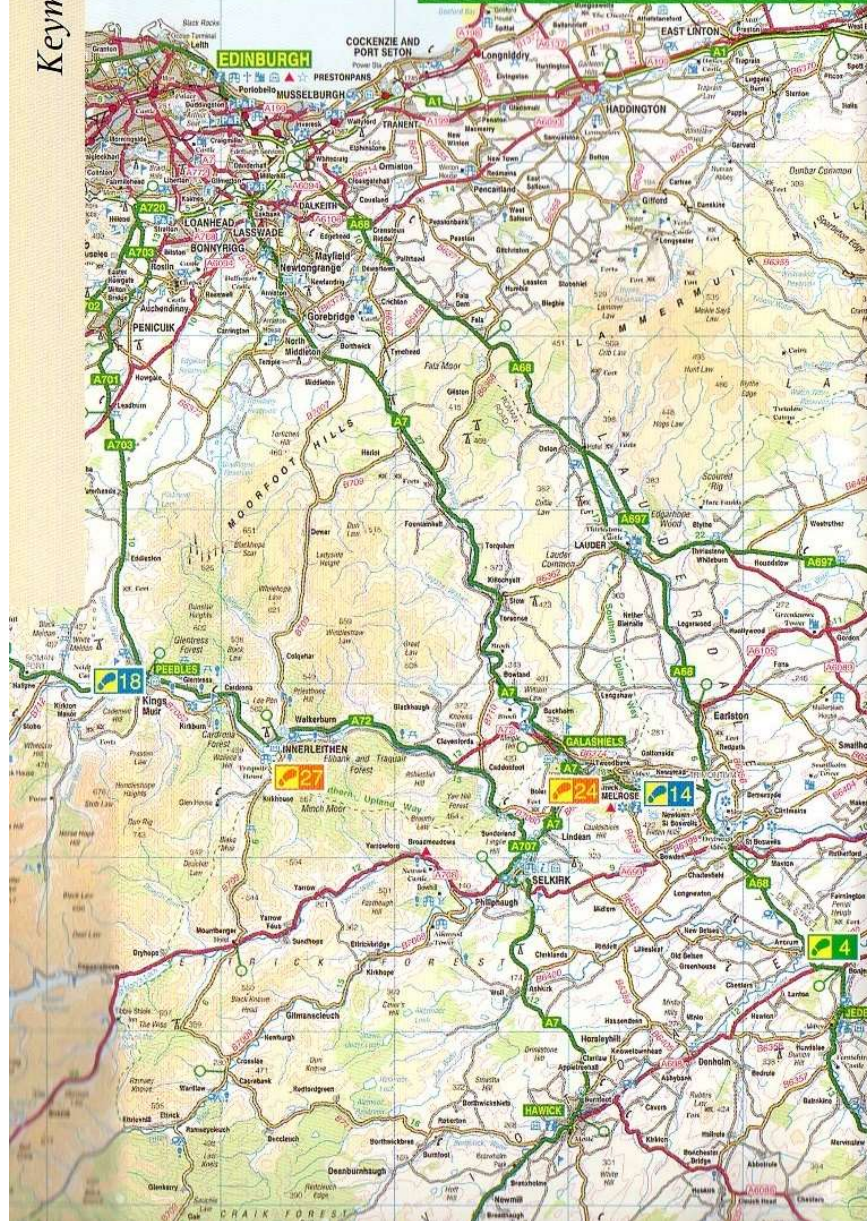


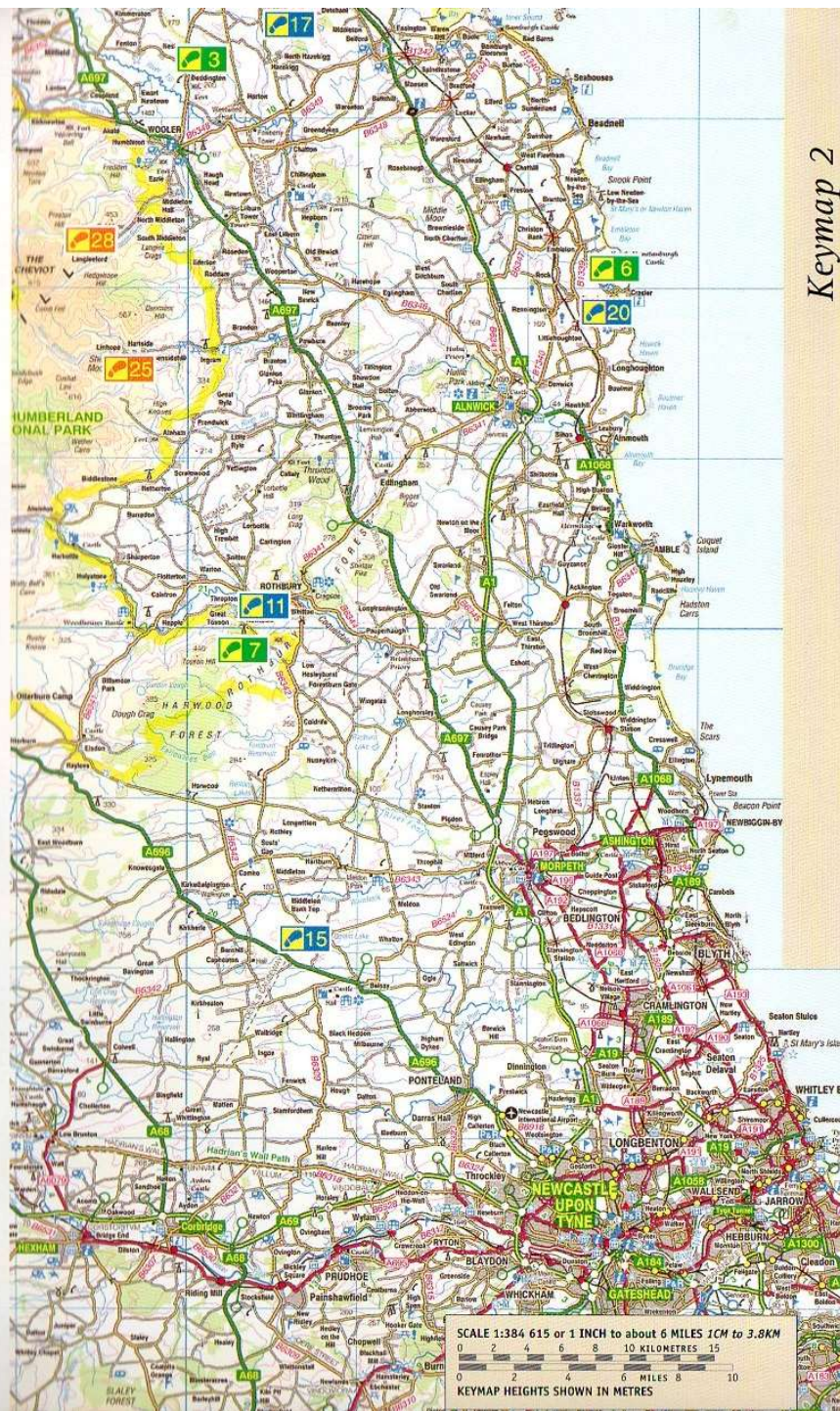
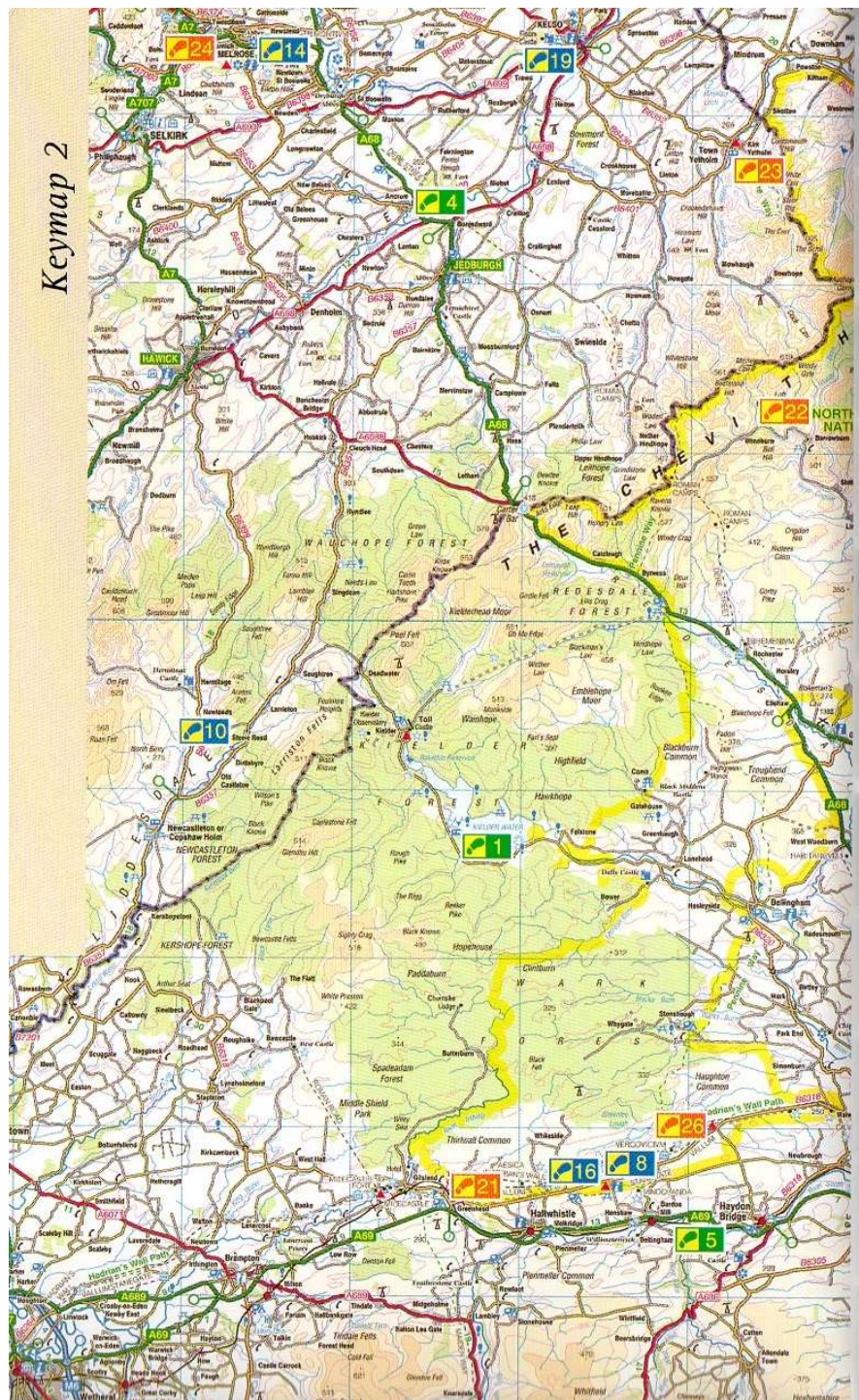
NORTHUMBERLAND AND SCOTTISH BORDERS

Outstanding Circular Walks

SCALE 1:384 615 or 1 INCH to about 6 MILES 1CM to 3.8KM
0 2 4 6 8 10 KILOMETRES 15
0 2 4 6 MILES 8 10
KEYMAP HEIGHTS SHOWN IN METRES



Keymap 2



Keymap 2

Kielder Water and the Bull Crag Peninsula

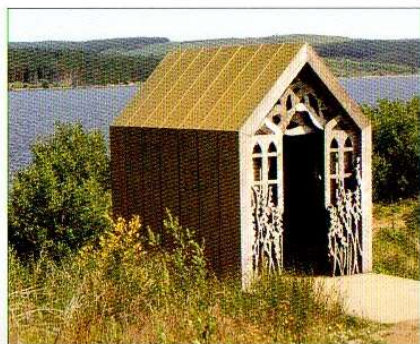
Start	Leaplish Waterside Park	GPS waypoints
Distance	2 miles (3.2km), longer walk 6¼ miles (10.1km)	NY 660 878 A NY 664 875 B NY 667 870 C NY 674 863 D NY 688 869
Height gain	200 feet (60m), longer walk 650 feet (200m)	
Approximate time	1 hour, longer walk 2½ hours	
Parking	Leaplish Waterside Park car park	
Route terrain	Clear tracks and paths	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 80 (Cheviot Hills & Kielder Water), Explorer OL42 (Kielder Water & Forest – Bellingham & Simonside Hills)	

The short walk, ideal for children, visits a fairytale cabin overlooking Kielder Water, a focus for the delightful story of Freya and Robin. For a longer ramble, tag on an undemanding loop around the scenic Bull Crag Peninsula, where youngsters can search for small plaques that are ideal for brass rubbing, so remember to include paper and crayons with the picnic pack. The route follows good forest tracks and clear paths on to this picturesquely set tongue of land that protrudes into the lake.

The last century saw two great changes in what had been the bare upper reaches of the River North Tyne; the planting of

a huge state forest, the most extensive in England and, more recently, the construction of a massive dam to create the largest reservoir in Britain. Since then, Kielder has become one of the most popular outdoor activity areas in the country offering countless opportunities for walking, cycling and boating. The forest habitat supports a huge variety of wildlife, including one of England's largest red squirrel populations and lately, breeding ospreys, something not seen in Northumberland for over two hundred years.

Freya's Cabin



Amongst other animals you might spot are roe deer and bats, and keep an eye open for birds such as hen harriers, goshawk and barn owls.

Head from the car park along the main drive towards the Birds of Prey Centre, turning off just before it along a woodland trail on the left. Rising to a junction, keep ahead on a path that climbs past a squirrel hide and lake viewpoint before descending to a small parking area by a water-skiing club A.

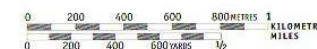
Passing to the right of the club building, continue through trees by the lake before breaking out on to more open ground behind a small bay. At a fork beyond, go right and climb to Freya's Cabin B.

As a longer alternative to simply retracing your steps, carry on up the hill and around a sharp bend, eventually winding down to a signposted T-junction. 'Lakeside Way' signs direct you right and then first left, the ongoing track later merging with another above Whickhope C, where boats from the

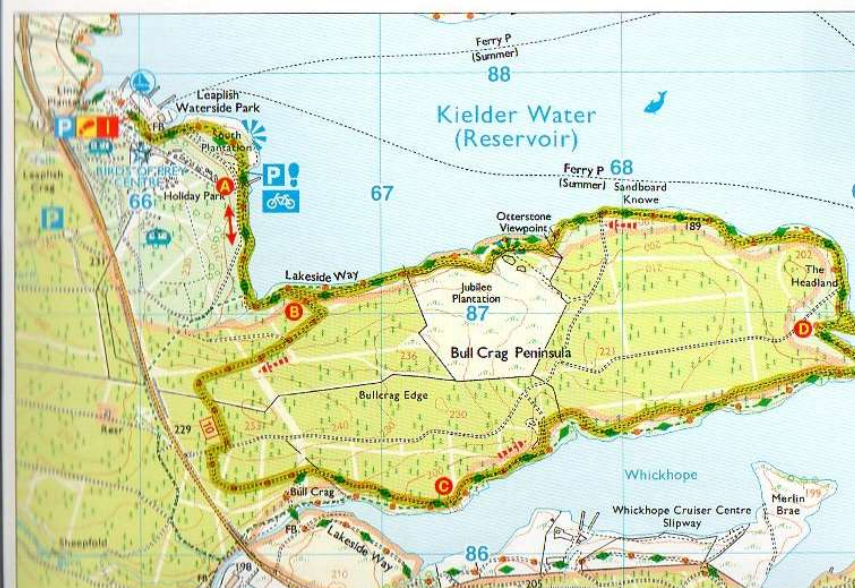
sailing club opposite are moored in the inlet.

With the way now signed to Leaplish Waterside Park, carry on above the shore to another junction. To the right, the path continues above the inlet, eventually rounding a point and winding behind a narrow creek D.

Keep going around The Headland, eventually emerging from the trees for a grand view towards the dam. The route then briefly joins a stretch of tarmac, a remnant of the valley road before it was flooded beneath the reservoir in 1982. There was once a railway too, which ran along the other side of the valley. Pass through another corner of woodland before emerging at the foot of a rising meadow. Ahead, the burnished roof of Freya's Cabin beckons in the sunlight, an opportunity for another picnic stop before returning via your outward route to Leaplish.



SCALE 1:27777 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 3.6CM to 1KM



Blanchland

Start	Blanchland
Distance	3½ miles (5.6km)
Height gain	525 feet (160m)
Approximate time	2 hours
Parking	Car park in village
Route terrain	Clear tracks, woodland paths
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 87 (Hexham & Haltwhistle), Explorers OL43 (Hadrian's Wall - Haltwhistle & Hexham) and 307 (Consett & Derwent Reservoir)

GPS waypoints

- NY 964 504
- A NY 963 509
- B NY 949 517
- C NY 958 499

Despite many preconceptions, the north of England has its fair share of unspoiled towns and villages, and few would disagree with Blanchland's claim to being one of the most picturesque. It nestles in a lovely wooded fold amid the bleak moors of the North Pennines AONB, a superb beginning for this fine walk connecting the sheltered valleys of Shildon Burn and the upper River Derwent.

Blanchland was founded in 1165 for the Premonstratensian order, originally as a priory, but later elevated under the rule of an abbot. It was from the White Canons that the place derived its name. Ever only a small community set amid wild surroundings, life in the abbey appears to have been fairly austere and disrupted from time to time by border raiders. Local tales tell of one marauding band that became disoriented by the moorland mist and bypassed the abbey. But, the monks, in an over-eager celebration of their deliverance rang the bells, bringing back the raiders who were, unfortunately, still wandering about within earshot. Despite a short reprieve because of its usefulness as a hostel for travellers in this remote corner, the abbey was dissolved in 1539. The church was adapted for parish services and the guests' lodgings taken as a manor house. After he

bought the estate in 1704, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, built the village we see today to house his lead miners. On his death, he included the estate within a charitable trust and is remembered in the name of the village pub, fittingly set within what remains of the old abbey guest house.

Out of the car park, turn right but then almost at once go left and left again onto a rising track that is signed as a footpath. After climbing at the backs of cottages it swings into the woods behind the village. Ignore a path shortly branching off right and keep ahead up a sunken track to join a broader, green trail.

Descending gently to the left, watch for a path soon leaving discretely on the right A. Where it immediately splits at a waypost, take the left branch, passing out of the trees through a small gate. Walk away above the wood at the edge

of rough grazing, dropping at the far end into a leafy corner, where humps and hollows remain from old lead mines. Leaving at a gate, continue along a green track. Keep right through a gate in front of a cottage and follow a track out to the end of a lane.

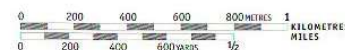
Lead has been mined in the area since at least medieval times, evidenced by the numerous hollows of collapsed bell pits in the area. During the 19th century, the improved techniques of the Industrial Age allowed deeper mining. The ruins beside the burn opposite the settlement centre on an engine house from this period, which was used for pumping water from the lower levels. The farm at the top of the hill apparently got its name from selling penny pies to miners walking to their work.

The route lies to the right, passing several of the old mine shafts fenced off in the trees on its way to Pennypie House, ¾ mile up the hill. As the track swings up to the farm, keep ahead through a gate B onto the open moor,

but then immediately turn left across a bridge spanning the burn, the way signed to Baybridge.

A sandy track hugs the wall at the edge of the heather moor and gives good views across the head of the Derwent Valley for the next ¾ mile. Eventually joining a track from a screened gas pumping station, leave the moor and follow a lane downhill beside a wood.

At the bottom, go right on the main lane past the Baybridge picnic area. Just before reaching a bridge across the River Derwent, abandon the lane for a footpath on the left signed to Blanchland and Carrick C. A short length of duckboarding conducts you to the riverbank, where a very pretty path follows the crystal water as it babbles over a bouldery bed, overhung with trees. All too soon the path reaches Blanchland Bridge. Walk out to the lane and turn left back into the village. ●



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 1KM

Doddington Moor

Start	Doddington
Distance	4 miles (6.4km)
Height gain	540 feet (165m)
Approximate time	2 hours
Parking	Lay-by south of Doddington village cross or off main road in one of the side lanes
Route terrain	Heathland paths and lane
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 75 (Berwick-upon-Tweed), Explorer 340 (Holy Island & Bamburgh)

GPS waypoints

- NT 999 323
- A NU 016 333
- B NU 013 323
- C NU 013 317
- D NU 012 313
- E NU 004 316

The route begins from Doddington Cross along a country lane, which gives a fine prospect to the far off hills, before climbing onto the moor in search of its prehistoric relics. The final stretch looks out to the Cheviot Hills and peers down upon the hamlet, where its ruined 16th-century bastle remains a prominent feature.

When Britain basked in a warmer climate than today, Doddington Moor was well populated with Bronze Age peoples who farmed the hillsides. They left their marks across what has now become heath in countless carvings upon the rocks, strange shapes known as 'cup and ring' marks. Relatively recent is the imposing cross set back from the road in the centre of the village. It stands above a natural spring, Dod Well and was designed by the local vicar in 1846.

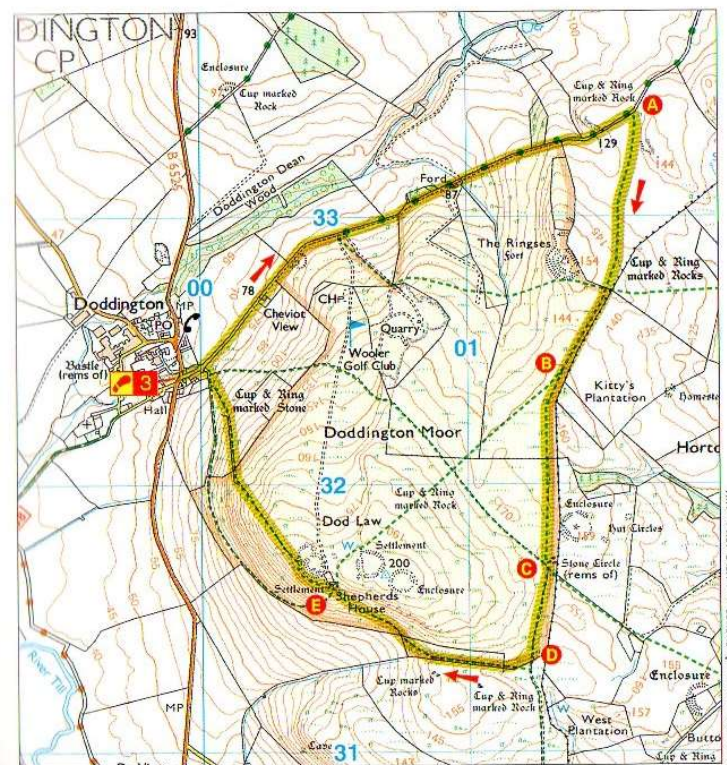
Leave the main road beside the cross along a narrow lane signed to the Wooler Golf Club. Climbing gently away, it gives a view to the distant Lammermuir Hills of Scotland. Where the lane eventually swings towards the golf club, keep ahead on an undulating sandy track.

Pass a large cattle shed and later go through a gate to dip beside a small

plantation. Some 150 yds beyond the wood leave through a gate on the right A. Strike sharp right across the cultivation in the direction indicated by the fingerpost to Weetwood Hill, on a bearing just west of south. Maintain the direction across the next rising pasture to a gate in the far corner.

Through that, follow the wall towards a clump of pine. As you approach the trees, look back right to a low bracken-covered hill. Ramparts and ditches surround the top, an Iron Age fort that continued as a settlement site into the Roman period. Ignoring the clearer path that then bears off to the right B, remain beside the wall. Over a stile pass onto bracken moor, accompanying the wall to a single standing stone C. It is the sole survivor of a stone circle – the others lie fallen in the undergrowth.

Keep going over the crest, eventually reaching a corner with a fence D. Turn



right within and continue by the fence past a gate. Shortly, a cottage comes into view on the hillside in the middle distance. A waymark indicates a path leaving the fence, which rises across the slope of the hill. Mount a stile in an intervening boundary and continue below a low scar to the cottage, Shepherds House E.

Some of the most intriguing stone carvings on the moor are to be found around the summit of the hill behind Shepherds House. Follow the track up beside its boundary wall and then explore the ground beyond over to the right.

Return to the cottage and now go right on a bracken trod to resume your line along the flank of the hill. Before long, the path begins to fall towards the village, the tall ruin of the bastle



conspicuous among the buildings. It was built in 1584 by Sir Thomas Grey of Chillingham and Wark to provide protection against the raids of the reivers and was reputedly the last to be built in the borders before the Union of the Crowns brought peace to the region. It stood more or less complete until 1896, when a severe gale brought down the eastern end. Over a fence, follow a sparse line of hawthorn trees, holding your direction beyond its end. Breaking from the bracken, drop across pasture and then between clumps of gorse to find a stile at the bottom. Regaining the golf club lane, follow it left back to the village.

