

# **THE BORDERS ABBEYS WAY**



#### **About the Author**

Paul Boobyer's zest for walking and curiosity of foreign cultures led him to undertake long-distance walks in Britain, Nepal, New Zealand, Canada and Chile. He also spent time in Mongolia, where he stayed with nomadic herders and discovered how painful a traditional wooden saddle can be to the uninitiated. Returning to Scotland, Paul built and maintained mountain footpaths in the Scottish Highlands. Later, he managed footpaths while working as a Countryside Access Officer at Scottish Borders Council and led guided walks during the annual Borders Walking Festival.

Paul now lives in Andalucía in Spain and often walks in the Sierra Morena hills near his home, enjoying the abundant birdlife and trying to spot European lynx.

## **THE BORDERS ABBEYS WAY**

### **THE ABBEYS OF MELROSE, DRYBURGH, KELSO AND JEDBURGH IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

**by Paul Boobyer**

**CICERONE**

JUNIPER HOUSE, MURLEY MOSS,  
OXENHOLME ROAD, KENDAL, CUMBRIA LA9 7RL  
[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk)

© Paul Boobyer 2019  
First edition 2019  
ISBN: 978 1 85284 980 1

Printed in China on behalf of Latitude Press Ltd.  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.  
All photographs © Lorna Anness unless stated otherwise.



© Crown copyright 2019 OS PU100012932



Town mapping by Lovell Johns [www.lovelljohns.com](http://www.lovelljohns.com)  
© Crown copyright 2019 OS PU100012932. NASA relief data  
courtesy of ESRI

*For Lorna, with whom, by great fortune, I travel life's pathway.*

### Updates to this Guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website ([www.cicerone.co.uk/980/updates](http://www.cicerone.co.uk/980/updates)), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time. We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to [updates@cicerone.co.uk](mailto:updates@cicerone.co.uk) or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL.

Register your book: To sign up to receive free updates, special offers and GPX files where available, register your book at [www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk).

## CONTENTS

Overview profile .....	7
Map key .....	7
Overview map .....	8
Route summary table .....	9

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	11
The Borders Abbeys Way .....	12
History of the Borders abbeys .....	13
The Borders reivers .....	19
Agriculture and country estates in the Borders .....	22
Geology and nature .....	23
Getting to and from the Borders Abbeys Way .....	24
Where to stay .....	27
Maps and public access .....	27
When to go and what to take .....	28
Using this guide .....	30

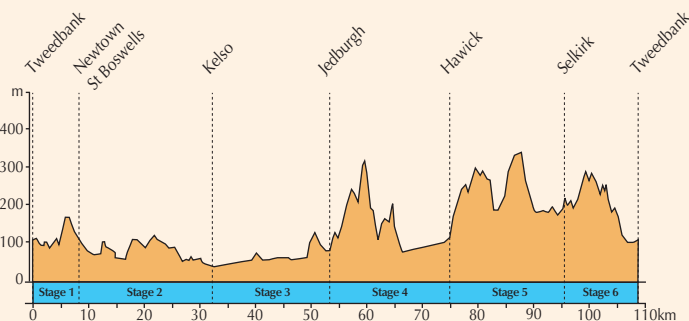
<b>THE BORDERS ABBEYS WAY</b> .....	31
Stage 1 Tweedbank to Newtown St Boswells via Melrose .....	32
Stage 2 Newtown St Boswells to Kelso .....	41
Stage 3 Kelso to Jedburgh .....	51
Stage 4 Jedburgh to Hawick .....	61
Stage 5 Hawick to Selkirk .....	70
Stage 6 Selkirk to Tweedbank .....	78

<b>Appendix A</b> Facilities available on each Stage of the Borders Abbeys Way ..	83
<b>Appendix B</b> Accommodation .....	84
<b>Appendix C</b> Public transport information .....	86
<b>Appendix D</b> Useful contacts .....	91
<b>Appendix E</b> Further reading .....	92



Kelso Abbey (Stage 2)

