

# paths

around Galashiels



Our Scottish Borders  
Your destination

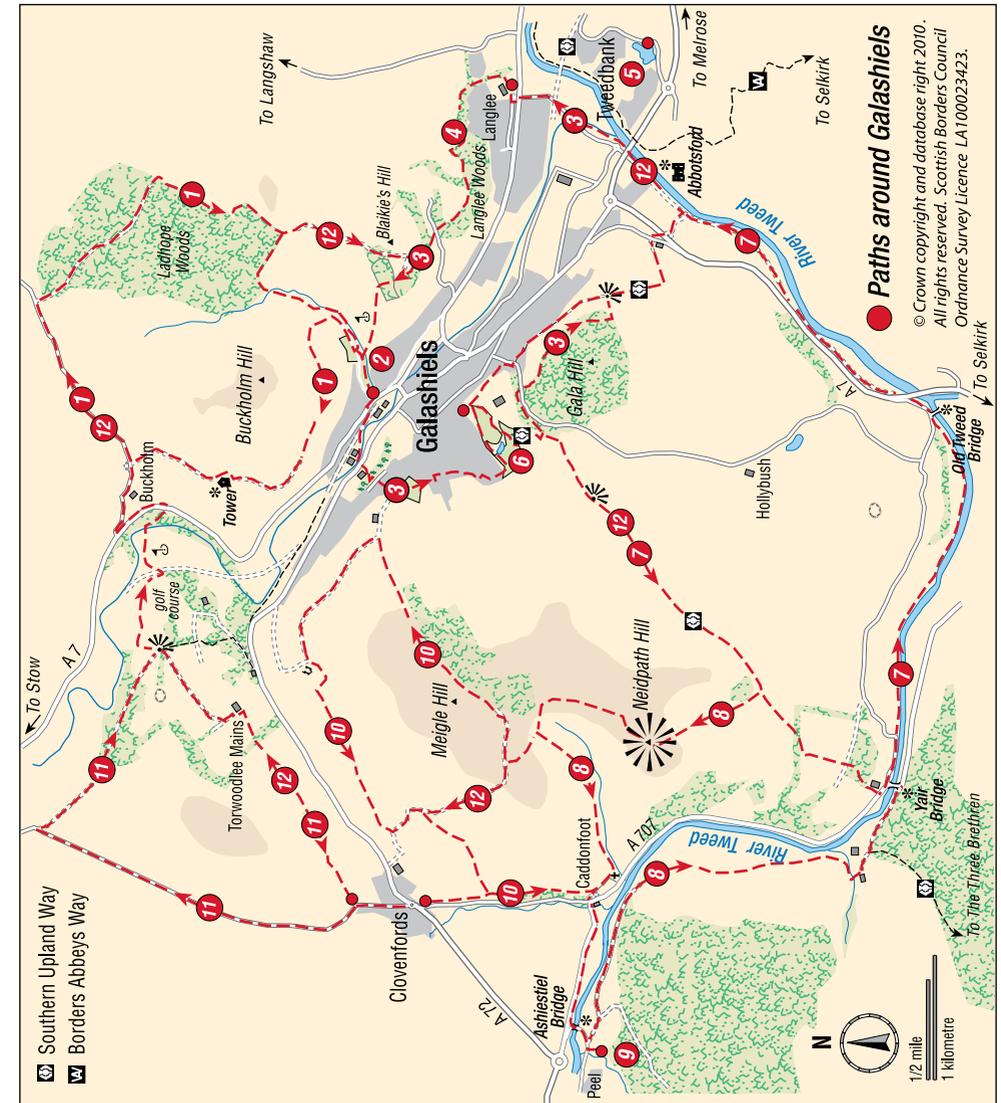
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## Contents

Route	Distance	Location	Page
Route 1	6miles/9.5km	Buckholm Circular	8
Route 2	2miles/3.5km	Ladhope Recreation Ground	10
Route 3	7miles/11km	Gala Hill and Langlee Woodland	12
Route 4	3miles/5km	Langlee Woodland	14
Route 5	1miles/1.5km	Tweedbank Nature Trail	16
Route 6	1miles/1.6km	Gala Policies	20
Route 7	7miles/11km	Hollybush Circular	22
Route 8	7miles/11km	Peel and Yair	24
Route 9	1miles/2km	Glenkinnon Community Woodland	26
Route10	6miles/10km	Meikle Circular	28
Route 11	4.5miles/7km	Torwoodlee Circular	30
Route 12	16miles/25km	Gala Circuit	32
Other routes	various		34

### How To Get There

Galashiels is well served by public transport with regular buses to and from a number of towns in the Scottish Borders. Connections are available to Edinburgh, Carlisle, Berwick upon Tweed and other places. For the motorist, Galashiels is easily reached from either the A7 or A68 via the A6091. Car parking is available in the town.





View of Galashiels from Langlee Woodland

## Introduction

This booklet describes 12 routes in the Galashiels area, most of which have links into the town centre. 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. Three of the walks are in the settlements of Clovenfords and Caddonfoot and two of the longer walks go through the farms whose hills overlook these places. There are a variety of routes ranging from short strolls in woodlands and around lochs to long hikes over the moors and hills. Each route has a summary containing distance, time taken and terrain. This information will allow you to choose the most suitable route at a quick glance. Further information is available from Tourist Information Centres around the Borders. The fact that Galashiels is built in a valley means that on many of the routes there are spectacular views of the town from the shoulders and summits of the hills. On clear days the views extend far beyond the valley town and the neighbouring villages, for example, to the Moorfoot Hills, sitting north west of the town.

Galashiels has hidden treasures both within and around the town. We have produced this booklet to encourage you to explore these areas. We hope that you enjoy these routes and do not encounter any difficulties en route. However, if you do come across a problem whilst on these routes, please report it to the Scottish Borders Access team on 01835 825060.

## Galashiels

Galashiels originated in the Middle Ages as a small hamlet. The Borders area was the focus of many of the battles of Anglo-Scottish wars of the 14th-16th centuries. Despite this, Galashiels managed to escape the worst ravages of this period. A notable exception was in 1544 when the villages of Buckholm and Galashiels were burned by English raiders.

People may be surprised to discover that Galashiels was really only a village until the late 18th century. The dawn of the Industrial Revolution and the coming of the railway transformed Galashiels into a thriving town. The Gala Water, a tributary of the Tweed, was a source of power and solvent to the factories and mills that were erected several hundred years later.

The railway line from Edinburgh was completed by the North British Railway (NBR) company in 1849 taking five years to build. Initially it was called the 'Border Union', however it was renamed the 'Waverley Route' in honour of Sir Walter Scott, a Borderer and writer. Unfortunately the railway fell victim of the Beeching Review of the rail network and was closed in 1969. At the time of writing in 2011 there is work ongoing to design and construct a railway from Tweedbank to Edinburgh.



Path Junction of Ladhope Woodland and Ladhope Recreation Ground

## Toilet Facilities

The public toilets in Galashiels are situated in these areas: High Street; Bank Street and the Bus station.

## Waymarking and Maps

The routes are waymarked with the distinctive yellow and dark green 'Galashiels Paths' or 'Clovenfords Paths' discs. Some of the paths follow sections of the Southern Upland Way so the discs may not be used here.

Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50 000, sheet 73 or Explorer 1:25 000, sheet 338 maps should be used in conjunction with this booklet so that walkers can identify the hills and other points of interest.

## 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 available from [www.borderswalking.com](http://www.borderswalking.com).



Walkers at Eildons viewpoint on Gala Hill



St Pauls Church

## walkit

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. You will find the Walk It logo on routes 1, 2, 3 and 7. We have chosen these walks for the length and level gradient. For information telephone 01835 825060.

## Golf Courses

Route 2, Ladhope Recreation Ground and Route 12, Gala Circuit partly or wholly go through Ladhope and Torwoodlee Golf Courses. In accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Access Code please be considerate to the players by allowing them to take shots before crossing fairways, by being quiet and still and keeping dogs on a lead at all times. This route is most suitable for walkers. To avoid damaging the playing surface, cyclists and horse riders need to keep to paths at all times and not go on to any other part of a golf course.

## General Advice

Before setting off on longer walks etc., always check the weather forecast and prepare yourself accordingly, but 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.

## Livestock

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).



Buckholm Hill

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 and you. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. There is the possibility of encountering lambs and calves on routes 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. 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.



Descending Meikle Hill

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 co-operation, which will help to ensure that these walks are available for those who follow in your footsteps in future years.

## Health Warning!

Germs from animals can cause serious human illness.

Stay safe from diseases when out in the countryside by:

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

Contact the Public Health Department for more information 01896 82 5560

## Access in Scotland

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



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

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

### When you're in the outdoors:

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

### When you're managing the outdoors:

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

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



Route 1

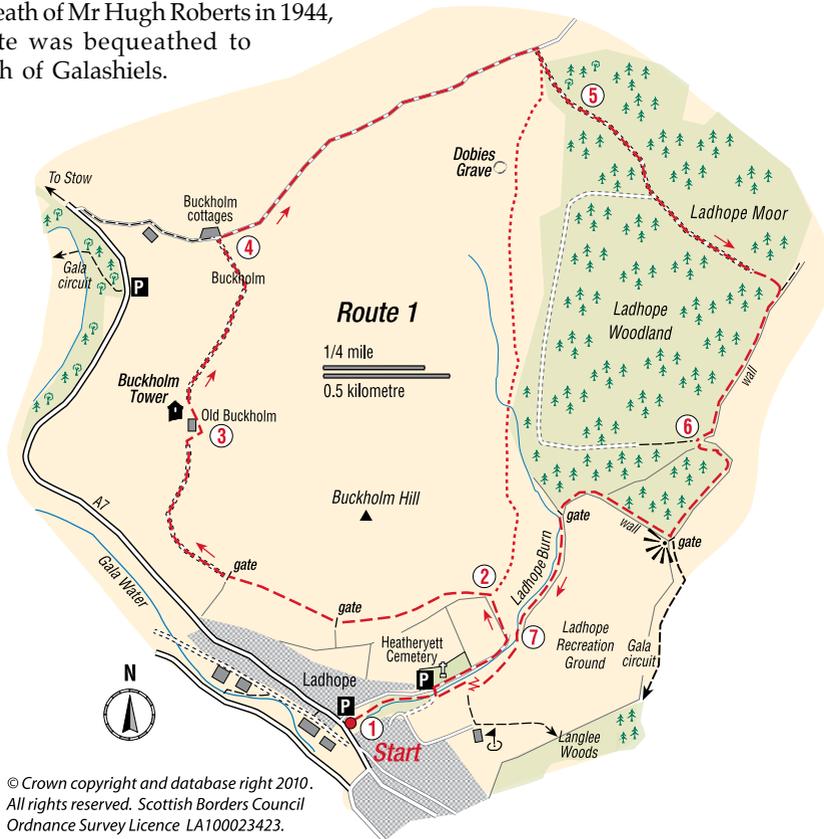
Buckholm Circular

**Start and finish:** Ladhope or Heatherlyett car park  
**Distance:** 9.5km/6 miles  
**Time:** 3 hours 30 minutes  
**Terrain:** paths, forest and farm tracks, and minor roads. Stiles, gates, bridges on route, etc.



Walkers by Buckholm Tower

1. From Ladhope car park, head up the woodland path to meet the track by Heatherlyett car park. Ladhope woodland and Glen lie on what was the western boundary of the former Ladhope estate. On the death of Mr Hugh Roberts in 1944, the estate was bequeathed to the Burgh of Galashiels.



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From Heatherlyett car park follow the road uphill past the cemetery until you reach the field at the end of this track. Enter the field and continue to the corner of the wall.

**Dobies Grave Path**

At this point the Dobie's grave path goes straight on. According to local legend in 1790 Dobie accepted a wager to play his bagpipes all the way from Lauder to Galashiels. However he collapsed and died at the spot where a pile of stones now marks his grave.

2. To continue following the Buckholm Circular route turn left with the wall on your left. Go through the gate and along the track. Enter and cross the field, not going uphill or downhill and exit the field by another gate. Continue on a track for about 500m.
3. On reaching the buildings at Old Buckholm turn right past the arched entrance to the old courtyard around the old tower which was built in 1582 by John Hoppringil or Pringle, regaining the track on the far side. Head along the track through several gates to reach the road.

4. Turn right and follow the road for 1.5km to reach Ladhope Woodland. Turn right to join the forest track (the Dobie's Grave path comes out in the field on your right here).
5. Go uphill on the forest track and at a junction bear left. Continue to follow the track until you reach a wall and then turn right and continue around the top edge of the forest.
6. The path forks after almost 1km, take the left path and continue round the edge of the woodland, keeping the dyke on your left, to reach the far corner. On reaching the dyke at the perimeter of the golf course continue to follow the wall around, keeping it on your left, until a gate is reached. Go through the gate and follow the Ladhope Burn down to the far corner of the field, here enter onto the golf course.
7. Continue along the edge of the golf course until you reach a set of steps. Go down the steps and alongside the burn until you meet a track, turn right to cross over the bridge and retrace your steps back through the woods to the car park.