Peniel Heugh

Start	Harestanes Visitor Centre, 1 mile east of Ancrum	GPS waypoints
Distance	4½ miles (7.2km)	NT 641 244
Height gain	625 feet (190m)	A NT 644 246
Approximate time	2 hours	B NT 647 254
Parking	Car park Harestanes Visitor Centre	C NT 653 263
Route terrain	Lanes, tracks and woodland paths	D NT 645 265
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 74 (Kelso & Coldstream), Explorer OL16 (The Cheviot Hills)	E NT 638 258
		F NT 644 248

The circuit climbs to the stunning viewpoint of Peniel Heugh, where a striking monument remembers the Battle of Waterloo. A roundabout return through woodland and along quiet lanes eventually joins St Cuthbert's Way, passing a delightful walled garden before returning to Harestanes.

Walk out to the lane, going left and left again. Just past the high wall of Harestanes, pick up a parallel footpath on the left. Curve with it around the field corner to cross a plank bridge, briefly accompanying the stream before swinging up steps onto a wider path **A**.

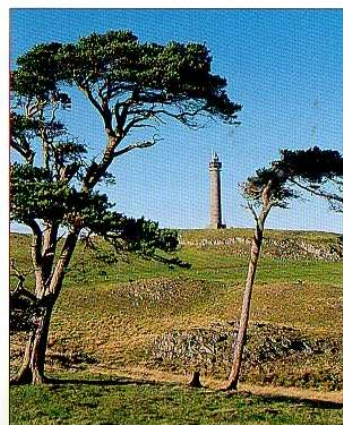
Follow it left into woodland, shortly passing a small wildlife pond. Keep ahead past a junction, shortly meeting a tarmac drive. To the right is Monteviot House, seat of the marquesses of Lothian, whose gardens are open to the public. The route, however, rises left to a road, continuing along the drive opposite. Approaching the gamekeeper's house, fork right onto a grass track, going right again after 50 yds onto a narrower path climbing at the edge of trees to a lane **B**.

Go right and almost immediately left onto a rising woodland trail. Keep left at successive forks, higher up being rewarded with a sudden glimpse of the summit tower. As the gradient eases,

bear right at a fork to leave the wood through a kissing-gate. Beyond a second kissing-gate, strike a beeline across open ground for the hilltop **C**.

Rising 150 feet, the monument was erected by the sixth Marquess of Lothian to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's victory at Waterloo.

The Waterloo Monument on Peniel Heugh



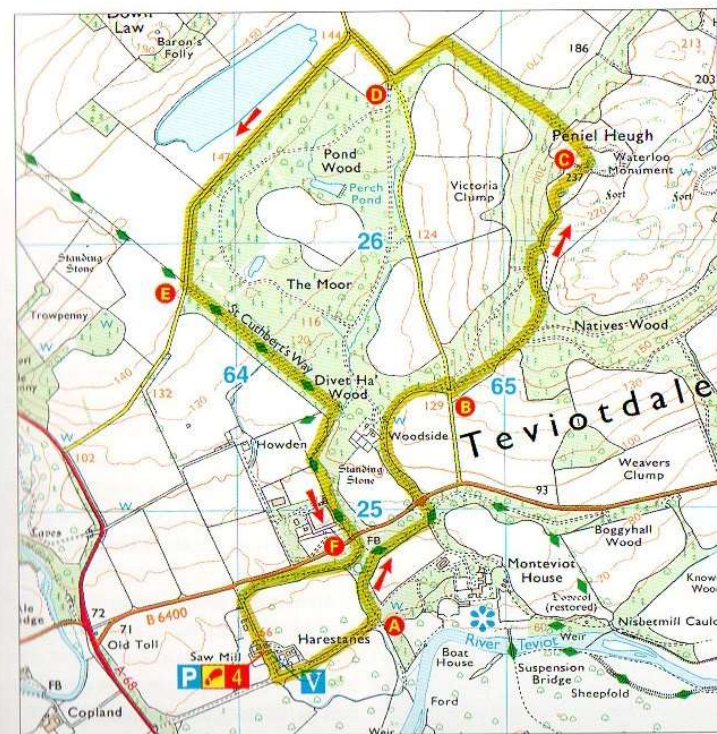
Drop north onto a grass track that leads away to the right, almost immediately passing through a broken wall. Leave left on a trod, falling steeply below the wall towards the forest. Over a stile, a path descends steadily through the trees. Eventually meeting a track, go left out to a lane **D**.

Turn right to a junction and go left onto a long, straight lane. Crossing a bridge a few yards along, there is a fine view back to the hill, while farther on, a small loch to the right attracts geese, swans and other waterbirds. Follow the lane for ¾ mile then, shortly beyond a bend, look for a gap in the left wall **E**.

Marked St Cuthbert's Way, a path heads into the thick of the trees, its almost dead-straight course betraying Roman origins. It is in fact Dere Street, which ran for almost 200 miles between

York and the Firth of Forth. In time, the way swings over a bridge spanning a stream. Ignore the crossing path and keep going above the burn, eventually crossing it again at a second bridge. A signpost just beyond invites a detour to **Woodside Walled Garden**, where the **tearoom** uses local produce for its appetising range of snacks and light meals.

Return to follow St Cuthbert's Way down to the road, crossing to the continuing path opposite. Approaching a bridge **F**, turn right to remain on this bank. A pleasant path winds through old woodland dominated by ancient beech, and finally swings left to the Harestanes Visitor Centre.



Allen Banks

Start Allen Banks, near Bardon Mill

Distance 3½ miles (5.6km)

Height gain 770 feet (235m)

Approximate time 2 hours

Parking National Trust car park

Route terrain Some rough woodland paths and steep ground

Ordnance Survey maps Landrangers 86 (Haltwhistle & Brampton) or 87 (Hexham & Haltwhistle), Explorer OL43 (Hadrian's Wall – Haltwhistle & Hexham)

GPS waypoints

- NY 798 639
- A NY 798 632
- B NY 794 625
- C NY 794 622
- D NY 798 632

The Honourable Francis Bowes Lyon gave the Victorian woodland garden of Allen Banks to the National Trust in 1942. It lies in a beautiful, richly arboreal valley enclosing one of the main tributaries of the River South Tyne, and is particularly attractive in early summer when carpeted with bluebells and ramsons.

Follow a path through the picnic area, beside the river into the wood. Go quietly and you might spot an otter in the water. Beyond a suspension bridge, climb to meet a higher path A. Cross and continue the upward trend, slanting more steeply across the wooded bank and eventually zigzagging up the final stretch. Broaching the top, walk on to a

Looking from the summerhouse into the gorge



summerhouse. Several such bowers were scattered around the valley, where the family could relax and appreciate spectacular views along the river. The one here contains a 'book' portraying the history of the estate.

Bear right on a level and easy path along the rim of the valley. Splendid beech trees that are at their best when the leaves turn in autumn border the ride here. After a while, the path leads to the site of another summerhouse, perched above the deep ravine of Hoods Burn, which falls into the main valley. Although the structure is long gone, the mosaic floor remains, apparently fashioned from the knucklebones of sheep.

An orange waymark indicates the way dropping left. *Partly stepped*, it is steep and demands care during wet weather. Rejoining the main riverside trail B, follow it over a plank bridge

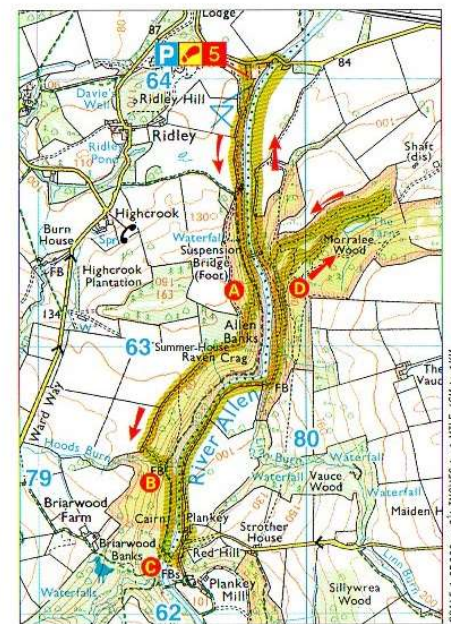
spanning Hoods Burn. After a small meadow, the path delves into the Briarwood Banks Nature Reserve, an ancient woodland of oak, ash and hazel coppice. Keep left at a fork crossing a side stream to a robust bridge spanning the River Allen C. It replaces a suspension bridge that was washed away during a flood in 2005.

Beyond the bridge, bear right to a field gate at Plankey Mill. Swing left in front of a barn to climb away on a narrow lane. As it then bends, abandon it for a descending track, keeping left again when it splits to pass a ruined building. Just before it finishes, slip through a kissing-gate on the left from which a contained path runs beside a meadow. At the end, drop to continue along the riverbank.

Over a stile and footbridge, the path follows the river into a gorge, picking a rising course among a litter of boulders. Ignore an unsigned path off right but as the way then levels, watch for a fork. A black waymark guides you right, climbing above the river. When you later reach another junction, keep ahead to find a purple waymarked path branching up steps, a few yards farther along on the right D.

Cresting a rise, it falls to a crossing path where The Tarn is signed to the right. Resume the climb to another crossing and this time go left up steps. There is a view across the River South Tyne Valley before, a little lower down, The Tarn suddenly appears in front of you. Surrounded by trees, it occupies an idyllically picturesque spot.

Joining a broader path, pass left of



0 200 400 600 800 METRES
0 200 400 600 YARDS 1/2 1 KILOMETRES
0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRES
0 200 400 600 YARDS 1/2 1 MILES

the pool. At the far end, look out for another purple waypost from which a narrow path bears left. Over a low rise, it doubles back in easy descent across the wooded slope of the hill, eventually returning you to the crossing passed on the way up.

Still following purple waymarks, turn right. At the next junction go left and then left again to come upon the steps by which you began the ascent to The Tarn. Now swing sharp right, losing height steeply to meet the River Allen at a suspension bridge. You can either cross and retrace your outward route or alternatively, continue downstream on this bank. Leaving the wood carry on at the edge of a couple of meadows, ultimately approaching a bridge. Walk beneath it and then turn up to the lane, which leads across the river back to the car park.

Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle

Start	Craster
Distance	4¾ miles (7.6km)
Height gain	380 feet (115m)
Approximate time	2 hours
Parking	Car park at edge of village (Pay and Display)
Route terrain	Well-used paths
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 75 (Berwick-upon-Tweed) and 81 (Alnwick & Morpeth), Explorer 332 (Alnwick & Amble)

GPS waypoints

- NU 256 198
- A NU 257 213
- B NU 245 224
- C NU 250 207

The only downside to this walk is the justifiable popularity of the coastal path, which leads to one of Northumberland's most evocative castles. Early mornings or late evenings are quiet, when misty light and long shadows add their own special quality, but unfortunately the castle is then closed. The route cuts back across country over the fine vantage of The Heughs.

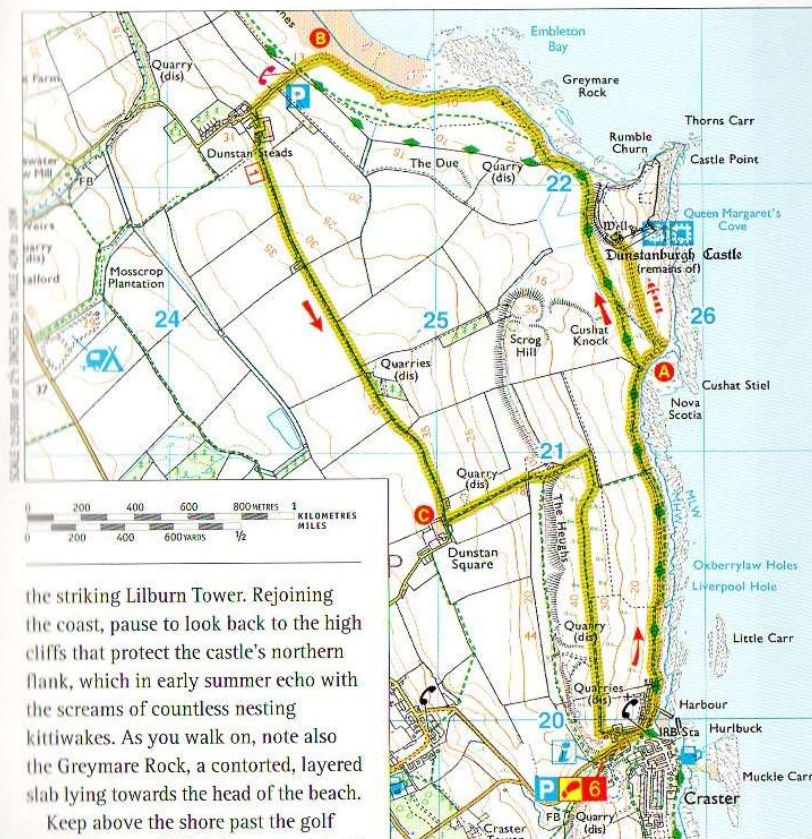
The aroma from Robson's smokehouse pervades the tiny fishing village, famous for its oak-smoked kippers and salmon. The Crasters have held the manor since 1272 and built the harbour in 1906, where herring were once landed. It is a memorial to Captain John Craster, killed on active service in Tibet.

Follow the road from the car park to the harbour, there turning left past cottages. Through a gate at the end, a path continues above the sloping rocky shore towards the distant castle. The rocks trap countless pools from the receding tide, home to small crabs, shrimps and sea anemones. After two more gates **A**, the path splits, that ahead leading to the castle entrance.

Begun around 1313 by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, Dunstanburgh sits imposingly upon an outcrop of whinstone, part of the Great Whin Sill

volcanic intrusion. The formation curves through the north Pennines, underlies part of Hadrian's Wall and makes a final appearance off the coast as the Farne Islands. The castle's curtain walls enclose some nine acres, heightening the natural defences of the sea cliffs and steep inland bank that protect it on three sides. The entrance lies through an impressive gatehouse flanked by twin towers. The fortification remained impregnable until the Wars of the Roses, when it succumbed to the Earl of Warwick's pounding cannon. Abandoned, it crumbled into the romantic ruin we see today.

Unless visiting the castle, bear left at the fork, passing through a marshy depression that sidesteps the castle hill. Once flooded, it provided a harbour for Henry VIII's fleet in 1514. The path winds beneath the western defences and



the striking Lilburn Tower. Rejoining the coast, pause to look back to the high cliffs that protect the castle's northern flank, which in early summer echo with the screams of countless nesting kittiwakes. As you walk on, note also the Greymare Rock, a contorted, layered slab lying towards the head of the beach.

Keep above the shore past the golf course, the sand hills hiding a couple of pill boxes, part of the coastal defences during the last war. Eventually, the dunes are broken by a gap **B**, through which a path runs from the beach across the golf course to the end of a lane.

Amble up to holiday cottages at Dunstan Steads, immediately before which, turn left through a gate. A drive winds around the buildings and past a barn, leaving through a gate at the far corner. Take the concrete track ahead across open fields, which gives a fine view to the castle before passing a copse of pine sheltering a large limekiln.

Reaching the farm at Dunstan Square, turn off opposite barns through a signposted gate on the left **C**. Walk away at the edge of a field ridged with

medieval ox ploughing, passing through another gate at the bottom to climb to a nick in The Heughs, the line of cliffs ahead. At the top, keep the same line beside a fence to the corner. Go through the gate on the right and walk away with the fence. Passing a second gate, bear off to take a parallel course some 50 yds to the right. Carry on as you later join another fence, Craster's cottages now appearing ahead. Over a stile, the ongoing path is contained by clumps of gorse behind the long gardens of the fishermen's cottages. At the end, swing left to meet a street, which falls into the village. The car park is then just a short distance away to the right.

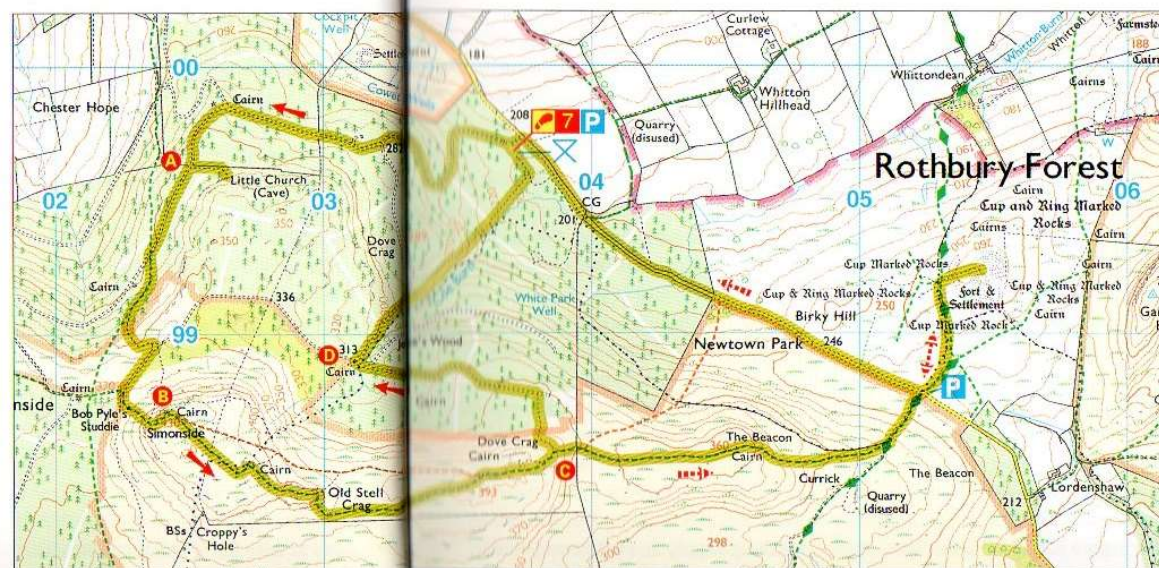
Simonside

Start	Simonside Forest Park, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south east of Great Tosson	GPS waypoints
Distance	4½ miles (7.2km). Extension 2¾ miles (4.6km)	NZ 036 996
Height gain	920 feet (280m). Extension 200 feet (60m)	NZ 025 996
Approximate time	2½ hours. Extension 1½ hours	NZ 024 987
Parking	Forest car park	NZ 038 985
Route terrain	Woodland and heath paths, occasionally rugged	NZ 031 989
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 81 (Alnwick & Morpeth), Explorer OL42 (Kielder Water & Forest – Bellingham & Simonside Hills)	

Although only 10 miles from the Cheviots, the Simonside Hills have a completely different character, rugged sandstone outcrops defining their summits. The walk climbs through the delightful forest of the lower slopes onto the most spectacular, although not quite the highest of the tops. This short ramble can be enjoyably extended along the ridge to an Iron Age fort upon a neighbouring hill.

Facing the information board at the car park entrance, take the track on the right. Walk past a barrier into the forest, picking up red waymarks that will act as a guide throughout the walk. Bear right at a fork and carry on to another split, there going right again past a TV booster transmitter. The track undulates through the trees, before long reaching another junction in a small clearing. Now go left, the way climbing once more. Through a barrier, look for a narrow path off left which leads to Little Church Rock – a monolithic outcrop of the sandstone that underlies the hills. Its name harks back to the Reformation, when clandestine religious meetings were held in defiance of the established Church.

Return to the main trail and continue



for another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to intercept a diagonal path. Follow it left into the trees shortly passing beneath another impressive outcrop. Nearby, the rock underfoot is inscribed with criss-cross grooves, possibly done by drovers to help prevent cattle from slipping as they were herded along the track.

Breaking from the trees, fork left and gain height across open heather moor towards the impressive rocky face of Simonside. Meeting another track, go right for some 200 yds to a waymark. There, branch left up a steep, scrambling path onto the upper hill, which although improved to combat erosion, remains a rugged climb.

The top is soon attained and your effort is rewarded with a spectacular view that remains throughout the next leg of the walk. From a large cairn marking a prehistoric burial , a flagged path leads towards a second outcrop, winding right to gain its summit from the back. The path continues across the airy moor later descending from Old Stell Crag to Dove Crag, the site of another ancient

burial. A stepped path leaves the top, reaching a waypost 150 yds below, .

The extension continues along the path ahead, over the ladder-stile in the lower fence and on across The Beacon before descending to the lane opposite a small car park. The Iron Age fort extends over the rising ground beyond and several rocks bear intriguing cup and ring markings. You can then return to the forest car park, which lies to the north west, about a mile along the quiet lane.

Otherwise, go left, abandoning the stepped path at and curving back below Dove Crag to drop from the heather through an area of felled forest. Reaching a T-junction, turn left and then at the next junction , right to follow a descending forest track above Coe Burn. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, watch for a path forking off on the right that continues down through the trees. Carry on to the bottom and then swing left back to the car park.



Hadrian's Wall from Steel Rigg

Start Steel Rigg, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Once Brewed National Park Information Centre

Distance $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles (7.6km)

Height gain 770 feet (235m)

Approximate time $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Parking Car park at start (Pay and Display)

Route terrain Rugged path along wall, short stretch across moor

Ordnance Survey maps Landrangers 86 (Haltwhistle & Brampton) or 87 (Hexham & Haltwhistle), Explorer OL43 (Hadrian's Wall – Haltwhistle & Hexham)

GPS waypoints

- NY 751 676
- A NY 780 686
- B NY 778 690
- C NY 771 684

This is, without doubt, one of the most dramatic sections of Hadrian's Wall and is justifiably popular with visitors. However relatively few venture far from the car park and are content merely to gaze along the line of cliffs that rear above Crag Lough.

The walk continues over Hotbank Crags before dropping off to return across the rough northern pastures that foot the rearing sill.

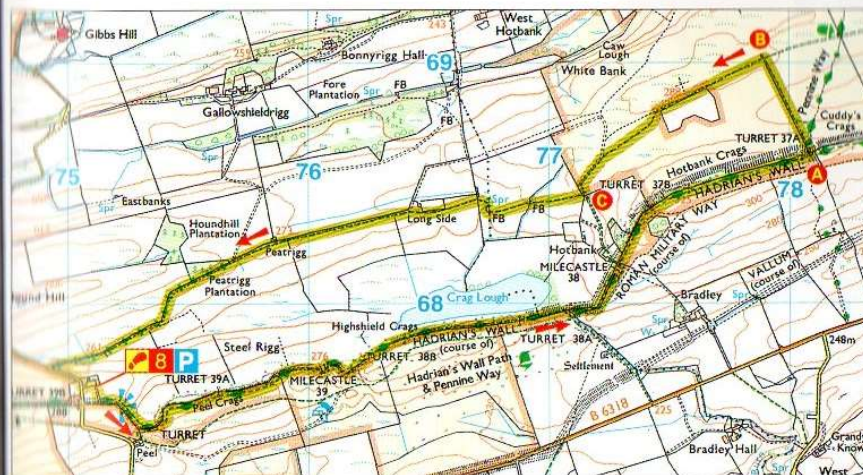
The wall was the brainchild of Emperor Hadrian, who visited Britannia in 122 to inspect the northernmost province of his empire following a revolt among the Brigantes. His aim was to secure rather than expand the territory and he ordered the construction of a defence right across the country between the Tyne and Solway. Work began that same year and was largely complete by 128. When finished, it was 80 Roman miles long ($73\frac{1}{2}$ statute miles) with a gateway guarded by a fortlet or milecastle every mile.

Under Hadrian's successor, Antoninus Pius, the frontier was pushed farther north between the Forth and the Clyde, and in 142 a second wall was begun, now known as the Antonine Wall.

Although only half the length of Hadrian's Wall, it took twice as long to build. It was abandoned within 20 years and the frontier was once again fixed on Hadrian's line.

As well as being a strategic line of defence and awesome symbol of the might of the Roman Empire, the wall also served to regulate trade and the comings and goings of people across the frontier. The milecastles and forts served as customs posts where goods could be taxed, and civilian settlements grew up around the forts to take advantage of passing trade.

From a gate at the rear of the car park, a path leads to the line of the Roman wall. Go left into Peel Gap before climbing steeply to a ladder-stile at the



top of the crag. The strategic value of the setting is vividly demonstrated here in the lofty whinstone cliffs overlooking Crag Lough. The defence was virtually unassailable and provided a superb vantage commanding the rolling countryside to the north, which, despite their best efforts, the Romans had never fully been able to wrest from the control of the Caledonians.

Carry on beside the wall, which has been restored to an impressive shoulder height. In the next gap, known as Cat Stairs, wild flowers flourish in the poor soil, improved by lime that has leached from the crumbling mortar and infill. After another sharp climb, the way drops to Castle Nick, which is protected by one of the 80 milecastles that were originally planned along the length of the wall.

In the next dip, the path cuts through to the outer flank of the wall. Clamber up to continue high above Crag Lough before descending gently through pine woodland towards the far end of the lough. Leaving the trees, walk on to intersect a track leading to Hotbank Farm. Cross the wall and skirt the farm, climbing over Hotbank Crags to



Ranishaw Gap A. Leave it there, mounting a stile beside a gate. Ignoring the Pennine Way sign, head straight out from the wall, following the course of a dilapidated field boundary to reach a substantial limekiln, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away B.

At that point, turn left, following a vague track along the top of a low escarpment. Passing a plantation, bear slightly left, shortly picking up a more distinct track that curves left to a gate at the end of a wall behind Hotbank Farm C.

