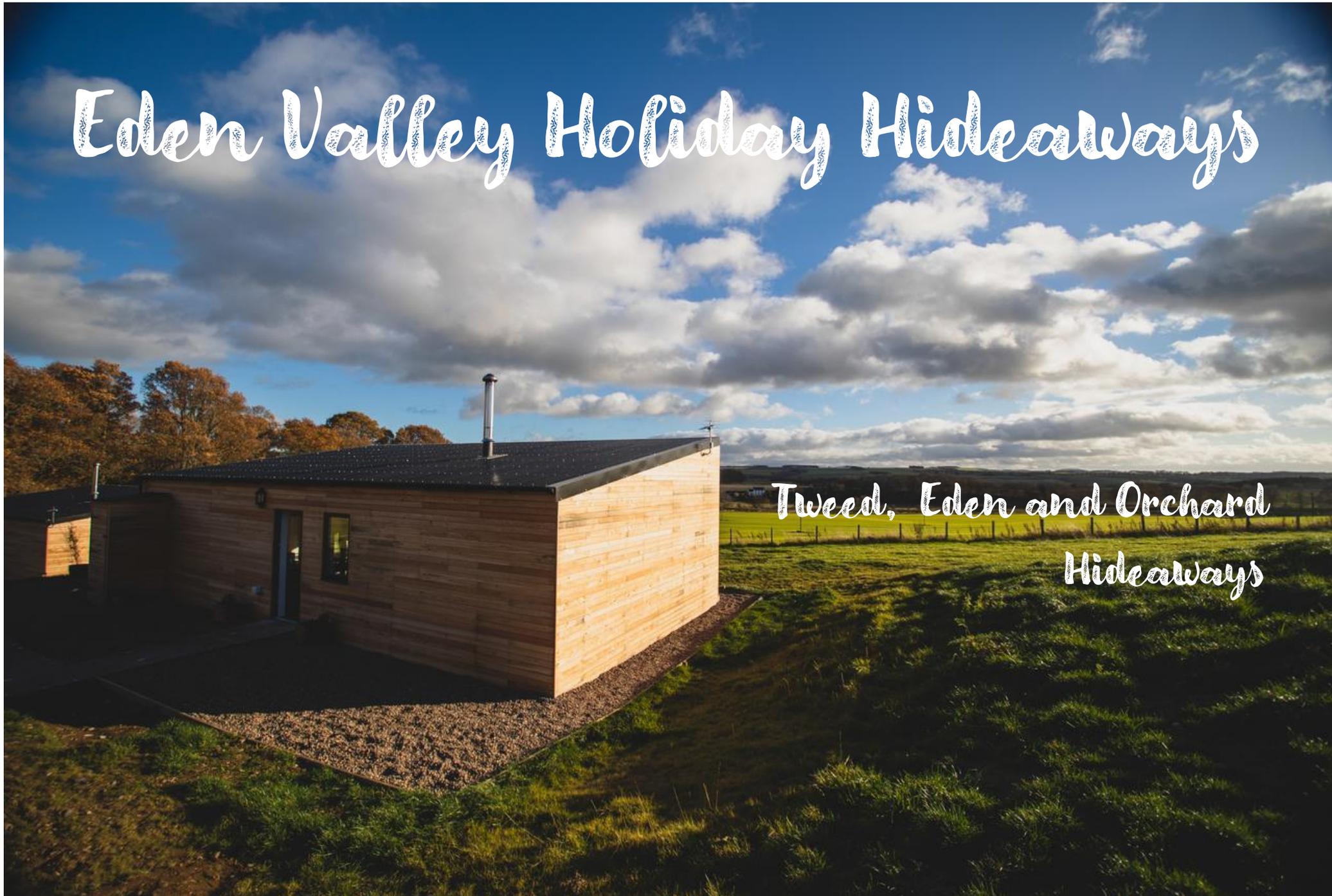


Eden Valley Holiday Hideaways

Tweed, Eden and Orchard
Hideaways



Dear guests,

A very warm welcome to your Eden Holiday Hideaway in the beautiful Scottish Borders!

Please make yourselves right at home – this is your space to relax, unwind and enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside.

In this guide you should find everything you need to know about your hideaway, as well as some ideas for places to eat and drink and things to do in the lovely market town of Kelso and further afield in the Scottish Borders.

Of course, if there is anything else you need please don't hesitate to get in touch with us! We are here to make your stay as enjoyable and carefree as possible.

You can call or text us on 07789220469 (Archie) or 07789220468 (Maggie).

Thank you very much for choosing Eden Holiday Hideaways.

Enjoy your stay!

Archie and Maggie Stewart

A wee introduction

Your hideaway sits in the middle of our organic family farm, called Cliftonhill Farm. We (Maggie and Archie) have run the farm for 30 years, and have lived in the Scottish Borders all our lives. And the Stewart family has lived in the Borders for many years!

On the farm we grow organic oats and graze sheep for organic lamb. Being organic means the rest of nature also thrives and the land is a haven for wildlife. See what you can spot during your stay – herons, kingfishers, otters, deer, woodpeckers and much, much more. We also sow wild flowers and sunflowers for bird seed every year, which helps the bird population even more!

The farm is about three miles from the town of Kelso, which was described by the renowned Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott as “the most beautiful, if not the most romantic village in Scotland.” The village of Kelso prospered in medieval times thanks to the construction of a Benedictine Abbey, built for David I in 1128. The abbey was mostly destroyed during Henry VIII’s reformation, but you can still see and explore the impressive ruins today. The 18th century cobbled square and honey-hued town hall give Kelso the elegant air of a French market town (or at least we think so!).

Thanks to its positioning at the confluence of the River Tweed and River Teviot, Kelso is a well-known fishing spot. But you’ll soon see that modern-day Kelso and the surrounding areas offer a huge variety of things to do and see, including farmers markets, local breweries, walking and cycle routes, country houses and independent shops. We hope that you fall in love with the Scottish Borders while you’re here!

The hideaways

Coronavirus health and safety

Hygiene and house keeping tests have been passed by my staff and Archie and myself. Strict guidelines have been put in place and these will be followed at all times.