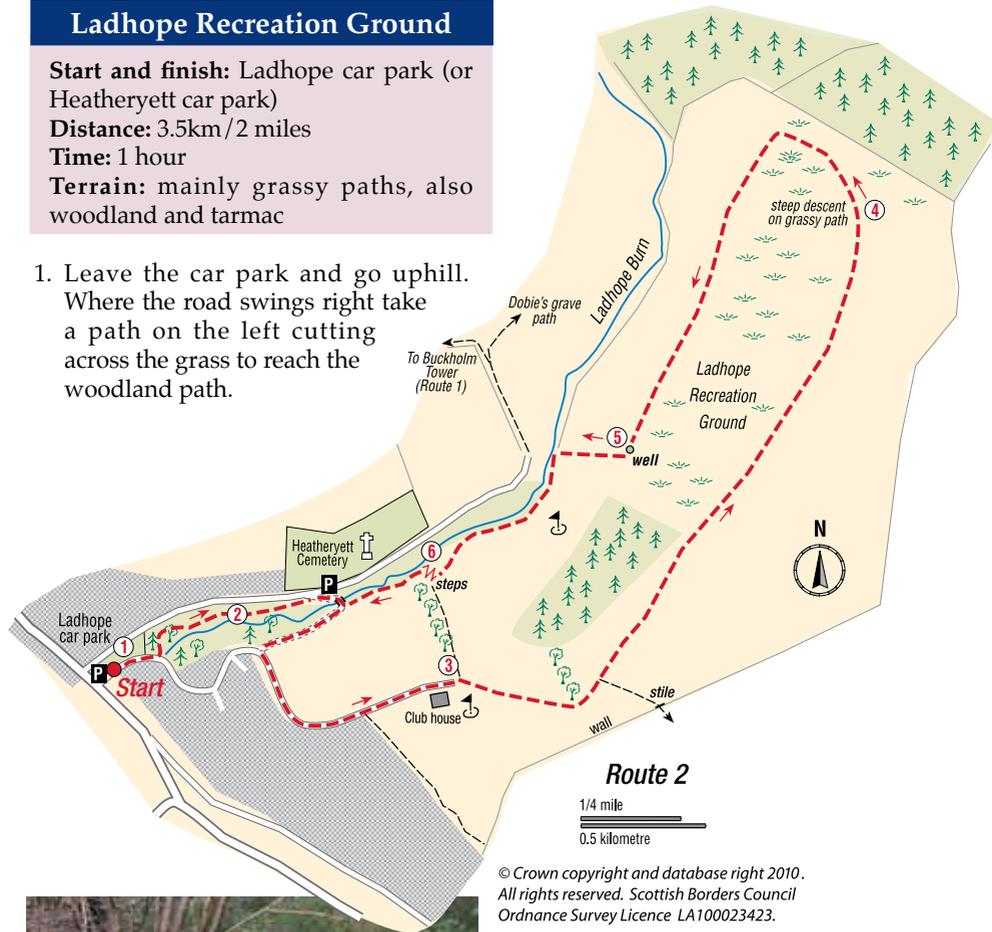
Ladhope Woodland

Route 2

Ladhope Recreation Ground

**Start and finish:** Ladhope car park (or Heatherlyett car park)  
**Distance:** 3.5km / 2 miles  
**Time:** 1 hour  
**Terrain:** mainly grassy paths, also woodland and tarmac

1. Leave the car park and go uphill. Where the road swings right take a path on the left cutting across the grass to reach the woodland path.



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Well at Ladhope Recreation Ground with 1936 inscription

2. Head up the woodland path with the Ladhope Burn on your right to reach the track below Heatherlyett car park, turn right onto this track and keep right after crossing the bridge. Stay on the track until it reaches the road then turn left and follow the road to the golf course clubhouse. Ladhope Golf Course was also part of the former Ladhope Estate bequeathed to the Burgh of Galashiels.

3. Continue straight on past the entrance to the golf course car park and then immediately right across the fairway to reach a path climbing uphill. At an old stone wall continue uphill but bearing left to reach a grassy track which goes through a large area of gorse.
4. After the gorse continue through the rough grass area. Before joining the Forest at Ladhope Moor, turn left to descend on a grassy track through the gorse. At the bottom of the slope turn left following a grassy path.
5. At the well turn right and cross the golf course with care to reach the far side, turn left between the course and the woodland until a set of steps are reached.
6. Go down the steps and alongside the burn until you meet a track, turn right over the bridge and retrace your steps back down through the wood to the car park.



Ash Tree at Ladhope



Galashiels from Ladhope Recreation Ground

Route 3

Gala Hill and Langlee Woodland

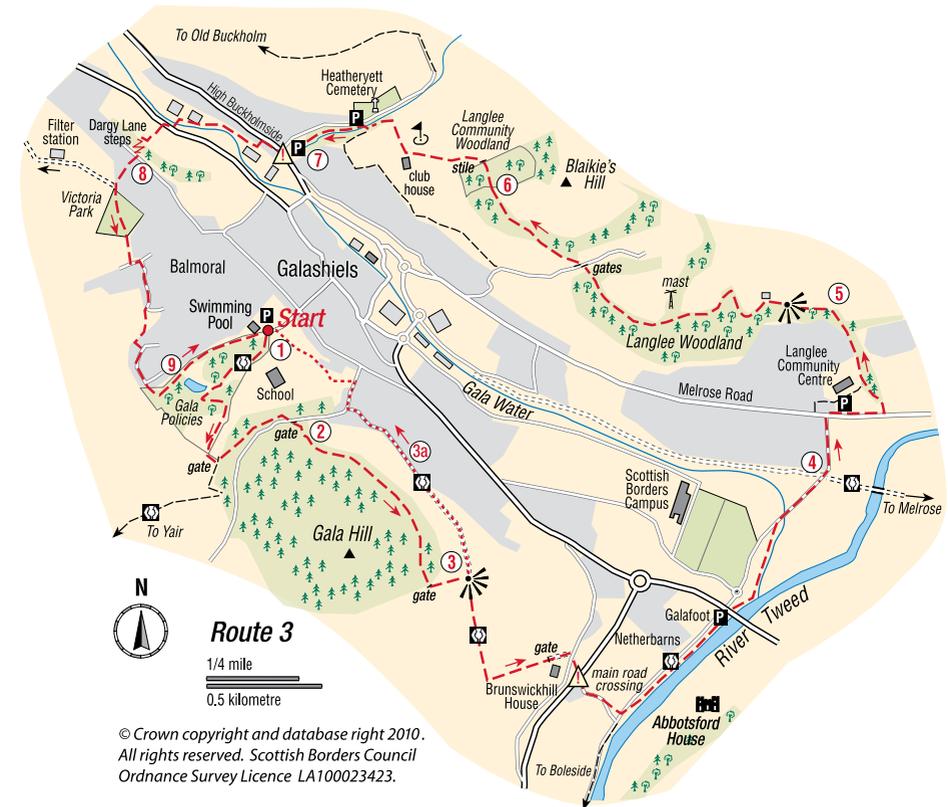
**Start and finish:** Gala Policies car park by the swimming pool  
**Distance:** 11km/7 miles  
**Time:** 4 - 5 hours  
**Terrain:** woodland paths, farm fields, farm tracks and road. Steps and stiles on route.



Walkers at Langlee Community Woodland (photo by Bett Cameron)

Turn right and cross Melrose Road. Cross Melrose Road, turn right and after 250m turn left to join the path through Langlee woodland. Continue on the path eventually reaching the top of the woodland strip.