Instead of passing through, cross a ladder-stile over to the right and strike out across a large pasture. Keep going to the far side of a second field, where a fingerpost directs you right to another stile. Resume your westerly heading past Crag Lough, side-stepping an enclosure and a couple of farm sheds. Carry on beside the ongoing wall, the way later materialising as a track that rises beside Peatrigg Plantation. It then winds down into the base of the valley, eventually meeting a lane. Climb left back to the car park at Steel Rigg.

SCALE 1:27,777 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 3.6CM TO 1KM

Whiteadder Valley and Edin's Hall Broch

Start Abbey St Bathans

Distance 5 miles (8km)

Height gain 870 feet (265m)

Approximate time 2½ hours

Parking Car park by Riverside Restaurant

Route terrain Heath and field paths, lane and track

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 67 (Duns, Dunbar & Eyemouth), Explorer 346 (Berwick-upon-Tweed)

GPS waypoints

- NT 762 618
- NT 767 611
- NT 772 603
- NT 786 604
- NT 789 609
- NT 780 621

Few brochs exist outside the far north of Scotland and its islands – consequently Edin's Hall is something of an oddity. It is explored on this enjoyable walk along the valley of Whiteadder Water from Abbey St Bathans, returning by a pleasant country route to the north.

Despite the settlement's name, there never was an abbey. Rather, it was a small priory for Cistercian nuns, founded at the beginning of the 13th century by Ada, Countess of Dunbar. The place took its name from a 6th-century Irish monk from Iona, St Bathán, who supposedly founded a chapel here. The priory was destroyed by English troops in 1543 and its site has now been lost, although the small church, just up the road from the start of the walk contains a funeral effigy of a prioress.

Follow the lane south past a wood yard, gradually gaining height above the valley for ½ mile. Where the lane bends sharply right, abandon it for a footpath signed to Edin's Hall A. Steps lead down beside the edge of Ellerburn Wood to a bridge. Turn briefly downstream before climbing over a shoulder to emerge from the trees. An

obvious trod strikes across the open lower flank of Cockburn Law, gently rising above the Whiteadder Valley. After ½ mile, approaching a gate, swing left down to a second smaller gate and stile, over which, climb to the broch B. Occupying a commanding platform above a steep slope, the broch's structure is immediately apparent. Within the thickness of a massive dry-stone annular wall are several rooms and the remains of a staircase to a higher level. Originally it would have been at least two storeys high, the central area roofed over with timber beams. Built during the 1st century, it stands within an earlier extensive hill fort, whose double ditch and earth rampart defences are readily discernible. Later occupation of the site is revealed in several hut circles, some of which overlie the earlier structures and probably date to the Roman period

during the 2nd century.

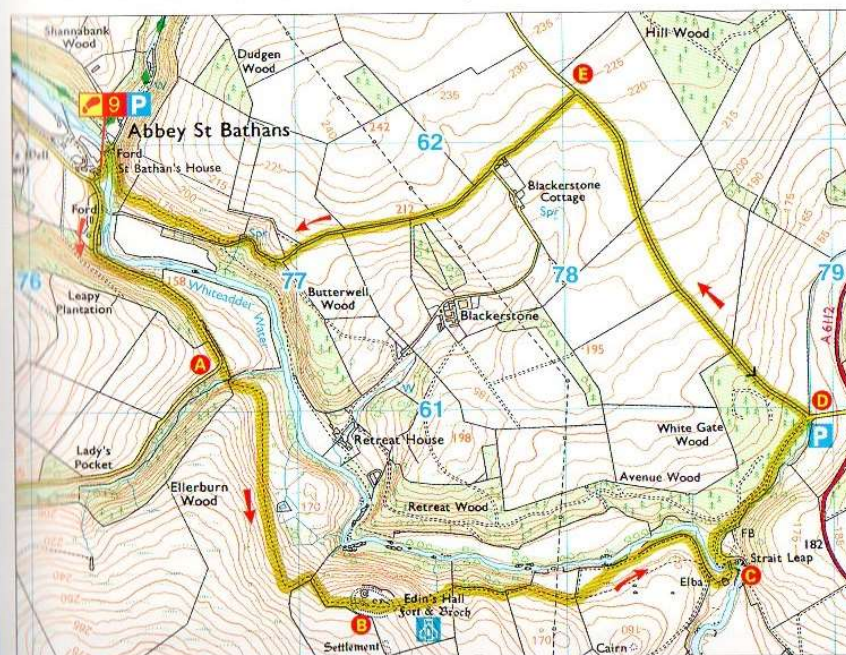
Beyond the broch, the path falls across the hillside to a kissing-gate at the bottom end of a wall. Carry on at the edge of grazing above a steep wooded bank, crossing a couple of wall stiles before the path slants down to a lower pasture. Joining its left fence, continue above the river. In time, thorns squeeze the way to a gate, through which, the path drops to a track. Cross and continue behind a house to a bridge suspended above a rapid C, which impressively churns the peaty flow of Whiteadder Water after heavy rain.

A track winds away between the trees, climbing beside Otter Burn. Reaching a lane at the top D go left. Follow it uphill for a mile, shortly leaving the woodland behind. Arriving at a junction E, go left to Blackerstone



The impressive remains of Edin's Hall Broch

and The Retreat, but after ¼ mile, where the lane then swings left, keep ahead on a broad track. It eventually meanders down to run at the edge of Butterwell Wood. Keep going for another ¼ mile before leaving over a stile on the right. Signed to Abbey St Bathans, a clear path rises through the bracken and gorse of the hillside, before dropping into trees to meet a track bringing the Southern Upland Way from Cockburnpath to the river. Cross a bridge beside the ford to go back to the car park.



Arnton Fell

Start Second lay-by on right along unclassified lane, signed to Steele Road off B6399

Distance 5 miles (8km)

Height gain 1,115 feet (340m)

Approximate time 2½ hours

Parking Limited roadside parking, do not obstruct passing place

Route terrain Pathless moorland fell; *Note: hillside closed between April 10 – May 1 during lambing*

Dog friendly Dogs should be on leads at all times

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 79 (Hawick & Eskdale), Explorer OL42 (Kielder Water & Forest – Bellingham & Simonside Hills)

GPS waypoints

- NY 514 932
- A NY 524 950
- B NY 529 965
- C NY 525 965
- D NY 516 951

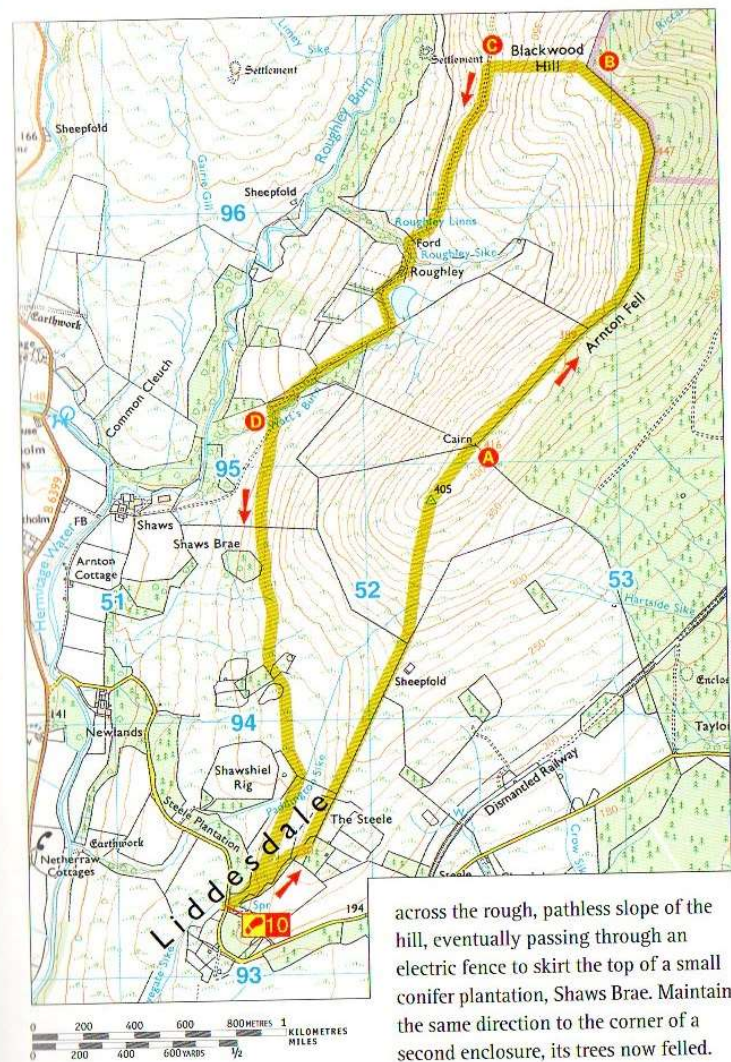
Arnton Fell is seemingly remote from anywhere, although until 40 years ago, the famous Waverley Line between Edinburgh and Carlisle ran below its eastern flank. The ascent of Arnton from the south and traverse of its broad, grassy ridge onto Blackwood Hill is rewarded by a superb view of Liddesdale and the hills that surround its head. Inexperienced walkers should choose a clear day.

 A stile beside a field gate opposite the lay-by gives access to the hillside. Ignore the gate ahead and instead bear left on a faint track paralleling a fence beginning on the right. Close with the fence farther up to pass a small plantation, going through a gate and steadily gaining height along the spur of the hill. Where the fence eventually swings right, break left, climbing more steeply to discover a triangulation pillar marking the end of the ridge. Isolated from the forest cloaking the eastern slope of the fell, it enjoys a magnificent panorama over the surrounding hills. To the west is Hermitage Castle, built in the 13th century to control one of the most

fought-over valleys in the central borders. From here, it is much less forbidding than its reputation and perhaps suggests a visit later in the day.

With the strenuous part of the ascent now behind you, continue along the ridge towards a gateway and pile of stones, which marks the first high point **A**. A rough path carries on for a generous mile beside the forest boundary, dipping gently before climbing to the somewhat higher summit of Blackwood Hill. Keep going beyond, descending to the corner of the fence **B**.

Strike away, almost due west towards the distant castle. Descend steeply over rough ground to a grass track contouring the base of the hill **C**.



Follow it left for ½ mile, ultimately fording a stream by Roughley Farm. Now metalled, the track continues along the valley for another ½ mile before fording Watt's Burn.

As the track then curves away **D**, branch left at a shallow angle, rising across the grassy hillside above the hollow of a small shale quarry. Carry on

across the rough, pathless slope of the hill, eventually passing through an electric fence to skirt the top of a small conifer plantation, Shaws Brae. Maintain the same direction to the corner of a second enclosure, its trees now felled.

Again cross an electric strand and briefly follow a fence on the right. When that turns down, keep ahead, later passing the tip of yet another plantation. Cross a gate there and bear right, now walking below the start of your outward route. Gradually close with the upper boundary of Steele Plantation over to the right and return to the lane.

Above Rothbury

Start	Rothbury	GPS waypoints
Distance	5¼ miles (8.5km)	 NU 050 015  A NU 046 017  B NU 046 020  C NU 046 032  D NU 060 033  E NU 056 032  F NU 054 024
Height gain	820 feet (250m)	
Approximate time	2½ hours	
Parking	Beggars Rigg car park, ¼ mile west of Rothbury along B6341	
Route terrain	Heathland paths	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 81 (Alnwick & Morpeth), Explorer 332 Alnwick & Amble)	

Rothbury clusters around a bridge over the River Coquet, its attractive setting belying a troubled past during the centuries of Border unrest. The walk begins from a riverside park and explores part of the open heath and forest of the Cragside estate before returning through the old heart of Rothbury and along the riverbank.

 Leave the car park past a viewing platform to reach the road above. Follow it towards the town, but then turn back sharp left opposite Rothbury House, opened in 1789 as a private hotel. Follow the lane up the hill, continuing for another 400 yds after it levels to find steps set into the wall on the right beside the entrance drive of 'Midmar' **A**. A path runs between the houses, curving left to tackle the steep wooded bank behind.

Reaching the top, mount a ladder-stile at the end of a wall. Keep ahead below an outcrop before passing into open pasture. Do not go through the gate behind a cottage, Gimmerknowe, instead turn right and follow a developing grass track beside the wall. Meeting a gravel track **B**, turn left along it, later passing a house, Whinams at Brae Head.

Rising beyond, the track curves to join a wall. After passing a gate through

which Physic Lane emerges from the left, track and wall diverge. Keep going past a clump of trees behind another short section of wall and, where the track then forks, take the left branch. Carry on across the heather moor over a shallow rise to intersect a more pronounced crossing track **C**.

Go left, the way soon bending around to the northeast and drawing beside a stone wall. After briefly following its course, the track moves away into woodland. Shortly reaching a crossing track, go through the field gate opposite, the way signed to Primrose Cottage. The trail gently descends at the edge of the wood overlooking a picturesque valley.

At Primrose Cottage **D**, turn right through a gate into Primrose Wood. Climb away for ¼ mile to a junction where a track is signed left to Rothbury. It undulates through the trees, the conifers relieved by birch and beech.

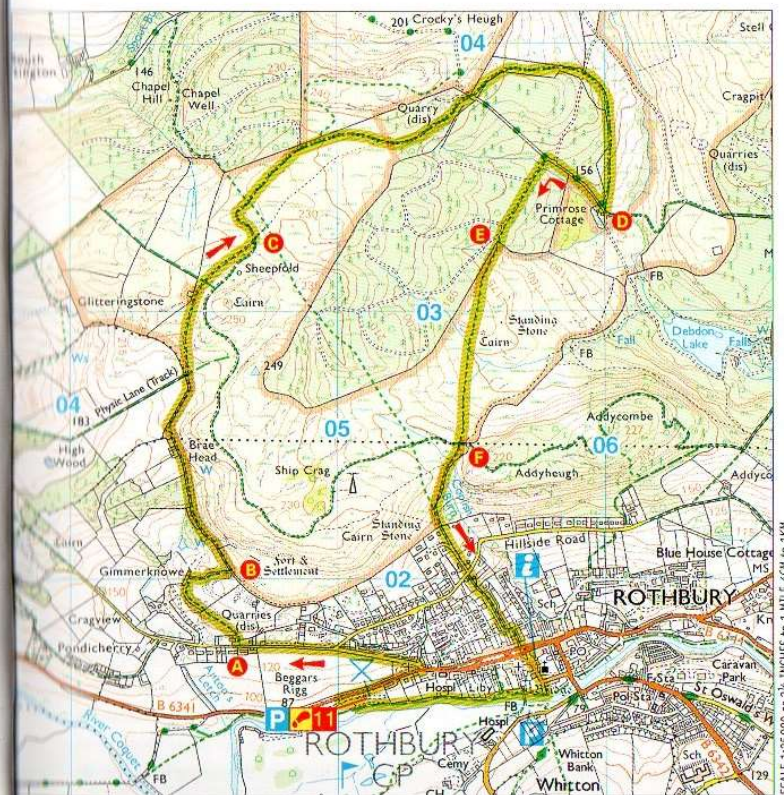
After another ¼ mile, just beyond a junction on the right, look out for a narrow path bearing off left **E** and dropping to a small gate. A clear path leads away over a footbridge across an expanse of sandy heath. After crossing a boggy stream, it rises towards the edge of Addyheugh Wood, there meeting a stony track emerging from the trees **F**.

Cross to the continuing path opposite, which follows the forest fence. After a few yards, you can deviate onto the hill for the fine panorama across the Coquet Valley to the Simonside Hills. Return to the path and wander downhill at the edge of the forest, eventually reaching a stile off the heath.

A contained path drops between house gardens to a street. Carry on

downhill to a junction. Turn right and almost immediately left to pick up another path. At the bottom of that, go left and right along a final passageway that ends in the centre of Rothbury.

Cross to the street opposite and walk down past the church. Where it bends sharply left, keep ahead along a path beside the old Haa-Hill burial ground. It occupies the site of Rothbury Castle, which apparently remained occupied until the 1850s but then became ruinous and was pulled down to create extra burial space for the parish. The graveyard contains a number of noteworthy memorials, including the





The track near Brae Head

Armstrong family tomb.

Born at Newcastle in 1810, William George Armstrong began his professional life as a solicitor. But his real interest lay in engineering, and his early work centred on hydraulics and electricity generation. After designing a crane for use in the shipyards he opened his own factory in 1847. The entrepreneur turned his attentions to bridge construction and armaments and was knighted for his design of an accurate breech-loading field gun. He

subsequently turned to the manufacture of naval guns and then warships. In 1863, Armstrong began building Cragside above Rothbury, a place he had often visited as a child. He later restored the castle at Bamburgh and was a great benefactor to his own city, Newcastle, founding the origins of the university and supporting the building of the Hancock Museum.

Drop to a riverside path and follow it upstream. Reaching the picnic area, climb the bank to the car park above. ●

Lindisfarne

Start	Holy Island	GPS waypoints
Distance	5½ miles (8.8km)	📍 NU 125 425
Height gain	195 feet (60m)	📍 A NU 119 435
Approximate time	2½ hours	📍 B NU 139 436
Parking	Car park at edge of village (Pay and Display)	📍 C NU 129 419
Route terrain	Coastal paths, rocky beaches and sand dunes <i>Note: Consult tide-tables to check safe crossing times</i>	📍 D NU 125 419
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 75 (Berwick-upon-Tweed), Explorer 340 (Holy Island and Bamburgh)	

An Irish monk, Saint Aidan, brought Christianity to the kingdom of Northumbria in 635, founding a monastery on Lindisfarne under the patronage of King Oswald. Today, cut off twice a day by the tide, the tiny island remains a special place, rich in both wildlife and historical remains. There is much to see and it is worth spending a full day on the island.

Aidan's purpose was to take Christianity to Northumbria, and coming from Iona, chose the seclusion of this island upon which to establish his monastic retreat. After 17 years as Bishop, Aidan died at Bamburgh and was later succeeded by Cuthbert, a young shepherd boy who had been inspired by a vision of Aidan's soul rising to heaven. Cuthbert was renowned for his piety and generosity to the poor, but in later life sought the solitude of the Farne Islands. While there, he decreed protection for the nesting eider ducks, which today are known locally as *Cuddy Ducks*. After his death in 687 he was interred at Lindisfarne, but when his casket was opened 11 years later, his corpse was found to be preserved and miracles were attributed to him. When the community abandoned the island in the face of raiding Vikings, they took his body with them. After many long years of

wandering via Melrose, Chester-le-Street and Ripon, Cuthbert's body was finally laid to rest at Durham.

📍 From the northern end of the car park, walk back along the lane towards the shore, leaving before the bend through a signposted gate for a path at the edge of the dunes. Where it splits beyond the fields, keep ahead, passing the remains of a limekiln. Gaining height across the dunes, a view opens over the island. Maintain direction towards the northern coast, shortly encountering a ruin A. Pass it on the right to find a gap in a cattle fence and walk out to the shore.

Turn right behind a sandy beach, which soon gives way to the low rocky slabs of Back Skerrs. In places smooth, elsewhere fractured, eroded and littered with boulders, the wave-washed rocks are of carboniferous sandstone, shale and limestone, the strata gently undulating

as if emulating the swell of the sea. Hollows steal water from the receding tide wherein lurk tiny creatures, while barnacles and seaweeds coat the rocks.

Rounding the point brings you to the small, sandy bay of Coves Haven, sheltered by low cliffs at the far side. At low tide you can pick your way across the boulders, *but at high water you must resort to a path along the top*. Beyond Castlehead Rocks is a much larger bay, split by the reef of Keel Head extending into the sea.

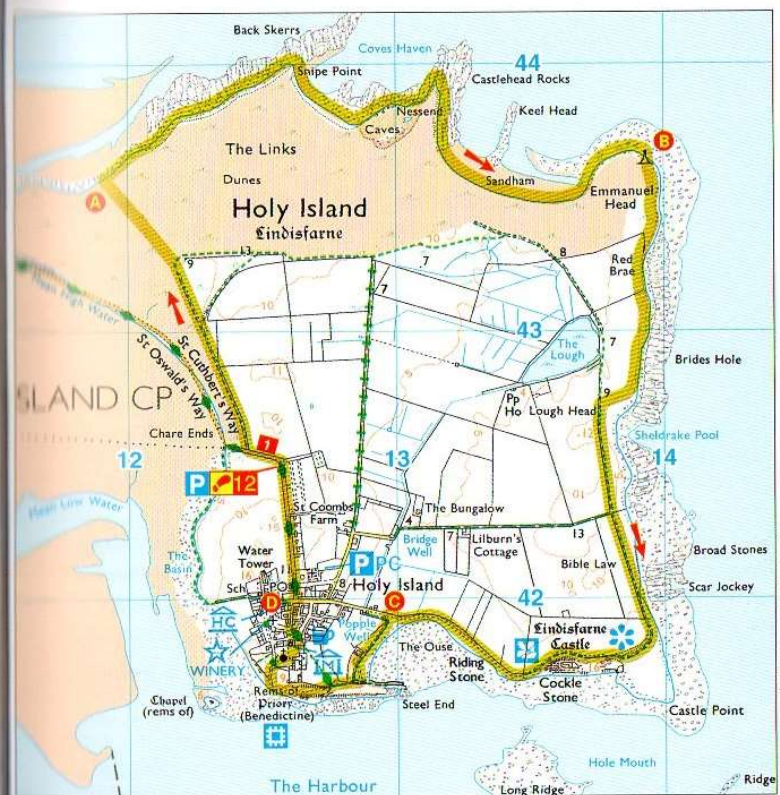
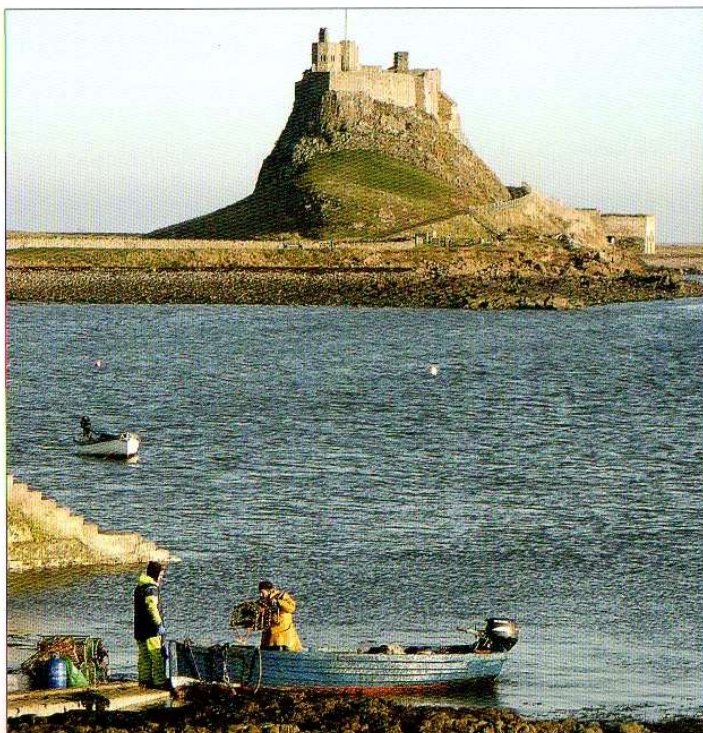
Abandon the shore for the dunes as you approach a pyramidal navigation marker on Emmanuel Head **B**, exchanging views past Berwick to Scotland for a panorama to the south; a flashing lighthouse on Longstone marks

the archipelago of the Farne Islands, while Bamburgh Castle and closer to, Lindisfarne Castle majestically perch on rocky outcrops.

Turning down the eastern coast, the going is easier on the grass above the bouldery apron of shore. Carry on over a stile and through a gate, the island's only lake lying over to the right. Known simply as The Lough, it attracts overwintering waterfowl, particularly the pale-bellied brent goose. Eventually an elevated pathway curves toward the castle. It carried a tramway transporting limestone to a massive kiln on the left, well preserved and best seen from the bottom.

The impressive fort, built around 1540 to protect the harbour, was used

Unloading lobster pots in the harbour below Lindisfarne Castle



by troops sent to quell border uprisings. It was bought by the publisher Edward Hudson in 1901 who commissioned his friend, Edwin Lutyens to transform it into a comfortable house. Hudson sold it on 20 years later and in 1944, the merchant banker, Sir Edward de Stein gave it to the National Trust.

Paths pass either side of the castle mound, although the entrance lies on the seaward flank. Beyond, a track leads around the harbour bay towards the village. Fork left at a junction **C**, passing a collection of upturned boats that serve as fishermen's sheds. Approaching the jetty area, bear right in front of a large hut to find a path climbing onto the Heugh behind, which overlooks the priory and offshore island to which St Cuthbert retreated before



withdrawing to Inner Farne.

The path drops steeply from the far end, where a track curves up right past St Mary's Church. Turn in through the churchyard and leave by the northern gate past the Priory Museum. The present ruins date from its refoundation as a Benedictine house in the 11th century, when monks returned from Durham. The small community briefly prospered, but the surrounding area was repeatedly harried during border unrest before its dissolution in 1537.