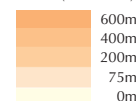
## Overview profile



## Features on the overview map

- national boundary
- railway
- urban area
- National Park  
eg **NORTHUMBERLAND**
- National Scenic Area  
eg **Eildon and Leaderfoot**

### Relief (in metres)



## Route symbols on OS map extracts (for OS legend see printed OS maps)

- route
- alternative route
- start point
- finish point
- alternative start point
- alternative finish point
- route direction

## Features on the town maps

- abbey
- tourist information centre

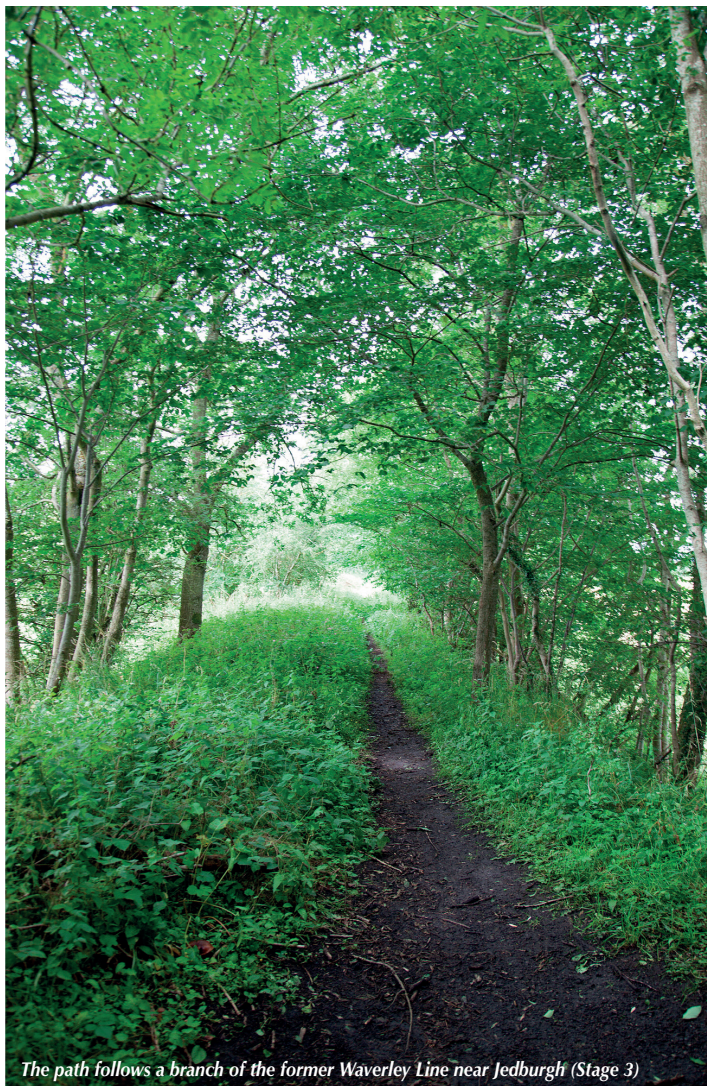
GPX files for all routes can be downloaded free at [www.cicerone.co.uk/980/GPX](http://www.cicerone.co.uk/980/GPX).





## ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

Stage	Start	Finish	Distance	Ascent	Time	Page
1	Tweedbank Railway Station NT 523 348	Langlands Place, Newtown St Boswells NT 576 318	4.8 miles (7.7km)	160m	2hr	32
1 (alt)	Tweedbank Railway Station NT 523 348	Dryburgh Abbey Hotel NT 590 318	6.1 miles (9.7km)	155m	2hr 20min	32
1 (alt)*	Tweedbank Railway Station NT 523 348	Clint Lodge (Clintmains) NT 604 327	8 miles (12.8km)	185m	3hr	32
1 (alt)*	Tweedbank Railway Station NT 523 348	Main Street, St Boswells NT 593 309	5.7 miles (9.2km)	198m	2hr 15min	32
2	Langlands Place, Newtown St Boswells NT 576 318	The Square, Kelso NT 727 339	15 miles (24.2km)	302m	5hr 30min	41
3	The Square, Kelso NT 727 339	Abbey Place, Jedburgh NT 650 205	13.5 miles (21.7km)	268m	5hr	51
4	Abbey Place, Jedburgh NT 650 205	Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick NT 505 153	13.1 miles (21.1km)	547m	5hr 15min	61
5	Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick NT 505 153	Market Place, Selkirk, NT 469 284	12.6 miles (20.3km)	583m	5hr 15min	70
6	Market Place, Selkirk, NT 469 284	Near Tweedbank Railway Station NT 529 347	8.9 miles (14.4km)	336m	3hr 35min	78
*St Boswells is 0.9 miles (1.5km) off the Borders Abbeys Way and Clint Lodge is 600 metres off the Borders Abbeys Way						