1. Follow the Southern Upland Way through Gala Policies woodland to a gate into an open area. Go through the gate and follow the signs left, to a gate. Go left through the gate and follow the path up to the road. Go left along the road (Gala Hill is on your right).
2. Cross the road and go onto Gala Hill. Follow the path along the edge of Gala Hill enjoying the mixed woodland cover and the views out over Galashiels. When you reach the end of this path turn left through the gate into the field. Walk down the edge of the field to the bottom keeping the fence on your left. You are now on the Southern Upland Way.
- 3a **walkit** Paths to Health Gala Hill Walk  
 For this shorter walk turn left at this point and follow the Southern Upland Way back to Scott Park and Gala Policies.
3. Turn right and follow the Southern Upland Way through Netherbarns, taking care when crossing the A7, and down to the River Tweed with views of Abbotsford House, built for and home of Sir Walter Scott. Continue to follow the Southern Upland Way to Galafoot Bridge and over a bridge across the Gala Water.
4. You eventually leave the Southern Upland Way when you reach the line of the old railway. Continue along the roadside on Winston Road to reach Melrose Road.
5. At the old wall, turn left keeping the wall on your right, then through the trees to reach a viewpoint. From here you can see across Galashiels and beyond to the Eildon Hills. The path goes downhill for a short distance to reach the top of a track. Go across the top of a track and through an old gateway on the right; to then follow a path which runs alongside a fence. The path climbs uphill. Keep the field on your right. At the top of the wood turn left following the woodland path until it passes the transmitter tower. Continue straight on and descend through the trees. The route drops steeply to the gate at the roadside. Go straight across the road and through another gate, signposted for Langlee Community Woodland. At a path junction keep left.
6. Go through a small gate to enter Langlee Community Woodland. Go straight across onto the golf course descending to reach the clubhouse. Cross the lower part of the golf course at a line of oak trees, giving due consideration to people playing



7. At the bottom of the woods you will come out at a park area. Cross the A7 with care, and High Buckholmside road. Turn right and continue for about 50m. Turn left down a close (narrow passageway) and continue over a bridge and down steps. Turn right then bear left to be close to the Gala Water and then behind some retail outlets to a car park between them. Cross the bridge and turn right along King Street. Cross King Street with care then turn left to go on ahead to the woodland bank. Climb the Darghai Lane steps.
8. At the top of the steps cross Windyknowe Road and go up Manse Lane to reach Victoria Park. Go across the park to exit at the bottom right hand corner, by a lane, through Meigle View and across Mossilee Road. Continue along Mossilee Crescent, then Forest Hill until you see a park on your right. Continue down through the park and along a path to the right, then turn left bringing you out on Balmoral Road. Turn right and continue down the road until you reach Gala Policies woodland.
9. Cross the bridge to join the woodland paths. Keep left on the woodland paths to return to the start of the walk.

Route 4

Langlee Woodland

**Start and finish:** Langlee Community Centre car park  
**Distance:** 5km/3 miles  
**Time:** 1hour 30 minutes  
**Terrain:** Woodland paths and tracks



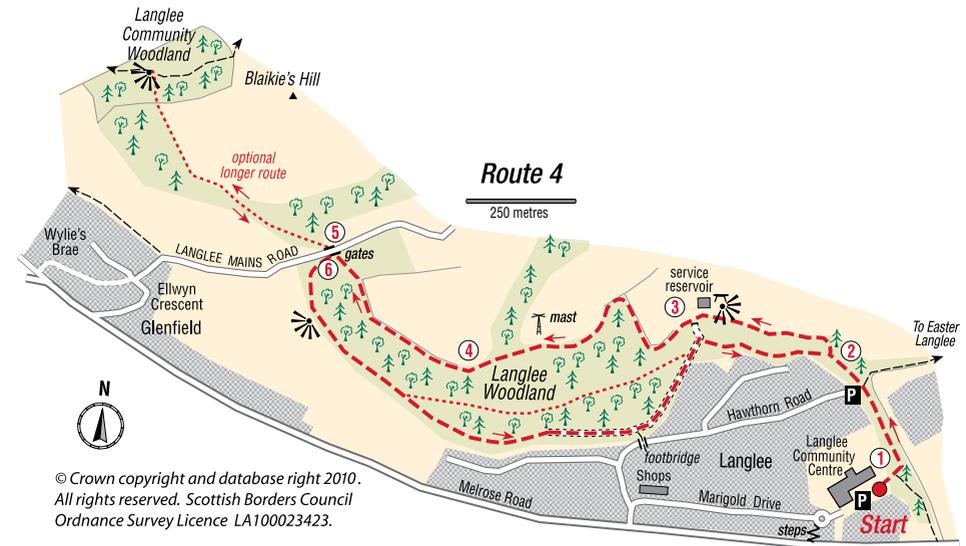
Langlee Woodland

As well as routes 3,4 and 12 going through the woodlands there is a network of paths in the woodland. The mixed broadleaf woodland on Langlee Hill probably dates back to the late 18th century/early 19th century. The woodland provides a backdrop of significant landscape value to the north side of Galashiels. It is situated on the upper slopes of the south side of Wester Hill, bounded on its south-east side by Langlee Housing Estate and elsewhere by open agricultural land with occasional shelter belts. The ground is generally steep rising from 150m to 250m above sea level. There are views over Galashiels, towards the Eildons and to Elwyn Glen. Oak, ash, beech and sycamore form the canopy of the woodland, while the shrub layer has holly, elder, wild raspberry, rhododendron and laurel. To the north east of the woodland lies an area of silver birch, hawthorn and heather. Dead wood is a natural habitat for insects, lichens, and fungi such as Dryads Saddle and hole nesting birds. The woodland floor is carpeted with mosses, ferns, grasses and wild flowers including red campion and honeysuckle. Birds in the woodland include great spotted woodpecker and treecreeper. Mammals such as bats, roe deer and grey squirrel are commonly seen.



Langlee Woodland

1. At the far end of the car park join the woodland path and turn left uphill to eventually reach the top of the woodland strip.
2. Follow the main path through the trees and at a junction turn right. Keep with the path as it bends round to the left. The path climbs to reach a good viewpoint from which you can see across Galashiels and beyond to the Eildon hills.
3. Go across the top of a track and through an old gateway on the right to then follow a path which runs alongside a fence. Keep with this fence as the path climbs uphill, keeping the field on your right. At the top of the wood turn left, following the woodland path until it passes the transmitter tower.
4. Continue straight on and descend through the trees. The route drops steeply to the gate at the roadside.
5. **For a longer route:** (optional) Go straight across the road and through another gate, following the path upwards through gorse. At a path junction, keep left. Enter Langlee Community



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Woodland. There is a small network of paths to explore with great views to be had. Retrace your steps to the roadside gate. This will add 2 km/1.5 miles to your route.

**Langlee Community Woodland**  
 This wood is managed by Borders Forest Trust and was planted by children, groups and individuals of the town in 1997

6. At the roadside gate turn left, in the woodland, to follow a path back through the lower edge of Langlee Woodland. Continue on this path as it becomes a track past a water tank. The track comes out by housing; keeping the housing on your right follow the track as it once again climbs uphill into the woods. After the last house, turn right off the track onto a woodland path. Follow this path and eventually retrace your steps back down to the car park.

**Links:** you may enter or leave the woodlands from the right of way that runs up Wylie's Brae, crosses over Elwyn Crescent and continues up the road to Langlee Mains Farm. Look out for the right turn into Langlee Woodland or you may turn left to take an oak lined track up to Langlee Community Woodland.