At present we will not be meeting you so social distancing can be maintained however if you need help please ask by phone.

Arrival and departure

Getting to the hideaways

The hideaways are located on Cliftonhill Farm, just outside the village of Ednam: <https://goo.gl/maps/cQdFNk4Pph55eRx86>

From both the Ednam road (B6461) and Berwick-Coldstream-Kelso road (A698), follow the signs for Plum Braes Barn, following the road for around a mile until you reach a small wood with a sign for Eden Holiday Hideaways. Go through the wood and you have reached your destination!

Transport options

It's easiest to reach the hideaways by car, and you'll probably want one for exploring the local area and beyond during your stay. Here are estimated driving times from the nearest cities/airports:

- Edinburgh – 1 hour
- Glasgow – 1 hour 45 mins
- Newcastle – 1 hour 30 mins.

Our closest train stations are:

- Berwick Upon Tweed – 35 mins. Berwick Upon Tweed is just a 3.5 hour journey from central London, and car hire options are available e.g. <https://eastcoastrental.co.uk/>
- Tweedbank – 30 mins. Trains from Edinburgh to Tweedbank run every hour. Car hire options are available one stop before Tweedbank at Galashiels e.g. <https://www.enterprise.co.uk/en/car-hire/locations/uk/galashiels-sc30.html>

If you're planning to travel car-free:

- There are buses to Ednam from Edinburgh and Berwick Upon Tweed, and to Kelso from Tweedbank
- Taxis also available from Tweedbank and Berwick Upon Tweed, best to book in advance
- Or why not cycle? The rolling hills and valleys of the central Borders are great to explore by bike.

Please do get in touch with any further questions about travel options.

Check in and departure

Arrival time is 3pm or later. You will find the key in the door of your hideaway – Orchard, Eden or Tweed – and please make yourselves right at home!

Departure time is 11am or earlier. Please leave the key in the outside of the door, where you found it.

Car parking

You can park your car outside your hideaway in the gravel carpark provided.

In the hideaway

Wifi

Free wifi is available in the hideaways. The wifi codes are:

- Orchard – 19293949
- Eden – 19293949
- Tweed – 25636728

Heating

Each hideaway is fitted with underfloor heating and electric heaters, as well as a wood burner. You can find logs for the wood burner in the log store next to your hot tub.

The wood burner has a control to change the temperature underneath at the front. Please use the glove for opening the door as can be very hot and also for the control switch.

Kitchen

The kitchen has a large fridge and smaller freezer below. Microwave. Electric cooker. Kettle. Coffee maker. (Ground coffee). Cafetiere. Pots and pans. Bowls and dishes. Glasses. Plastic glasses for hot tubs. Absolutely no glass please around this area.

Bins

A bin store for each chalet behind the laundry. Labelled.

Laundry (out of action due to cv19)

The laundry is in the shed beside the carpark and guests are welcome to use it. It has a washing machine, ironing board, iron, soap powder and extra cleaning stuff like fairy liquid and dish washer tablets. (please help yourselves). There is a drying line behind the laundry.

Barbeque

Each hideaway has a barbeque. Please bring your own charcoal and please clean the BBQ clean thoroughly before you leave.

Hot tub

Hot tub will be freshly filled and up to temperature. You will need to add logs as and when required. Put lid on when not in use as this will retain the heat. Someone will check the water daily usually 8 a.m.

Fire extinguishers, fire blankets, smoke alarms & Carbon Monoxide alarms

These can be found in each hideaway, with an extra fire extinguisher located next to the laundry. In the event of a fire, raise alarm to neighbours and Archie and Maggie. Please congregate outside the laundry.

On the farm

Tennis

There is an outdoor, all weather tennis court next to the Cliftonhill Farm main farmhouse. It can be accessed by walking through the main farm entrance, down the bumpy road on your right, then through the gate on your left, or by walking along the river through the farm. Help yourselves to rackets and balls from the tennis hut above the court. Please close tennis court gates when you leave. Please use your own racquets and balls.

Circular farm and river walk

There's a short circular walk that takes you around our farm and along the river Eden that runs through it. Please see the map at the end of this guide.

Eggs and other provisions

There is a small flock of free range organic hens and you are welcome to buy eggs.

Ready made meals available from the farm prepared by Nikki of Puddle Duck. Nikki will also deliver freshly prepared meals. Please ask her in advance.

Flowers in a box by Eden Plants. Flowers grown on the farm and can be posted anywhere in Britain with next day delivery. Flowers is season from April – October.

Small collection of plants and bulbs for sale.

Vegetables can be bought at Julians next to Klondyke Garden Centre.

Eating and drinking

Food shopping

There are a number of independent food shops in Kelso (approx. 3 mile drive/cycle):

- Granny Jean's Butchers and Bakery – local meat, pies, bread, cakes and pastries
- D R Collin fishmongers – fresh fish and seafood
- Hunter's deli – high-end meat and deli provisions like cheese, sides and desserts
- Julian's veg – greengrocer next to Mayfield Garden Centre, with a great variety of fruit and vegetables
- Beercraft – craft beer and gin
- Kelso Wholefoods – health food shop, including vegan products.

Kelso also hosts a farmers market in the town square from 9:30am – 1:30pm on the last Saturday of every month.

Larger supermarkets nearby include:

- Sainsburys
- Lidl
- Co-op.

Eating out

Kelso is full of places to eat and drink! Here are our favourite places.

Eatery	Best for	Open for	Contact
The Cobbles Inn	Gastropub food, local Tempest beers and Friday live music	Lunch and dinner	Website 01573 223548
The Waggon Inn	Good value pub grub, family friendly	Lunch and dinner	Website 01573 224568
Bridge Street Brasserie (Hunter's)	French bistro style food, good coffee, and wine	Morning coffee through to dinner	01573 224742
The Queen's Head	Local pub atmosphere and decent pub grub	Lunch and dinner	Website 01573 228 899
Rutherford's micropub	Locally produced ales and craft gins	Drinks and snacks from early afternoon	Website 07803 208460
The Terrace Café, Floors Castle (2 miles outside Kelso)	Homemade lunch and cakes, gourmet "ready meals" to take away	Morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea	Website 01573 225714
Rendezvous fish and chips	Who doesn't love a good chippy!	Takeaway, from mid-afternoon	01573 224467
The Tispy Ghillie	A bit of everything, from brunch to cocktails	Brunch onwards	Website 01573 225354

... and some more ideas for good measure!