*The path follows a branch of the former Waverley Line near Jedburgh (Stage 3)*

## INTRODUCTION



*Black Hill – an ancient volcano just north of Newtown St Boswells (Stage 1)*

The Borders Abbeys Way links four of Britain's grandest ruined medieval abbeys in the enchanting landscape of the central Scottish Borders. The route is a well waymarked, 68-mile (109km) circuit and is one of Scotland's Great Trails. The variety of terrain and views along the Way will delight even the most seasoned walkers.

This guidebook provides a comprehensive description of the route, which passes through the towns of Melrose, Kelso, Jedburgh, Hawick and Selkirk and the villages of Denholm and Newton St Boswells. It also provides information on a variety of sites of historical and cultural interest (including the abbeys), accommodation available in each town en route,

and detailed bus service information to assist planning stages of the route as stand-alone day walks.

The abbeys and other historical sites encountered along the route tell the tale of a series of conflicts between the kingdoms of England and Scotland that took place between the mid 12th and early 17th centuries; a time when the Borders region was a dangerous and lawless frontier. The repeated vandalism and eventual destruction of the abbeys, the construction of fortified tower houses and the marauding militias known as *reivers*, were a product of this turbulent socio-political milieu. A walk on the Borders Abbeys Way will connect you with this fascinating period of history; indeed, some of the



paths on the Way are the very same routes that monks and abbey staff used to travel between the Borders abbeys, and no doubt were also used by the notorious reivers.

#### THE BORDERS ABBEYS WAY

The Way comprises paths alongside the Tweed and Teviot rivers, forest tracks, historic drove roads and disused railway lines, and traverses farmland and open hills. Most of the route is off-road, although there are some stretches walking on quiet, minor roads. The gradients are mostly gentle, and the altitude is never more than 338 metres, yet the views are frequently impressive.

The route can be undertaken at any time of year and can be reached within an hour by rail from the centre

of Edinburgh. By bus it is just over an hour from Berwick-upon-Tweed, an hour and a half from Carlisle, and three hours from Newcastle. Frequent local buses connect each town along the Way.

The circuit is described in a clockwise direction. Most people complete the route in six days:

- Tweedbank to Newtown St Boswells via Melrose 4.8 miles (7.7km)
- Newtown St Boswells to Kelso via Dryburgh 15 miles (24.2km)
- Kelso to Jedburgh 13.5 miles (21.7km)
- Jedburgh to Hawick 13.1 miles (21.1km)
- Hawick to Selkirk 12.6 miles (20.3km)
- Selkirk to Tweedbank 8.9 miles (14.4km)



*The purple flowers of rosebay willowherb (Stage 4)*

#### OTHER LONG-DISTANCE WALKS CONNECTING WITH THE BORDERS ABBEYS WAY

- Southern Upland Way connects with a portion of Stage 1
- St Cuthbert's Way connects with portions of Stages 2 and 3
- Cross Borders Drove Road connects at Hawick (Stage 4 end/Stage 5 start)

Alternative endings to Stage 1 are Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, which would extend Stage 1 by 1.3 miles (2km), and a B&B at Clintmains, which would extend Stage 1 by 3.2 miles (5km). Stage 2 would thus be respectively reduced to 13.7 miles (21.9km), or 11.8 miles (18.9km). Another alternative ending is St Boswells, 0.9 miles (1.5km) off the Borders Abbeys Way, just east of Newtown St Boswells.