Now carry on and walk into the village centre keeping ahead at the crossroads **D** in order to return to the car park.

Start	Coldingham Bay, ¾ mile east of Coldingham village	GPS waypoints NT 915 665 NT 919 672 NT 916 674 NT 913 691 NT 908 689 NT 913 685 NT 912 673 NT 913 667
Distance	5¾ miles (9.3km)	
Height gain	1,015 feet (310m)	
Approximate time	3 hours	
Parking	Car park at start	
Route terrain	Clear paths and tracks, cliff edge	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 67 (Duns, Dunbar & Eyemouth), Explorer 346 (Berwick-upon-Tweed)	

St Abbs takes its name from Æbbe, daughter of the Northumbrian king, Æthefrith, who founded a monastery following shipwreck in a storm upon this treacherous coast. The settlement was subsequently destroyed by an accidental fire, supposedly in retribution for 'disorderly' behaviour between the monks and nuns. The 12th-century priory at Coldingham was a Benedictine house for monks and suffered fluctuating fortunes until the Scottish Reformation in 1560 put a stop to monasticism. The church continued in use by the parish, although was badly damaged when Cromwell passed by in 1650.

end of the shore. However, before that point, a flight of steps takes the route up to join a tarmac path along the cliff top to St Abbs. Reaching a signpost, turn left along a street lined by low cottages, Murrayfield.

Go right at the T-junction **A** and then swing left with the main street as it curves high above the harbour. Keep left again at the far end, passing the church where you can abandon the tarmac for a parallel footpath on the left. When it finishes, cross to a path opposite **B**, which is signed to St Abb's Head and runs away beside a high stone wall.

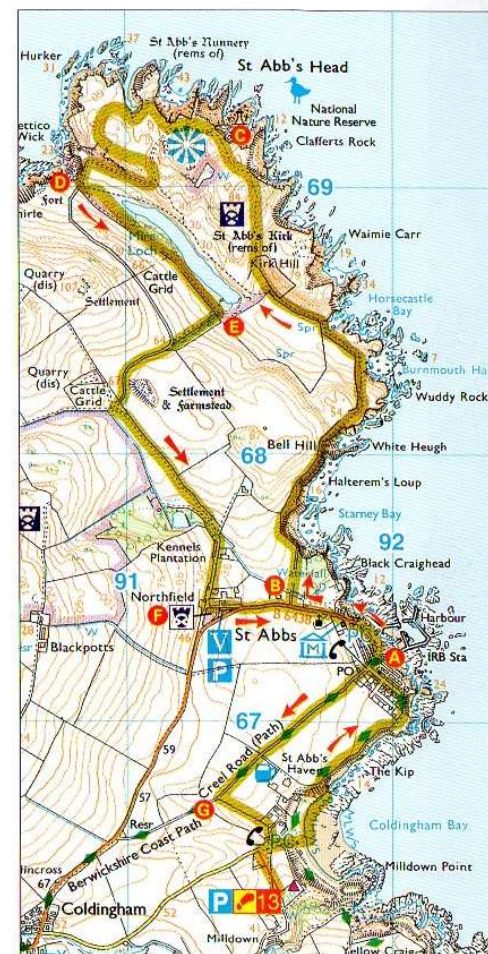
northern brown argus butterfly.

Beyond, the path gains height towards the coast, giving sight of the sea once more. The lighthouse also comes into view, set upon a squat building partway down a spit in order to shine below the fog that often obscures the cliff tops. Pass left of the lighthouse cottages and drop to a metalled drive . However, first you might climb left to a hilltop viewpoint for a magnificent panorama that sweeps inland across the Cheviot and Border hills.

Instead of simply following the lane, take a convoluted path above the dramatic cliffs, but *be wary of the precipice*. Thousands of seabirds nest here in late spring; guillemots and razorbills crowding narrow ledges on the stacks, while kittiwakes and fulmars build nests on the sheer cliff. A handful of puffins hide their eggs in tiny crevices, while on the slabs below you will see shags and herring gulls.

The path winds back to join the lane as it drops steeply through a hairpin to the head of a small bay. Climb away, but leave just before a cattle-grid **(D)**, following a trod over a stile in an intervening fence and past a reed bed at the head of Mire Loch. The way weaves through scrub above the western bank, meeting a track at the far end **(E)**. Head uphill to rejoin the lighthouse lane, which wanders on for some ¾ mile to Northfield Farm.

Approaching the main lane, turn back left  to a car park, taking a path at the far side past the information centre and **seasonal café**. Carry on along the road, which as before can be avoided by parallel paths on the left and then the right. Retrace your steps above



the harbour, turning right into Creel Road. This time, however, keep ahead to the end of the street and continue along a contained path. An ancient way, it was used by Coldingham's monks and fishermen to reach their boats moored below St Abbs. Becoming hedged, the path falls into a dip , where a path is signed left to Coldingham Sands. Reaching a lane, turn right back to the start.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Melrose and the Eildon Hills

Start	Melrose
Distance	5 miles (8km)
Height gain	1,475 feet (450m)
Approximate time	3 hours
Parking	Melrose
Route terrain	Generally good, but occasionally steep paths; a narrow wall-top path is avoidable
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 73 (Peebles, Galashiels & Selkirk), Explorer 338 (Galashiels, Selkirk & Melrose)

GPS waypoints

- NT 547 339
- A NT 547 337
- B NT 550 325
- C NT 548 322
- D NT 554 328
- E NT 563 336
- F NT 561 341

The striking landmarks of the three peaks of the Eildon Hills all offer stunning views from their summits. This walk takes in the two highest, returning in a roundabout route beside the River Tweed. Although fairly short, the climb onto middle peak is quite steep, as is the descent from northern hill. The final stretch by the river runs along the top of a narrow wall, but there is an alternative finish.

Aidan, the Ionian missionary who brought Christianity to Northumbria, founded the first monastery at Melrose in 660. Cuthbert began his vocation here and became its second prior, and

Melrose Abbey



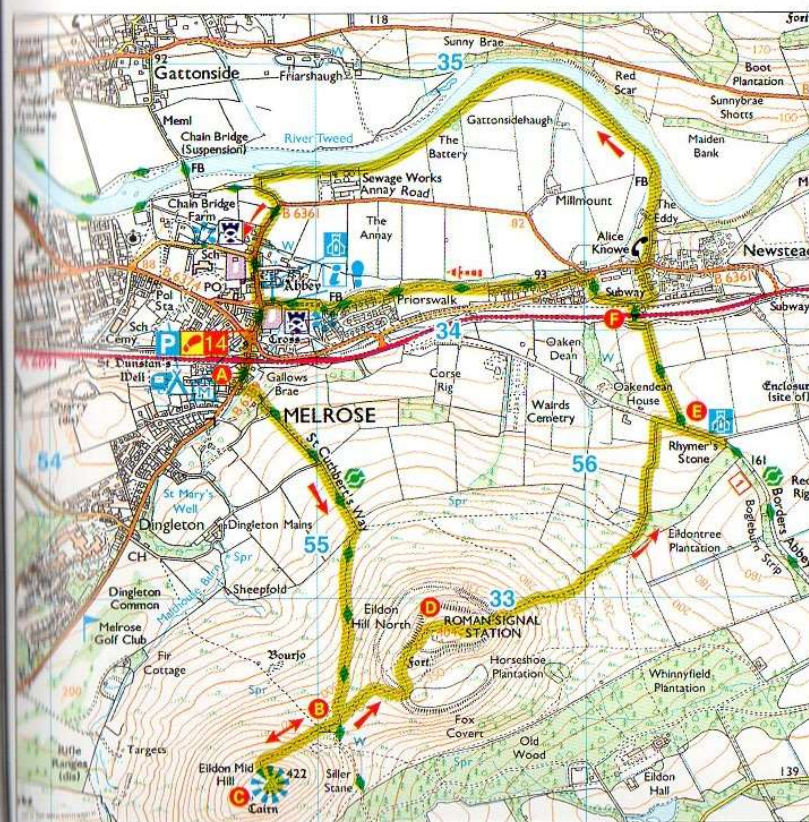
Melrose is traditionally one of the places where the Lindisfarne monks laid his body during their wandering search for a new home. The present ruins are of a Cistercian foundation under David I in 1131, the town growing to serve both the needs of the monks and pilgrims visiting the abbey church. Like other border towns, Melrose periodically suffered from the attacks and reprisals of both sides, the abbey finally being destroyed around 1550. Sir Walter Scott and the Duke of Buccleuch were responsible for its restoration in 1822.

Begin from the Market Cross in the Square, leaving south along Dingleton Road, which climbs away beneath the bypass. Some 100 yds beyond the bridge, look for a stepped path signed as the Eildon Hills Walk and St Cuthbert's Way **A**, which drops between the terraces to a bridge over Malthouse Burn.

The onward path rises left behind the cottages before turning up a long flight of steps beside a wood. Over a stile, the way continues energetically upwards, offering an excuse to pause and admire the retrospective view over the town and its abbey. Through a couple of gates, cross the end of a track and resume the steep ascent. Emerging

through a kissing-gate onto the open hillside, walk up to a waymark and bear right. The path winds through gorse to a shallow saddle between the northern and middle hills **B**, where a superb view suddenly opens to the south.

Tackle Mid Hill first, taking the rising path to the right and keeping right where it shortly forks. Higher up, the gradient briefly eases before the path swings left in a final determined attack of the summit cone **C**. The panorama from the top is quite magnificent, a topograph helping you to identify the surrounding hills. On a shelf, just below





Eildon Hill North

to the right is a burial cairn, while to the south is the lowest hill of the group.

Return to the saddle and continue onto the northern hill. The climb is less strenuous and although all upward paths will take you to the top, the broadest trail takes the easiest line to a low pile of stones marking the summit **D**.

Carry on along a short grassy ridge, at the end of which bear left on a path descending through the heather and blaeberry. The way progressively steepens to a waymark. Continue straight down the hill to another waymark and again keep ahead between patches of gorse. Meeting a junction of paths before a line of beech masking a plantation of pine, go left, shortly passing through a gate. An old hedged path runs down to meet a lane, formerly the main road into the town.

Go right, passing through a barrier to find a stone stele 100 yds farther on. 'This stone marks the site of the Eildon Tree, where legend says Thomas the Rhymer met the Queen of the Fairies and here he was inspired to utter the first notes of the Scottish Muse'. The original site lay somewhat to the south, but the stone was relocated in 1970.

Return through the barrier and take

the track just beyond on the right **E**, which falls between the fields. At the bottom, go through the right-hand gate, winding through an underpass below the A6091. Continue beneath an old railway bridge to a T-junction of tracks **F**.

Those not comfortable with heights should turn left and follow Eildon Hills Walk waymarks back to the town. Otherwise, go right to a cottage and then turn left down Claymires Lane. Coming out onto a street at the bottom walk right and then almost immediately left into Eddy Road. It soon degrades to a rough track, from the end of which a trod continues over a footbridge to the Tweed.

Turn upstream over a stile and along a walkway to carry on by the river at the edge of a large grazing meadow. Reaching the far side, the route climbs onto a high stone wall known as Battery Dyke. It runs above the river for ¼ mile, dropping off at the end to continue past a water treatment plant and rugby ground. Passing through a metal gate go left at the edge of a small field to emerge through another gate onto a lane. Turn left again past the rugby ground to a junction. Go right to pass the abbey and Priorwood Garden and keep ahead back to the centre of Melrose.

Bolam Lake and Shaftoe Crags

Start	Bolam Lake Country Park	GPS waypoints
Distance	6½ miles (10.5km)	NZ 083 820
Height gain	540 feet (165m)	A NZ 074 819
Approximate time	3 hours	B NZ 073 813
Parking	Boathouse Wood car park (Pay and Display)	C NZ 060 805
Route terrain	Clear paths, tracks and lane	D NZ 059 817
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 81 (Alnwick & Morpeth), Explorer 0L42 (Kielder Water & Forest)	E NZ 051 824
		F NZ 076 818

A circuit around Bolam Lake makes a fine, easy walk on its own, but here, the country park serves as a base from which to explore the wider countryside. Nearby are the impressive sandstone and heath outcrops of Shaftoe Crags, a superb viewpoint across the rolling landscape towards Wallington.

The woodland lake was laid out in the early 19th century and provided timber during the last war. Restoration as a country park has created many habitats for wildlife, which include red squirrels,

weasels, stoats and of course the lake's resident mute swans.

 From the car park, drop to the lake and follow the shore path in a clockwise direction. Reaching a fork, bear right past the car park at Lower House Wood and keep going to West

Bolam Lake

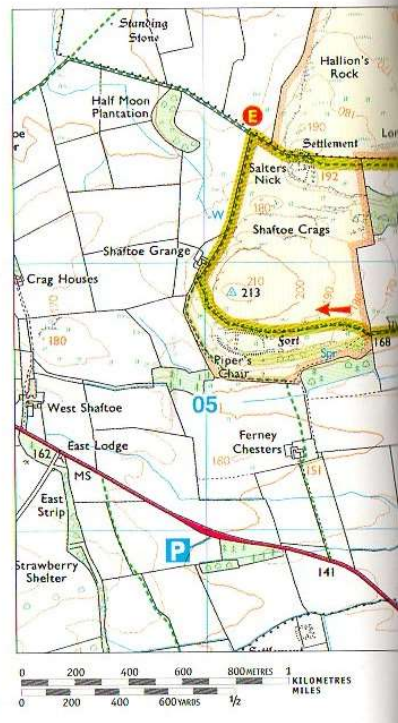
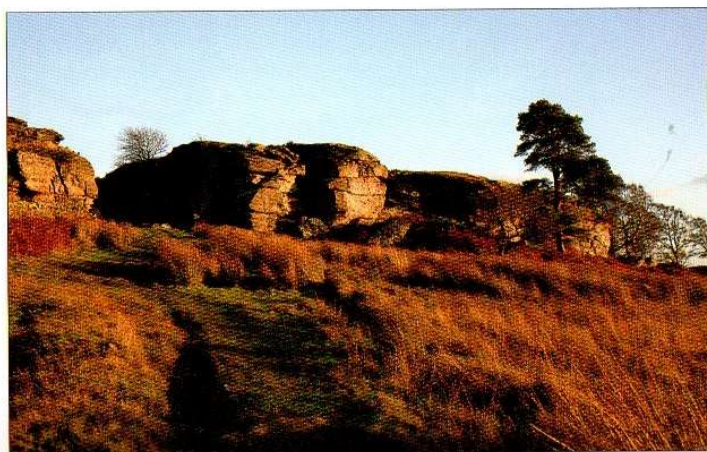


Wood car park. From the far side, amble on through the trees parallel to the lane. Ignore a broad grass trail and continue to the corner of the wood, emerging at a junction **A**.

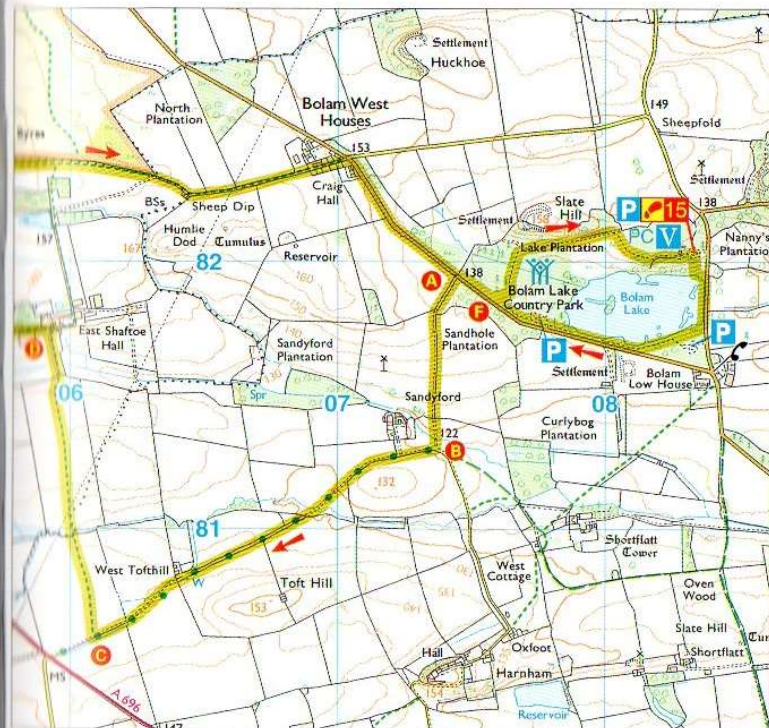
Take the narrow lane opposite signed to Harnham, which, after passing through a belt of trees, soon crosses a cattle-grid onto the edge of open grazing. Shaftoe Crags can be seen in the middle distance to the right. After nearly ½ mile, cross a stream and go right at the junction beyond, **B**. The way lies along a shallow fold past Sandyford Farm and below Toft Hill, its slopes ridged with old ploughing. Keep going for almost a mile, passing a lone cottage before reaching a path signed off on the right **C**. It traces the margin dividing open cultivation towards East Shaftoe Hall. Over a stile and bridge, the path crosses the line of a Roman road, the Devil's Causeway, which ran from Corbridge to the coast at Berwick. Carry on to a track in front of the farm **D** and follow it left above a walled garden and then past a cottage to a gate.

The old track winds away across open heath, rising gently onto the hillside.

Salters Nick



The mound of high ground to the left was the site of an Iron Age settlement, its embankments and ditches still visible among the bracken. Above the track to the right is the highpoint of the



hill, marked by a triangulation pillar, from which there is a wonderful view across the surrounding countryside.

Return to continue along the main track, which curves around the flank of the hill to Shaftoe Grange. Approaching the house, bear right to pass it and walk on at the edge of the heath below a line of weatherworn cliffs. In a rock shelter, flints dating from the early Stone Age have been found, while some rocks bear cup-shaped carvings from the Bronze Age.

Carry on for ¼ mile to the corner of the accompanying wall **E**, there swinging right on a track that rises to a gap in the sandstone outcrop, Salters Nick. Another Iron Age settlement, which continued into the Roman period, was sited on the high ground here. The dramatic scenery is suddenly left

behind, the bridlepath passing from the heath onto open grazing. As a track joins from the right, walk on through a gate, shortly beyond which the distinctive mound of a Bronze Age burial tumulus can be seen to the right. The track ends past the cottages at Bolam West Houses at a lane.

Turn right towards Belsay and Newcastle, walking for a little over ¼ mile back to the junction for Harnham **A**. Retrace your outward path into the woods, but on reaching the green trail **F** just before West Wood car park, go left. Winding through the trees, it is shortly joined by another path from the left. Keep going as the trees then thin to reveal the lake below. Remain on the high path, which shortly passes into more woodland, later bearing right at a fork to return to the car park. ●

Hadrian's Wall from Once Brewed

Start	Once Brewed	GPS waypoints
Distance	6¾ miles (10.9km)	NY 752 668
Height gain	900 feet (275m)	A NY 748 668
Approximate time	3 hours	B NY 740 655
Parking	National Park car park (Pay and Display)	C NY 730 656
Route terrain	Rugged field and moorland paths	D NY 714 657
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 86 (Haltwhistle & Brampton) or 87 (Hexham & Haltwhistle), Explorer OL43 (Hadrian's Wall – Haltwhistle & Hexham)	E NY 715 662
		F NY 727 668
		G NY 750 675

Hadrian's Wall is at its most impressive across the Pennines, its formidability heightened by the line of crags upon which it sits. Beginning from the Once Brewed Visitor Centre, the walk climbs to the Stanegate, a military road servicing the frontier defence. The route then loops west to Cawfield Crags and follows the wall for some 2½ miles, passing its highest elevation on Winshield Crags.

Walk up to the main road and turn left past the famous **Twice Brewed Inn**. The origin of its name is lost in time, but a couple of tales play on the quality of its ale. Edward I, on his way to Berwick, was so pleased with his pint that he commanded it be brewed again. But General Wade's men, passing by in pursuit of Bonnie Prince Charlie, were not impressed and ordered it to be brewed again. It all goes to show what a change of landlord can do, but



what of 'Once Brewed'? When Lady Trevelyan of Wallington Hall, whose husband was a strict abstainer, opened the youth hostel in 1934, she declared that nothing stronger than tea would be served and hoped that even that 'would only be brewed once'.

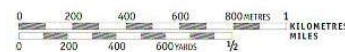
After ¼ mile, just before the Vallum Lodge guesthouse, turn off left along a signed path beside a small workshed A. Walk away at the field edge and cross a stream at the bottom. Bearing right, climb past a ruin and over a stile in an intervening fence towards a roofless barn on the skyline.

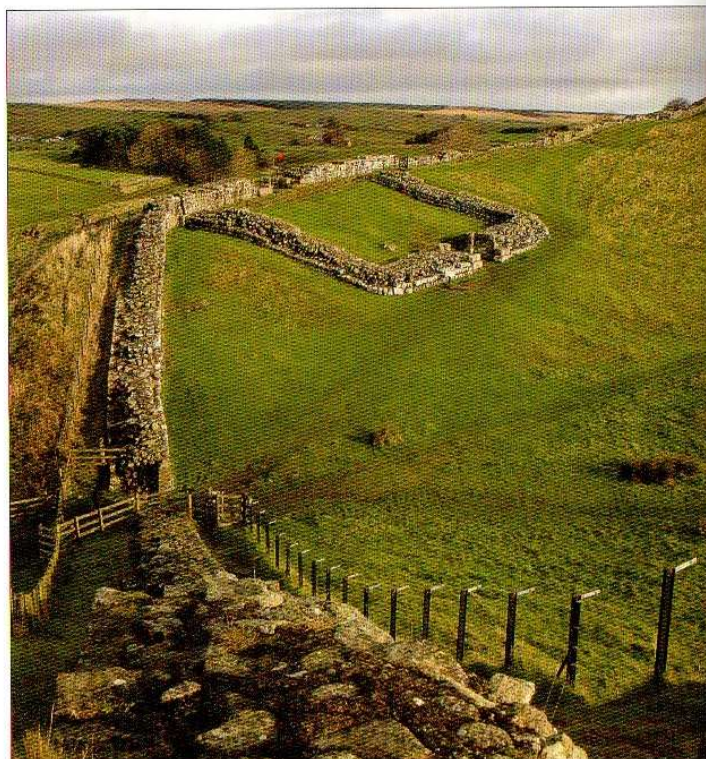
Through a gate beside it, cross the line of the Stanegate, the raised way and parallel ditches clearly evident in the tussock. Strike a right diagonal across an expanse of rough pasture to find a ladder-stile in the distant corner opposite Bayldon Farm B. Follow a grass track to the right to meet the bend

in a lane. Again go right, leaving on the next bend through a gate on the left from which a path is signed to Haltwhistle C.

Walk below a rocky ridge, continuing past the corner of the wall to find a small gate and stile in a wall on the far side of a hollow. Head away on a trod, crossing a stream towards a clump of trees. Rising from a second dip, the path curves left, becoming more distinct to follow a line of shallow sinks. Emerging over a stile onto a lane D, follow it downhill to the main road beside the **Milecastle Inn**.

The lane opposite heads toward Cawfield Crags, passing mounds in the adjacent field that mark the site of a Roman fort. Leave through a kissing-gate on the bend E and strike out,





crossing the line of the vallum before climbing to a milecastle at the end of the crag. The square ruin is immediately impressive, but an even better view is to be had by clambering up the fenced path to the top of the stark cliff. The cliff and lake below are not natural features but an abandoned quarry, opened during the 19th century to exploit the outcrop of hard, whinstone, but taking with it a section of Roman wall.

The onward way follows the heaving ridge to the right, where the ancient defensive wall has been restored to an impressive shoulder height. Steps take the path onto another prominence, Thorny Doors, after which the way becomes more rugged towards Caw Gap Turret. Drop to cross a lane **F** and

Milecastle 42 from the top of Cawfield Crag

continue on a path signed to Steel Rigg and Housesteads. Here, only a dry-stone field boundary marks the wall, undulating steadily upwards to the high point on Winshield Crag. The eye-filling panorama takes in the line of the Roman wall across its most desolate section. In the distant west is the Solway Firth and to the north, the Cheviot Hills. Closer to, the shallow marshy valley below the wall harbours a series of loughs, the largest of which, Greenlee Lough is a nature reserve.

As you continue east, the ground steadily falls, the path shortly coming out once again onto a lane **G**. Follow it right down the hill back to the main road opposite Once Brewed. ●

St Cuthbert's Cave

Start	Holburn Grange	GPS waypoints
Distance	7 miles (11.3km)	N NU 051 351
Height gain	785 feet (240m)	A NU 054 354
Approximate time	3½ hours	B NU 059 352
Parking	Car park behind the grange (signed to St Cuthbert's Cave from the main lane)	C NU 069 341
Route terrain	Generally clear paths and tracks	D NU 083 350
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 75 (Berwick-upon-Tweed), Explorer 340 (Holy Island and Bamburgh)	E NU 067 358
		F NU 060 352
		G NU 045 361

Set back from the Northumberland coast is a low range of sandstone hills, culminating in heughs and craggy outcrops that offer fabulous views to Holy Island and the Farne Islands, while to the south west are the distant Cheviots. One of the most dramatic viewpoints is Greensheen Hill, featured on this superb walk from Holburn Grange, which also passes a striking rock shelter, one of the traditional places where the monks, carrying the sacred remains of St Cuthbert, rested during their long, wandering journey.