Restaurants / pubs

Ednam House Hotel – 01573 224168
Lemon and Thyme – 01573 348324
The Contented Vine – 01573 224777
Schloss Hotel Roxburghe – 01573 450331
The Cross Keys – 01573 223303

Cafes

The Cream Chimneys
Café U
Hoot 'n' Cat
Caroline's
Off the Square

Further afield

If you're looking for a lunch, dinner or coffee stop further afield, here are some of the best spots:

Eatery	Best for	Open for	Contact
Main Street Trading, St Boswells (20 min drive)	Bookshop, café and deli all in one!	Morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea	Website
Born in the Borders (25 min drive)	Brewery and delicious hearty food – try the mac 'n' cheese!	Brunch, lunch, afternoon tea	Website
Denholm Meet, Denholm (25 min drive)	Antiques and interiors and fresh Italian food	Morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea	Website
The Caddyman, Jedburgh (20 min drive)	Gastropub food by ex-Gleneagles chef	Lunch and dinner	Website
Teviot Smokery, Kelso (10 min drive)	Scottish smoked salmon and beautiful watergarden	Morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea	Website
Provender, Melrose (30 min drive)	Stylish, family-run restaurant	Lunch and dinner	Website

Places to visit, activities and days out

Country houses and gardens

Most places have tea rooms for a coffee and a treat or a tasty lunch!

Floors Castle and its spectacular Victorian Walled Garden and terrace cafe. The largest inhabited castle in Scotland and family home of the 11th Duke of Roxburghe, just outside of Kelso

<https://www.floorscastle.com/>

Monteviot House and Gardens near Jedburgh. Home of Lord Ancrum with a walk taking you down through the grounds to the River Teviot

<https://www.monteviot.com/>

Abbotsford House near Melrose, Sir Walter Scott's palace of the imagination <https://www.scottsabbotsford.com/>

Mary Queen of Scots House, Jedburgh. A 16th century townhouse that was once her home, and is now a museum that tells the story of Scotland's tragic queen

<https://www.liveborders.org.uk/culture/museums/our-museums/mary-queen-of-scots-visitor-centre/>

Paxton House near Berwick Upon Tweed. Take a boat in the Summer, or enjoy 80 acres of woodland and grounds including an exciting adventure playground for kids <https://paxtonhouse.co.uk/>

Manderston House near Duns. Designed by architect John Kinross whom when he enquired as to how much he could spend on the estate, was told “it simply doesn’t matter”. See its silver staircase!
<https://www.manderston.co.uk/>

Mellerstain House near Gordon <https://www.mellerstain.com/>

Towns, sights and activities

Ruined abbeys – there are four ruined, yet still magnificent, abbeys in the Scottish Borders at Kelso, Melrose, Jedburgh and Dryburgh.

Melrose is also a lovely picturesque town to visit in its own right, with a wide range of fabulous independent shops. It’s the birthplace of rugby sevens, holding the Melrose 7s tournament each April, and hosts the annual Borders Book Festival every June.

A scenic drive along the River Tweed from Melrose will take you to **Peebles**, another charming Border town. Why not stop in at the fabulous **Coltman’s deli** for lunch or a takeaway picnic, **Caldwell’s** for homemade icecream, or **Cocoa Black** for artisan chocolates and patisserie.

From Peebles you can access the **7 stanes world-class mountain biking trail centres** of Glentress and Innerleithen.

Cocoa Black in Peebles also has a **Chocolate School** running half-day chocolate and patisserie classes.

At Ford and Etal you can take a ride on the **Heatherslaw Light Railway**, the most northerly steam railway in England – great for kids! Wonderful views of the Northumberland countryside and Cheviot Hills. Try the **Old Dairy** for antiques and artisan coffee.

Golf fans might want to book a tee time at the **Roxburghe Championship Golf Course, St Boswells Golf Club** or the **Hirsel Golf Club**.

Whisky fans might want to take a tour of **the Borders Distillery in Hawick**, the first Scotch Whisky distillery in the Scottish Borders since 1837.

For some **retail therapy** Kelso town centre has plenty of options from designer cashmere (Hawico) and quality country clothing (A Hume Country Clothing, Orvis), to gifts and homewares (Focal Point Furniture), to plants (Mayfield Garden Centre). See <https://www.visitkelso.com/listing-category/shop/> for more.

Day trips

If you fancy a full day out, here are some ideas.

Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands or Lindisfarne

Visit Bamburgh Castle, the ancient seat of the Kings of Northumbria, and beautiful Bamburgh beach. Have a local pub lunch and icecream, or head to Seahouses for fish and chips and a boat trip to the Farne Islands nature reserve to see the seabird spectacle (mid April to late July) or fluffy seal pups (from late October).

Or drive the tidal causeway to Lindisfarne – the Holy Island – once the epicentre of Christianity and the final destination of one of Scotland’s Great Trails, the St Cuthbert’s Way.

Alnwick Castle and town

One of Britain’s most iconic castles, made even more famous as the film location for Harry Potter’s Hogwarts School and Downtown Abbey’s Christmas special. Visit the gardens (with interactive water displays and cherry blossom orchard), try your hand at medieval crafts in the artisans courtyard or join a Broomstick Training session! The

Treehouse Restaurant serves good scones, lunch and evening meals, booking recommended.

In Alnwick town you'll find Barter Books in the old Victorian railway station. Then on to Craster or Low Newton-by-the-Sea for a seafood pub lunch.

Edinburgh

Scotland's capital Edinburgh is just an hour away by car or train. Hop on the train from Tweedbank (free parking) to Edinburgh Waverley – in the middle of town and handy for all of Edinburgh's attractions.