The Borders Abbeys Way is suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness. The choice of accommodation, restaurants, cafés and other facilities on the route will appeal to people who enjoy staying in comfortable accommodation, eating quality cuisine and visiting sites of historical interest, museums and country estates. Luggage transfer services are available from Walking Support (see Appendix D for contact information).

An entrance fee is charged at Melrose, Dryburgh and Jedburgh abbeys, where there are interpretation centres and gift shops. There are also museums at Melrose and Jedburgh abbeys. Entrance to the ruins of Kelso Abbey is free of charge. The ruins of all the abbeys are managed by

Historic Environment Scotland (HES). An Explorer Pass provides access to Melrose, Dryburgh and Jedburgh abbeys, as well as to the impressive Smailholm Tower, a fortified tower house built by a local reiving family; and the sinister, semi-ruined Anglo-Norman Hermitage Castle. The Explorer Pass can be purchased from HES via their website (see Appendix D), from the venues listed above, or any Visit Scotland visitor information centre. If five or more HES properties are accessed with this pass, entry is at a discounted rate.

#### ALL ABBEY OPENING TIMES

Apr–Sept daily 9.30am–5.30pm  
Oct–Mar daily 10am–4pm  
(Kelso Abbey closed Thu–Fri Oct–Mar)

#### HISTORY OF THE BORDERS ABBEYS

The four magnificent ruined abbeys at Melrose, Dryburgh, Kelso and Jedburgh are testament to the power and wealth of medieval Anglo-Norman monasticism. Founded in

the first half of the 12th century at the behest of King David I of Scotland (1084–1153) by monks and canons whose religious orders originated in Normandy, the abbeys were key to David's Normanisation of Scottish society and to the introduction of the feudal system to Scotland – reforms which have been termed the 'Davidian Revolution' by some historians. These reforms empowered the Roman Catholic Church, which administrated the infrastructures of taxation, land management and international trade on behalf of the monarchy.

The monks and canons were skilled agriculturalists and merchants and applied new farming techniques to the extensive abbeys' estates, which included some of the best arable land in Scotland. The abbeys also controlled the lucrative wool trade, exporting to the major trading ports of northern Europe, generating huge revenues. In addition, they were the locus of education, and noble families often sent their sons to be schooled by the monks. Kelso Abbey, in particular, had a renowned library in the Medieval Period.

King David, whose first language was French, was the first Anglo-Norman king to sit on the Scottish throne – his father, Malcolm III of Scotland (1031–1093), and the kings that preceded him, had spoken Gaelic. From a young age David had been groomed to be an Anglo-Norman ally by King Henry I of England (1068–1135) and had spent

most of his teenage years and early adulthood at the (Norman, French-speaking) English royal court and in Normandy prior to his ascension to the Crown of Scotland – to which he had only a tenuous claim. After his coronation, backed by King Henry (a son of William the Conqueror (1028–1087)), David married Henry's sister, effectively unifying the kingdoms of England and Scotland.

However, after the death of King Henry in 1135, the two kingdoms fought for supremacy. Hostility was intensified by rivalry within the Church that led to the separation of the Scottish Church from its English base. The Borderlands consequently became a stark frontier between the warring kingdoms, and for the following four centuries the abbeys and inhabitants of the Borderlands suffered the lawlessness and frequent waves of violence that swept the region.

The abbeys were attacked by English armies on several occasions and were subsequently rebuilt or repaired. But the ruins we see today are the result of campaigns led by the Earl of Hertford in 1544 and 1545. The Earl, acting on behalf of the Protestant King Henry VIII of England (1491–1547), intended to end Catholic hegemony in Scotland. This was finally achieved in 1560 with the Scottish Reformation, although the hapless monks and canons incumbent in the abbeys during the Reformation were permitted to continue living in the ruins.

## Melrose Abbey

Founded in 1136 by monks of the Cistercian Order, Melrose Abbey is considered to be one of the most beautiful ruined abbeys in the United Kingdom.