■ A hedged grass track rises from beside the car park towards Greensheen Hill. Over a stile at the top **A**, go right on a green track contouring the heath of the higher slopes. Mounting another stile, walk within a fringe of a pine woodland. After a few yards, bear off along a narrow path into the trees, which leads to the foot of St Cuthbert's Cave **B**.

After St Cuthbert died in 687 on Inner Farne, his body was taken for interment at Lindisfarne. His tomb became a place of pilgrimage as tales of miracles spread. But the monastery was repeatedly harassed by Viking raiders and, in 875, they were eventually forced to leave in search of a safe haven, taking with them their most treasured possession, the miraculously still-

preserved body of St Cuthbert. For seven troubled years, the brothers roamed northern England before settling at Chester-le-Street. However, renewed raids in the 10th century again displaced the community and the monks removed the saint to Ripon. When things later quietened down, they set off back for Chester-le-Street, but while resting at Durham, the corpse let it be known that this was where he wanted to stay. A stone church was built to house his tomb, but that was not quite the end, for he was moved yet again when the cathedral was built in 1104.

A broader track returns you to the main path. Continue left, exchanging the pine for larch, where a clearing reveals weatherworn outcrops of sandstone standing below more

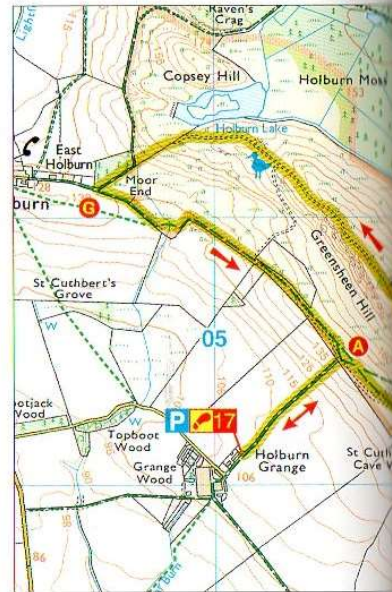
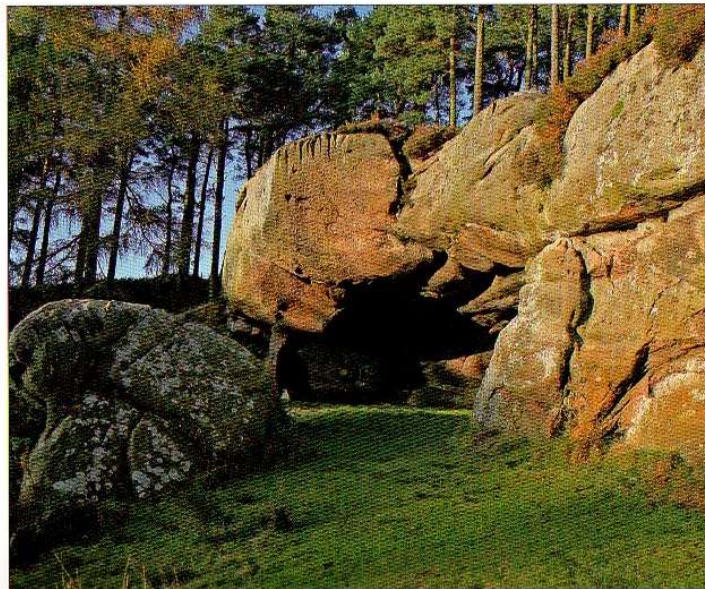
impressive cliffs. Keep going as the track bends into the thick of the forest, losing the views to the Cheviot Hills. Ignore a track leaving right at the crest of the hill and curve around to a gate leading out of the trees **C**.

As the path falls at the edge of open grazing, the panorama is towards the sea and the low offshore rocks of the Farne Islands. Through another patch of woodland, walk past a couple of sturdy barns to join an enclosed track that descends almost dead straight for the next ½ mile.

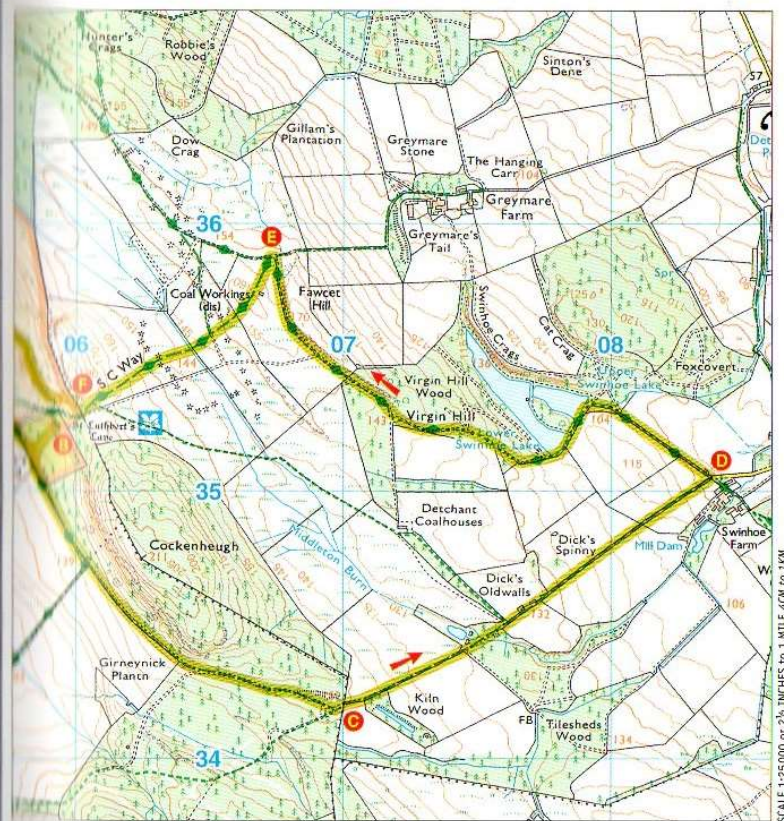
Reaching a junction beside a barn at Swinhoe Farm **D**, turn left, the way signed to Holburn. Approaching more timber, disregard tracks off to the right and wind past Swinhoe lakes. After gently climbing, the winding track finally leaves the trees. Stride on below a low gorse-covered heugh, eventually reaching a gate and junction **E**.

Ignore the gate and instead, turn

St Cuthbert's Cave



sharp left on a diagonal course out of the corner, a fingerpost pointing the way to St Cuthbert's Cave. Over a low rise, descend to a gate and head straight across to a gated bridge at the foot of



the next rough pasture. Maintain direction up the rising hillside, aiming for the right-hand forest edge on the skyline. At the crest, walk into the corner where fence and wall meet, there passing through a couple of gates **F**.

A narrow path follows the western side of the wall right to a ladder-stile, over which, you can climb to the top of the adjacent outcrop for a grand view back to the coast. Return across the ladder-stile and continue along the heathery path, which snakes to the survey pillar on the summit of Greensheen Hill.

Having satiated yourself with the view, wander on, gently losing height along the ridge towards Holburn Moss.



The broadening path swings left before Holburn Lake, closing with a wall and following it to a gate. Carry on downhill on the other side of the wall to join a track. Where that then swings towards the farm, leave through a field gate on the left **G**.

A trod shows the way at the edge of rough grazing, shortly winding with the fence to settle as a more prominent path along the bracken and gorse fringe below Greensheen Hill. After ½ mile it brings you to the top of the track above Holburn Grange **A**, which leads back to the car park.

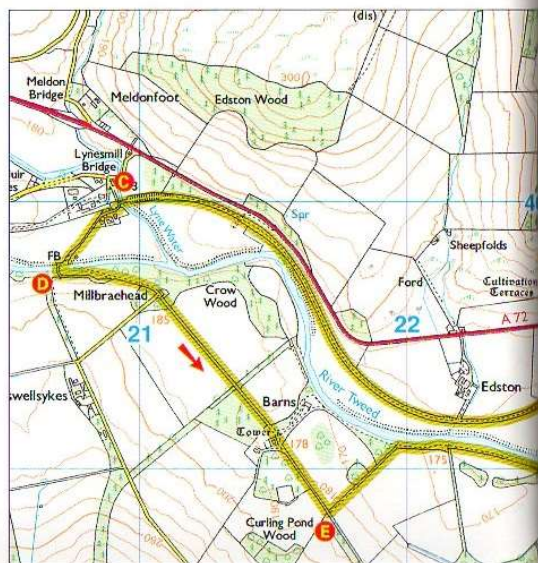
Peebles and the River Tweed

Start	Peebles	GPS waypoints
Distance	7½ miles (11.7km)	A NT 232 401
Height gain	560 feet (170m)	B NT 228 395
Approximate time	3 hours	C NT 209 399
Parking	Swimming pool car park (Pay and Display)	D NT 206 397
Route terrain	Clear paths and tracks	E NT 217 388
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 73 (Peebles, Galashiels & Selkirk), Explorer 337 (Peebles & Innerleithen)	F NT 230 393
		G NT 244 401

Hardly anywhere along the length of the River Tweed is its course less than attractive, but the stretch above the ancient border town of Peebles is particularly fine. This circuit begins along the northern bank below the striking Neidpath Castle, generally following the course of an old railway to Lyne Bridge. There is a flavour of the surrounding countryside too, as the route climbs to the superb viewpoint at Manor Sware on its meandering return to the town.

A favourite residence of the kings of Scotland, Peebles was a royal burgh by the time of King David I. Although escaping much of the Border conflict, it was razed by the British in 1549 and suffered again a century later when occupied by Cromwell's troops. Despite poverty during the 18th century, the railway age brought better times and it gained a reputation as a fashionable spa with the opening of the Peebles Hydro in 1881. An attractive town, it has no

shortage of fine eating places and is a popular centre for walkers, anglers and



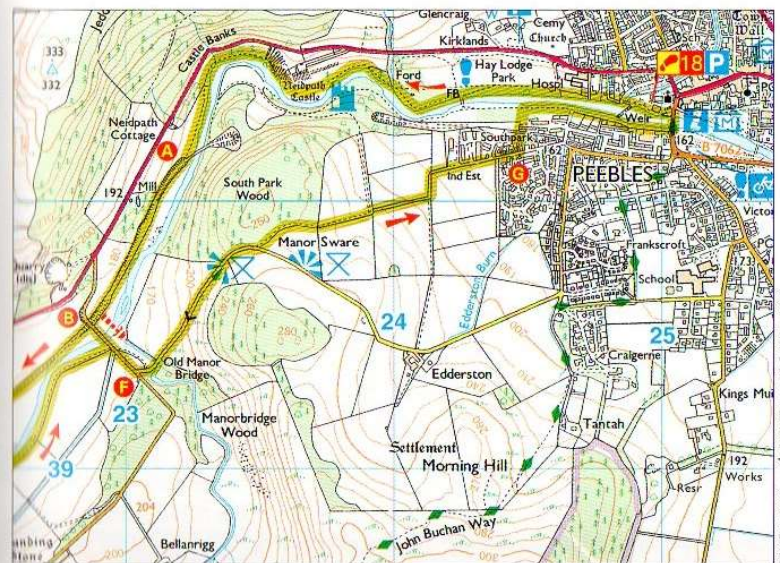
golfers. One of the high spots of its calendar is the Beltane Festival, a colourful week of events held each June that has its origins in a Celtic celebration marking the return of the summer.

Leave the far end of the swimming pool car park along a riverside path, crossing a bridge spanning Eddlestone Water. Climb steps and go left behind houses, dropping beyond to Hay Lodge Park. Passing a footbridge, continue through the park, beyond which a more rugged path winds into a narrowing valley. Overlooking a clearing, Neidpath Castle was built in the 14th century by Sir William Hay, the Sheriff of Peebles on the site of an earlier castle. After changing allegiances, his descendant John Hay sided with Charles and, according to some, the castle surrendered only after a damaging siege by Cromwell's forces. Although later modernised, the castle fell into neglect and the romantic ruin inspired Sir Walter Scott to pen a poem about its

ghost, *the Maid of Neidpath*.

The valley sides once more draw in, forcing the onward path into undulations along the steep wooded bank. Pretty views open through the trees, which soon stand back to reveal the Neidpath Viaduct. It carried a picturesque branch line between Symington and Peebles, which opened in 1860. After crossing the viaduct, the line disappeared into a tunnel for the final stretch into Peebles.

Through a gate beneath the bridge **A**, mount the embankment and walk away along the trackbed. Emerging from a gentle curve the line runs dead straight above riverside meadows, the trees thinning to give a memorable view to the hills. After ½ mile, a missing bridge forces you off the embankment to cross a lane **B**. To the left, *Manor Bridge* offers a shortcut to the return route. The main route, however, climbs back onto the embankment opposite,





following it for 1½ miles to a bridge over Lyne Water **C**. Drop to the narrow lane below and go right. Soon degrading to a track, it leads to a footbridge across the River Tweed **D**.

The path swings downstream along a woodland strip above the river, before long joining a broader path that leads to a cottage at Millbrachead. Keep ahead along a private track onto the Wemyss and March Estate. Signed as the Tweed Walk, it is a lovely avenue of stately old lime trees, which runs dead-straight between the fields and eventually leads to a junction overlooked by a 15th-century tower house, Barns Tower. Again go forward, passing the stables and as you continue along the track, look back left to see the later mansion, built in the 18th century once peace had settled on the troubled border.

After another ¼ mile, the Tweed Walk is directed off over a stile on the left **E**. A green track across the fields takes you back to the riverbank. Continue downstream beside the meadows on a tree-lined path to Manor Bridge.

Join the lane and walk away from the bridge, soon bearing left at a fork **F** down to Old Manor Bridge, a graceful,

Approaching Peebles

single arch of stone built in 1702. Beyond, a narrow lane, now closed to traffic, rises steadily uphill, passing a viewpoint towards the top from which there is a stunning retrospective vista along the valley.

Carry on around the bend to find a gate on the left into South Park Wood, from which a path is signed to Peebles. Where it then divides, branch right within the fringe of the wood. Reaching the corner, leave over a stile and head down at the perimeter of grazing. A view opens to the town below, the towers and steeples of its churches standing prominent above the other buildings. From a gate at the bottom corner, a broad, fenced path winds down, emerging in South Parks on the outskirts of Peebles. Walk ahead, but just beyond Edderston Ridge, take a tarmac path on the left **G**. At the bottom of steps, keep ahead to regain the riverbank and turn right, picking up a waterside path back to the town. Climb out to the main road and turn over the bridge back to the swimming baths and car park.

Kelso, Roxburgh and the River Teviot

Start	Kelso	GPS waypoints
Distance	7½ miles (12.1km)	A NT 727 339
Height gain	510 feet (155m)	B NT 727 335
Approximate time	3½ hours	C NT 723 327
Parking	Kelso	D NT 703 304
Route terrain	Clear paths; <i>Note: the riverside return may be flooded following exceptional rain</i>	E NT 697 305
		F NT 703 313
		G NT 719 336
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 74 (Kelso & Coldstream), Explorer 339 (Kelso, Coldstream & Lower Tweed Valley)	

Exploring the Teviot Valley upstream of its confluence with the River Tweed, this walk begins from the ancient abbey town of Kelso. It follows the course of a disused railway to an impressive viaduct above the present day village of Roxburgh before returning along the riverbank past the once-grand castle upon which the historical royal burgh of Roxburgh was centred.

Kelso grew around the abbey, founded by King David I in 1128. Despite centuries of border raids, it became the wealthiest monastery in Scotland until the English largely destroyed its fabric in 1547. Following the Reformation in 1560, it fell derelict, much of its stone being pillaged for reuse in the town's buildings.

With your back to the town hall, cross the impressive cobbled square and turn left into Bridge Street. Walk past the abbey ruins and over the Tweed on John Rennie's elegant bridge before dropping left into the park **A**. Steps at the far corner regain the road beside the Millenium Viewpoint, which you should follow uphill. Swing sharp right at the junction along Jedburgh Road, soon leaving the town's houses behind.

Approaching the main road, cross to

the entrance of Wallacenick Farm where there is a rough track off to the left **B**, the course of the old railway. After ¼ mile, watch for a waymarked path forking off left, which winds beside a fence into a field. Follow the edge right, turning the corner to a small gate. Go right and left within the fringe of a small wood, leaving through a gate at the far corner. Bear left, climbing past the abutment of a bridge to rejoin the trackbed. The way meanders pleasantly along the hillside, affording a fine panorama across the valley. To the north, beyond the ruin of Roxburgh Castle is Floors Castle, while out west are the distinctive summits of the Eildon Hills.

Farther along, the track becomes increasingly wooded, eventually curving towards the Roxburgh Viaduct.



Kelso's five-arched bridge, designed by John Rennie in 1803

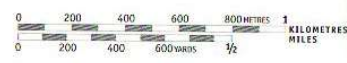
Although the route drops right at a waymark just before the viaduct **C**, it is worth continuing onto the bridge for the view. Return to the descending path, which leads to a narrow lane. At the foot of the viaduct, go right to find a footbridge, piggybacking the cutwaters across the river.

Following a sign for Lovers' Lane, cross ahead, but immediately bear right onto a contained path rising beside the embankment. At the top, there is a glimpse back through the hedge to the Wallace's Tower, the remains of a 16th-century tower house. The path ends at a junction beside the demolished bridges of Roxburgh Junction **D**.

Turn right through the village and carry on past Roxburgh Mill, where the lane briefly runs beside the river. As the lane bends away, leave over the second of two stiles on the right waymarked the Borders Abbeys Way **E**. Follow the field boundary right and then around the corner to continue above a low cliff overlooking the river, dropping at the end of the second field to a riverside

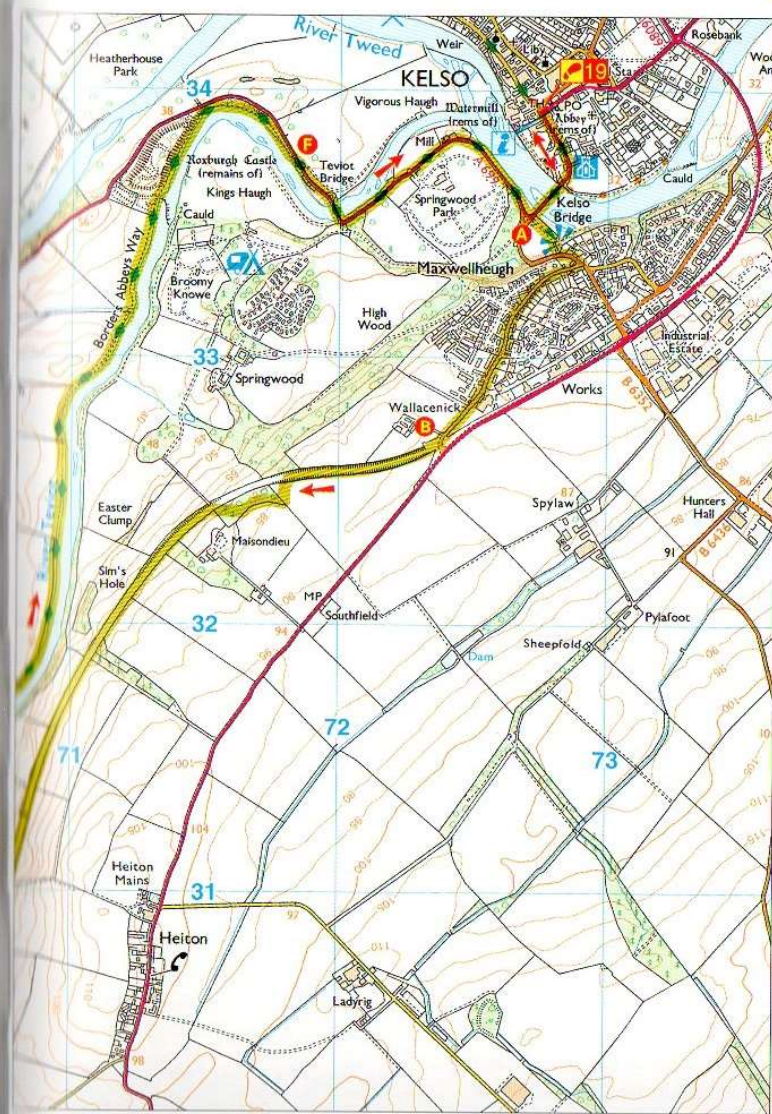
path. Exceptionally, the river may flood its bank, in which case you must either retrace your route or follow the road back to Kelso.

After a goodly mile, the path passes beneath the ruins of Roxburgh Castle, which can be accessed over a stile. The



ancient royal burgh of Roxburgh lay within the protection of the castle on the spit of high land between the Teviot and Tweed rivers. It was taken several times by the English, in whose hands it remained from 1334 until 1460, when the castle was finally retaken by the Scots and demolished.

Beyond, the river curves sharply right, a flight of steps soon lifting the path from the bank. After passing behind a cottage, walk out to the main road **F** and follow it right over Teviot Bridge. Carry on to pass the confluence of the two rivers and turn back into Kelso.



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2 1/2 INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

Craster, Howick and Longhoughton

Start Craster

Distance 8 miles (12.9km). Shorter version
5½ miles (8.9km)

Height gain 605 feet (185m).
Shorter version 475 feet (145m)

Approximate time 3½ hours. Shorter version
2½ hours

Parking Car park at edge of village (Pay
and Display)

Route terrain Clear paths, tracks and lanes

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 81 (Alnwick & Morpeth),
Explorer 332 (Alnwick & Amble)

GPS waypoints

- 📍 NU 256 198
- 📍 A NU 261 174
- 📍 B NU 258 163
- 📍 C NU 261 156
- 📍 D NU 242 158
- 📍 E NU 250 175
- 📍 F NU 251 193

Most visitors to Craster are drawn along the coast to Dunstanburgh, completely ignoring the superb coastline that lies to the south. This longer, but undemanding walk follows the low cliffs past several inviting bays before turning inland to return across the fields. The final leg passes through a small nature reserve in the former quarries behind the village.

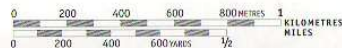
📍 Take the path from the car park towards Craster, swinging beyond its end along back streets to emerge opposite the **Jolly Fisherman**. Go left and then right beside it, turning through a rear gate into the beer garden. The coast path runs behind the houses, soon leaving the village to curve around a small cove, Hole o' the Dike. It continues on springy turf above the sloping slabs and boulders of the shore.

Approaching Cullernose Point the rising path turns in above the impressive cliffs backing Swine Den. Passing through thicket, the way briefly closes with the lane before continuing along the cliff top towards the distinctive chimneys topping the isolated Bathing House, used by the Greys of Howick

Hall when spending a day by the sea.

Just beyond the cottage, ignore the track swinging inland **A** and carry on past Rumbling Kern. The sheltered beach makes a great spot for a picnic, while the rock formations are full of interest and include a natural arch through which the incoming tide gushes.

Over a stile, the coast path continues behind the splendid beach at Howick Haven before then losing sight of the sea as it delves into bushes. A curious conical feature on top of the grass bank above is a reconstruction of a Mesolithic hut. It can be reached either



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 1KM

directly by scaling the steep slope to a stile or more easily, by doubling back along a farm track when you later emerge from the scrub above a small beach **B**.

In the nearby fields overlooking Howick Burn are the embanked remains of an Iron Age camp. It was occupied, perhaps over a period of several hundred years prior to the Roman invasion of Britain from AD43. However, man first visited this part of the coast around 10,000 years ago and excavation has revealed traces of a Mesolithic settlement as well as later burials from the Bronze Age. The early Stone Age people followed a hunter-gather lifestyle in what were then coastal woodlands, catching small animals and birds and taking fish, shellfish and perhaps even seals from the sea. The reconstructed hut gives an idea of how such a family might have lived.

The track also serves as a short-cut bypassing Longhoughton village. Reaching the corner of a lane, go left to rejoin the main route at the entrance to Howick Hall **E**.

Otherwise, cross the head of the cove to a bridge spanning Howick Burn and keep with the coast, where protruding rocky shelves separate a succession of sandy beaches. When you reach Howdiemont Sands **C**, turn away from the sea along a lane that passes through Low Stead Farm before eventually leading to Longhoughton. Emerging opposite the church, go right along the main street.

Where the road bends left at the far end of the village, leave on the corner **D** for a signed footpath that swings right to run within a belt of woodland. However, after only 150 yds, bear left through a gate opening and strike along the uncultivated margin between open fields. After passing through a wooded

dell, carry on at the edge of more fields, ultimately coming out onto a leafy lane. Turn right, in time dipping across Howick Burn and then passing beneath a bridge carrying one of the Howick estate drives to reach a sharp bend in front of the entrance to the hall and its gardens **E**.

Although the origins of the present hall date from 1782, the Greys have held Howick since the 14th century. The most famous member of the family was Charles, the second Earl, who became Prime Minister in 1830. He is known for the 'Earl Grey' blend of tea, which was supposedly sent to him in gratitude by a Chinese Mandarin, whose son's life had been saved by one of Grey's envoys. The acclaimed gardens reflect an informal and natural style, which has been developed since 1920 and are only closed to visitors during the winter months.