North Berwick via the Lammermuirs

Drive across the scenic Lammermuir hills to North Berwick, a stylish seaside town on the south shore of the Firth of Forth. Visit the seabird centre, get coffee at Steampunk roasters, and lobster lunch at the Lobster Shack or Rocketeer restaurant.

Coldingham Bay Beach, St Abbs and Eyemouth

Enjoy exploring the Borders coast at Coldingham Beach, St Abbs and Eyemouth. Try Giacomazzi's in Eyemouth for fish and chips and freshly-made icecream.

Health and pampering

Beauty salons

The Wynd, Kelso town centre	01573 228833
Body Line, Kelso town centre	01573 226023

Hairdressers

Empire	01573 226636
Hobz	01573 229473
The Kelso Hair studio	01573 224335
The Zone	01573 225037

Walks

Here are a few ideas for walks near Kelso and the Border towns of St Boswells, Melrose and Jedburgh.

Cliftonhill Farm circle walk (distance 4km): take a stroll straight from your hideaway front door around our organic farm and along the river Eden.

Kelso to Roxburgh (distance 10km): a fabulous river walk starting from Kelso town centre.

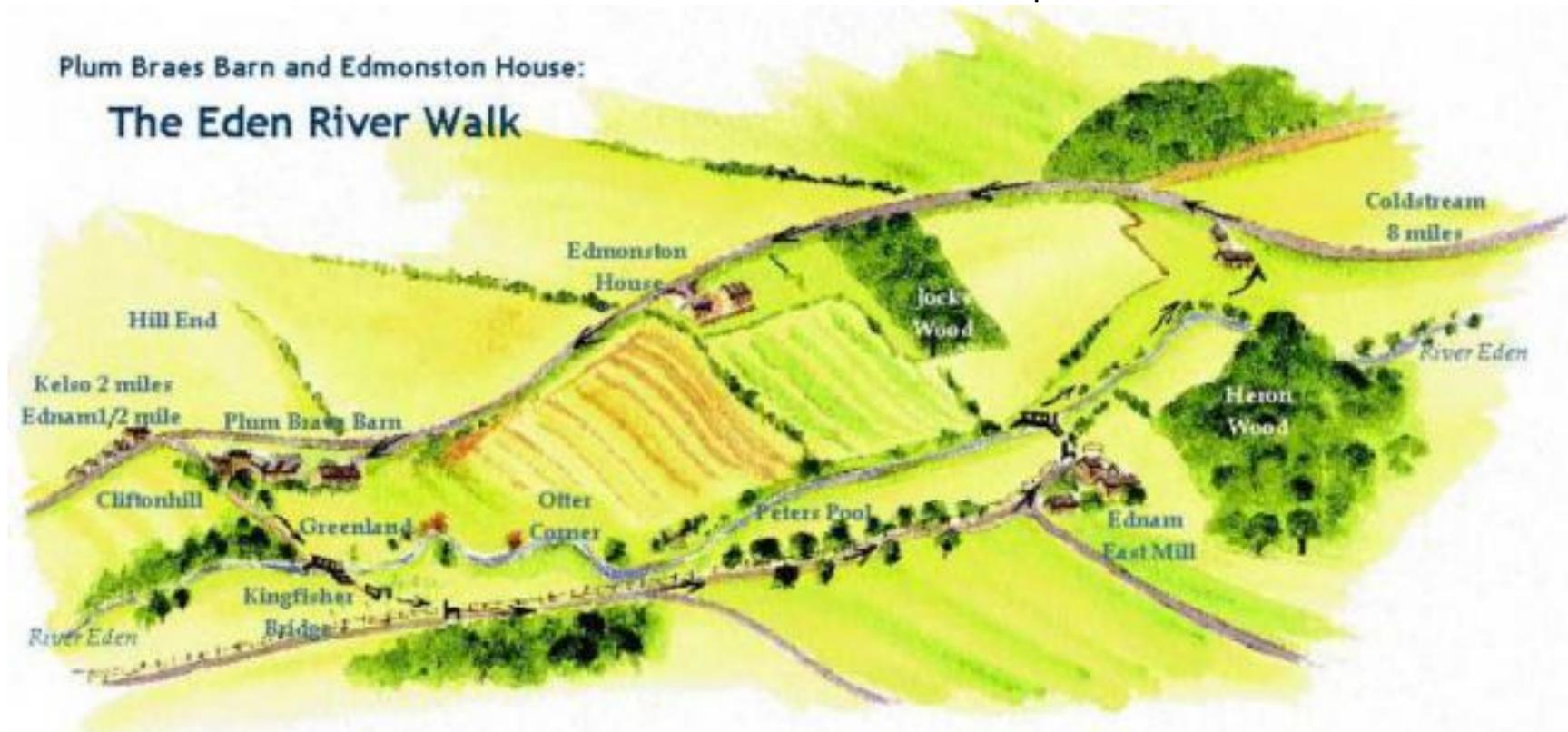
St Boswells and the Tweed (distance 7.5km): why not begin and end this walk at the Mainstreet Trading café and bookshop!

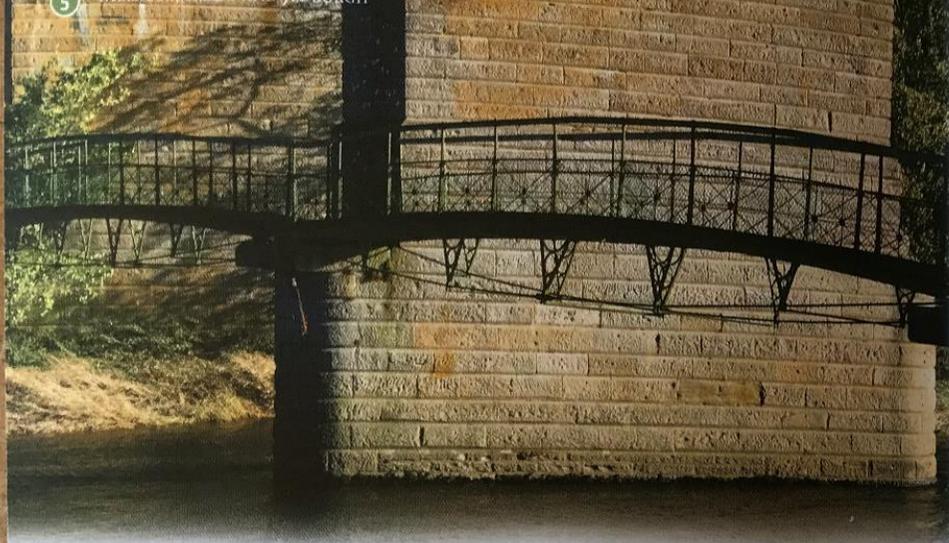
Abbotsford and Melrose (distance 14.5km): a long and varied countryside walk starting from Melrose Market Square.