King David had wanted the abbey to be sited two miles to the east, on the ruins of an earlier Celtic monastery founded by Saint Aidan in AD635, but the monks persuaded the king to accept the current site, claiming it was more suitable for agriculture. In addition, the new site was on the main route connecting Edinburgh to England, which had the advantage of being a paved Roman road (Dere Street), and was ideally situated to provide accommodation, food and other services to travellers.

*A carving on Melrose Abbey. Many of these were destroyed in 1544 by the English (Stage 1)*



In 1322 most of the abbey was destroyed by the army of King Edward II of England (1284–1327) and was burned down again 63 years later by King Richard II of England (1367–1400), causing such severe damage that masons took more than a century to rebuild the abbey.

It is claimed that Melrose Abbey contains the heart of Robert the Bruce, King of Scots (1274–1329), whose organ was allegedly buried there in 1330 or 1331 (the rest of his body was interred at Dunfermline Abbey). In 1996 a lead container, which may contain the King's heart, was found buried below the abbey's chapter house floor. The container was never opened and was reburied at the abbey on 22 June 1998. King Alexander II of Scotland (1198–1249) is also buried at the abbey.

King David's step-brother, Waltheof, was the second abbot of Melrose Abbey from 1148 until his death in 1159.

Melrose Abbey was severely damaged during a bombardment led by the Earl of Hertford in 1544, and was never rebuilt. If you look carefully around Melrose, you will see pieces of carved masonry from the abbey incorporated into buildings and walls.

## Dryburgh Abbey

Dryburgh Abbey, built in 1150 by canons of the Premonstratensian Order, is situated on the banks of the River Tweed about four miles east of

## STAGE 1

*Tweedbank to Newtown St Boswells via Melrose*

<b>Start</b>	Tweedbank railway station (NT 523 348)
<b>Finish</b>	Newtown St Boswells (Langlands Place; NT 576 318)
<b>Distance</b>	4.8 miles (7.7km)
<b>Ascent</b>	160m
<b>Time</b>	2hr
<b>Maps</b>	Landranger 73; Explorer 338 & 339
<b>Refreshments</b>	Pubs, shops, restaurants, cafés and takeaways in Melrose; café, takeaway, shops and hotel bar in Newtown St Boswells; takeaways, shop, café, restaurant, hotel restaurant and bar in St Boswells
<b>Public transport</b>	Trains approximately every 30 mins from Edinburgh to Tweedbank railway terminus (TWB) and Galashiels Transport Interchange. Regular buses to Galashiels Transport Interchange X95 from Edinburgh or Carlisle and 60 and 67 from Berwick-upon-Tweed (Borders Buses)

The first stage of the Borders Abbeys Way starts near Tweedbank railway terminus and continues to Newtown St Boswells via the popular and scenic town of Melrose. Melrose Abbey is undoubtedly the main attraction at Melrose, but there is also an interesting museum containing artefacts excavated from Trimontium Roman fort at nearby Newstead. The route is relatively flat and there are some pleasant views of the River Tweed. The section from Newstead to Newtown St Boswells is mostly on a road closed to public traffic. Alternative options to overnighting in Newtown St Boswells are either Melrose on Stage 1, Dryburgh Abbey Hotel or a B&B near Clintmains (Clint Lodge), both on Stage 2; or St Boswells (0.9 miles (1.5km)) off the Borders Abbeys Way.

Leaving Tweedbank railway terminus, cross the car park access road and continue along an asphalt cycle

and walking path towards **Melrose**, waymarked as the Melrose Link Path.

This section of path was once the **Waverley Route railway line**, connecting Edinburgh with Carlisle and was named after a series of novels by Sir Walter Scott. The railway, which opened in 1849, was constructed by the North British Railway. It was closed in 1969. The current Borders Railway from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank was opened in 2015. It was the longest domestic railway track to be built in the UK for more than 100 years.