Take the drive beside the lodge towards the car park, but where that then turns, keep ahead on a track that falls into a field. Walk on at the left edge above a wooded strip. Ignore a gate towards the far end of the second field, to find another in the corner. Through that, strike a diagonal across a crop field to a stile in the distant wall. Bear left below the gorse-blanketed outcrop of Hips Heugh, continuing to a gate beyond its end. Disregarding the crossing track keep going beside the right-hand boundary to Craster South Farm. Walk forward from the field behind a row of cottages and turn right out to a lane **F**.

Through a kissing-gate opposite, a path heads across old meadows, ridged and furrowed from medieval ploughing. Leave through a gate at the bottom corner and walk back through the Arnold Nature Reserve to the car park.

Hadrian's Wall at Walltown and Thirlwall Castle

Start	Walltown Quarry, signed from Military Road (B6318), 1 mile east of Greenhead	GPS waypoints
Distance	7¾ miles (12.5km)	A NY 668 659
Height gain	1,020 feet (310m)	B NY 671 661
Approximate time	3½ hours	C NY 704 667
Parking	Car park at start (Pay and Display)	D NY 704 664
Route terrain	Some rugged paths; Tipal Burn's stepping stones may occasionally be flooded	E NY 680 665
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 86 (Haltwhistle & Brampton), Explorer OL43 (Hadrian's Wall – Haltwhistle & Hexham)	F NY 675 672
		G NY 666 670
		H NY 663 670
		I NY 659 660

Those following Hadrian's Wall from the west get their first appreciation of its awesome scale at Walltown. Perversely, a century of quarrying the whin sill dolerite has added drama to the scene by creating an abrupt high cliff at the end of the crag. Exploring not only one of the most rugged sections of the wall, this walk takes in some of the countryside on both sides of the wall as well as visiting a medieval castle.

Take the trail leaving the car park beside the toilet block. Immediately branch left above the lake and head towards the main quarry face. Climb to a kissing-gate and follow the boundary up to the Roman wall at the top of the rise **A**.

Savour the stunning western view before continuing beside one of the best-preserved stretches of Hadrian's Wall.

Before long, the path drops steeply to a break in the cliffs, climbing equally determinedly to Turret 45a. There is

some evidence that this pre-dated the wall and was incorporated within its structure. Progressing east, the route skirts another quarry face, rejoining the

An impressive limekiln near Walltown





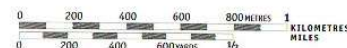
line of the wall beyond. After passing the scant outline of a milecastle, the path drops into a gap carrying a rough track through to the north. It is followed for the second part of the walk, but for the time being, cross the ladder-stile in front and climb steeply back onto the ridge, passing a turret, strategically sited to guard the gap.

Although only visible as a grassed mound of rubble along the cliff edge, the ongoing wall is no less dramatic. Carry on along the heaving ridge, later passing another milecastle, also robbed of its stone. The ground then gently falls to a small plantation, the path emerging at the far side by a farmstead, Cockmount Hill. Carry on at the field edge towards the next farm, Great Chesters, which stands behind a Roman infantry fort.

Although smaller and with fewer remains above ground than at Housesteads, the site is nevertheless impressive. Much of the perimeter wall

can be seen as well as the outlines of many of the buildings within the compound. Of particular interest, encircled by a fence, is a stone arch, part of the vaulting for an underground strong room, while the southern gateway is flanked by a well and a pedestal altar. As was usual, a civil settlement developed outside the fort, and here lay to the south west, where a cemetery was also discovered. To the south east was a bath house, an important focus of Roman social life. It drew its water from Caw Burn, some two miles to the north east, the water flowing along an aqueduct that snaked for six miles across the moss, crossing several other streams in the process.

Joining the farm track, leave the fort through its southern gateway **B**. Walk down to a narrow lane **C** and go right. Shortly degrading to a track, it follows the line of the vallum, a ditch flanked by earth ramparts that runs behind the wall throughout its length. It was



constructed at some time after the wall and is now thought to have defined a military zone from which civilians were excluded. Later abandoning the vallum, the track eventually passes a limekiln by an old quarry and then winds to a junction, just before Walltown Farm **D**. Beside it there is a pair of cattle troughs, the stone of which came from the Milecastle 45.

Turn right, climbing beneath King Arthur's Well, reputedly the spot where Paulinus baptised King Edwin prior to his marriage with Princess Ethelberga of Kent in 596. Cross the line of the wall and follow a rough stone track onto the moor. Pass through a gap in a field wall to cross a stream and, where the track then appears to fork, bear left. The path almost immediately disappears into tussock, but continue over the rise, aiming just right of High Old Shields,

whose roof then appears in the middle distance, to find a ladder-stile across a wall. Walk down to a footbridge and the lane beyond **E**.

Go left, later turning in at the entrance to High Old Shields Farm. Crossing stiles at the top, pass right of the farmhouse into the field behind. Bear left behind cattle sheds to a stile and continue beside a wall before veering right to a stile in the bottom fence. Maintain the same line to a ladder-stile at the bottom. Go left, walking beyond the wall's end to cross another stile. Carry on to a signpost **F**.

Up to the left is Low Old Shields, the way back if the stepping stones across Tipal Burn are impassable. However, for the time being, keep ahead beside the ruin of a wall. As it peters out, curve right to pick up another line of rubble, which heads towards the white cottage and wind turbine of Cairny Croft on the far slope of the valley. The way drops to a stile above the riverbank, where to the

left you will find stepping stones **G**.

The footbridge marked on the map has long-since gone and if the crossing is flooded you must return to point **F** and climb to Low Old Shields. There, wind through the farmyard and walk out along its access track. Reaching the lane, turn right back to the car park.

Cross Tipal Burn to gain a lane below Cairny Croft and follow it left, winding uphill to a junction by Wood House. Keep left, shortly dropping to a sharp bend at the entrance to Thirlwall Castle. Bear left into the farm and then right, leaving through a gate to follow a track beside the castle.

First mention of the castle is of its fortification by the Thirlwalls during the 14th century, although it is said that Edward I slept here in 1306. The castle stood until the 1640s, when it was slighted after being taken by the Scots during the Civil War. The material for the castle's construction had come from the Roman wall, but its own ruination

Hadrian's Wall along Walltown Crags



was in turn hastened by the villagers scavenging stone for their cottages. Supposedly hidden beneath it is a table of solid gold, brought back from the Crusades together with its keeper, a hideous dwarf, by John de Thirlwall. News of his prize spread across the border, bringing down a band of murdering reivers. So the story goes, the dwarf saved himself and the table by jumping with it into the castle well, which promptly closed up behind him without trace, but his ghost still lingers, guarding the treasure.

Swing left past the castle entrance to a footbridge spanning Tipal Burn **H**. The ongoing track winds past Holmhead Cottage before rising to a gate. Climb steeply beside a deep ditch, continuing over a stile at the top. Without the impregnability afforded by the crags, a deep ditch ensured the security of the wall here. It survives the wall, which stood above it on the far side and remains a significant feature across the hillside. Emerging onto a lane, go right back to the car park. **I**

Windy Gyle

Start Rowhope Burn Bridge, ½ mile north west of Windyhaugh

Distance 7¼ miles (11.7km)

Height gain 1,640 feet (500m)

Approximate time 4 hours

Parking Off-road parking beside bridge

Route terrain Reasonably clear, but remote moorland paths and tracks

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 80 (Cheviot Hills & Kielder Water), Explorer OL16 (The Cheviot Hills)

GPS waypoints

- NT 859 114
- A** NT 855 125
- B** NT 859 147
- C** NT 855 152
- D** NT 835 149
- E** NT 850 117

Deserted moors often beget forlorn-sounding names; The Slime and Foulstep Sike here conjuring particularly off-putting images. True, the area can be bleak, but catch it in the right mood and there is marvellous walking among a vast landscape of rolling hills, deep cleughs and long grassy ridges. One feature that does seem to live up to its name, however, is Windy Gyle, its top often kept clear of cobwebs by a lusty gale. The circuit is an extended horseshoe climbing above the catchments of Trows and Rowhope burns, which converge at Rowhope Farm to run into the main Coquet Valley. The paths are reasonably clear throughout, but inexperienced walkers are advised to save this trek for a clear day.

From the bridge at the foot of Rowhope Burn, take the tarmac side track signed to Rowhope and Uswayford. Carry on past Rowhope Farm to Trows Farm, just beyond which, the track meets a ford where two streams come together **A**. Cross the footbridge on the left spanning Trows Burn and follow a grass track through a gate to climb steadily along a broad grassy spur onto Trows Law. Higher up, through a second gate, the gradient eases to an enjoyable plod that opens expansive views on both sides. Although sometimes faint, the way sticks to the crest above the deepening

valley of Trows Burn. Ignore fragmenting trods off to the right and continue gaining height just east of north until, after 1½ miles, you meet an obvious crossing path at a waypost **B**. Head left, now climbing towards the bulk of Windy Gyle. Shortly reaching another waymarked fork, branch right, the way soon levelling at a gate and stile. Beyond, a short flagged path leads to a trig point perched atop a sprawling heap of stones **C**.

The cairn is thought to date from the Bronze Age and is one of several along the ridge, which now forms the border between Scotland and England. Its



Looking into Scotland from Russell's Cairn

name refers to Lord Francis Russell, who attended one of the regular but fragile truces when the Wardens of the Marches met to bring those who had violated Border Law to justice. Trouble erupted when an Englishman refused to pay for spurs that he had bought from a Scottish pedlar and Lord Russell was killed in the ensuing affray. Coincidentally, his father, the second Earl of Bedford and a prominent politician, died of gangrene in London only hours later and the earldom passed over a generation to Francis's son, Edward.

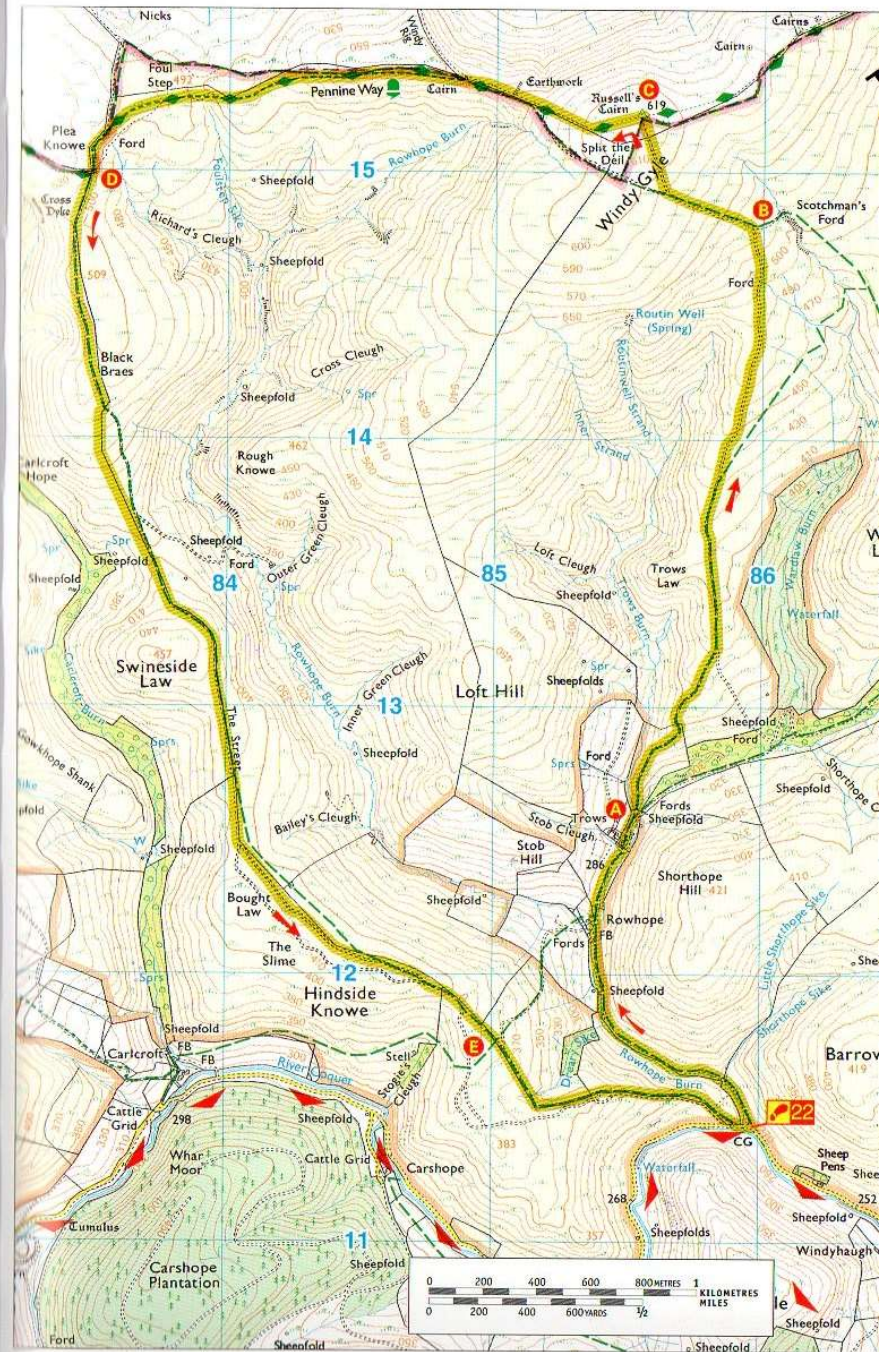
Go left, following the Pennine Way off the top into a dip above the head of Rowhope Burn, the narrow saddle enabling grand views to the countries on either flank. Slip through a gate to climb away on the other side of the fence, ignoring a path off into Scotland towards the top. Carry on past the summit of an unnamed hill, but when the fence later bends away to the right, bear left, dropping across the head of Foulstep Sike. Rising beyond, there is a backward glance to the top of Windy Gyle before the path curves to a junction **D**.

Abandoning the Pennine Way, a good

path is signed off left as The Street to the Coquet Valley. It soon passes through a gate to put the fence on your left, swapping views into Rowhope for those into neighbouring Carlcroft. Feral goats roam these hills and it is not unusual to see a small herd of these

hardy animals. Through occasional gates, the way undulates easily onwards over Black Braes to skirt the shoulder of Swineside Law. Ignore paths forking right and keep with the fence as it later passes east of Bought Law. Eventually, 2½ miles of pleasant walking brings you to a gate by a waymark indicating a barely evident crossing bridleway **E**. Carry on ahead putting the fence now on your right, in time turning within the corner of the boundary. The way shortly begins to drop more steeply along the developing spur of the hill, the bridge at the foot of Rowhope Burn from which you started soon coming into view.

The Street is one of several drove roads that crossed the border hills, along which cattle and sheep were herded into the Coquet Valley and on to English markets. The track was also used by itinerant traders who visited these remote communities on a regular round. Some of the lonely steadings doubled as inns, catering for these passing travellers. One such farmstead stood by the river here. Known as Slimefoot, it was a notorious haunt of smugglers carrying illicit whisky from stills hidden in the hills. Refreshment today can be got from the **Barrowburn Tea Room** at Windyhaugh.



Kirk Yetholm and the Halterburn Valley

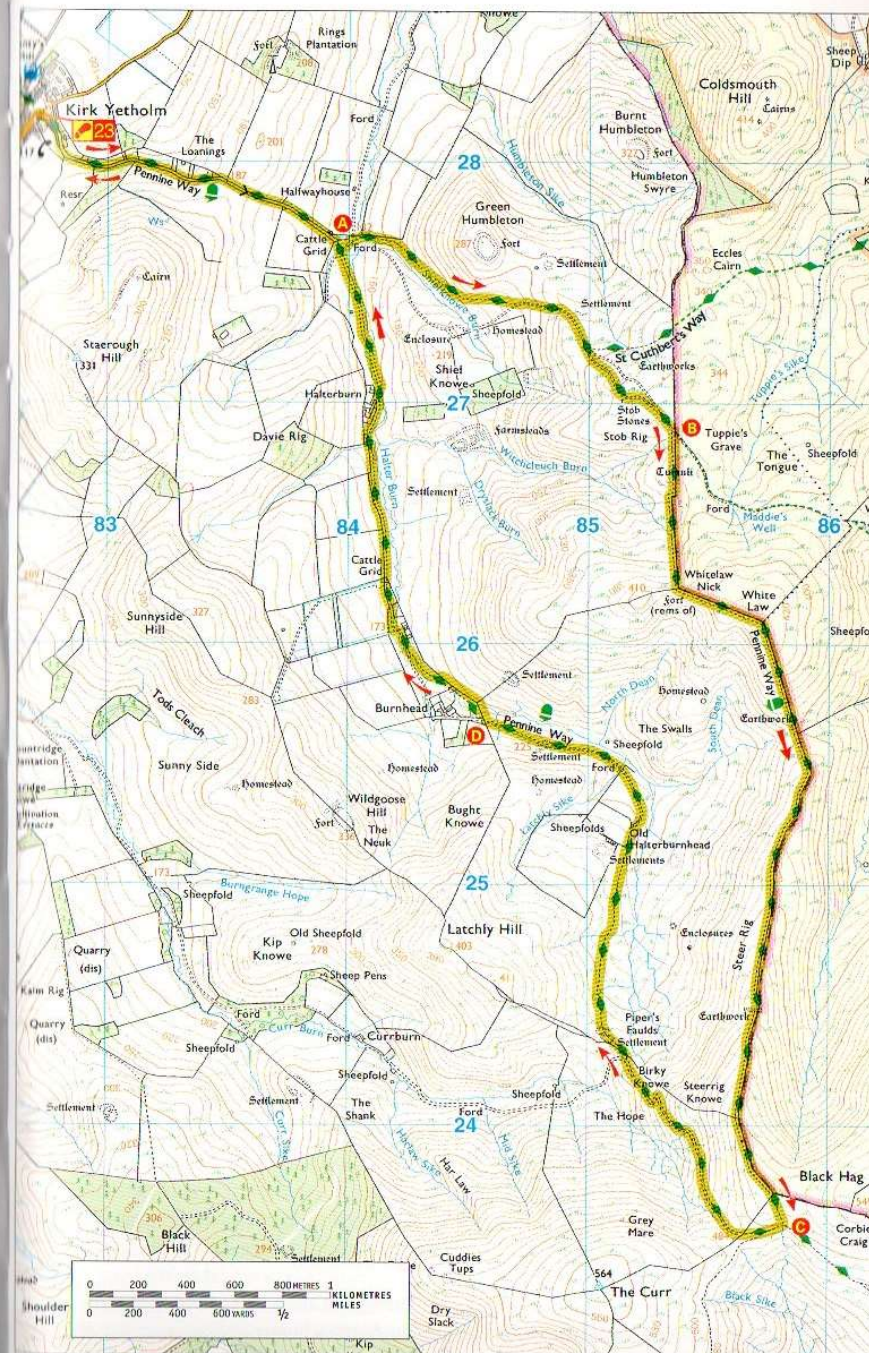
Start	Kirk Yetholm	GPS waypoints
Distance	8½ miles (13.6km)	NT 827 281
Height gain	2,115 feet (645m)	A NT 839 276
Approximate time	4½ hours	B NT 853 269
Parking	Around the green at Kirk Yetholm	C NT 858 235
Route terrain	Reasonably clear, but remote moorland paths and tracks	D NT 846 256
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 74 (Kelso & Coldstream), Explorer OL16 (The Cheviot Hills)	

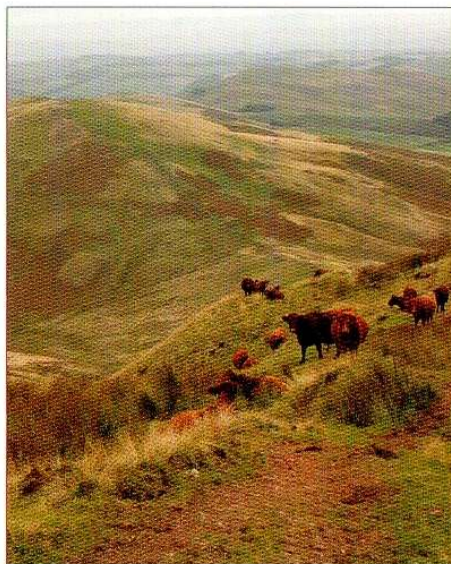
The 18th-century Border Hotel is a welcome sight for weary walkers completing the Pennine Way. This ramble combines the alternative routes of the trail's final leg, heading out on the long ridge from White Law to Black Hag and returning down the deep valley of Halter Burn. Although the paths are generally clear, inexperienced walkers should choose a clear day.

 Signed as the Pennine and St Cuthbert's ways, High Street climbs from the village green over the shoulder of Staerough Hill into the Halter Burn Valley. At a cattle-grid **A**, drop left to a footbridge spanning the stream and

head up beside a wall. Just before the end, strike right across the bracken-clad flank of Green Humbleton. Curving from Shielknowe Burn, gain height to a fork where St Cuthbert's Way goes left. However, keep ahead with the Pennine

The border between Scotland and England below Whitelaw Nick





Cattle graze the slopes of Steerrig Knowe

Way, the path soon levelling onto Stob Rig and approaching a stone wall that marks the boundary between Scotland and England. Ignore the gate and stile into England **B** and instead bear right beside the wall.

The path dips abruptly across the head of Witchcleuch Burn, rising sharply beyond to Whitelaw Nick. Cross a wall and bear left beside the frontier, ascending to the summit of White Law. At a junction of fences there, ignore the gate and swing right with the ongoing boundary. As the path falls once more there is a view ahead to The Cheviot.

Beyond a saddle, the way progresses steadily along Steer Rig. Approaching the final ascent onto Steerrig Knowe, a prominent ditch and embankment crossing the path marks an ancient boundary. After another gate the gradient eases, shortly arriving at a junction of fences and wall. This is the highest point of the walk and affords a grand panorama across the northern

Cheviot Hills. Through the gate, the path leaves the comforting guidance of the fence, bearing right past a waymark and dropping to a junction beside a signpost **C**.

The Pennine Way low-level route is signed back right, falling above the source of Rowhope Burn to a gate. Beyond, the path loses height sharply above the headwaters of Curr Burn before passing through another gate into the upper reaches of the Halter Burn Valley. The way now descends more easily towards Old

Halterburnhead. Reaching the corner of a wall, follow it past the ruined steading, which huddles in the shelter of a clump of storm-ravaged trees.

Just beyond, the Pennine Way swings left, continuing down the valley to Burnhead. Approaching the farm, watch for a sign **D** indicating a trod on the right that winds down to a sturdy wooden bridge spanning the stream. Go left to a kissing-gate and accompany the wall above the farm. Over a stile beside a gate, walk out to a track and follow it down the valley. Shortly after passing the cottages of Halterburn, pick up your outward route at the cattle-grid **A** to return over the hill to Kirk Yetholm.

The 268-mile Pennine Way was the first long distance national trail to be established in the country and was opened in 1965. Conceived by Tom Stephenson 30 years earlier, it rambles across some of the wildest landscape in the Pennines between Edale in Derbyshire and Kirk Yetholm, just inside the Scottish border. ●

Cauldshiels Loch and the River Tweed

Start	Gun Knowe Loch, Tweedbank (on the eastern outskirts of Galashiels)	GPS waypoints
Distance	10 miles (16.1km)	NT 517 346
Height gain	1,150 feet (350m)	A NT 510 343
Approximate time	4½ hours	B NT 510 330
Parking	Car park at start	C NT 509 324
Route terrain	Lanes and clear paths	D NT 502 299
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 73 (Peebles, Galashiels & Selkirk), Explorer 338 (Galashiels, Selkirk & Melrose)	E NT 488 322
		F NT 513 353

After a brief dalliance with the Tweed from a park at the edge of Galashiels, the route climbs from Abbotsford along forgotten country lanes to Cauldshiels Loch, a serene beauty spot tucked in the hills. An enjoyable saunter across upland grazing precedes an easy descent and return beside the river, a picturesque stretch much frequented by fishermen.

Previously a marsh where the townspeople would come to skate in winter, Gun Knowe Loch was created in 1978 and now attracts a wide range of waterbirds, including the seemingly resident mute swans.

From the car park follow the lakeside path in a clockwise direction. At the second junction, bear left, continuing past a football pitch toward trees at the far corner of the park. Picking up Borders Abbeys Way signs, pass behind houses along a steep wooded bank above the Tweed. Just before the main road, take a stepped path that dips beneath the bypass. Descend beyond into the wood, joining a broader track at the bottom. Climb to the B6360, emerging near the entrance to Abbotsford **A**.

Abbotsford was the home of Sir Walter Scott, who became Scotland's

greatest writer and father of the historical novel, *Rob Roy*, *Ivanhoe* and *Kenilworth* being among his best-known. He commissioned the splendid house in 1817 and lived there until his death in 1832.

