

# paths

## around Peebles

### and The John Buchan Way



Our Scottish Borders  
Your destination

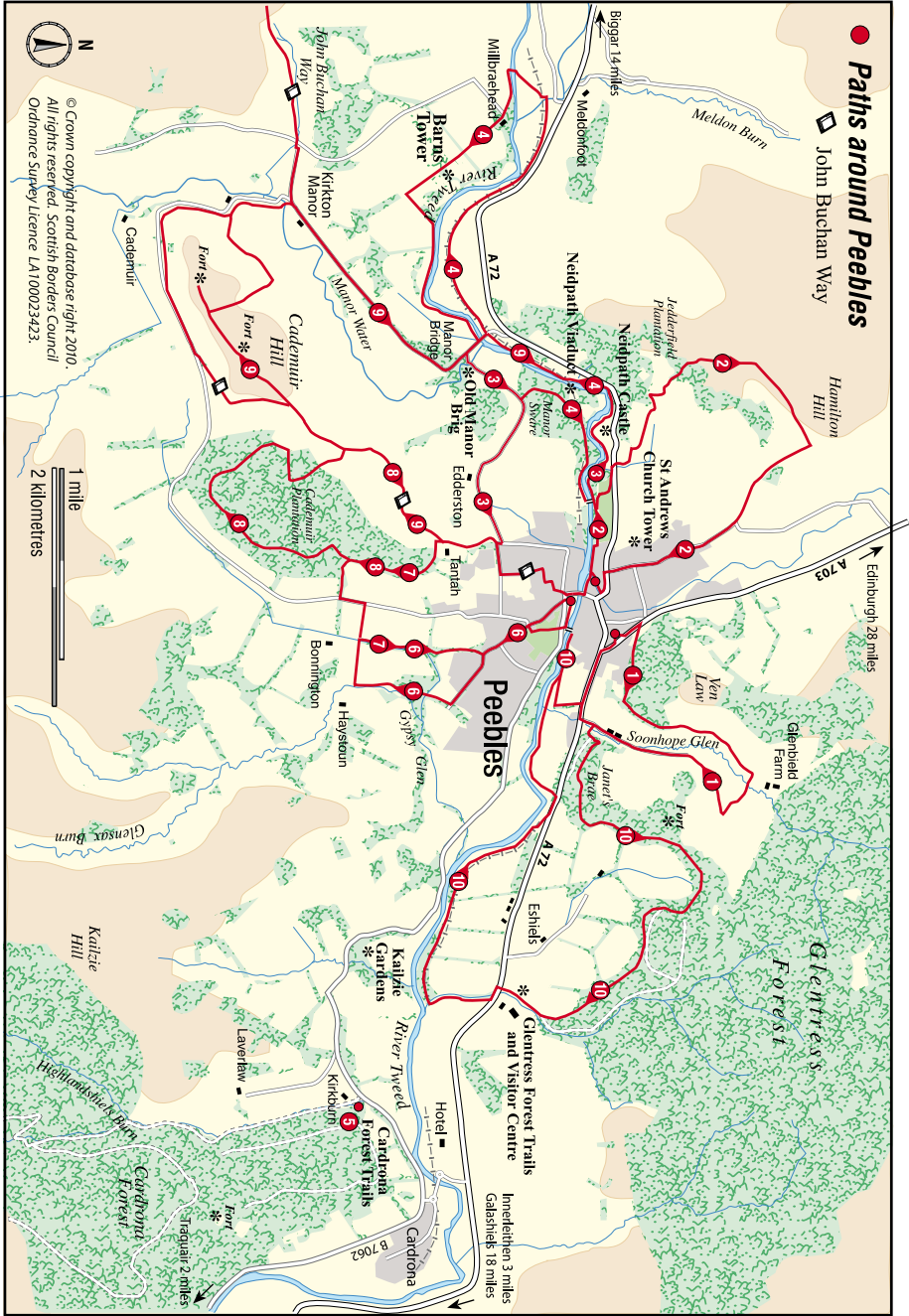
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Peebles Old Parish Church







Hay Lodge Park and the River Tweed

## Introduction

This booklet includes 11 routes starting from Peebles in Central Tweeddale. The area is ideal for walking because the town is surrounded by rolling hills, includes areas of extensive woodland and offers gentle walks along the banks of the River Tweed. The routes are especially suitable for walkers. Other users may not be able to use all parts of the routes where there are steps or stiles.

The routes described range from short strolls to strenuous hill climbs. Each route has a summary containing distance, estimated time to complete, start and finish points and an indication of the terrain to be expected. The routes include much historical and natural interest which is alluded to in the text. However, further information about Peebles history and natural resources is available from the Tourist Information Centre in Peebles or from local bookshops and other outlets.

## Peebles - past and present

Peebles is first noted as being a **royal burgh** in 1152 when David I assigned a rent from the *firma burg*. However, there is evidence of an organised settlement before the 12th century. The famous Cross Kirk was built on the site where an early Christian stone cross was discovered in 1261. The area at the west side of the Eddleston Water, where the remains of the Cross Kirk are, is referred to as the 'old town'.

Although not of significant strategical importance the town still suffered burnings from English armies between the 14th and 16th centuries. Despite its status as a royal burgh, which enjoyed the occasional **royal visits**, the town was poor and was not walled until the 1570's.

The town has a history of tourism; until the 17th century people made pilgrimages to the shrine at the **Cross Kirk**. Although recorded over the centuries as manufacturing wool and cloth, the town's trade was meagre

and foreign trade negligible. In 1830 the population of the old and new town was 2100.

The current population is approximately 8000. The town received a boost in numbers as the **woollen industry** blossomed here in the second half of the 19th century; a time when larger houses began to be built. The creation of the **railway** at this time allowed for greater movement of people and trade. **Peebles Hydro** was opened in 1878, firmly establishing the town as a tourist destination.

In 1920 **Hay Lodge Park** was acquired for the people of Peebles from Wemyss and March Estate. This magnificent large park is situated on the banks of the River Tweed. The park boasts trees of all ages including older specimens of great interest and the density of trees in places gives a woodland effect. Yearly maintenance ensures that the park has large mown areas and colourful planting. There is a network of paths within the park boundaries that lead to the wider countryside; these routes are included in this booklet. There is also a well-equipped children's play area.

Peebles is well known for its traditional sense of place; the wide main street has many buildings of historic interest. The shops and cafés are mainly privately owned and, therefore, create a unique atmosphere for locals and visitors alike. The neighbouring **Forestry Commission Scotland** woodlands and community woodlands add to the green spaces within and around the town.

## Access in Scotland

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code came into effect in February 2005. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act establishes a statutory right of responsible access to land and inland waters for outdoor recreation, crossing land, and some educational and commercial purposes.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives detailed guidance on your responsibilities when exercising access rights and if you are managing land and water. The Act sets out where and when access rights apply. The Code defines how access rights should be exercised responsibly.



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

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

When you're **in the outdoors**:

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

When you're **managing the outdoors**:

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

Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or telephoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

## General Advice

Before setting off on longer walks, always check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly. Remember that weather conditions can change rapidly. Remember that hot weather, causing sunburn and/or dehydration, can be just as debilitating as rain or snow. Always carry adequate cover for your body in all conditions.

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

### Take great care when walking on country roads.

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

## Toilet Facilities

Public toilets in Peebles are situated in Kingsmeadows car park, Hay Lodge Park, East station car park on Edinburgh Road and School Brae.

## Livestock

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

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

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

Dogs should not be taken into fields of cattle when they have calves, as the cows see a dog as a threat and may attack it. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land.

During the bird breeding season (April – June) keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in ground nesting areas. Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, keeping a safe distance from stock and watching them carefully, you should experience little or no difficulty. Please leave gates as you find them and ensure that if you have to open a gate, you close it securely behind you. Thank you for your cooperation, which will help to ensure that these walks are available for those who follow in your footsteps in future years.

This booklet has been produced in association with Tom Renwick. Tom has farmed in the area all of his life. He is also keenly aware of the importance of tourism in the Scottish Borders and has developed Cardrona over the years to compliment this industry.