After 400 metres cross a minor road (Tweedside Park) and continue straight ahead, then bear left at a waymarker for the Southern Upland Way. (The Borders Abbeys Way shares the path with the Southern Upland Way until Gattonside Footbridge on the outskirts of Melrose.) Cross the busy B6374. ▶

In front of you is a Borders Abbeys Way waypost indicating the route both to your right and to your left. Take the route to the right, passing through a wooden gate. A few metres beyond the gate, the River Tweed is visible on the left and there is an interpretation panel describing the events that took place at nearby Skirmish Hill.

Take care when crossing the B6374.

Map continues on page 38





**Skirmish Hill** is named after an unsuccessful kidnap attempt on the 14-year-old King James V of Scotland (1512–1542) on 25 July 1526 by up to 600 men under the command of Walter Scott of Buccleuch. The young king fled to the safety of nearby Darnick Tower. The king, who was nephew of the English King Henry VIII, died at the age of 30 after the Battle of Solway Moss. His daughter Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots (1542–1587) succeeded him when she was just six days old.

Continue adjacent to the Tweed for 0.7 miles (1.2km), going through two gates to a minor road (Bleachfield) and some houses. Turn left, following the asphalt road. After 30 metres turn left again just before a small garage, as indicated by a Southern Upland Way waymarker, onto an unsurfaced track into woodland.

Shortly after, Gattonside Footbridge will come into view, with **Gattonside** visible on the opposite side of the River Tweed. The Southern Upland Way crosses the bridge, but the Borders Abbeys Way remains on the southern bank of the Tweed. ◀

It is highly likely that the Earl of Hertford sited his cannons at Gattonside when his army bombarded Melrose Abbey in 1544.



The River Tweed flows east to Berwick



The Way continues into parkland on the outskirts of Melrose. Some picnic benches here make a handy spot to eat a packed lunch. Alternatively, there is a wide variety of refreshments in Melrose. Near the benches a waymarker indicates Melrose town centre to the right, and the Southern Upland Way straight on. (Although there is no Borders Abbeys Way waymarker.)

To reach the town centre via **Melrose Abbey**, continue along the Borders Abbeys Way (and Southern Upland Way) adjacent to the Tweed.

Passing the Gattonside Footbridge, the path becomes an asphalt track and then a minor road (Chain Bridge Road). Melrose Rugby Football Club is visible to the left. Shortly after the rugby club, Melrose Abbey will be visible at a T-junction. Cross the road (Annay Road) and turn right, continuing on the pavement towards the abbey.

The Way continues past the abbey and turns left into a park adjoining the abbey's iron-railed fence. Continue through the park and then cross a small footbridge. When the path enters a suburban street (Priorsdene), continue straight ahead on the pavement. After 190 metres the street curves to the right just after a row of garages on

Melrose Abbey was once on the main route between Edinburgh and England and provided travellers with lodgings and food



## MELROSE

Melrose is a very popular small town and there is a wide choice of accommodation (see Appendix B for details) and places to eat. The abbey is the main attraction, and its museum houses the largest collection of medieval artefacts in Scotland.

Harmony Garden (Apr–Oct daily 10am–5pm) is a pleasant walled garden opposite the abbey. It is free and open to the public, and hosts the Borders Book Festival in June every year. Reserve accommodation well in advance if staying in Melrose during the book festival.

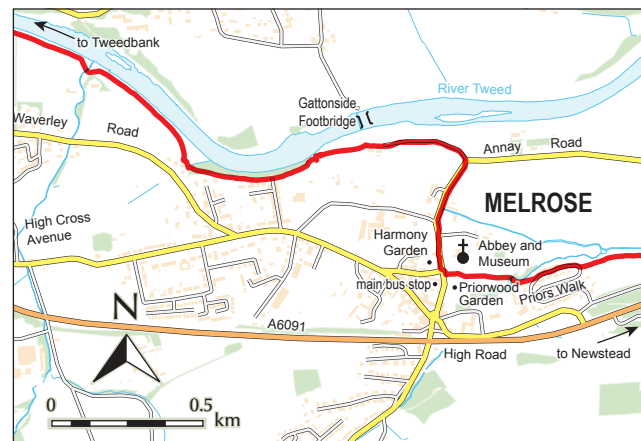
Priorwood Garden (Apr–Oct daily 10am–5pm), a National Trust for Scotland property dedicated to the art of dried flower arranging, is located on Abbey Road, just to the south of the abbey.