The Eildon Hills (distance 9 – 12km): take in the views from the three rounded tops of the Eildon Hills.

Waterloo Monument and Peniel Heugh (8km): starts at the Harestanes Visitor Centre, which itself is great for families with woodland walks, play park and activity centre.

Cliftonhill circle walk map





Kelso to Roxburgh

Distance 10km Time 3 hours
Terrain riverside path and old railway bed
Map OS Explorer 339 Access regular bus service from Edinburgh to Kelso

This walk follows the River Teviot, one of the main tributaries of the Tweed, to reach a magnificent disused 14-arched viaduct by the peaceful village of Roxburgh, passing the site of a once important Border stronghold on the way.

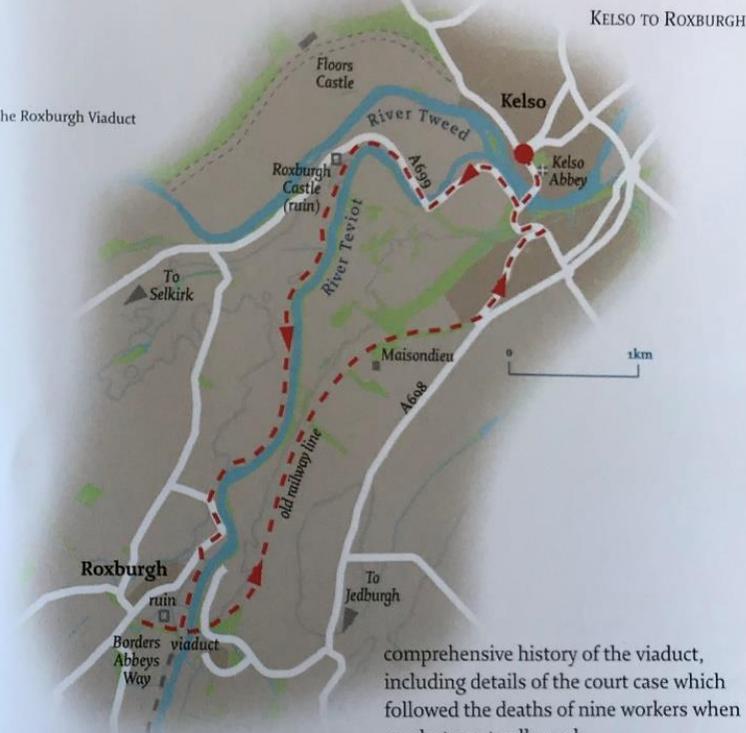
From Kelso Abbey, once the most important of the Borders Abbeys, head past the war memorial and cross Rennie's Bridge over the Tweed. Turn right along the A699 and follow it past the confluence of the Teviot and the Tweed before crossing another bridge over the Teviot. On the far bank of the Tweed you will see the wonderful Floors Castle, seat of the Dukes of Roxburgh.

Go over a stone stile on your left soon after the bridge and pick up the riverside path which is also part of the Border Abbeys Way linking Melrose, Dryburgh, Jedburgh and Kelso. As you make your way round the bend look up to your right to spot the remains of Roxburgh Castle.

Overlooking the junction of the Teviot and Tweed, this was once a key stronghold that regularly changed hands between Scotland and England. King James II of Scotland was killed by an exploding cannon during a siege here in 1460 and his queen, Mary of Guelders, had the castle demolished soon after capturing it.

Carry on along the river, enjoying the open views of the surrounding countryside and looking out for heron and kingfisher, until you come to a stile which takes you onto a minor road. Go along here, through Roxburgh Mill Farm and

4 The Roxburgh Viaduct



towards Roxburgh village, before taking the lane on your left to return to the riverside. Follow the river to reach the Grade A-listed viaduct which was built in 1850 as part of the St Boswells to Coldstream line.

You can cross the Teviot here by the delightful iron footbridge suspended on the side of the viaduct; however, if you go up the lane on your right just before you reach the viaduct, you will get a view of the ruins of a 16th-century towerhouse built by the Kerr family. At the top of the lane there is also a bus shelter by the side of the road which contains a

comprehensive history of the viaduct, including details of the court case which followed the deaths of nine workers when an abutment collapsed.