## Health Warning!

Germs from animals can cause serious human illness. Stay safe from diseases when out in the countryside by:

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

Contact the Public Health Department for more information 01896 82 5560



Sheep in Soonhope Glen



Horsburgh Castle, Cardrona

## Waymarking and Maps

Many routes are way-marked, however an Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50 000 or Explorer 1:25 000 maps should be used in conjunction with this booklet to help identify the hills and other points of interest.



*Walk it* is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders and aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. Our walks are usually short and easy though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients. For information telephone 01835 825060.

## Scottish Borders Festival of Walking

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



## Route 1

### Venlaw and Soonhope

**Distance:** 5.5km/3.5 miles.

**Time:** 1-2 hours

**Start and finish:** East Station car park, Edinburgh Road, Peebles

**Terrain:** roads and good tracks. Boots or strong shoes needed in wet conditions.



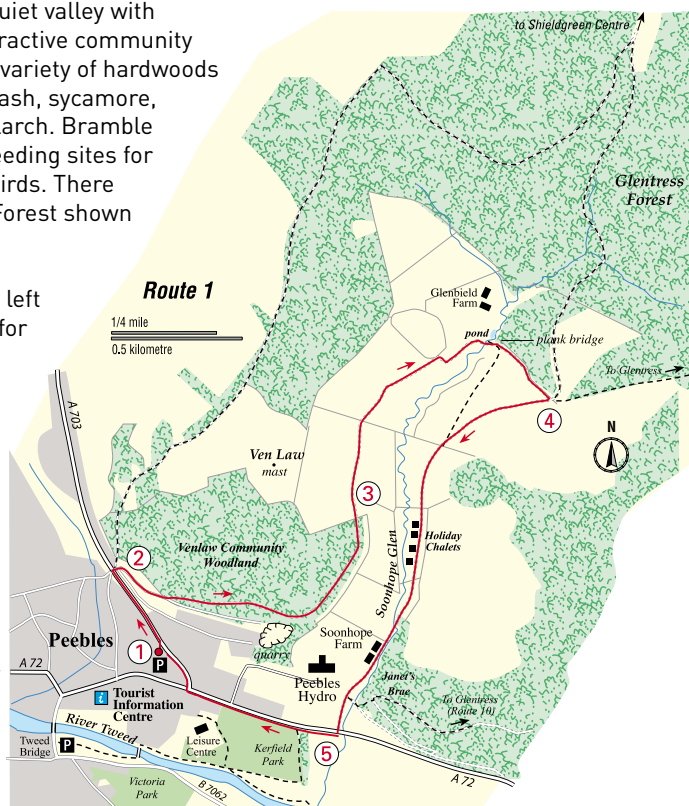
Rosebay Willowherb and Soonhope Glen

This route explores a quiet valley with exquisite views and attractive community woodland containing a variety of hardwoods and conifers including ash, sycamore, beech, Scots pine and larch. Bramble provides nesting and feeding sites for a variety of woodland birds. There are links to Glentress Forest shown on the adjoining map.

① From the car park turn left along Edinburgh Road for about 300 metres.

② Take the first right up Venlaw High Road. Before reaching the first houses on your right veer left on to the forest track and continue further into Venlaw Woodland. Above a quarry, where the rock, known locally as whinstone, was the source of much of the building stone used in Peebles, the track opens out before turning north above Soonhope Glen.

Along this first section of track, on the west side of the glen, there is a row of



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Peebles Hydro

beech and sycamore. They are over 200 years old and act as host to numerous fungi and insect and their larva. These conditions in turn attract greater spotted woodpeckers.

③ From here the track leads onto open ground which has been planted with a variety of smaller trees and voles can be seen running in the rough grass. The small mammals in turn will attract birds of prey like buzzards, owls and kestrels.

Before reaching Glenfield Kennels a finger post leads you right down a steep grass slope to Soonhope Burn. A seat has been provided for your leisure from where you can take a moment to enjoy the breathtaking views south to Hundleshope and Glenrath Heights.

At the base of this slope you cross Soonhope Burn over a sleeper bridge. Go straight up the hill to reach the track that runs down the east side of the glen.

④ Turn right on to this track to return to Peebles. The small chalets that you pass were mainly built in the post-war period by ex servicemen and their families. This phenomenon occurred around

Britain. The 'hut' owners would pay the landowner a small rent for these which were similar in set up to beach huts. They have become an idiosyncratic part of Britain's social history.

You will also get a good view of Peebles Hydro built in 1881 to a design by John Starforth. This French Renaissance style building in red sandstone with many turrets burned down in 1905. The architect for the present building was James Miller who designed the Turnberry Hotel. Hydropathic hotels were very fashionable in the early 1900's, visitors were encouraged to take the local waters as a curative for various real or imaginary ailments. In 1939 the 11/2nd Scottish (renamed 23rd Scottish) General Hospital was deployed to Peebles Hydro. The medical wards were in marquees erected on the putting green.

'Hopefulness on behalf of the patient is most desirable, and a cheerful outlook should always be encouraged. Mental excitement must be avoided.'  
(Advice given to hotel visitors.)

⑤ At the main road turn right and right again at the roundabout to return to the car park.

## Route 2

### Hamilton Hill and Standalane

**Distance:** 7km/4.5 miles.

**Time:** 2-3 hours.

**Start and finish:** Greenside car park, Peebles.

**Terrain:** roads, good tracks and some rough paths. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

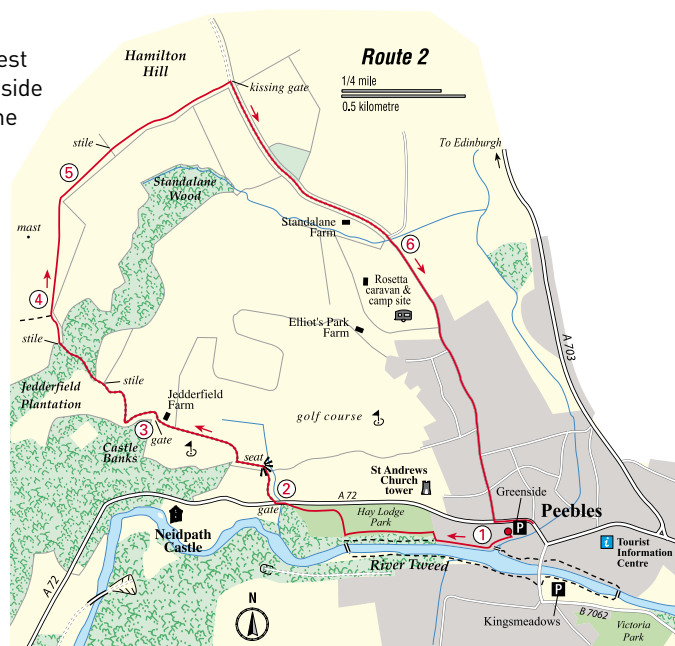
This is a hill walk over the area immediately north-west of Peebles, skirting the golf course and returning by way of an old drove road. It offers fine views across the town and the Tweed Valley.

- ① From the car park walk west along the riverside path beside the Tweed. You will see the ducks and swans that are fed by many of the locals as you cross over a bridge. Continue to the steps on your left and follow these up then down to enter Hay Lodge Park.

At the entrance to the park you will notice a row of alder trees along the riverside. These have been coppiced in the past - cut back to ground level to regenerate as a multi-stemmed tree with vigorous root growth. This prevents the tree becoming top-heavy and falling into the water which could cause bank erosion.

Follow any of the park's paths to exit onto Neidpath Road from the gate in the north-west corner. The high stone wall along the top side of the park is known as Campbell's Dykes. You will see wall rue fern and maidenhair spleenwort growing in the limestone mortar.

- ② Cross the A72 with great care and walk up the track opposite, known as Rae Burn Road (the Rae Burn flows down through Hay Lodge Park into the Tweed.) Follow the track uphill where it will cross the golf course, please give way to golfers driving from the 8th tee. There is a seat here offering a deserved rest and fine views of the town and the surrounding hills.