The town is at the base of the Eildon Hills, three distinctive peaks just to the south of the town. The nearby **Roman fort** (Trimontium), at the village of **Newstead**, was named after these hills. However, it is very difficult to see any evidence of the fort at the 370-acre site. The Trimontium Trust manages The Three Hills Roman Heritage Centre (Apr–Oct Mon–Sat 10.30am–4.30pm), which is located in Market Square and serves as a tourist information centre. The museum displays items found at the site, including coin hoards, jewellery and a reconstruction of an AD first- or second-century Roman soldier's head, based on a skull found during the construction of the Waverley railway line. The soldier was found at the bottom of a Roman-era well and had probably been murdered.



*Harmony Garden, opposite Melrose Abbey*

## STAGE 1 – TWEEDBANK TO NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS VIA MELROSE



the left. At the curve the Borders Abbeys Way leaves the street to the left, running along the top of a steep-sided bank. Continue straight ahead, ignoring the path to the right (to Newstead). The Way eventually emerges next to some stables and a parking area.

Turn left onto an asphalt road (Dean Road) just beyond the stables on the outskirts of the village of **Newstead**, and continue downhill for 50 metres. ► The

Newstead claims to be the oldest continuously inhabited village in Scotland, dating to at least AD650. In medieval times, the village housed stonemasons who worked at Melrose Abbey.



*Leaving Newstead under a verdant canopy*

The Romans used the highest peak of the Eildon Hills as a signal station. Prior to that a Bronze Age fort belonging to the Votadini tribe occupied the site.

Way then turns right next to a house (Mill Cottage) and continues uphill via a woodland track, under a tangle of branches and foliage.

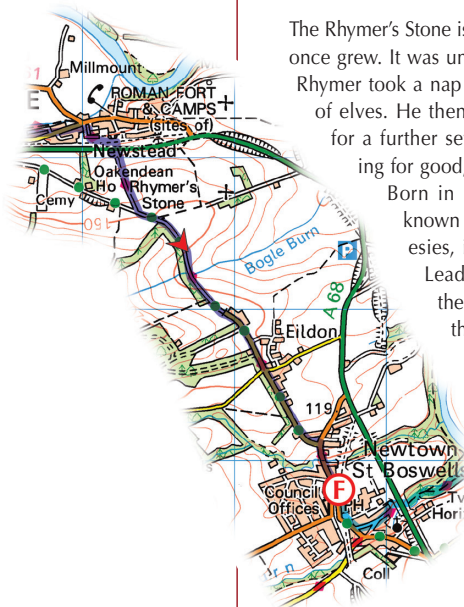
The track emerges onto an asphalt path. Turn right at the waymarker before you enter the suburban street visible ahead, to go under a former railway line and an underpass of the A6091. When the path emerges at the south side of the A6091 it turns right then doubles back to the left through galvanised gates. Turn right just after the gates, heading uphill towards the distinctive Eildon Hills on a field access track between high hedges. Turn left when the track emerges onto an asphalt road at the base of the Eildon Hills. ◀

The road is closed to vehicles beyond the metal gates a few metres uphill. About 50 metres uphill of the gates is the **Rhymer's Stone** and a viewpoint providing expansive views to the north.

The Rhymer's Stone is where the fabled **Eildon Tree** once grew. It was under this tree that Thomas the Rhymer took a nap and disappeared to the land of elves. He then returned to nearby Earlston for a further seven years, before disappearing for good, presumably back to Elfland.

Born in 1220, Thomas became well known for his many accurate prophecies, including the building of the Leaderfoot Viaduct which carried the Waverley Route railway over the River Tweed centuries after his disappearance.

A little further ahead there is an option to walk up the steep Eildon Hills via waymarked paths on your right. This is a detour from the Borders Abbeys Way, but fantastic panoramic views are the reward.