Looking north from Langlee Woodland

Route 5

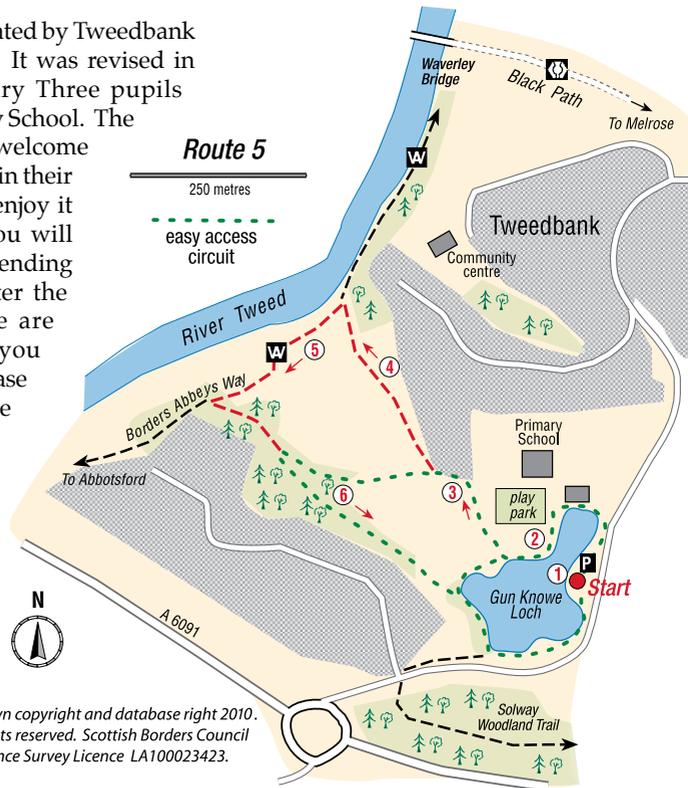
**Tweedbank Nature Trail**

**Start and finish:** Gunknowe Loch car park, Tweedbank  
**Distance:** 1.5km/ 1 mile  
**Time:** 1 hour  
**Terrain:** flat hard surfaced tarmac paths, also grass paths which can be muddy



Gunknowe Loch

This Nature Trail was created by Tweedbank Primary School in 1995. It was revised in October 2005 by Primary Three pupils from Tweedbank Primary School. The children of Tweedbank welcome you and your family to join their trail and hope that you enjoy it as much as they do. You will see different wildlife depending on the time of year. After the route description there are some clues as to what you might see on the trail. Please keep children under close supervision, especially near water.



1. From the car park head down to the loch. Turn right and go around the side of the loch. As you walk around the loch, stop and listen to the bird calls. Coots call out 'coof'. Mallard ducks make a quacking call. You can also listen for the call of a black-headed gull. Keep left to head around the loch. As you walk you can

count how many mute swans you can see. You may also see young swans (cygnets). Another type of duck that may be present is the tufted duck which is black and

white. Watch one dive and count how many seconds it is under the water for.

2. After an open area with bench seats by the loch, turn right, past the play area and take the second left. By some pine trees look on the ground for a cone. If it has been neatly nibbled it has been eaten by a mouse or a squirrel but if it looks untidy it has been eaten by a bird.
3. Turn right then left onto the grass area between trees and bushes. See if you can find five different kinds of leaves. At this point you can play the helicopter game; gather some seeds from a field maple tree, throw them up high and watch them spin in the wind.

**Note:** Wheelchair users and others. For a shorter route that keeps to hard surfaced paths, carry straight on here and follow the tarmac path with the large grass area on your right. You can join the trail again at the end of the grass area.

4. You will come out to a large grass area. Go straight across to the other side of this area. Look back for a view of the Eildon Hills. After the large open grass area you will come to an area of long grass near the river. Here you may be able to spot spiders, beetles, flies and butterflies on the grasses. You might be able to find snails, ladybirds and earwigs too. See if you can see five different creatures. As you go towards the river you will see an alder tree. The tree can be recognised by its male catkins and female cones hanging on the tree branches.

5. We join the Borders Abbays Way and turn left to follow the river upstream. This is the River Tweed. Look out for birds on the river. Heron, dipper and goosander are frequently seen here. Continue to follow



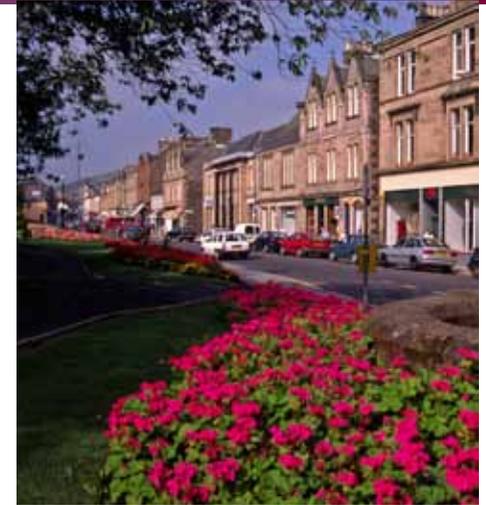
Leaf picture

the Borders Abbays Way until you reach a tarmac path. Turn left through the trees. At a junction of paths take the higher path on the right which runs parallel to the backs of the houses.

6. Continue towards the loch (the easy access path rejoins the route here and from the shortcut should turn left). In autumn when the leaves have fallen off the trees you can make a leaf picture. At the loch you will come to Hazelnut corner where there are three trees together. Try to find some hazelnuts under the trees. Squirrels and mice like to eat the nuts. You can now head around the loch to the right and return back to the start. Turning left here would bring you back to the play park.



Maple seeds



Bank Street, Galashiels

**Galashiels town**

In 1868 Galashiels was set up as a Parliamentary Burgh under the act of parliament of the same year; it remained as such until the new District Council of Ettrick and Lauderdale came into being in 1975. In 1903 the first motor car was registered in the town and from this time roads and streets were being improved. In 1972 the Town Council saved Bank Street from being lost when the Scottish Development Department proposed to run the A7 along this attractive shopping street. Bank Street's shops and gardens remain intact today. Galashiels boasts excellent and varied shopping in the original town centre and in the modern retail units where some of the mills once stood.

**Abbotsford**

In 1812 Sir Walter Scott moved his family onto the farm that he would later rename Abbotsford. With plans to create a grand estate he started to build a new house on the land in 1818; six years later the house was complete. The new grand mansion looks down on the River Tweed, on the outskirts of Galashiels, from its terraced lawns. In order to follow his dream and carry out his tree planting regimes Scott purchased more land until he owned 1000 acres. Only six months after his death the house was open to the public and has been enjoyed by visitors ever since. At the time of writing (2011) plans are being discussed to create a new visitor centre and educational facilities.