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Jedderfield sheds & Highland cows

- ③ You will pass Jedderfield Farm buildings on your right in an area which is often muddy. Go through a gate on your right after the farm buildings and walk up the field edge. Do not pass through the first gate at the top of the field but follow the track round to the right and continue uphill until you reach a stile. This track is an old drove road and was at one time the main route into Peebles from the west. After crossing the stile continue through the wood, crossing another stile and entering open ground. The views towards the Meldons in the west and beyond are extensive.
- ④ Take the clear grass path that leads diagonally to the right, keep in between the mast on your left and the wall. At this

point you will be on or near a Roman road from Lyne to Peebles that seems to have been routed this way to avoid the narrow section of the Tweed Valley above Neidpath Castle. Looking east you can see the elegant ridge that leads to Lee Pen above Innerleithen.

- ⑤ Continue for about 500m until you are more closely following the wall running along the south side of Hamilton Hill. Cross over the stile. You will notice gorse here which has been heavily grazed by rabbits. This can make the gorse grow into cone shapes and respond by growing extra spiny leaves for protection.

Continue until the wall turns a corner. Turn right and go through the gate here to follow the green track down to Standalane Farm and then onto the road where the public footpath sign is. The track is very wide which is characteristic of old drove roads.

- ⑥ Turn right and walk along the road, passing Rosetta Caravan site. Rosetta road becomes Young Street and leads down to the A72 in the old town. Cross the A72 with care and walk down the short lane opposite which leads back to the car park.



Peebles from Hamilton Hill



## Route 3

### The Sware Circuit

**Distance:** 6km/3.5 miles.

**Time:** 2 hours

**Start and finish:** Kingsmeadow car park, at south side of Tweed Bridge, Peebles.

**Terrain:** good paths and minor roads. Normal footwear is usually adequate.

This route follows the banks of the Tweed through Hay Lodge Park, then along a more rugged section of the river bank and latterly on the line of the dismantled railway. The route then turns and crosses Old Manor Brig (currently closed to vehicular traffic) before steeply climbing to the Manor Sware view points. The route follows the road back down into Peebles.

- ① From the car park cross the bridge and on its far side turn left past the swimming pool to join the riverside path. Continue beside the river right through Hay Lodge Park.

- ② At the end of the park continue along the riverbank and over the rocky outcrops where Scots pine tower above you. These rocks are greywacke sandstone, formed 430 million years ago. The path passes through riparian native woodland consisting of oak, ash, alder, hawthorn and wild rose. Other tree species along this stretch include larch, lime, beech and cedar.

#### Neidpath Castle

The track passes beneath the imposing Neidpath Castle elevated on a rocky bluff above the river. Built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and remodelled in the 17<sup>th</sup> it is the epitome of a Borders fortified home. The castle was owned by the Hay family who were Earls of Tweeddale, later it fell under the ownership of the Earls of Wemyss and March who are the owners to this day.

Beyond the castle the path climbs higher above the river. From this new vantage point you may see otters in the water

and goosanders on the deeper pools. These ducks have a bill with backward serrations used for catching fish. Daubenton's bats also feed at this section of the river but you would need to be there at dusk to see them.

- ③ Continue to follow the path up to steps that take you up to the railway line. Continue up to the road. You will pass the side of the viaduct. Built in 1864 it is a master piece of engineering set in a skew with seven arches. Kingfishers may be resident in this area; an unmistakable bird because of its vivid, predominantly blue colouring.

- ④ Turn left along the road crossing Manor Bridge over the Tweed; this stone bridge was built in 1883 to replace the ford.

- ⑤ After 250m turn left to follow the road over Old Manor Brig. Built in 1702, it was a 'stipend bridge' constructed with monies from a vacant parish. Follow the road up the steep brae known as Manor Sware.



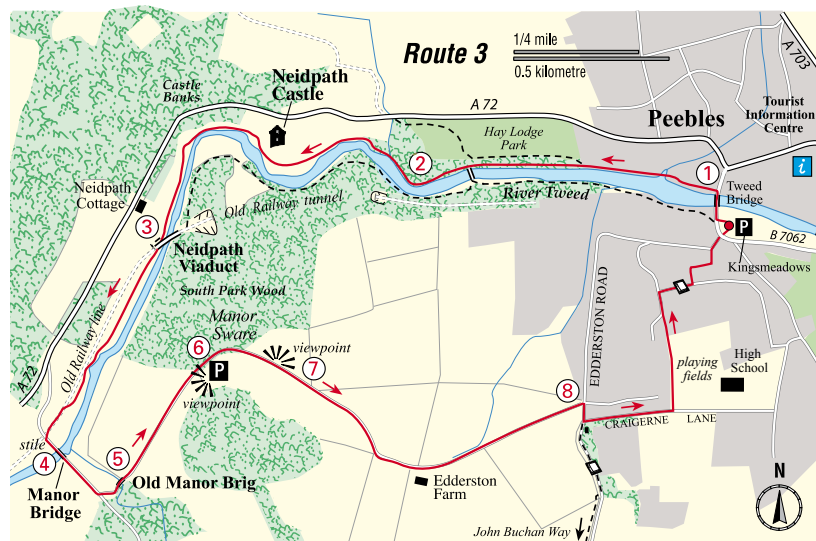
Old Manor Brig

The pasture field below is a favourite feeding ground for rooks and crows, where they may glean worms from the soil, leatherjackets from the grass or dung beetles from the cowpats. You can tell the rooks from the feathers on their legs which give them a 'baggy trouser' appearance.

- ⑥ You will reach a car park area that has picnic tables and an orientation point. You may choose to take a short rest here and enjoy the views back along the Tweed Valley. Continue along the road where, after 350m, you will find another view point on your left. This time you can look over the town of Peebles nestled in the valley.

- ⑦ From the viewpoint continue down hill to Eddertson Farm and keep on this road until you reach Edderston Road.

- ⑧ Turn right onto Edderston Road. Then, after a short distance, turn left into Craigerne Lane. Follow the metal John Buchan Way signs as they take you through the narrow path to Frankscroft and Chambers Terrace to return to Kingsmeadows Road and the car park.



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Neidpath Castle

## Route 4

### The Tweed Walk to Lyne

**Distance:** 11km/7 miles.

**Time:** 3-4 hours.

**Start and finish:** Greenside car park.

**Terrain:** Mostly good paths. Some stretches can be muddy after wet weather. Boots or strong shoes are recommended.

This fine route explores the Tweed between Peebles and Lyne, using parts of the dismantled railway line and riverside paths. The route is mainly level with a short climb after the Manor bridges.

- ① From the car park walk west and join the riverside path through Hay Lodge Park, as in Route 3. Continue past Neidpath Castle (see p12 for history) to the viaduct then continue along the former railway line to the Manor Valley Road.
- ② Cross the road and take the stile and steps opposite to gain access to the former railway line. This railway route was closed to passengers in the 1950s as were many other scenic routes; the branch was known as the Symington, Biggar and Broughton Railway. Continue to follow the line as it curves above the river, giving splendid views of the river valley and the Tweedsmuir hills beyond.

Ash and sycamore trees along the line have been coppiced in the past because of railway maintenance regimes and have produced multi-stemmed trees. The wide variety of bushes and flora at this section of the walk attracts butterflies and small song birds in the summer and feeding flocks of chaffinches and goldfinches in autumn.