Cross to a narrow lane opposite, which rises through a verdant tunnel. Bending left in front of a cattle shed, carry on to a junction. Go right gaining more height, which opens a view towards the Eildon Hills. Wind past the picturesque pool at Abbotsmoss and, at the end, turn right again. Walk up the lane for ¼ mile to reach a small parking area beside a crossing track **B**, where Cauldshiels Loch is signed to the left. Climb towards a forest plantation and swing within a fringe of ancient gnarled beech. Carry on beyond the track's end to the loch shore, a delightful spot for a picnic.

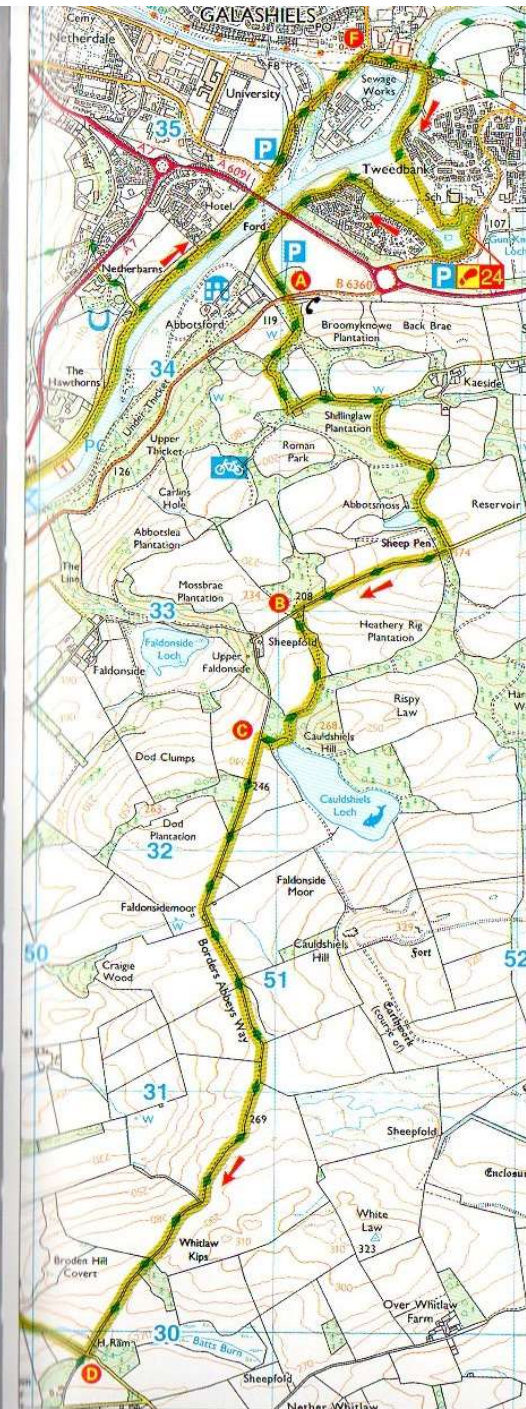
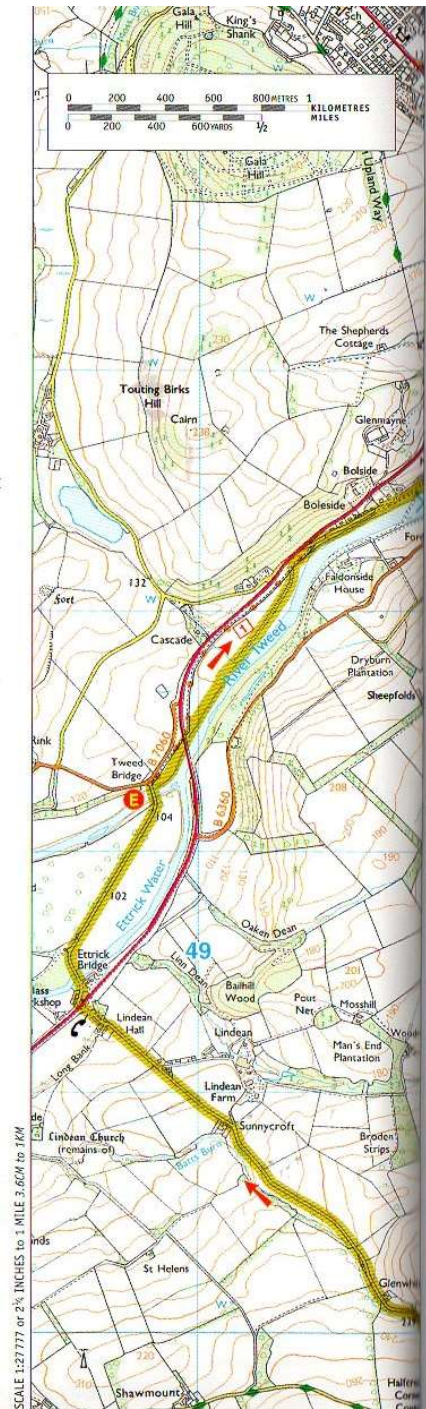
The onward path follows the shore to the right, soon meeting a broader path. Go right to a track **C** and turn left, climbing past more majestic beech trees over the shoulder of Dod. Out to the left is Cauldshiels Hill, its top crowned by an ancient defensive earthwork.

Swinging left by a corrugated barn, go through a couple of gates and continue beside a wall across upland grazing. Gently climbing, the way curves towards the transmitter mast on Lindean Moor, revealing views across the confluence of the Tweed and Ettrick valleys to the higher hills. Over the crest the path descends past another beech-fringed plantation, finally leaving the pastures along a short, rough track up to a lane **D**.

Falling steadily downhill, the quiet lane offers 1½ miles of easy walking, eventually ending at a junction with the A7. Cross to the minor lane opposite, which winds over a bridge spanning Ettrick Water. Formerly the main road, it runs beside the park of Sunderland Hall, across which there is a brief view of the elegant 18th-century mansion. Bending at the far end, the lane turns over a second bridge, this time crossing the River Tweed.

Immediately over the bridge, and just in front of a cycle track, go through a gate on the right **E** from which steps drop to the riverbank. A trod tacks the field edge past the confluence with Ettrick Water and beneath the modern road bridge. Before long, a track develops, which then moves from the river behind a small plantation to join the course of an old branch line that ran from Galashiels to Selkirk. Opened in 1856, it served the woollen mills for which the town was famous.

Walk on to meet a narrow lane that leads past the few houses at Boleside and then beside a small park, where you



can rejoin the river. Later forced to return to the lane, carry on past a fork, just beyond which, a sign marks the Southern Upland Way branching back to the Tweed. Paralleling the lane, the way undulates through the trees, giving a glimpse to Abbotsford on the opposite bank.

Eventually the way passes beneath a high bridge carrying the main road. Remain by the river past a car park and then at the edge of a field until forced away by a tributary stream, Gala Water. Follow that up to a road and go right over a bridge. Walk to the top of a rise, there taking a path on the right **F**, which crosses the Tweed on a viaduct built for the Waverley Line, which linked Edinburgh with Carlisle. Immediately over, drop to the right and walk from the bridge. Fork right beside a small substation to regain the riverbank, where, despite the proximity of the town, you might see an otter. After some 250 yds, leave the Tweed, turning towards a park. Keep ahead across the open playing fields, finally returning to Gun Knowe Loch. You can skirt around it either left or right back to the car park.

Hartside, Salter's Road and High Cattle

Start	Hartside, 6 miles west of A697, beyond Powburn and Ingram	GPS waypoints
Distance	8½ miles (13.7km)	NT 976 161
Height gain	1,590 feet (485m)	NT 972 154
Approximate time	4½ hours	NT 950 143
Parking	Roadside parking before Hartside Farm	NT 934 153
Route terrain	Remote moorland tracks and rough paths, not always clear	NT 920 161
Dog friendly	Dogs not allowed on access land	NT 926 164
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 80 (Cheviot Hills & Kielder Water) and 81 (Alnwick & Morpeth), Explorer OL16 (The Cheviot Hills)	NT 940 167
		NT 959 166

One of the attractive features of the Cheviot Hills is their solitude, for the fells show few obvious signs of human intervention and you can often go all day hardly seeing a soul. This walk lives up to that reputation, meandering across the empty moors that encup the Breamish Valley. For much of the way, the paths are faint and do not always correspond to those indicated on the map. Inexperienced walkers are advised to choose a clear day.

From the lane immediately east of Hartside, take a broad farm track signed to Alnhammoor. After winding over a rise, it falls into the Breamish Valley, crossing the river on a bridge. Climb towards the farm, but approaching barns A, leave at a waymark through a gate on the left. Head across the bottom of a field to a second gate, through which turn right on a track.

As it bends behind the farm, keep ahead above the bank of Shank Burn to a ladder-stile. Drop to cross Rowhope Burn and carry on along a grass track. As the valley then curves left, go forward on a trod that initially makes

for Scaud Knowe, a satellite hump on the left of the high ridge of Shill Moor. Climb to a gate at the corner of a fence and through it, then bear left. Continue up the hill, keeping the ground sloping into the valley of Shank Burn on your left. The path is sometimes confused by crossing sheep tracks, but eagle eyes will spot occasional waymarks that guide you roughly south west for the next mile.

As the gradient levels the forward view opens to a vast bowl below Hogdon Law, where Smalehope Burn and Sting Burn have their source before coming together as Shank Burn. The

hump of Little Dod eventually appears in view, the path leading you to a waymark just to its right, where there is a crossing path, Salter's Road B.

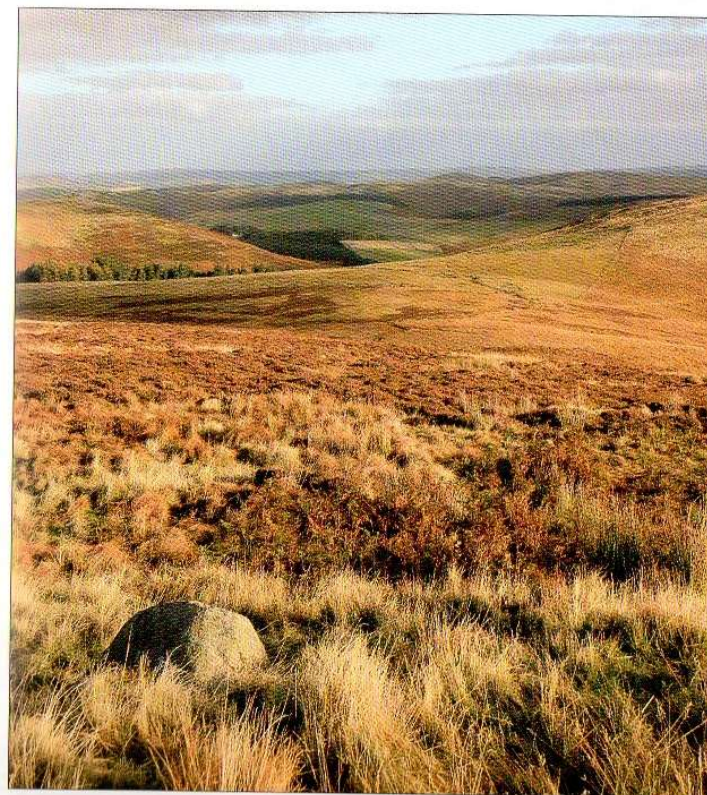
As its name suggests, Salter's Road was part of a salt way, used by traders making for inland markets from the coastal salt pans. In the days before refrigeration, salt was a valuable commodity, necessary for preserving winter meat and fish. The trail was also used by drovers herding stock from the Scottish Highlands for fattening and sale in England. A more secretive traffic lay in the transportation of whisky, illicitly still in the higher reaches of these remote valleys.

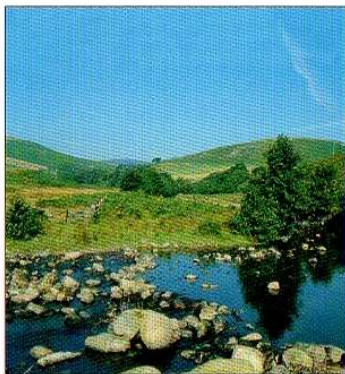
The way lies to the left of Ritto Hill

Go right, climbing once more over a low saddle before falling to a gate. Beyond, the steadily descending track offers a lovely view along Hope Sike into the higher reaches of the Breamish Valley, a pleasant and perhaps unexpected contrast to the bare moors that rise all around. The track eventually drops to a lane at Low Bleakhope C.

A bridleway signed to the right offers a shortcut down the valley back to Alnhammoor. However, the onward route lies left. Keep going as the lane degrades to gravel after High Bleakhope, passing through a stand of timber. Carry on for another ¼ mile to pass another plantation, soon reaching a gate and stile by a waymark D.

Immediately before it, cut back right





The River Breamish near Hartside

over tussock and climb across the steep bracken-clad slope to a bridge gate. A narrow path continues straight up the hillside, crossing a shooters' track before levelling towards a gate near the top of High Cattle (E). The lonely moor stretches endlessly away, while to the north is Comb Fell with Hedgehope Hill farther to the right.

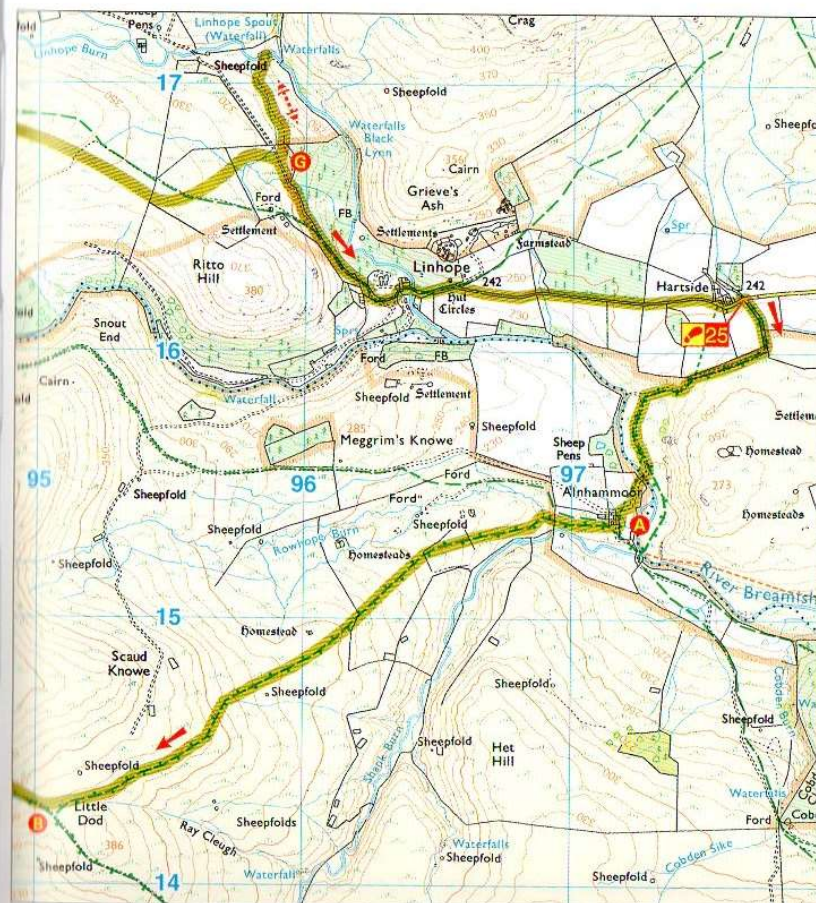
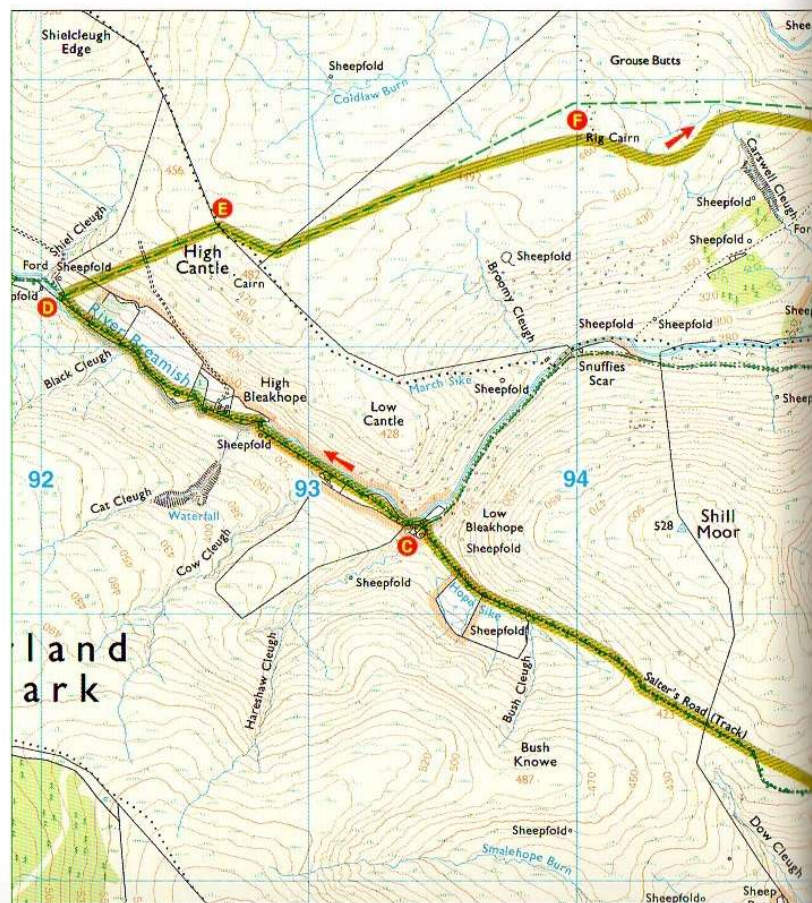
Through the gate, the waymarked path branches right to a second gate. Just beyond, watch for the path curving left, initially paralleling the fence but later tending away and rising to a low pile of stones marking the top of Rig

Cairn (F). The onward route is clear, a serpentine trail across the peaty moor. Those with an eye for detail will realise that it differs from that marked on the OS map, and generally seeks out the easier, drier ground. Eventually crossing a fenceline, stay north of Ritto Hill to a second fence, from which the path descends to a broad gravel track (G) running in front of a large plantation cloaking the deep clough of Linhope Burn. Turn right.

The impressive 60-foot waterfall of Linhope Spout lies only 1/4 mile away and can be reached along a permissive

path signed off left, a few yards along. The area has a population of red squirrels and, although you might not see them, look out for the remains of chewed pine cones, one of their favourite foods.

The way back, however, continues down beside the trees, subsequently swinging left and right to the cottages at Linhope. Now a lane, it crosses Linhope Burn and leads gently uphill the 3/4 mile back to Hartside.



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2 1/2 INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 1KM

Hadrian's Wall, Housesteads and Sewingshields Crag

Start	Housesteads Roman fort
Distance	9 miles (14.5km)
Height gain	1,180 feet (360m)
Approximate time	4½ hours
Parking	Car park at start (Pay and Display)
Route terrain	Rugged paths and trackless moorland
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 86 (Haltwhistle & Brampton) or 87 (Hexham & Haltwhistle), Explorer OL43 (Hadrian's Wall)

GPS waypoints

- NY 793 684
- A NY 788 688
- B NY 780 686
- C NY 779 706
- D NY 790 716
- E NY 804 726
- F NY 807 722
- G NY 810 710
- H NY 811 703

Housesteads Roman fort is one of the best-known features of Hadrian's northern defence and is managed jointly by English Heritage and the National Trust. It sits on the lip of an impressive line of cliffs, overlooking a wild, undulating moss that extends to the north. The route arcs across this untamed landscape, climbing back for an exhilarating finale beside the wall. Inexperienced walkers are advised to choose a clear day.

A path leads out through the visitor centre and then dips across the line of the vallum and rises to the fort, entry to which is by ticket from the visitor centre shop. Continue up beside its western wall to a gate in the top boundary A and head away to the left. Many sections of the wall are quite breathtaking, but this must be one of the prettiest, passing beneath a stand of pine crowning the ridge. Breaking from the trees, carry on past a milecastle before dropping off Cuddy's Crag into Ranishaw Gap. Cross a wall at the bottom and turn right over a second stile beside a gate B.

Ignoring the broader path, bear right

on a trod across rough grazing, signed as the Pennine Way to Leadgate. Crossing a boundary wall, maintain the same course as the way becomes more distinct. Mounting another stile, the path slants down left before resuming its northerly trend, soon crossing Jenkins Burn, which emanates from Broomlee Lough, over to the right. Wind over another shallow rise, shortly meeting a track. Cross diagonally to continue with the Pennine Way doubling left at a waymark a few yards farther on into another dip. Occasional wayposts guide you to a stile in a broken wall and bridge. Keeping the right wall in sight, head up to a stile by



The base of the arched gateway survives at Milecastle 37

a gate in the corner. Cross out onto a track near East Stonefolds C.

To the right it passes through a gate into the forest. However, leave the Pennine Way some 100 yds along, branching right on a path marked to Haughtongreen. It meanders across rough ground for ½ mile to an uninhabited cottage. There, keep ahead towards Great Lonbrough and Fenwickhead, the path running briefly beside a wall before swinging left at a waymark. Cross a footbridge and continue between the trees, emerging through a gate at the far forest boundary D.

There is no obvious path across the rough moorland of Haughton Common and a compass is necessary in poor visibility. The route lies east of north east, parallel to the outcrop of Crow Crag, picking a way across sometimes boggy tussock. Keep going for a little over a mile until you encounter a faint track E. To the right, it winds across Crook Burn and, becoming clear, rises over a low ridge to a gate beside Stell Green F.

Walk past the steading and bear right to join its access track, winding down between Halleypike Lough and Folly Lake. It meanders on for a farther ½ mile, later crossing a bridge beside a ford and joining with another track G. Eventually reaching a ruined limekiln, swing left below the wooded bank of Sewingshields Crag.

Climbing to a cottage, the track then bends sharply right H. Leave there, picking up the acorn symbols of Hadrian's Wall Path to a gate into Sewingshields Wood over to the right. Pass behind the farm buildings and follow the line of the wall beyond the wood, shortly reaching Milecastle 35. Perched on the edge of the cliff, it enjoys a stunning view; the great hump of The Cheviot breaks the horizon some 30 miles away to the east of north, while 40 miles to the south west lie the northern Lakeland peaks of Skiddaw and Blencathra.