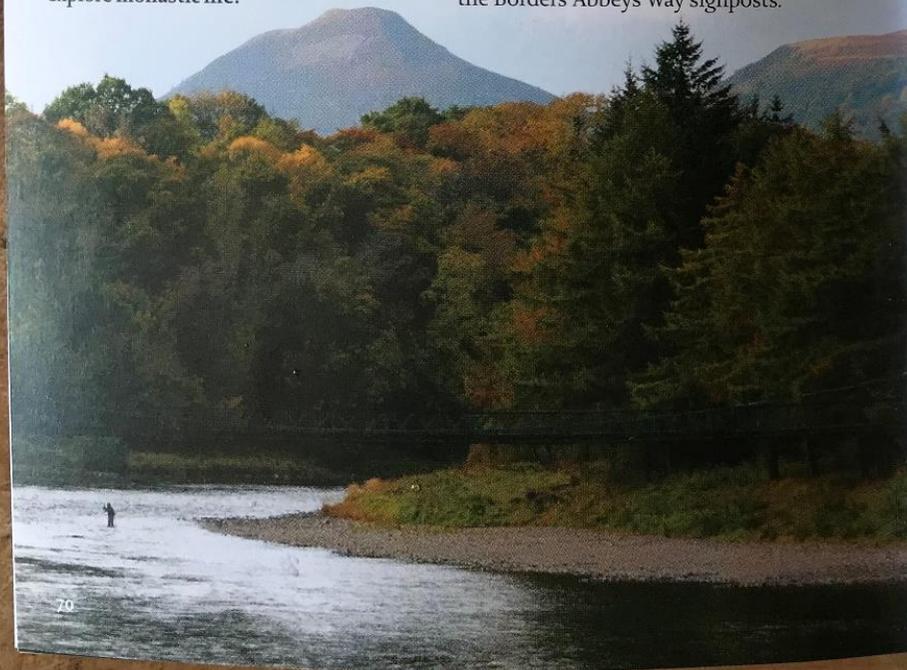
To cross the Teviot, you can go back down the lane and over the suspension bridge or carry on past the bus shelter and follow the course of the railway back over the top of the viaduct; either way, you will soon be walking along the old hawthorn-lined railway bed towards Kelso.

Eventually you will see a striking white farmhouse up on your right - this is Maison Dieu, formerly a medieval hospice. Just past here, the track becomes a woodland path which eventually leads to Jedburgh Road. Follow this to reach Station Road and turn left to return to Rennie's Bridge and the start.

St Boswells and the Tweed

Distance 7.5km Time 2 hours 30
 Terrain riverside paths and minor roads
 Map OS Explorer 338 Access regular buses
 from Edinburgh, Tweedbank and
 Jedburgh stop in St Boswells

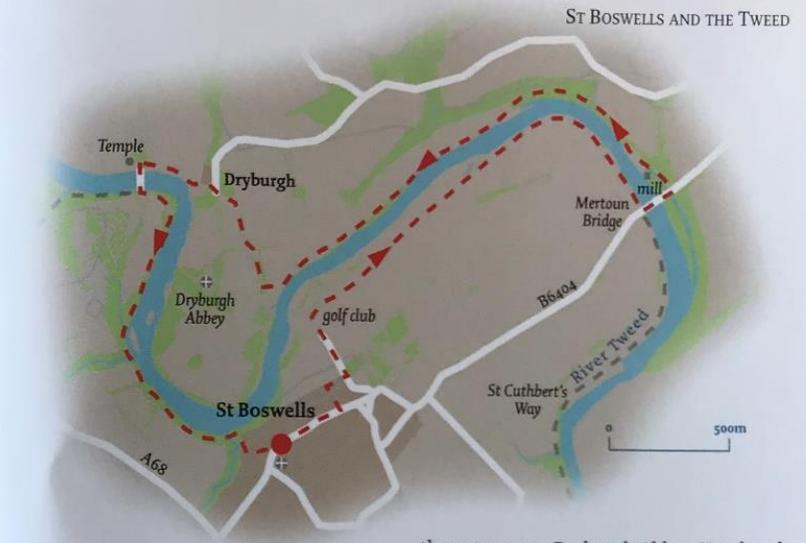
The stretch of the Tweed between Mertoun Bridge and the suspension footbridge at Dryburgh makes for one of the finest riverside walks in the land, particularly memorable when rich autumn colours are reflected in the flowing waters. The easy circular route passes Dryburgh Abbey, burial place of Sir Walter Scott, and a lovely place to explore monastic life.



Start from St Boswells village green and follow the Main Street up past the post office and the award-winning Mainstreet Trading bookshop and deli. Turn left up Braeheads Road and then right to follow the St Cuthbert's Way signposts down to the golf course.

After the clubhouse, pick up the path behind the trees which skirts the fairways and greens and follow it down to the riverbank. Ignore the weir across the Tweed and stick with the path to reach the B6404 and Mertoun Bridge.

Once over the bridge (watch out for fast-moving traffic) bear left and keep with the Borders Abbeys Way signposts.



Continue to a split in the path and stay left along the field edge, then return to the riverbank as you head towards Dryburgh. Eventually the Borders Abbeys Way turns right, away from the Tweed, and passes a walled garden before it arrives at the visitors' car park of Dryburgh Abbey which sits in a loop of the river surrounded on three sides by water.

Founded in 1150 by white-robed Premonstratensian monks, originally from northern France, and then Alnwick in Northumberland, Dryburgh Abbey was often caught in the crossfire when Scotland and England fell out. In 1322 Edward II's defeated army burnt it down after hearing the bells within being rung to celebrate a Scottish victory. Despite this, and other disruptions, the monks managed to survive here until the Scottish Reformation.

From the abbey car park, carry on past

◀ Fishing on the Tweed with the Eildons beyond

the entrance to Dryburgh Abbey Hotel and keep left at the next junction. Follow the road to return to the riverside, passing an elaborate set of orchard gates erected by the Earl of Buchan in memory of his parents. A little further on you pass the old gardeners' cottages with a turreted tower named after the sculptor Edwin Stirling, a former resident.

Before crossing the suspension bridge look up on your right for the Temple of the Muses, a tribute to the Borders poet James Thomson (1700-1748) who wrote the words to the Victorian singalong *Rule, Britannia!*, as well as 'The Seasons', a series of four reflective nature poems which greatly influenced later Romantics.

Over the bridge, turn left and follow the signs for St Cuthbert's Way to rejoin the riverbank. After passing a fast-flowing stretch of the Tweed the path heads uphill by some steps to reach a road which is easily followed back to the village green.

Abbotsford and Melrose

Distance 14.5km Time 4 hours
 Terrain good hill tracks and paths,
 railway bed and minor road
 Map OS Explorer 338 Access regular bus
 services link Melrose to Edinburgh, Kelso,
 Jedburgh and Tweedbank Station

The bustling town of Melrose clusters around the soaring pink sandstone ruins of its Abbey which was founded in 1136 by Cistercian monks. This long and varied walk explores the surrounding countryside and visits Abbotsford, the wonderful former home of Sir Walter Scott, before returning to town along the banks of the writer's beloved Tweed.