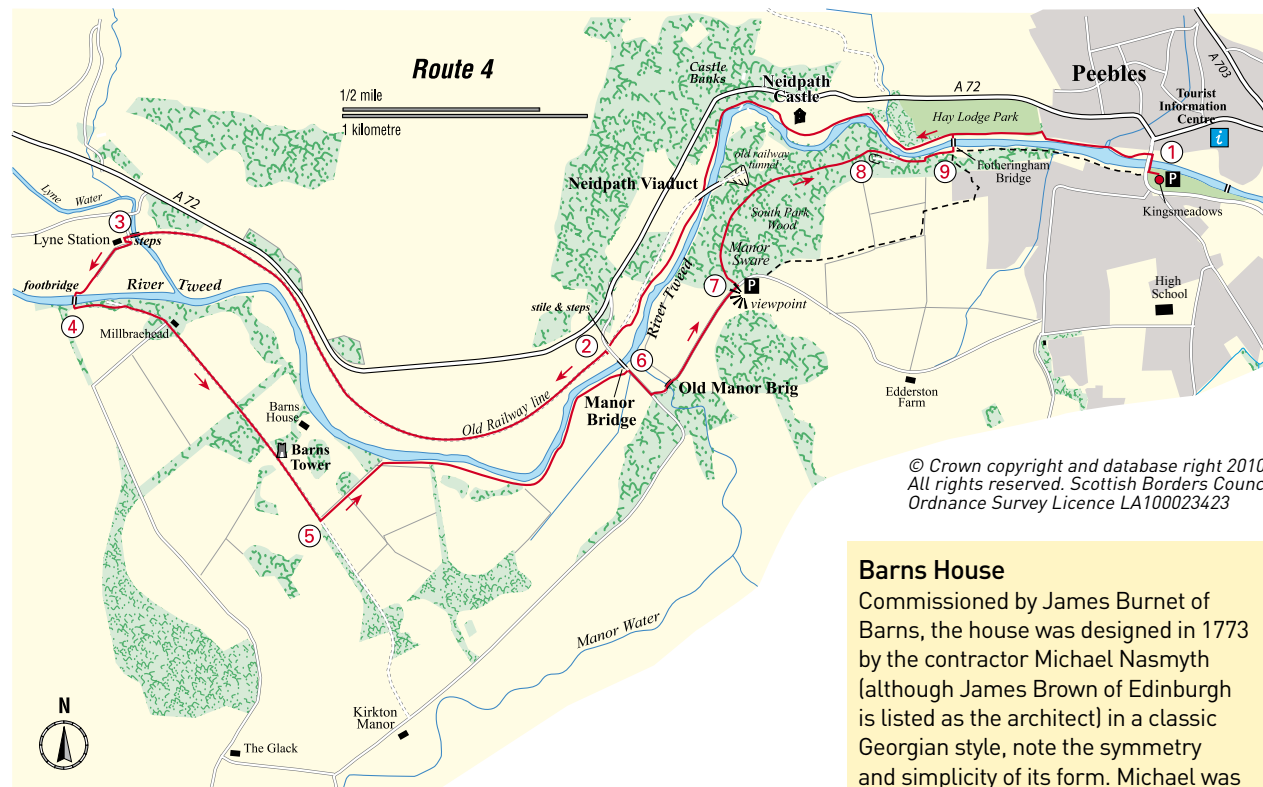
- ③ Cross the bridge over the Lyne Water, a good opportunity to spot dippers, grey wagtails and, in summer, pied wagtails and common sandpipers. All these species frequent faster flowing water and all bob up and down as they search for insect prey. You may spot grey heron; they stand motionless to catch fish by surprise.

Go down steps on the left, then right along the lane. Continue past the houses and on a path to the footbridge over the Tweed. Many of the elm trees have died from Dutch elm disease, but live shoots grow as suckers from the base of the trunk. The dead wood acts as host to insect larvae which in turn attract birds such as the great spotted woodpecker.

- ④ At the far side of the bridge turn left and follow the path through the wood to Millbraehead. Then join the driveway leading to Barns Tower, along which is a



By the Tweed



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### Barns House

Commissioned by James Burnet of Barns, the house was designed in 1773 by the contractor Michael Nasmyth (although James Brown of Edinburgh is listed as the architect) in a classic Georgian style, note the symmetry and simplicity of its form. Michael was the father of the well-known artist Alexander Nasmyth. The Ionic portico is considered to be a later addition; however, the three urns may be original.

fine avenue of mature trees including limes and poplars. Snowberry near the buildings provides shelter for pheasants but it is an invasive species.

### Barns Tower

The tower is typical of many such fortified houses erected in the Borders during the troubled times of the 15th and 16th centuries. It dates from the late 16th century and has a very old grated iron yett (gate). This building was recently restored to provide an unusual holiday let for which it gained a special commendation from Scottish Borders Council's design awards in 2007.



Barns Tower in the background



- ⑤ Continue past the buildings and after 350m turn left along a path returning you to the riverside. Follow this very pleasant section of the river downstream for just over a kilometre.
- ⑥ When you reach Manor Bridge (see route 3 for history) ascend the steps, go over the stile and turn right. Cross the road with care, then cross Manor Water over Old Manor Brig (see route 3 for history).
- ⑦ Continue to follow the road past the viewpoint/picnic area, after 150m take the path to the left; this will lead you into Manor Sware woodland. (Alternatively you may follow the right of way through the fields as shown on the map. This route is sign posted at the side of the road with green and white metal path signs.) After going down through the woodland for 50m turn right onto a wider path. This path winds its way through South Park Wood, gradually descending towards the river.

The wood has a variety of tree species including hybrid larch, Scots pine, Norway

spruce, Douglas fir and some sycamore, beech and oak. A large area towards the top of the slope contains birches of the same age, creating a very elegant stand of trees.

You will also note that some windblown and dead trees have been left where they have fallen. They provide a valuable habitat because dead and decaying wood may house over 1000 species of plants and animals; principally insects and fungi. South Park Wood is managed by Benson Wemyss Estates largely for its conservation and amenity value.

- ⑧ You will reach the entrance to a former railway tunnel; continue left of this, going steeply down hill to the riverbank. Follow this natural path until you reach Fotheringham Bridge.
- ⑨ Cross over the river by this bridge, gifted to the town by a former Peebles man who spent most of his life in South Africa. Turn right at the other side to return to the car park.



Manor Bridge

## John Buchan Way

### Peebles to Broughton

**Distance:** 22km/13 miles.

**Time:** 5-7 hours.

**Start and finish:** Bank House, Tweed Green.

**Terrain:** Road, farm tracks, paths and open hill. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

### The man

The John Buchan Way was named after the author and diplomat John Buchan (1875-1940), who has many associations with the area. Most people today would remember him as a novelist; his best known being "The Thirty-Nine Steps." Despite the association with fictional writing he actually wrote 60 non-fictional books and only 40 fictional texts.

Buchan was born in Perth in 1875, the son of a church minister; while he was growing up the family lived in Fife, Glasgow and the borders. After studying at Glasgow University for two years he graduated from Oxford University. His academic foundations allowed him to pursue a very varied career including editing The Spectator, serving as a Member of Parliament for Scottish Universities (1927-1935), becoming a director of Nelson's publishers and acting as a war correspondent and latterly Director of Information during the First World War.

In 1935, at the age of 60, Buchan was appointed Governor General of Canada, and took the title Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, his home in Oxfordshire. He died in 1940 shortly after signing Canada's formal entry into World War Two.

The Buchan family maintain their links with the area to this day. Buchan's brother Walter was Town Clerk of Peebles, a noted local historian, and with John formed the family



Peebles Hydro from Tintah

of solicitors, J & W. Buchan WS. This firm of solicitors only changed hands over the last few years and now practices under a different name.

John's younger sister, Anna, wrote novels under the pseudonym O Douglas. She lived most of her life in Peebles and used it as 'Priorsford' in her books.

The John Buchan Society, which has members all over the world, maintains close and cordial relations with the Buchan family and with the John Buchan Centre in Broughton. The society has also donated a number of exhibits to the latter. Visit [www.johnbuchansociety.co.uk](http://www.johnbuchansociety.co.uk)



### The route

The route mainly follows long-established hill tracks through the Peebleshire Countryside. There are three main ascents and descents on the route giving a total climb of 800metres but none of them are too severe. The route is waymarked in both directions.

The route may be completed in one day by strong walkers. Alternatively there is a convenient half way split at Stobo where the local bus will stop. Due to the length of the route and the exposed nature of some parts it is recommended that you take a detailed map. Ordnance survey sheets 72 and 73 (Landranger series) or 336 and 337 (Explorer series) may be used.