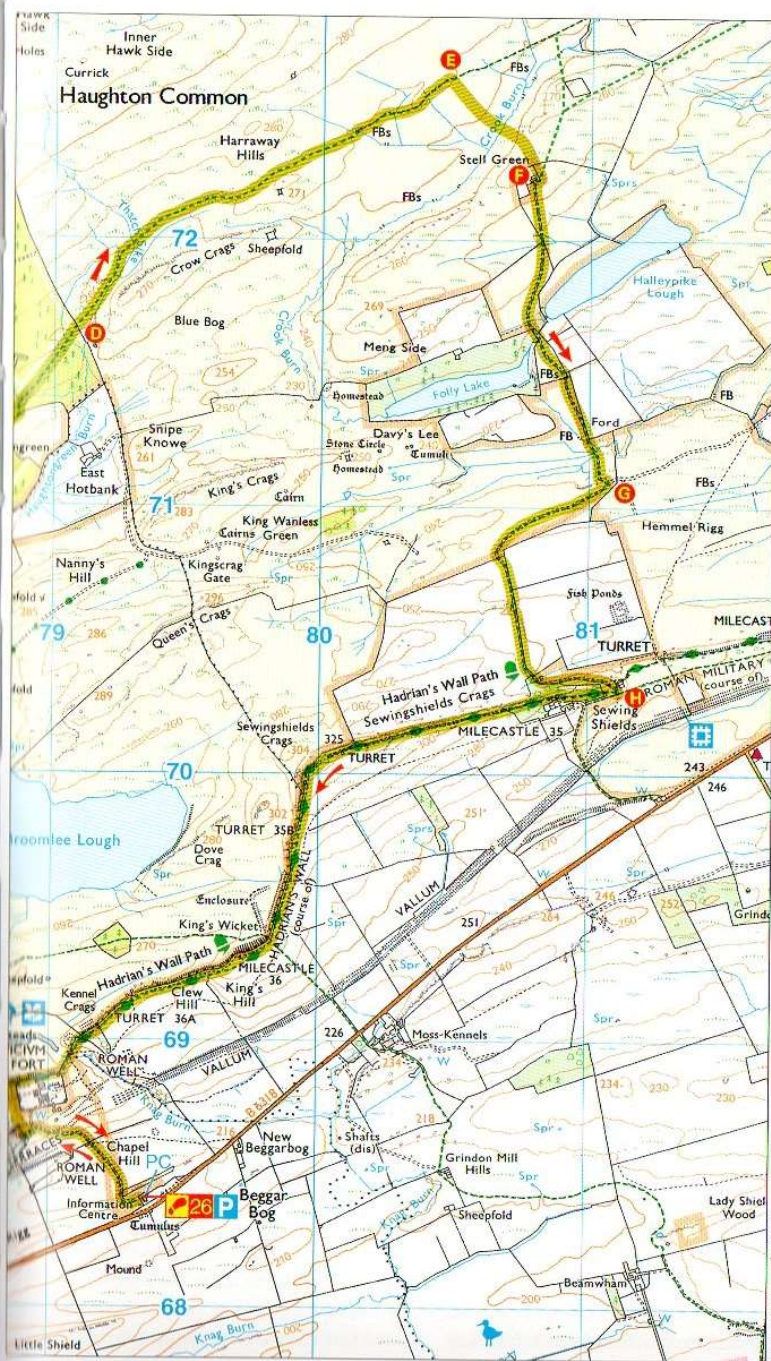
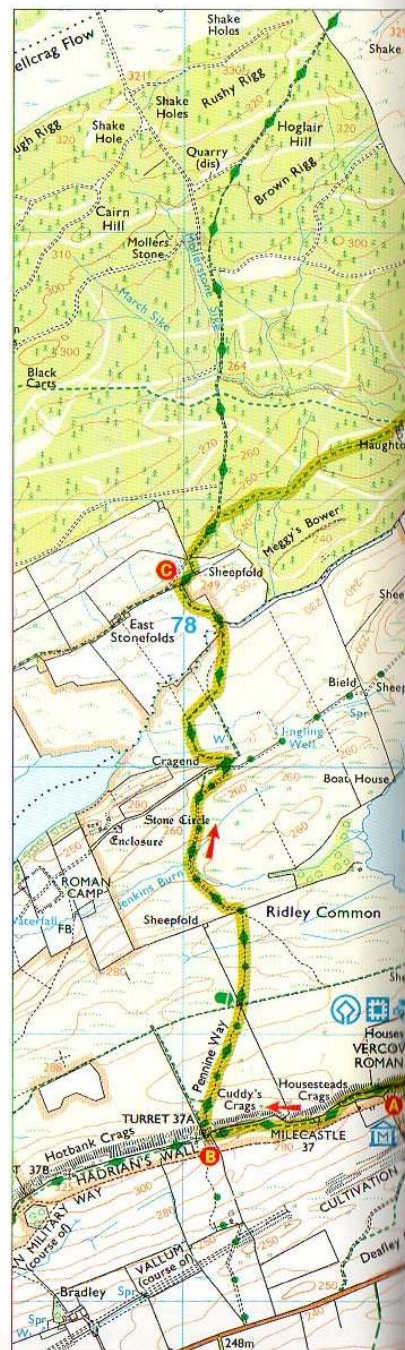
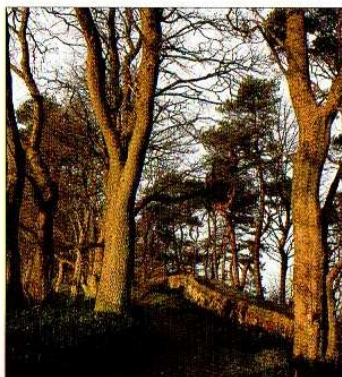
Carry on along the undulating ridge, climbing past a turret to a triangulation pillar marking the high point of the walk. As the line of the wall swings left,



there is a view to Broomlee Lough below. Although here only represented by a field wall, the border defence remains a spectacular sight, curving west over King's Hill and Clew Hill. Eventually, after passing through a small belt of wood, Housesteads fort appears ahead, the path dropping to the Roman gateway of Knag Burn at its foot. You can either slip through and follow the outer flank of the wall past the fort back to waypoint **A** or work your way around its eastern boundary. In either case, return to the car park along the path from the museum.

The Roman fort, Vercovicium overlooks a gateway beside Knag Burn and slightly post-dates the wall. One of the best-preserved sites along its length, the barrack blocks housed some 800 infantry, overseen by the commandant who had his own residence at the centre of the complex. Perhaps its most famous feature is the latrine block, but there were also storehouses, a hospital and administration buildings. A civilian settlement grew up outside the walls and a bath house has been identified. ●

A strip of pine wood shades the path over Housesteads Crags



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 3KM

Traquair and Minch Moor

Start	Innerleithen	GPS waypoints
Distance	9¾ miles (15.7km)	NT 335 357
Height gain	1,820 feet (555m)	A NT 330 346
Approximate time	5 hours	B NT 360 335
Parking	Forestry car park beside B709, ¾ mile south of town (Pay and Display)	C NT 358 330
Route terrain	Good forest tracks and quiet lanes	D NT 368 332
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 73 (Peebles, Galashiels & Selkirk), Explorer 337 (Peebles & Innerleithen)	E NT 369 352
		F NT 369 345
		G NT 367 368

Beginning from the forestry car park, the route follows a minor road to Traquair, there joining the Southern Upland Way along an old track onto Minch Moor. The return is through the extensive forest aproning the northern slopes, where felling has opened spectacular views. The trek ends in an easy stretch above the River Tweed.

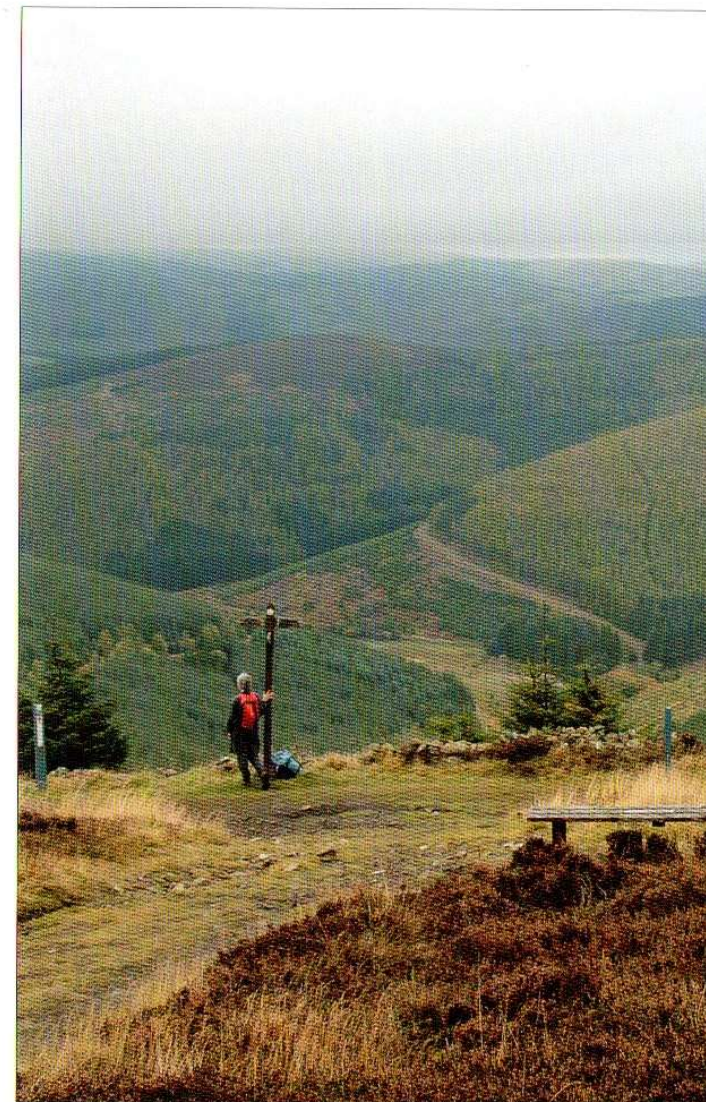
Head left along the B709, swinging right towards Traquair. Walk past the walled estate of Traquair House, eventually reaching the tiny hamlet. Originally a 12th-century royal hunting lodge and forest court, Traquair is said to be the oldest inhabited castle in Scotland. The present building dates from the 15th century when a degree of peace settled on the area. The family remained true to the Scottish throne and following a visit by Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1744, the earl closed the Bar Gates, vowing they would never be reopened until a Stuart was crowned in London.

Go left opposite the war memorial A along a climbing lane, signed the Southern Upland Way. Where the lane bends right to Birkenshaw, keep ahead to Minch Moor. Later swinging left towards the sprawling forest, carry on up at the edge of the trees, before long

passing a timber bothy set back in a clearing. Walking on, cross a forest road to intercept a second one, higher up.

Take the rightmost of the two paths opposite, rising through taller saplings towards the bare slope of Minch Moor. Eventually breaking from the trees, look to the slopes below, where circular clearings in the heather are an artwork entitled *Point of Resolution* by Charles Poulson. Keep an eye open too for wildlife; buzzard, grouse, curlew and golden plover inhabit the moor, while among those seeking shelter in the trees are siskin and crossbill. Roe deer wander within the forest and in spring you may hear a cuckoo.

Farther along on the right is the Cheese Well, a trickling spring marked with a stone slab. Drovers used to make offerings of cheese to the fairies in return for safe passage, present day travellers leave a coin; ignore the



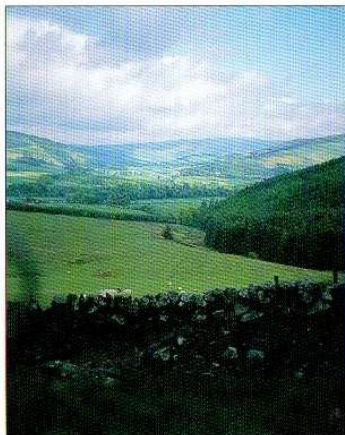
Looking down from Minch Moor into the Tweed Valley

custom at your peril. Carry on to a signposted junction at the crest of the path B.

The summit lies to the right, the path later curving left to the triangulation pillar C and the remains of a

prehistoric burial. The view from the junction is impressive, but excelled by the all-round panorama from the top, the highest spot in this part of Ettrick Forest.

Return to the signpost and continue

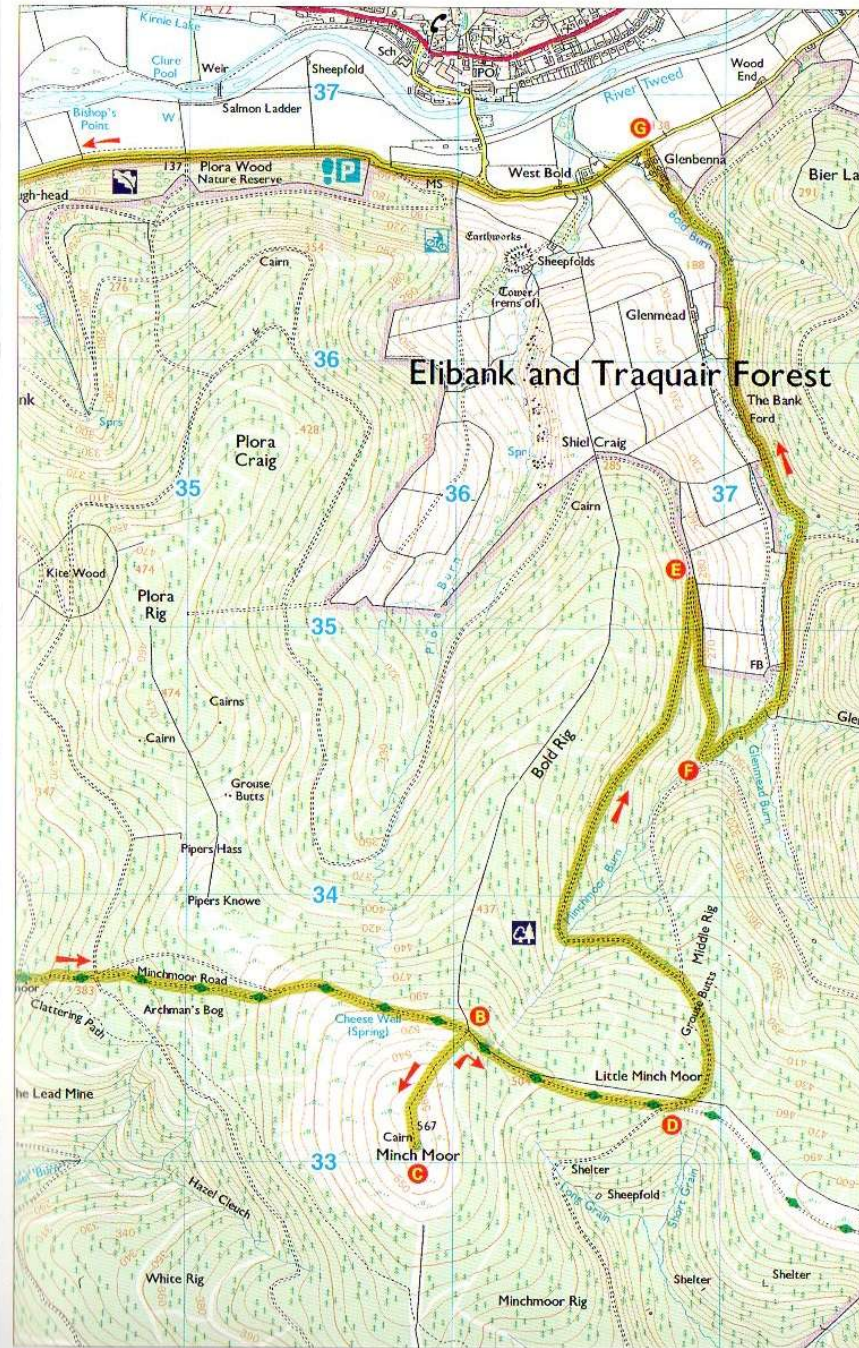
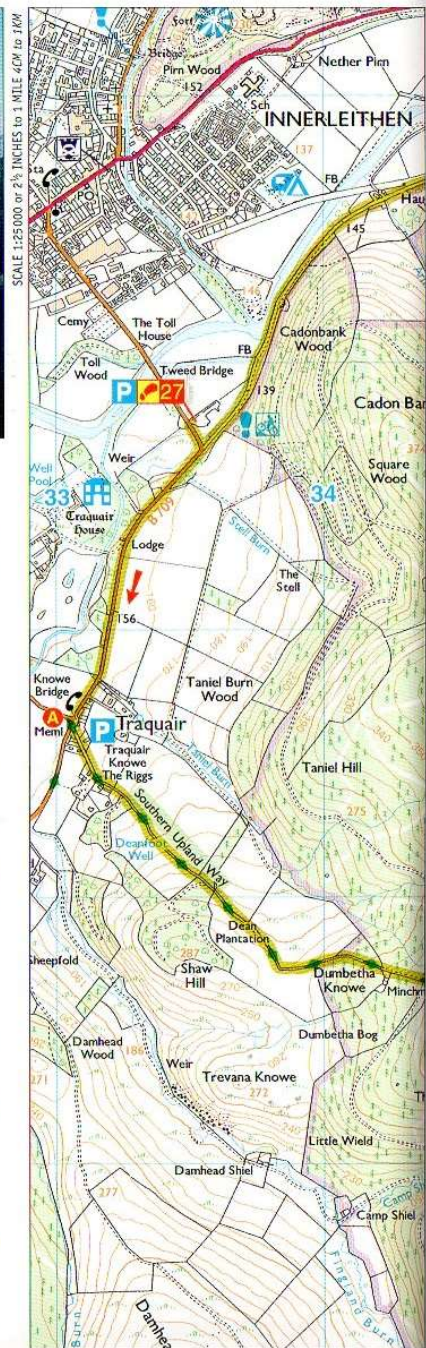


View from the route up Minch Moor

along the Southern Upland Way, which now steadily descends for ½ mile along a forest break. Reaching a junction **D**, there is a grand view into the Lewenshope Valley.

Leaving the Southern Upland Way, take the rough road to the left. After a brief climb it settles into a long descent through the forest below Bold Rig. After 1½ miles, views open into the Bold Burn Valley and the dirt road reaches a junction **E**. Go sharp right, dropping another ¼ mile to a second junction **F**. Now, turn left beside Minchmoor Burn and remain with the main track as it runs along the base of the scenic valley above Bold Burn. On the far side of the Tweed Valley is Cairn Hill, and then, as you leave the trees behind, you can see back over Bold Rig to Minch Moor.

Eventually the track meets a lane **G** at the foresters' hamlet of Glenbenna. Go left and later keep ahead past the junction to Walkerburn. Continue below the steep slopes of Traquair Forest all the way back to the car park. ●



The Cheviot from Harthope Valley

Start	Hawsen Bridge in the Harthope Valley, ½ mile north east of Langleeferd	GPS waypoints
Distance	13¼ miles (21.3km)	📍 NT 953 225
Height gain	3,280 feet (1,000m)	📍 NT 934 229
Approximate time	7 hours	📍 NT 915 233
Parking	Off road by start	📍 NT 881 222
Route terrain	Remote and rugged moorland paths, strenuous climb to Auchope Cairn	📍 NT 876 207
Dog friendly	Dogs not allowed on access land	📍 NT 879 200
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 74 (Kelso & Coldstream) and 80 (Cheviot Hills & Kielder Water), Explorer OL16 (The Cheviot Hills)	📍 NT 890 198
		📍 NT 895 193
		📍 NT 903 194
		📍 NT 909 205
		📍 NT 928 218

This ascent of The Cheviot is a challenge demanding fitness and fair weather, yet the anticipation raised by this circuitous approach through a succession of secluded valleys makes it a wonderfully rewarding experience. The most strenuous section is the ascent onto Auchope Cairn, beyond which, a largely paved path relieves the peat expanse of the summit dome. After dropping from Scald Hill, the day fittingly ends in a delightful stroll above Harthope Burn. Less experienced walkers should not attempt this route in poor weather.

📍 Leave the road by Hawsen Bridge, climbing right of a stiel or circular sheep pen to find a waypost marking a narrow bridleway that has come up from the lane a little farther back. To the left it rises steadily for ¼ mile through the heather above Hawsen Burn before merging with a broad track. A little farther on, at a waypost, the footpath branches off left, passing another stiel on its ascent towards the head of the valley. Higher up, the path converges with another track, but soon after a second waypost, watch for a

crossing path. Go right, left and right again to arrive at a gate in a fence dropping from Broadhope Hill 📍.

The onward path is now clear, gently falling beyond the saddle into the Lambden Valley. In recompense for the relinquishment of your hard-won height, the view along the deepening vale is sublime. Eventually joining a track, pass through a gate and follow it above a small plantation. Binding left, it then passes a second patch of forest. Approaching a dilapidated gate at the far end, swing left to find a path

dropping beside the fence. Over a stile, leave the trees and continue along the valley, tacking the bracken slopes. Lower down, cross a couple of stiles before reaching a ford across Lambden Burn 📍.

Climb to the right-most of a pair of gates and follow a trod to Goldscleugh Farm, negotiating another stream to gain its track. Go left through a gate and immediately turn right through a second one. Cross a rough pasture behind the buildings, leaving through a gate at the far end and there go left along a metallised track.

The valley is a pleasant surprise after the bleakness of the high moor. To the left rises the massive bulk of The Cheviot, dramatically rent by the deep clefts of Bellyside and Bizzle burns. Ahead the bare rocks of Dunsdale Crag rear above the burn, which is turned by the protrusion of Fawcett Shank below the foot of Coldburn Hill.

Some 300 yds beyond the forest, watch for a waymarked path cutting left across the moor towards Dunsdale Farm. Join a track up to the house and pass through double gates into a barnyard. Bear right of a corrugated barn, walking through more gates to leave along a rising grass track. Carry on at the upper edge of a plantation

The Cheviot from above Goldscleugh

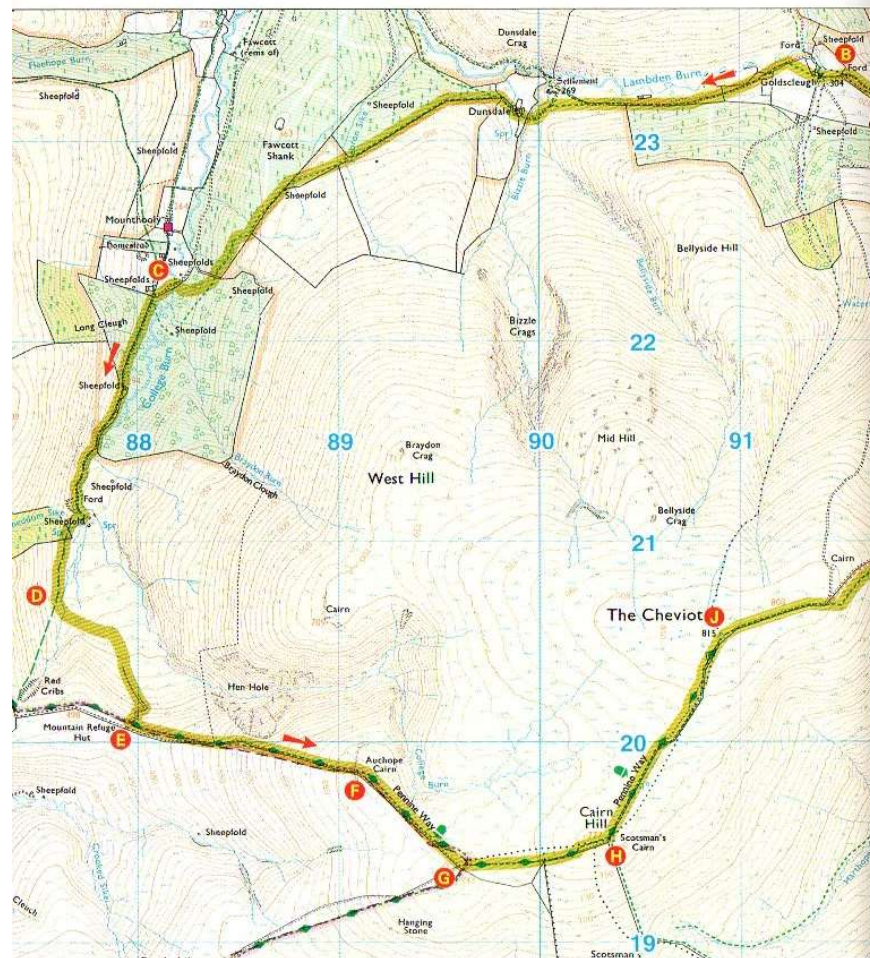


over the shoulder of Fawcett Shank, bringing the upper College Valley into the scene.

As the track moves away, stay with the fence, shortly reaching a gate in the corner. Continue to a gate opening on the right, through which cross rough ground to a stile. Pick your way left within the boundary of felled forest. Carry on past a rusting hut to a waymark by a gate on the left and bear right to find a clearer trod across the slope above Mounthooly. Over a couple of stiles, keep going among sparse saplings, the way soon turning downhill to pass out through a gate at the bottom. Ford College Burn 📍 to reach a broad track.

Follow the track left through a deer gate into the higher reaches of the valley. After some ¾ mile, a waypoint by a stiel directs you right. The bridleway heads into a side valley, but after 350 yds, as the path begins to rise, branch off left across the streambed 📍. Passing a large boulder a trod materialises, making for the deep, rocky canyon of Hen Hole. At a second large boulder the way curves right, now aiming for the shallow saddle above and opening a superb view into the ravine. Legend tells that the cascading stream produces a music so sweet as to seduce the unwary to a plunging death in the awesome gape.

Gaining the grassy ridge (where there is a mountain refuge hut a short distance to the right), turn left on a clear path, the Pennine Way 📍. It ascends steeply beside a fence to the impressively rocky top of Auchope Cairn 📍, graced with two monolithic 'stone



men'. It is the only seriously arduous climb of the circuit, but is rewarded by one of the finest panoramas in the whole of the Cheviot Hills. Indeed it is claimed that the summits of Lochnagar above Braemar, over 100 miles away to the north west, can be seen.

The onward path is suddenly easy, a well-laid boardwalk, which leads ¼ mile across the morass of peat to a junction of fences and paths **C**. Through a gate and over a stile, a paved path is signed left to Cheviot Summit.

The flags stop short of Cairn Hill, and there is some casting about to find firm footing before you reach the next junction at Scotsman's Cairn **H**.

The path right drops to the head of the Harthope Valley, and serves as an emergency bad-weather escape.

Otherwise, go left again, picking a way beside the fence until the resuming flags once again allow untrammelled passage. After ¾ mile, cross a couple of stiles to reach the triangulation pillar **J**, stranded high on a mound by the



erosion of the surrounding peat. It is a featureless spot with a relatively flat top, but the sense of achievement in reaching the highest point around makes up for the lack of inspiring views. So, having savoured the moment, keep going for another ¼ mile to the end of the flagged path. Over a ladder-stile the ground suddenly falls away, presenting a superb view along the Harthope Valley to the distant sea and islands of Lindisfarne and Farne. Over to the right is Hedgehope Hill, the Cheviot Hills' second summit, while farther on are the distinctive outcrops of Long, Housey and Langlee crags.

Similar to the tors of Dartmoor, they are the stumps of volcanic intrusion, forced through the crust some 380 million years ago.

With the fence now on your left, descend steeply to a shallow col before rising gently onto Scald Hill. After crossing a stile just before the crest **K**, leave the ridge, dropping right. Follow a rough trod beside the fence straight down the flank of the hill, which leads to a track in the base of the valley, just east of Langleeford Hope.

If you have time, it is worth detouring ½ mile back up the valley to see the delightful waterfall of Harthope Linn. The way back, however, is to the left, an undemanding and enjoyable 1½ miles past Langleeford to Hawsen Bridge. **O**