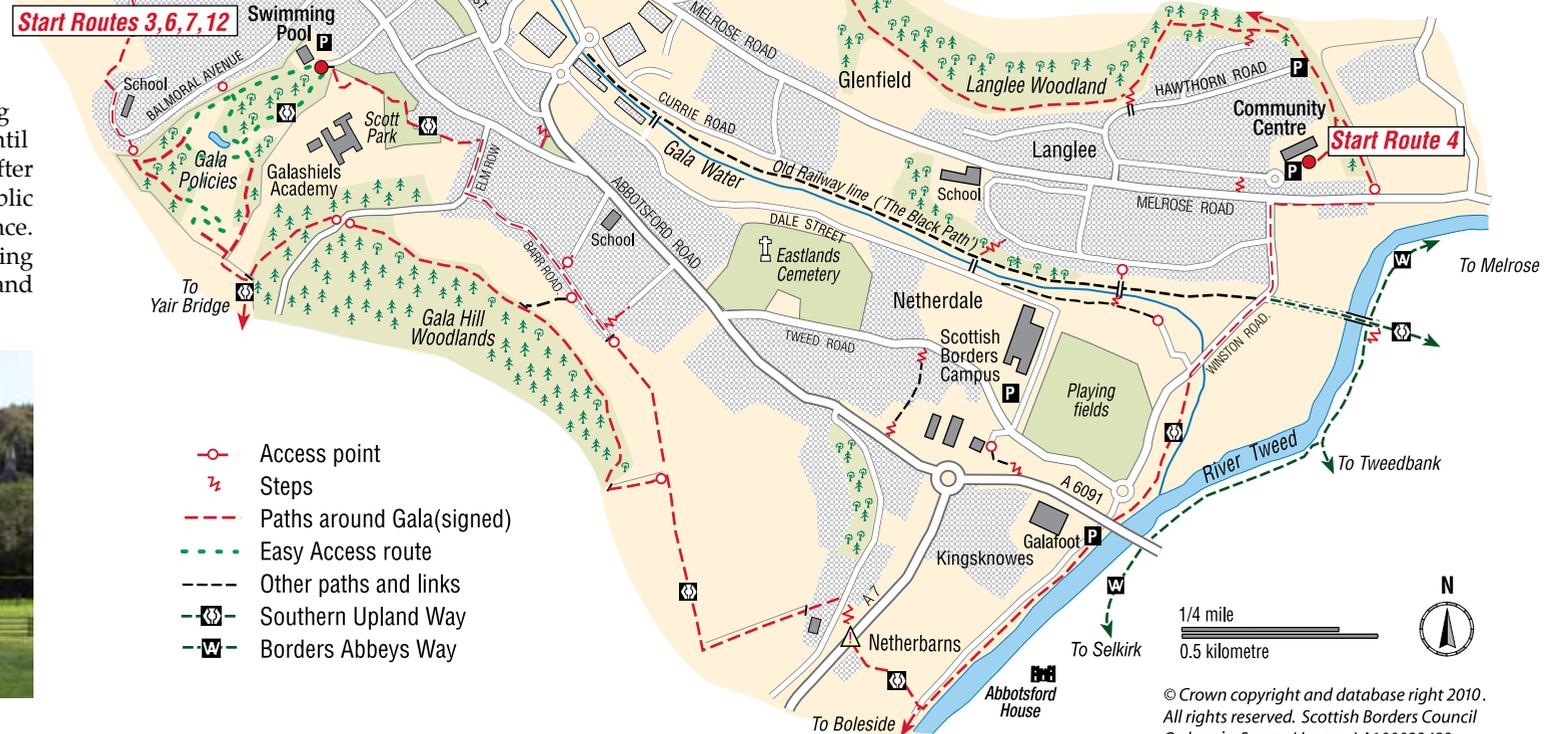
Abbotsford House

Start Routes 3, 6, 7, 12

Start Routes 1 & 2

Start Route 4

**Access to paths in and around Galashiels**



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Route 6

Gala Policies

**Start and finish:** Gala Policies car park by the swimming pool  
**Distance:** 1.6km/ 1 mile  
**Time:** 1 hour  
**Terrain:** woodland paths and tracks



Gala Policies

In 1974 the former Selkirkshire County Council purchased these policies. This woodland once formed part of a larger estate owned by Hugh Scott, Laird of Galashiels. Policies are defined as “the enclosed grounds of a large house, the park of an estate”. Although the original parkland was more extensive the legacy still remains intact. The policies are home to both native and foreign tree species, for example, giant redwoods (Wellingtonia) that grace one of the entrances to the park. There are short paths within the policies that pass the pond area, a modern piece of landscaping from the early 1990s.



Gala Policies

3. After a short distance join a path which emerges out onto a large open area, follow the path as it snakes up to a fine view point at the top of the grassy mound.
4. From the view point head downhill, keeping the dyke on your right hand side. Turn left when you meet the Southern Upland Way.
5. Follow the Southern Upland Way until you reach a path going down to a boardwalk at the pond. Explore around the ponds if you wish and then carry on following the Southern Upland Way back to the start of the route.

For Easy Access Circuit (1km)

A circuit using wide, level to gently sloping paths is possible. In some weather conditions some of the paths may be softer than usual so



Woodland in Gala Policies

1. Go through the gate and up the track, which served as the old driveway, to the site of New Gala House, demolished in 1985. This house and these grounds were laid out in the 1870s, for the Scott’s of Galashiels.
2. After a short distance the main track swings left around the back of the ponds (which can be visited later on this route). Here you must leave the main track and turn right and then right again to cross a bridge over the burn. Follow the path through the trees until another bridge is reached, going into the housing estate. Turn left here to stay in the woods and follow their top boundary, keep the wall on the right as a guide.

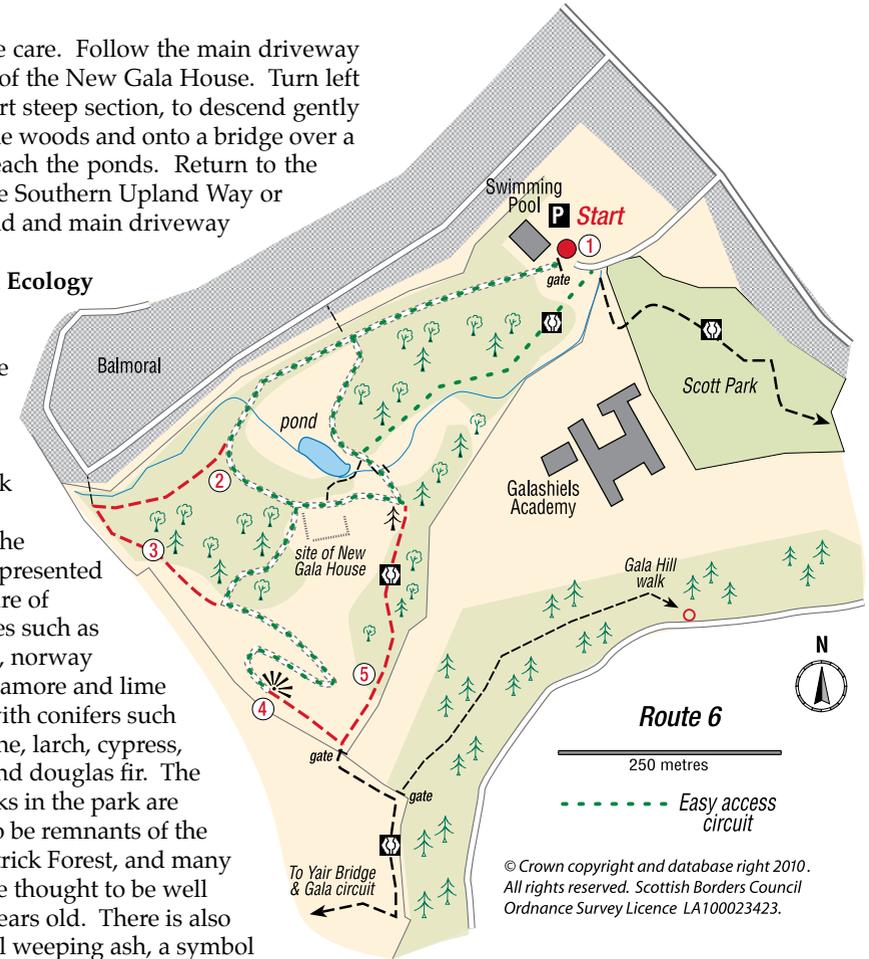
please take care. Follow the main driveway to the site of the New Gala House. Turn left after a short steep section, to descend gently through the woods and onto a bridge over a burn, to reach the ponds. Return to the start by the Southern Upland Way or by the pond and main driveway

Woodland Ecology

“Policy” planting, was a more formal type of planting dating back to the 19th Century. The wood is represented by a mixture of broadleaves such as oak, beech, norway maple, sycamore and lime together with conifers such as scots pine, larch, cypress, noble fir and douglas fir. The mature oaks in the park are believed to be remnants of the ancient Ettrick Forest, and many of them are thought to be well over 200 years old. There is also an unusual weeping ash, a symbol of which has been adopted as the park’s logo.