John Buchan



Stobo Kirk



John Buchan Centre



Broughton Place

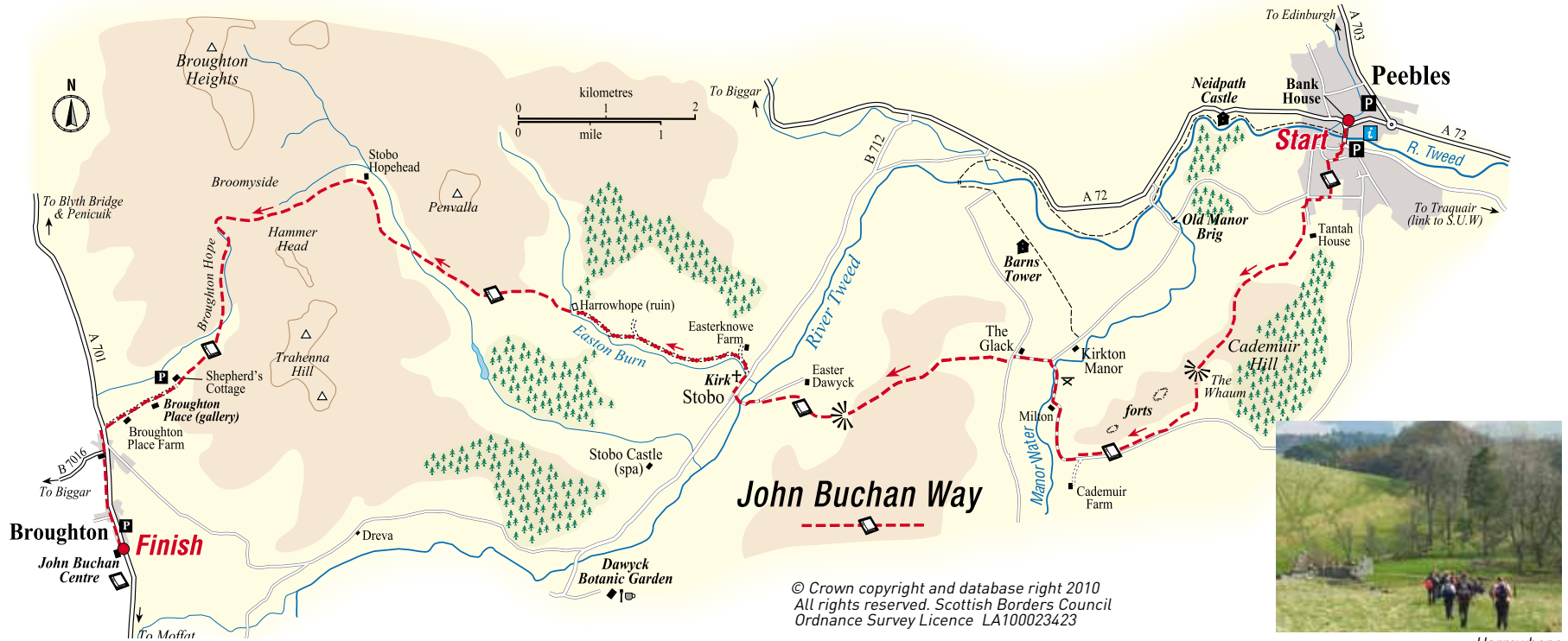


Hammer Head

## HARROWHOPE

The noun harrow refers to a heavy frame with metal teeth or disks for breaking up the ground after ploughing. The noun may also refer to a young mare or horse who has not been broken for the plough but can be used to draw the harrow. The verb form of harrow can mean to 'to distress the feelings of.' We often say the tale was harrowing. In the Scots language the word has been used in several sayings. To 'die in the harrows' means to die while still working. To 'have one's leg over the harrows' means to let a situation get out of hand. 'Awa wi the harrows' refers to someone who has lost all sense of rationality or talking in an unrestrained or exaggerated manner.

Hope where it is used in place names has several meanings, most commonly a small upland enclosed valley. In this instance it probably refers to a hollow among the hills, a haven of safety.



Harrowhope

## JOHN BUCHAN CENTRE, BROUGHTON

The Centre is housed in a former church building at the south end of Broughton village. The Centre houses a fascinating collection of photographs, books and other memorabilia illustrating the life and career of John Buchan and his family. These include editions of his books and also those of his sister Anna, whose literary name was 'O.Douglas'. Works by his brother Walter, a renowned local historian, are also on view.

The John Buchan Centre is normally open over Easter weekend and from May to mid October, daily, 2pm to 5pm. There is a small admission charge which goes towards the maintenance and development of the collection and the building.

## STOBO KIRK

According to tradition, Stobo Kirk stands on the site of an even older foundation associated with St Kentigern (also known as St Mungo). A stained glass window in the kirk depicts the legendary magician Merlin being baptised by the saint.

The kirk is Norman in layout and may date from as early as 1120. It was the most important church in upper Tweeddale for many centuries. The church was altered in the subsequent centuries, but retained many Norman features.



### Peebles to Stobo (11km/6.5 miles)

The walk starts from Bank House, at the west end of **Peebles High Street**. This was a Buchan family home and was later the offices of J. & W. Buchan, Solicitors.

After crossing the bridge keep to the right of the hundred year old oak tree in the traffic island and take the short section of road running uphill. Thereafter follow the waymarkers through the vennels onto Chambers Terrace and Craigerne Lane.

Turn right here through a metal gate and walk uphill beside the wall. At the wall junction, go through the wooden gate and take the right-hand of the three paths, climbing and curving right on to **Cademuir Hill**.

The path joins a power line and continues its steady climb. You are likely to hear, if not see, buzzards here and curlews are often prominent with their mournful cry in the late spring and summer.

At a fork, go left, with higher hills visible ahead and to the right. The summit of Cademuir is now clear. At the next fork, go right and continue around the hill on a good grass path.

At a multiple path junction keep ahead towards Cademuir Hill, and at the next fork go left and take the path that runs beside the wall and start descending [or go right to visit the forts on Cademuir, and return to the same point]. There is a superb view of the hills at the head of Glensax, with Hundleshope Heights (685m) prominent.

Follow the lovely path as it curves right and runs easily down past a Scots pine plantation to the road. Just before reaching the road, take the path that parallels the tarmac, a few metres above it, and runs round the base of the hill.

Join the road just past the entrance to **Cademuir Farm**. It swings left and right past

Milton Farm. Cross the Manor Water, passing picnic tables where you may be tempted to take a break. Turn left along the Manor Valley road to reach **The Glack**.

At the farm go left for a few metres and then right, through a metal gate, and head up through the fields, crossing several stiles. After wet weather this section can be rather damp. The going improves as you get higher. Cross an old dyke, go past the corner of the wood and over a stile at the boundary march between The Glack and **Easter Dawyck**.

Go straight ahead and then left contouring around the hill, keeping the wall/fence /on your right; at the corner of the fence turn right and head downhill again keeping the fence on your right.

Cross the small burn by the bridge, join the farm track and turn right. At the second gate, turn left to follow the fence. Cross the track and go through the small gate and continue ahead to another gate/stile.

Cross, and turn left along the farm access road. Cross the bridge over the Tweed and reach the main road. Turn right to continue the walk, or wait here for the bus if returning to Peebles.

**Stobo Kirk** is a short distance along the road, and is well worth a visit. More information is found in the panel.



*Walking on the side of Cademuir Hill*

### Stobo to Broughton (11km/6.5 miles)

In 200 metres from the road-end to Easter Dawyck you pass the entrance to Stobo Kirk. The walk, however, takes the next opening on the left, signed for **Easterknowe Farm**.

Past the cottages, turn left over a stile onto a lesser track by the Easton Burn. Continue along the track as signed, climbing gently, with a good view of the hill named Penvalla ahead. 'Pen' meaning 'end', 'head' or 'hill' is a fairly common name element in the Borders. Pass through a gate at sheep pens and cross the stile at a second gate. Then be sure to take the left fork. It is waymarked but can still be easily missed. Walk beside the plantation and continue to reach the ruined cottage of Harrowhope, in a wonderful setting. 'Hope' in this area means a side valley.

Turn left in front of the cottage and cross the burn by the footbridge. Walk uphill to the pine trees, pass through them, climbing steadily, and cross the dyke by the ladder stile, with **Penvalla** filling the view ahead.

Continue on a clear grassy track towards the gap ahead, with an expansive view behind. As you top the rise, **Broughton Heights** appear ahead and to the right. Keep right and follow the lovely old track round the hill, descending slowly towards the Hopehead Burn. Pass an old round sheep stell, cross the burn and climb to join the main track. Turn right and walk up to **Stobo Hopehead**. This is surely one of the most remote houses in the Borders, 6km (4 miles) up a track from the road.