Leave Market Square in Melrose by Dingleton Road and turn right to reach the

handsome old railway station. Make your way up to the platform and turn right on the route of the dismantled Waverley Line. Continue all the way along to the underpass under the A6091 which brings you out at the Borders General Hospital.

Follow the road past the hospital entrance and through farmland towards a line of electricity pylons. Take the signposted path here for Rhymer's Glen and follow it up into the woodland. This enchanting glen takes its name from the tale of Thomas the Rhymer who was spirited away by the Queen of Elfland and returned with the gift of foresight.

At the top of the woods keep with the path over an old hillfort to a gate onto Bowen Moor. Stay with the wall to reach



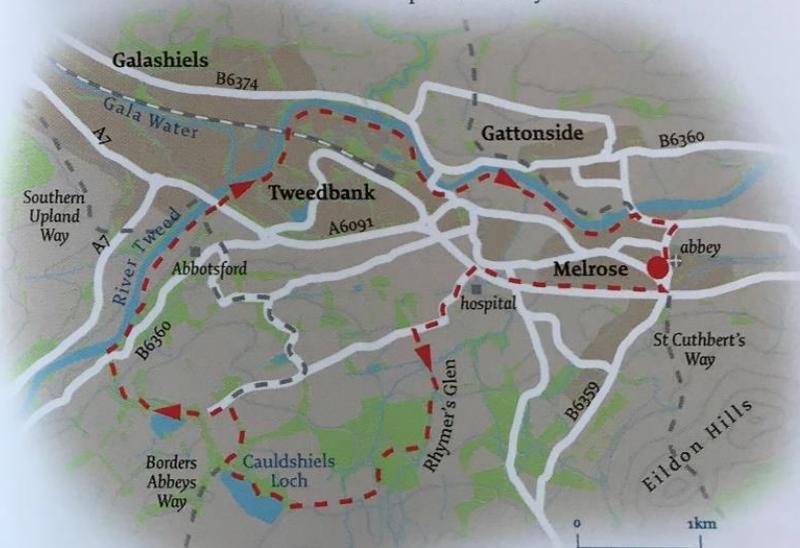
the woodland on the north side of Cauldshiels Loch and wind your way down to the water, looking out for the loch's resident kelpie, or water-horse.

From the end of the loch follow the track signposted for the Borders Abbeys Way to the quiet back road and turn left. Just before the house at the end, turn right and follow the path down through woodland and farmland before crossing the B6360 and joining the riverside path along the south bank of the Tweed.

Go with the flow of the river to arrive in front of Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's neo-Baronial 'conundrum castle', a house stuffed full of treasures, relics and

curiosities from Scottish history and where the great man wrote all his best works. (Tickets to visit the house and gardens are available from the excellent visitor centre.)

To continue the walk after Abbotsford, return to the Tweed and go under the A6091 and then the Redbridge Viaduct, again following the Borders Abbeys Way. It is now a long looping riverside stroll back around Tweedbank to Melrose, following the markers for the Southern Upland Way. Keep with the Tweed until you see the Chain Bridge which links Melrose with Gattonside on the other side of the river. With the Eildon Hills straight ahead above Melrose, follow the road back past the abbey to the start.





The Eildon Hills

Distance 9 to 12km (depending on how many of the three peaks you visit)

Time 3 to 4 hours Terrain good paths and tracks Map OS Explorer 338 Access regular bus services link Melrose to Edinburgh, Kelso, Jedburgh and Tweedbank Station

The Eildon Hills are a mini mountain range of three rounded tops, just south of Melrose, that have long been shrouded in mystery and legend. According to one tale, they were formerly one peak which was split into three on the orders of a wizard, and in another King Arthur and his knights lie asleep beneath them waiting for the day they will arise and ride again.

From Melrose Abbey, one of the four great Border Abbeys, go up Abbey Street, across Market Square and on past the

Station Hotel on Dingleton Road. Walk under the bypass and look for the signposted steps between houses on the left. Go down them, then up a long flight of wooden steps which lead to a path between fields. Soon bustling Melrose is left far behind as you head up the hillside farmland. At the end of the path ignore all the dogwalkers' trails and bear right to reach the saddle between the two main summits.

At the tangled crossroads of paths on more level ground, choose which top to tackle first: Eildon Hill North is on your left, Eildon Mid Hill on your right and Eildon Wester Hill straight ahead, then right. All of them are worth the effort; although the Mid Hill, a favourite of Sir Walter Scott, is the highest at 422m (and has the steepest path to the top).

THE EILDON HILLS

◀ Eildon Hill North

There is a good view of the Leaderfoot Viaduct over the Tweed from the summit of the North Hill and the remains of some 300 hut platforms, excavated from the solid bedrock to provide flat foundations for wooden roundhouses, can also be seen.

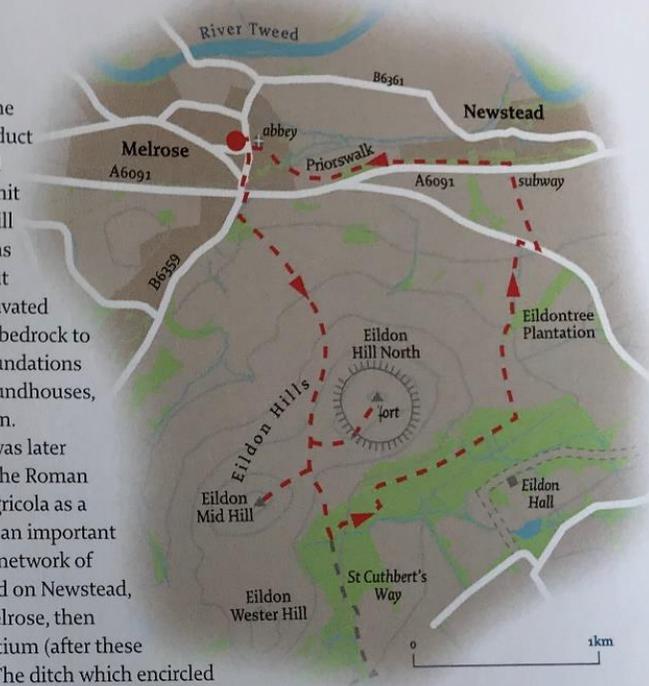
The hilltop was later developed by the Roman army under Agricola as a signal station, an important part of a large network of activity centred on Newstead, just east of Melrose, then called Trimontium (after these three peaks). The ditch which encircled the signal tower, probably the largest in Scotland, is still visible.