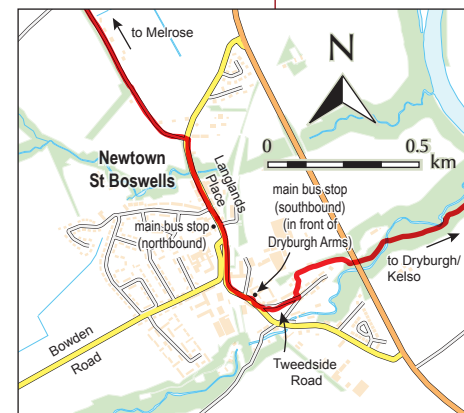


Continue on the minor road, passing the hamlet of **Eildon** (waymarked, but not visible from the road) to a road junction. Turn left to enter **Newtown St Boswells**. Cross the street (B6398) to the opposite pavement and turn right. The street becomes Langlands Place.

Monument to Thomas the Rhymer

### Alternative ending at St Boswells:

To continue to **St Boswells** 2 miles (3.1km) to the south-east, 0.9 miles (1.5km) off the Borders Abbeys Way, follow Stage 2 as far as the Dryburgh





## NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS

Newtown St Boswells was once an important centre for milling grain and livestock sales and export. Its railway closed in 1969, after which the village suffered economically. Eating out is limited to the Dryburgh Arms Hotel and a café in Milestone Garden Centre (daily 9am–5pm). For a wider choice, you could walk to St Boswells either via the Borders Abbeys Way (as far as the Dryburgh Footbridge and then follow St Cuthbert's Way from there (see Stage 2 map)) or along a well-lit pavement next to the A68 for 0.7 miles (1.2km). In St Boswells there is an Italian restaurant (Hunter's Stables; Wed–Mon for lunch and dinner) and a café (Main Street Trading Company; Tue–Sat 9am–5pm/4pm Sun), and the four-star Buccleuch Arms Hotel, which has a restaurant and serves bar meals. There are also two takeaways in St Boswells. See Appendix A for a summary of facilities.

Footbridge. Do not cross the bridge but continue on the south side of the River Tweed, following the St Cuthbert's Way waymarkers.



## STAGE 2

## Newtown St Boswells to Kelso

<b>Start</b>	Newtown St Boswells (NT 576 318; Langlands Place)
<b>Finish</b>	Kelso (NT 727 339; The Square)
<b>Distance</b>	15 miles (24.2km)
<b>Ascent</b>	302m
<b>Time</b>	5hr 30min
<b>Maps</b>	Landranger 74; Explorer 339
<b>Refreshments</b>	Pub, shops, takeaways, restaurants and café in St Boswells, 0.9 miles (1.5km) off route; restaurant at Dryburgh Abbey Hotel (next to Dryburgh Abbey); pubs, takeaways, shops, restaurants and cafés in Kelso
<b>Public transport</b>	Buses link Newtown St Boswells with: St Boswells, Jedburgh, Melrose, Edinburgh, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Kelso, Galashiels Transport Interchange and Tweedbank railway station

After leaving Newtown St Boswells, Stage 2 passes through a wooded glen adjacent to the River Tweed, which has been identified as an ancient semi-natural woodland site by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Way then crosses a footbridge to Dryburgh Abbey and continues to Kelso via the hamlet of Clintmains (B&B available) on minor roads, farm tracks and riverside paths. This is the longest stage of the Way, but it is relatively flat. Most of the road walking occurs after Clintmains. A bus can be caught to Kelso (service 67, Borders Buses) from a bus stop at the junction of Clintmains road end and the B6404 if you'd rather avoid the Clintmains to Kelso section. Buses are approximately every two hours. There is no timetable in the bus shelter. Timetables are on the Borders Buses website: [www.bordersbuses.co.uk](http://www.bordersbuses.co.uk).

**To re-join the route from St Boswells:**

If Stage 1 was completed at St Boswells rather than Newtown St Boswells, you will need to backtrack to the Dryburgh Footbridge to continue on the route.