Turn left with the track before the house, and at the gathering shed go left as signed up a rough path on the open hill, with the Well Burn below to the right. Keep to the same height for a while before starting to climb again towards the obvious gap in the hills ahead.

Pass an unusual hexagonal stone stell then higher up, keep left at a fork then swing right



*Looking towards Penvalla*

and left, aiming for a gate at the low point of the saddle.

Go through the gate and walk half-right on a cleared strip in the heather. In about 250 metres, go left as signed to start the long descent to Broughton. Keep low down with the path, which soon improves into a broad grassy track giving delightful walking with the Hollows Burn chuckling away down to your left.

Before long you can see **Broughton Place** ahead. Cross the burn and climb steadily to the left of the small wood.

There is an expansive view, taking in Culter Fell to the left and ranging round to Tinto on the right. Descend to the gate and walkers' car park at Shepherd's Cottage and continue past **Broughton Place**.

Walk down the access road past **Broughton Place Farm** to the main road, cross and turn left. The pavement starts in about 200 metres, and at the junction with the B7016 Biggar Road is the welcome sight of the Laurel Bank Tearoom. The John Buchan Way continues through **Broughton**, passing on the right (shortly after the shop) Broughton Green, the home of John Buchan's mother's family, the Mastertons.

Continue through the village, passing the premises of Broughton Ales Ltd. The route ends at the John Buchan Centre, at the south end of the village.

## Route 5

### Cardrona Forest



**Distance:** 0.5 - 12km / 1/3 - 7 1/2 miles

**Time:** 20 mins - 4 hours.

**Start and finish:** Kirkburn car park in Cardrona Forest, leaflets for the waymarked routes can be found at the Kirkburn toilet block.

**Terrain:** Forestry tracks, woodland paths. Some stretches can be muddy after wet weather. Boots or strong shoes are recommended.

Cardrona Forest is owned and managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. Located south east of the town of Peebles this plantation offers wonderful views on the paths around the forest edges. Despite being a popular location for horse riders and dog walkers the site remains relatively peaceful and quiet.

Planting in this forest began in 1935 with a stand of Sitka spruce. This large conifer was one of the many species introduced by David Douglas; Scotland's most famous plant hunter. It is a native of the west coast of North America and was brought to Britain in 1831. The name 'Sitka' comes from Sitka Sound in Alaska. It grows very quickly, to yield large amounts of light, tough timber used for building, joinery and box- and paper-making. During World War II the light wood was found to be ideal for the construction of the famous Mosquito aircraft.

In 1937 larches were planted here giving the forest its spectacular autumn garb; the larch being a deciduous conifer. Larix x eurolepis henry or the hybrid larch was created in the gardens of Dunkeld when Japanese larch and European larch were



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planted beside each other in 1885. The sapling grew with paler needles and soon showed signs of 'hybrid vigour' – faster growing with stronger timber.

In 1938 the planting scheme introduced Scot's pine into the forest. This is our only native conifer that is planted for timber harvesting. 8000 years ago this tree formed large parts of Britain's forests especially in Scotland and the north of England. Its ability to send down deep taproots or create shallow roots means that it can grow on thin soils. Around the borders you can see where Scots pines were used to create small shelter belts for farmed animals.

Cardrona Fort sits on the rocky knoll of Castle Knowe. Steep slopes create good natural defences on all sides except the south where the ground has a gentler incline. The dual defensive walls are in a dilapidated condition, due to stone robbing and the creation of a sheepfold in the interior of this Iron Age fort.



*Dismantled railway to Cardrona*

Cardrona Tower was most likely built in the second half of the 16th century by the Govans who appear to have possessed the lands of Cardrona from the 14th until the 17th century. In 1685 the property passed to the Williamsons who built a new house lower down the hill. While the tower was abandoned at this time the statistical account from 1794 notes that the building was 'still almost entire'.



*Sitka and larch in Cardrona, early morning*



## Route 6

### Haystoun and the Cut



**Distance:** 4.5km /3 miles

**Time:** 1-2 hours.

**Start and finish:** Kingsmeadow car park.

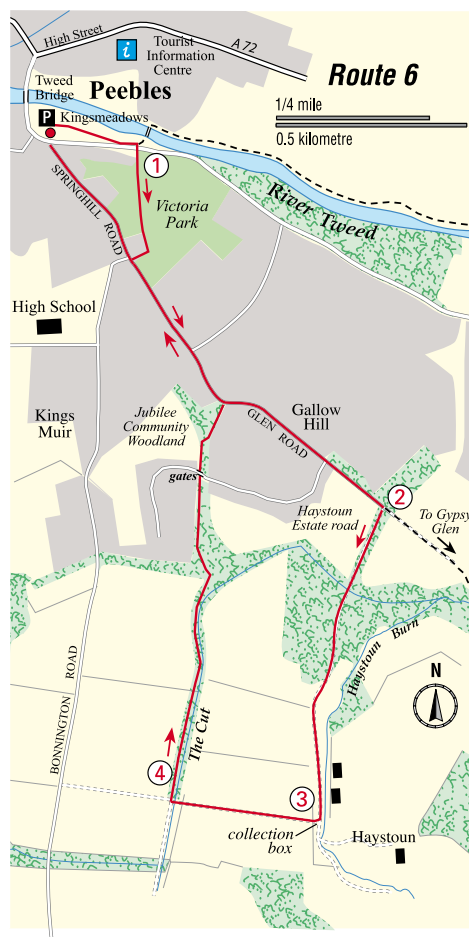
**Terrain:** road and good path.

This is a shorter route that provides a pleasant morning or evening stroll south of Peebles. 'The Cut' is a drain that runs between a number of fields; you will note that there are 'drinking holes' created for the stock in these fields.

- ① From the car park turn right on to Kingsmeadows Road and enter Victoria Park. A path through the park is shown on the map but you may follow any path that will lead you on to Springhill Road. Follow this road up to the Gypsy Glen.
- ② Do not take the glen path, turn right through the gateway leading to Haystoun Estate. Follow the road as it turns towards Haystoun Farm.
- ③ Take the first track on the right, opposite the collection box, and follow this track for 400m until you reach the sign for 'The Cut'.
- ④ Turn right into the tree lined path and follow the path down to Jubilee Woodland. Exit the woodland and turn left on to Glen Road. Follow the road down to return to the car park.



The Cut



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### Jubilee Community Woodland

Jubilee Community Woodland is only 1 hectare in size but includes a short circular path, most enjoyable in spring time when woodland flowers appear. Previously the woodland was managed by the Community Council under agreement with the landowners, Haystoun Estate.

Friends of Jubilee wood are responsible for the management of the woodland along with support from Borders Forest Trust. Oaks, Douglas firs, ash and elm comprise much of the tree canopy where tawny owl and pipistrelle bats may be observed.



Jubilee Community Woodland



Gypsy Glen



## Route 7

### Cademuir Forest and The Cut



**Distance:** 6.5km / 4 miles

**Time:** 1½ - 2½ hours.

**Start and finish:** Kingsmeadow car park.

**Terrain:** road, field margins and forest

This is one of the shorter routes in the booklet but enjoys a variety of terrain and views. The route starts on the John Buchan Way as it winds up through the attractive suburbs in the south west corner of the town. You leave this way to follow a path through Cademuir Forest and then onto the tree-lined band known as The Cut.