Mature trees are an ideal habitat for birds such as treecreeper, nuthatch and great spotted woodpeckers. In conifers, birds such as siskins, coal tits and goldcrests can be found. Throughout the area blue tits, great tits, blackbird, chaffinch, robin, wren and song thrush are found. Deadwood on the forest floor attracts invertebrates.

In areas you can find wood sorrel, ramson (or wild garlic), dog’s mercury and wood anemone. This indicates that parts of the



woodland have been undisturbed for a long time. Other plants include lesser celandine, common violet, primrose, purple meadow cranesbill and broom.

Although the woodland would once have been home to the native red squirrel, the introduced grey squirrel is now found. At dusk you may see pipistrelle bats flying around. Occasionally roe deer may stray this close to the town. This illustrates how the woodland acts as a corridor that brings wildlife right into the heart of Galashiels.

Route 7

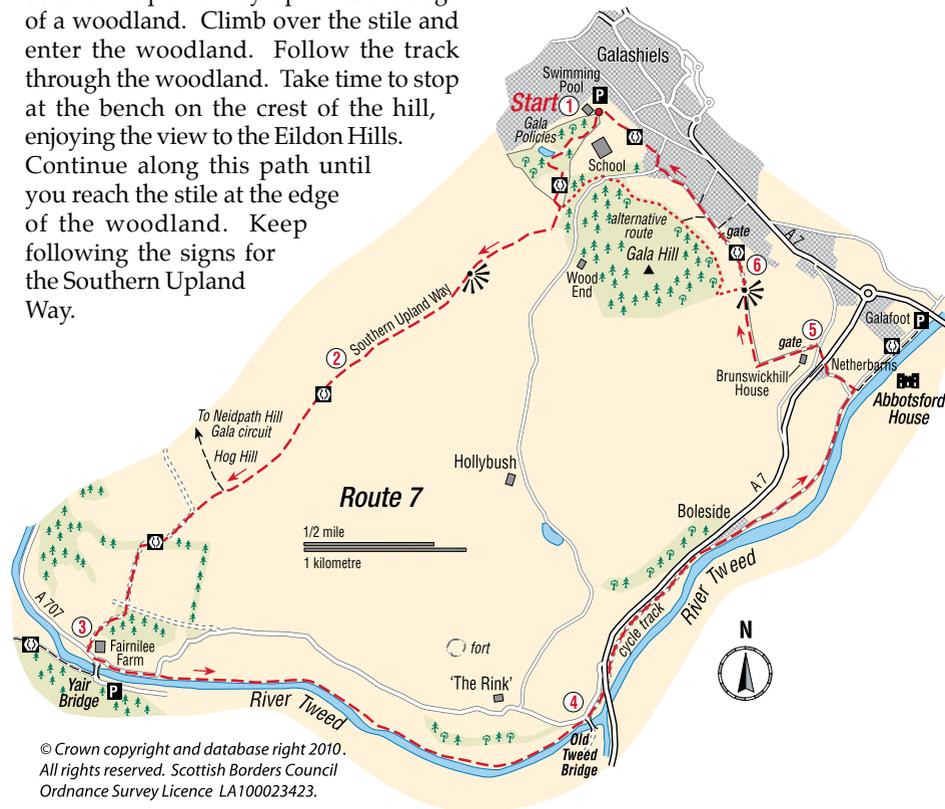
Hollybush Circular

**Start and finish:** Gala Policies, Livingstone Place, Galashiels  
**Distance:** 11km / 7 miles  
**Time:** 4 - 6 hours  
**Terrain:** field margins, paths, tarmac paths, minor roads. Stiles and steps on this route.



River Tweed near Boleside

1. Follow the Southern Upland Way through Gala Policies woodland for approximately 500m. When you reach an open field turn left and follow the dyke round to a stile. Go over this stile and turn right. You are continuing to follow the Southern Upland Way uphill to the edge of a woodland. Climb over the stile and enter the woodland. Follow the track through the woodland. Take time to stop at the bench on the crest of the hill, enjoying the view to the Eildon Hills. Continue along this path until you reach the stile at the edge of the woodland. Keep following the signs for the Southern Upland Way.



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2. Follow the path through a hummocky field to the next stile. You will continue to follow the waymarkers for the Southern Upland Way until you reach the road. When reaching the road you will leave the Southern Upland Way.
3. When you reach the road turn left. Take the next left turn just before the Yair Bridge. Follow this road for less than 500m then turn right down a track that leads along the river. Head along the riverside for 2.75 km. This is a beautiful section of the River Tweed flanked by mixed woodland on the southern side and birch woodland on the northern side. There are also a number of old gnarled alders between the track and the river. The last section, where the track becomes a grassy bank before the bridge, is part of 'The Rink' farm, named after the fort that sits on the hill above the present farmstead. The fort is actually a defended farmstead which dates back to the period between 2500-2000 years ago (Iron Age).
4. When you reach the stone bridge (Old Tweed Bridge), cross over the stile and climb the wooden steps to the left of the bridge. At the top of the steps go straight ahead and down the cycle track towards Galashiels. Continue along the cycle track as it runs parallel with the road and drops
5. Go through the hunt gate at the top of the track and follow this track, keeping the dyke on your right side.
6. At the end of this field on the other side of the gate, there is a monument to a local poet, Roger Quin, with a bench where you can enjoy the views over the town and beyond. (An alternative route from this point can be made by taking a left turn from this junction and returning to Gala Policies via Gala Hill, as shown on the map). From this viewpoint take the right hand fork of the path. At the bottom of the hill go through the gate and continue straight ahead. Follow this road until you reach a T-junction. Turn right down Elm Row and follow the Southern Upland Way signs until you return to Gala Policies.



Walkers at the Rink farm by Tweed

down towards the river again. Continue along the minor road onto which the path leads. Look out for a Southern Upland Way waymarker approximately 1.5km along this road and turn left up the bank, you have rejoined the Southern Upland Way at this point, and then turn right at the top. Follow this road to the A7 and cross the A7 with care to ascend the wooden steps at the other side of the road. Turn right at the top of these steps and follow the path until you meet the road. Cross the road and take the track after the entrance to Brunswickhill House.