More fancifully, the Eildon Hills are where Scotland's very own Nostradamus, Thomas of Erceuldoune, aka Thomas the Rhymer, met the Fairy Queen in a tale made popular by Sir Walter Scott. Carried off to Elfland under the Eildons by the queen, he returned with the gift of prophecy and the inability to tell a lie.

Once you have enjoyed all the diversions, leave the hills by branching off the St Cuthbert's Way path and heading down to the Eildon Hall woodland. In the trees, bear

left, then follow the good track as it bends right and contours around the hillside, enjoying the call of nuthatches and great spotted woodpeckers as you go. At a signposted gate leave the woodland and cross farmland at the foot of the North Hill. You soon arrive at a tarmac road; go right, then left down a grassy track enclosed by hedges to the subway under the busy bypass.

Follow the path under the old railway and join the Borders Abbeys Way back along Priorswalk to the abbey and the start.





Waterloo Monument and Peniel Heugh

Distance 8km Time 2 hours

Terrain good paths and country lanes

Map OS Explorer OL16 Access the Jedburgh to Edinburgh bus will stop on request on the A68, west of Harestanes

This part of the Borders is a long way from the battlefield in Belgium which the landmark 48m-high tower on top of Peniel Heugh, near Ancrum, commemorates. This walk is no epic struggle either, rather an easy circuit through pleasant woodland and along peaceful back roads.

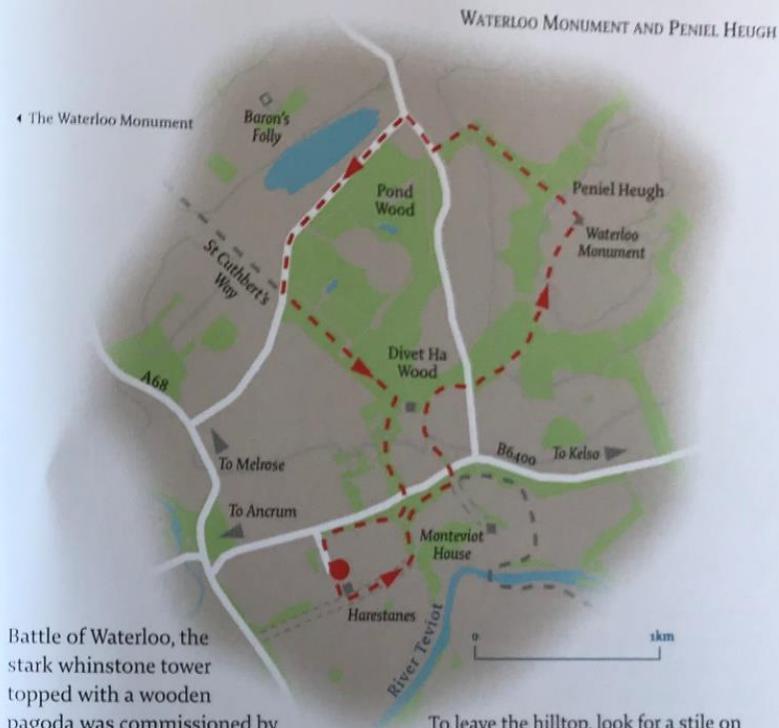
From the car park of the excellent Harestanes Visitor Centre go between the craft courtyard and the children's play area to follow the path which runs parallel to the drive. Carry on to pass the old cricket

field, following the red and green markers.

At a junction, go right towards Monteviot House and then turn left on the driveway and head up to the road. Cross directly over the B6400 and continue towards the gamekeeper's house, turning off on a path to the right before you reach it to go along the edge of the wood.

When you reach the back road, go right briefly along the road, then head left up a signposted track through the woodland. Soon you get your first view of the monument peeping over the top of the hill, but rather than jumping over the gate, stick with the main track for an easier approach. Before long you leave the woods behind for open hillside with the mighty monument up ahead.

Completed in 1824, nine years after the



Battle of Waterloo, the stark whinstone tower topped with a wooden pagoda was commissioned by William Kerr, 6th Marquis of Lothian, to celebrate the Duke of Wellington's decisive, though costly, victory over the ambitious Emperor Napoleon. It was a ferocious encounter in which 50,000 men are thought to have been slain in the space of just ten hours. Among them were many men from the Borders serving with the Royal North British Dragoons (The Scots Greys) who reputedly turned the battle by charging headlong into the French infantry lines crying out 'Scotland Forever!'. After seizing the prized Imperial Eagle battle standard, The Greys were thereafter known as 'the birdcatchers' within the British army.

To leave the hilltop, look for a stile on the edge of the woodland to the north of the monument and follow the path down through the trees to a barrier just before a minor road. Turn right and walk along the road, then go left at the next junction and carry on to pass Folly Loch on your right.

Look out for a gap in the wall at the side of the road waymarked with a Roman Helmet; this is Dere Street, the old Roman road and now part of St Cuthbert's Way, a 100km-long walking route from Melrose to Holy Island off the Northumbrian coast.

Follow the path through woodland back to the B6400, then go right at a footbridge to return to the visitor centre via the sawmill entrance.

Other important numbers

Lloyd's pharmacy Kelso 01573 224613

Boots pharmacy Kelso 01573 224523

Kelso Health Centre (doctors) 01573 224424

Kelso Dental Practice 01573 224802

NHS 24 (out of hours) 111

Accident and Emergency (A&E) – located at the Borders General Hospital, near Melrose, 25 min drive