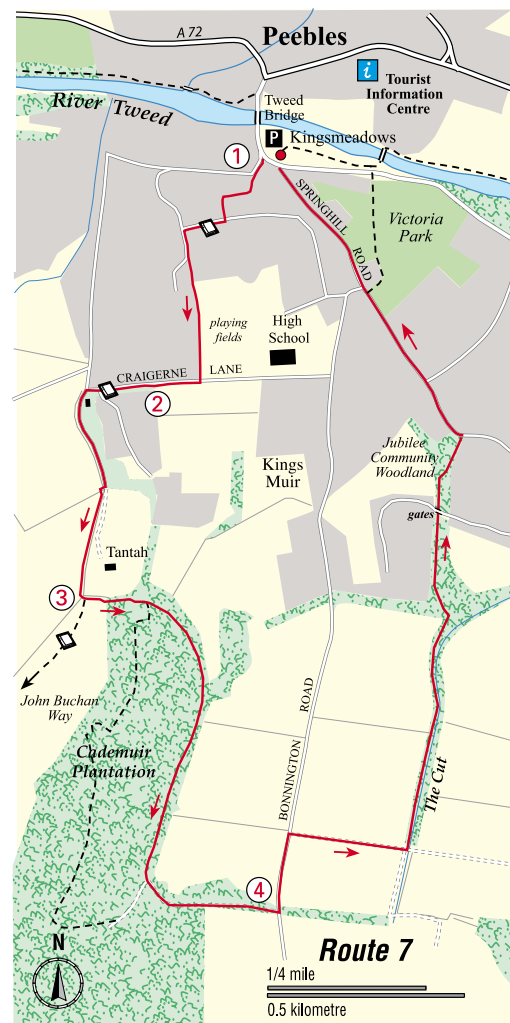
- ① From the car park head diagonally across the road junctions, with care, and head for a lane which lies in between Springhill Road and Caledonian Road. Follow the lane up to Chambers Terrace and turn right on to this street. Then turn left onto Frankscroft. Where, after a short distance, you join a straight hedged path that leads to Craigerne Lane.
- ② Turn right on to Craigerne Lane then left on to Edderston Road. Follow this road for just less than 300m. Where the road runs out there is a gate into a field on your right, go through this gate. Then go through the next gate at the corner of the large wall surrounding Tantah house.
- ③ Turn left and walk up the hill, with the wall on your left, and enter Cademuir Forest. Follow the woodland path ahead of you which runs along the edge of the



*The Cut*

forest. After a short distance you will come to a junction, keep going straight on and do not go up hill. Follow the path round to the parking area on the east side of the plantation. Exit the forest by turning left and going downhill to meet Bonnington Road.

- ④ Turn left on to Bonnington Road and take the track which is first on your right. After 300m turn left into The Cut and follow this down to Glen Road, which becomes Springhill Road. This road will lead you back to the car park.



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*Fly Agaric*



*Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*



*Wild raspberries*



## Route 8

### Cademuir Forest and the John Buchan Way

**Distance:** 9km/5.5 miles.

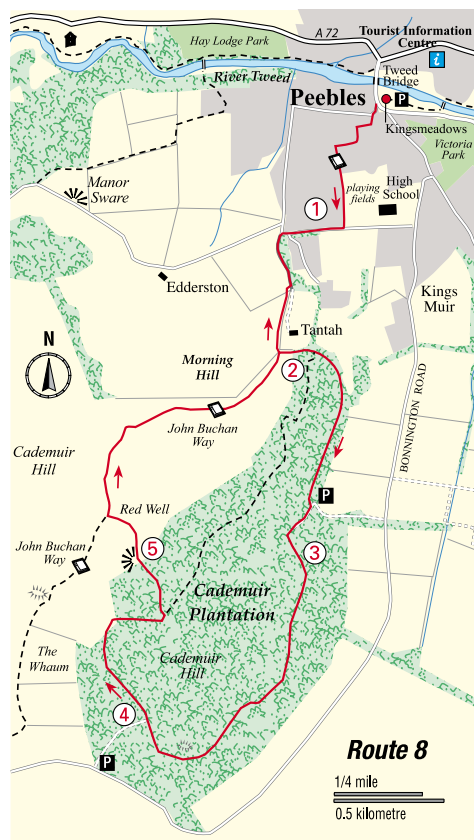
**Time:** 2-3 hours

**Start and finish:** Kingsmeadow car park.

**Terrain:** road, good path and forest path.

This route affords great views for relatively little effort; while there are climbs on this route, they are reasonably gradual if you follow the route as is described here. You may choose to do a circuit at Cademuir Forest by using the car parks provided by the Forestry Commission Scotland. However, the route description below starts from Kingsmeadows car park adjacent to Peebles town centre. Forestry Commission Scotland may alter paths in the forest so we would advise that you check signage if you are unsure.

- ① From the car park cross Kingsmeadows Road with care, then turn right and cross through to the lane which lies to the left of Caledonian Road. Follow the lane



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Hundleshope Heights



Aerial View of Cademuir Forest

through to Craigerne Lane. Turn right onto Craigerne Lane and after 300m, turn left onto Edderston Road. Follow the road to where it ends and go through the metal gate into the field. Go up hill with the buildings on your left to reach another gate. Go through this gate and turn left. Go up hill with the wall on your left and enter Cademuir Forest through another gate.

- ② Follow the woodland path ahead of you that runs along the edge of the forest. After a short distance you will come to a junction, keep going straight on and do not go up hill. Follow the path round to the parking area on the east side of the plantation.

The first section of the path is lined predominantly with birch trees. Redpolls

and siskins may be seen here in early Spring feeding on the birch tree's seeds.

- ③ Walk up hill through the car park and follow the track that veers to the left. Keep on this track as it contours round the forest above the valley floor.

When the larches lose their needles in Autumn the views south-east over to Hundleshope Heights are particularly pleasant. Larches are a particular favourite for goldcrests, warblers and tits where they will congregate together, out with the breeding season, to forage for food.

Continue round for just over 1km until you reach another Y-junction, take the right hand track that goes up hill. (The left hand track that leads down hill terminates at the car parking area on the south side.)

- ④ Follow the track as it curves round towards the north. When the track turns again towards the north-east, as you start to go downhill, take the path on the left that rises steeply up the hill (yellow waymarker). After a short distance you will arrive at a gate on the perimeter of the forest. If you look to your left you will see the hummocky ridge of Cademuir Hill which boasts three scheduled ancient monuments. (These are looked at in more detail in route 9.)
- ⑤ Go through the gate and drop downhill for a short distance until you reach the grassy track that is the John Buchan Way. Turn right onto the track and follow it for 1.5 km, until you will reach the gate at Tintah corner. Go through the gate and retrace your steps back to the car park.

## Route 9

### Cademuir's Forts, Kirkton Manor and The Tweed

**Distance:** 12.5km/8 miles.

**Time:** 5-6 hours

**Start and finish:** Kingsmeadow car park.

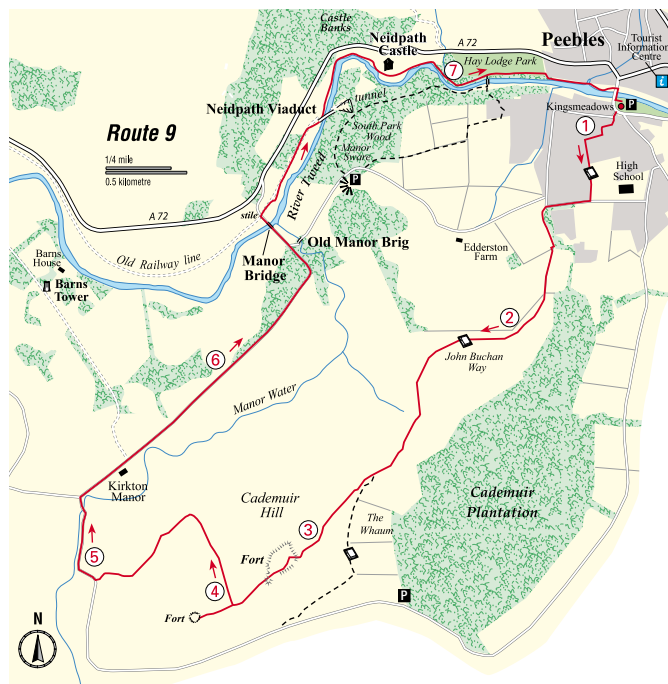
**Terrain:** road, paths and open hill. Boots or strong shoes recommended. This is a reasonably strenuous walk so ensure you are equipped for a hill walk.

This route fully explores Cademuir Hill and its ancient sites before dropping down to Kirkton Manor and returning along the Tweed. The route covers a variety of the countryside south west of Peebles town and offers excellent views on good days. You may choose to lengthen this route by returning to the Tweed Walk via the Glack, this would add 3.5km to the length making the total route 16km. The Glack is a Gaelic word for a wooded hollow.

- ① From the car park head diagonally across the road junctions, with care, and head for a lane which lies in between Springhill Road and Caledonian Road, signposted 'John Buchan Way'. Follow the lane up to Chambers Terrace and turn right on to this street. Then turn left onto Frankscroft, where, after a short distance, you join a straight hedged

path that leads to Craigerne Lane. Turn right on to Craigerne Lane then left on to Edderston Road. Follow this road for almost 300m. Where the road runs out there is a gate into a field on your right; go through this gate.

- ② Continue to follow the John Buchan Way for just over 2km. You will pass through the remains of an iron age settlement, recognisable by a series of banks and hollows. Do not continue down hill at this point to follow the John Buchan Way, stay on the knobbly ridge of Cademuir Hill.



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- ③ Along the ridge you will encounter two forts. The first was erected on the highest point of the hill. The second has been built on a lower spot height south-west of the first one.

The first Cademuir Hill Fort covers an area equivalent to two football pitches within its outer stone wall. The fort enjoys steep slopes giving natural protection on all sides except the south-west where the ground falls in a series of rocky terraces. On the south-east side the wall has almost entirely disappeared down the side of the hill. 35 round houses were recorded within the walls.

The second fort that you see on the ridge is approximately equivalent to half the area of a football pitch and sits on a lower part of the ridge. The debris from its wall has created scree-like deposits on the flanks of the knoll. To the north-east of the protective wall is a gully 3m deep and 37m wide, on its far side are the remains of a chevaux de frise. The stones comprising this obstacle were placed to be invisible to an attacking force advancing from the north-east.

- ④ To continue the full route, walk back from the second fort to the saddle between the forts. Turn left (north-west) down a gully to a track which goes left to join the minor road to Kirkton Manor.

Turn right on to this road, cross Manor Water and turn right again, heading for Kirkton Manor.

The church which you pass was built in 1874 but its bell is dated 1483. In the kirkyard is the grave of David Ritchie, known as the Black Dwarf; he was the main character in a book of the same name by Walter Scott. His house, marked on some OS maps as Black Dwarf's cottage, was a mile up the Manor Valley. The near by mill retains its water-driven machinery.

- ⑤ Continue along the road to reach Manor Bridge over the Tweed. Go over the bridge and turn right on to the Tweed Walk path at other side. This path will lead you along the river path and through Hay Lodge Park.
- ⑥ Continue through the park and on past the swimming pool. Turn right to cross over the Tweed to return to the car park at the other side.



Cademuir Hill



## Route 10

### Janet's Brae, Glentress and Eshiels Community Woodland

**Distance:** 11km/7 miles.

**Time:** 3-4 hours

**Start and finish:** Kingsmeadow car park.

**Terrain:** road, forestry tracks and paths. Boots or strong shoes recommended.

This route may be shortened by returning to Peebles town along the cycle way.



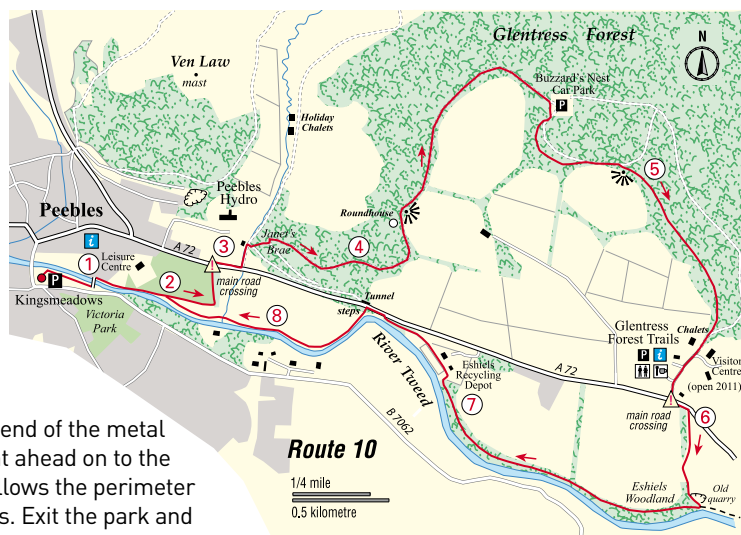
Lee Pen from Janet's Brae

This route enjoys varied terrain from riverside, to conifer forest and deciduous woodland. After leaving Peebles town you enter Glentress Forest by Janet's brae where you will follow one of the Forestry Commission's trails round to the main entrance of the forest. From here you will cross the A72 to follow the link to Eshiels Community Woodland from where you will return to Peebles town by the river.

- ③ Cross the A72 with care and after 150m take the road on your left. After a short distance turn right to enter the forest at Janet's Brae, opposite the lodge house. Take the left fork which heads up hill to a wide forestry track.
- ④ Turn left on this track and follow it around the edge of the forest until you reach the roundhouse. This circular thatched hut is a reconstruction of an

- ① From the car park walk over to the riverside path and turn right, then turn left onto the footbridge. Cross the bridge and at the other side turn right and continue to follow the riverside path on the other side.

- ② After 300m, at the end of the metal railings, go straight ahead on to the gravel path that follows the perimeter of the playing fields. Exit the park and turn right on to the pavement on the A72.



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Priorsford Footbridge, west of the Gytes

iron-age house of the kind that would have existed inside the nearby fort of Janet's Brae, to which it is linked by a path through the trees. Continue to follow until you reach the Buzzard's Nest parking area. Just before the vehicle barrier take the path down to your right. (This is a diversion. The Forestry Commission may alter routes so we would advise that you consult their leaflets and signs if you are unsure.)

- ⑤ This path eventually meets the Red Squirrel route which you will follow down to the track below the visitor centre. Continue along here to meet the A72, cross with care.
- ⑥ Turn left past the trees and turn right into the field by the small gate to follow the burn round to the quarry. Just past the quarry turn right to enter Eshiels woodland. Follow this path along to Eshiels Depot.
- ⑦ Turn right and immediately left at the sewage works. Follow the path to the old railway tunnel. If you stay on this route you will return to the point where you turned right into the forest at Janet's Brae.

However, should you wish to return to Peebles on the riverside path do not go through the tunnel, keep to the left where a short earthen path will lead you up onto the pavement by the A72. Follow the pavement for 100m until you reach steps leading down to the river.

- ⑧ Go down these steps and turn right to follow the riverside. After crossing a small stone bridge you will turn left and immediately right onto a tree lined path. From here return to the footbridge which takes you across to the path leading back to the car park.



Red Squirrel Walk, Glentress

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

### Acknowledgements

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This booklet has been produced in association with Tom Renwick for the benefit

of the local community and visitors to the area. Today the routes are managed by Scottish Borders Council.

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*Eddleston Water (The Cuddy) with Venlaw Hill in the background*

## Contact Information

### VisitScotland Borders

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Selkirk, TD7 5DT.  
Accommodation Bookings: 0845 22 55 121  
Tel: 01835 863170  
Email: [bordersinfo@visitscotland.com](mailto:bordersinfo@visitscotland.com)  
[www.visitscottishborders.com](http://www.visitscottishborders.com)

### Scottish Borders Tourist Information Centres

Jedburgh, Peebles and Melrose, Kelso,  
Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.  
Opening dates and times vary  
For Information: Tel: 01835 863170

### Scottish Natural Heritage

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

### Scottish Borders Council

[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

### Access & Countryside Team

Council Headquarters,  
Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA  
Tel: 01835 825060  
Email: [outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk)

### Traveline

(for public transport information)  
Tel: 0871 200 2233  
[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

### Other websites

Information on Tweed Valley Forests  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/TVFP](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/TVFP)

Information on Borders Forest Trust  
Community Woodland  
[www.bordersforesttrust.org.uk](http://www.bordersforesttrust.org.uk)

Scottish Borders Council countryside  
website: [www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess)

The Southern Upland Way website is at:  
[www.southernuplandway.gov.uk](http://www.southernuplandway.gov.uk)

### Borders Heritage

[www.scottishbordersheritage.co.uk](http://www.scottishbordersheritage.co.uk)

### For further information on walking in Scotland

visit: [www.walkingwild.com](http://www.walkingwild.com)

### Mountain Rescue Team - Scottish

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

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

1. Dial 999
2. Ask for Police
3. Tell the Police that you require Mountain Rescue
4. Tell the Police why and where you require the MRT.





## Alternative format/language

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