Hollybush Farm near Galashiels

Route 8

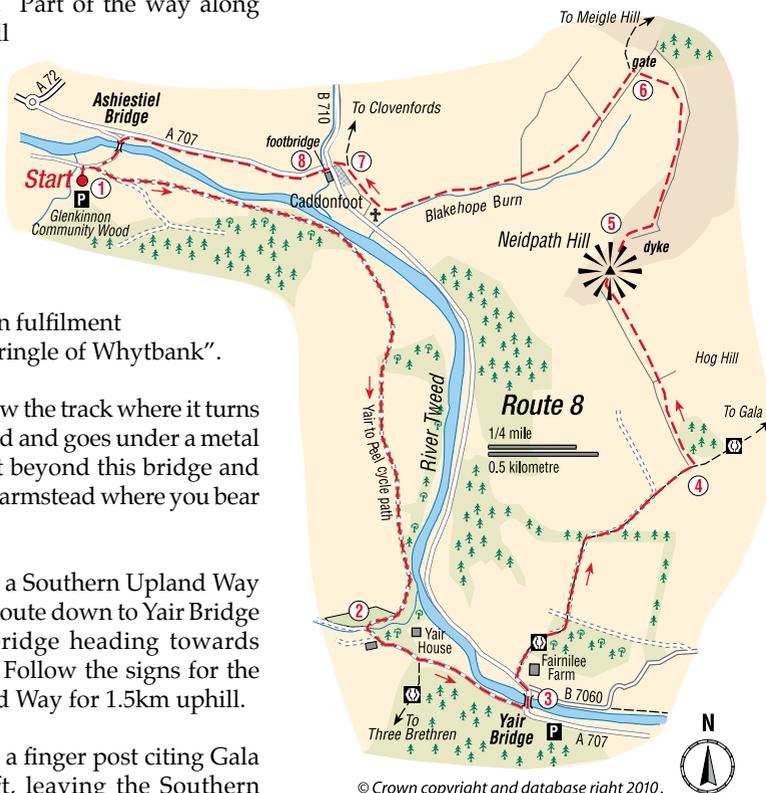
Peel and Yair

**Start and finish:** Glenkinnon Community Woodland car park  
**Distance:** 11km/7 miles  
**Time:** 4 - 5 hours  
**Terrain:** field and woodland paths, tracks, road. Some steep hills.



Yair Bridge

1. From the car park turn right, back towards the bridge and follow the track before the bridge onto the Peel Path, part of the Yair cycle route. Part of the way along the path you will gain a view of Caddonfoot Church nestled into the hillside below Meigle Farm. Caddonfoot Church was built in 1861 "...in fulfilment of...Alexander Pringle of Whytbank".
2. Continue to follow the track where it turns into a tarmac road and goes under a metal bridge. Bear left beyond this bridge and continue to Yair farmstead where you bear left again.
3. When you reach a Southern Upland Way sign follow this route down to Yair Bridge and cross the bridge heading towards Fairmile Farm. Follow the signs for the Southern Upland Way for 1.5km uphill.
4. When you reach a finger post citing Gala Circuit, turn left, leaving the Southern Upland Way, and follow the waymarkers uphill through two fields. Take time to enjoy the panoramic view from Neidpath Hill. If visibility is poor you should



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follow the next set of instructions without venturing to the summit cairns.

5. From this point turn right along the dyke and then head along the brow of the hill and then downhill, keeping the dyke on your right side. Continue to follow the dyke round from the corner and exit this field at the gate half way along the dyke.
6. Turn left and go through the next two fields then along a gorse path that goes gently downhill. Follow this path as it winds down along the Blakehope Burn. The path bends round to the right at the bottom of the hill to join the Green road.
7. Approximately 300m along this track take a left turn and follow the path through the gorse down to Caddonfoot.
8. Cross to the other side of the junction and follow this road over the bridge for almost 1km, there is a footpath on the left hand side for part of the way. Then take the



Walkers on Hog Hill

left turn down to Peel over the Ashiestiel Bridge and return to the car park where you started.



Blakehope path near Caddonfoot

Route 9

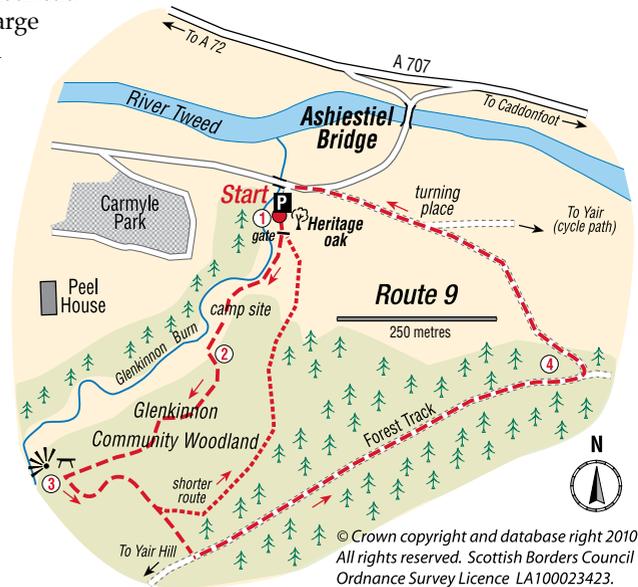
**Glenkinnon Community Woodland**

**Start and finish:** Yair Camp Site car park Caddonfoot, near Clovenfords.  
**Distance:** 2km/ 1 mile  
**Time:** 45 minutes - 1 hour  
**Terrain:** woodland paths and tracks



Glenkinnon Community Woodland sign

1. From the car park walk straight ahead towards the woodland. The large oak tree that keeps sentinel on the bank above the car park is listed among the fine examples of heritage trees in the Scottish Borders. Go round the side of the gate at the end of the car park and through the flat grass camp site area with the Glenkinnon Burn on your right. The ancient woodland along the burn makes this a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Take the path straight ahead of you where the Glenkinnon Community Woodland sign stands.



2. Follow the path up the bank through the cleared woodland. From the top of this banking you can see across to Peel House. In spring time this is a good observation point for viewing displaying goshawks.
3. Follow the waymarkers round to the right for 200m until you meet a forestry track. Turn left onto this track and follow it for 350m.



Biodiversity Trail, Glenkinnon

4. Turn left and follow this track back down to the car park. The forest is owned by the Forestry Commission for Scotland and managed by Border Forest Trust.

**Shorter route:** You may turn left before reaching the higher track to take a shorter circular route back through a pleasant woodland glade surrounded by birch trees.

**Glenkinnon Community Woodland**

Glenkinnon Burn is a woodland site in the Tweed Valley. owned by Forestry Commission Scotland. It forms part of a 25 year agreement between Forestry Commission Scotland and Borders Forest Trust to encourage community involvement in the restoration and conservation of semi-natural woodlands. The woodland is managed through a joint management board which meets regularly.

The woodland was a conifer plantation. After clearfelling the lower area was planted with mixed native hardwoods, including oak. Further up the SSSI valley are more conifers. The felling of further conifer blocks has been delayed temporarily due to concerns regarding the effect of increased light and changes to the micro climate that could affect the regionally important lichens, mosses and liverworts found in this special valley.



Wildlife enthusiasts on an evening walk

**Biodiversity trail**

The Forestry Education Initiative supported the installation of a Biodiversity Trail at Glenkinnon. Walkers and school groups are encouraged to read the information boards on site and explore the themes of the woodland. Seed dispersal, woodland layers, a tree race, colourful picnic tables with woodland animal artwork, and trap doors into the woodland floor are some of the points on the route.



Watching a Poplar Hawkmoth



Biodiversity information at the Glenkinnon trail

Route 10

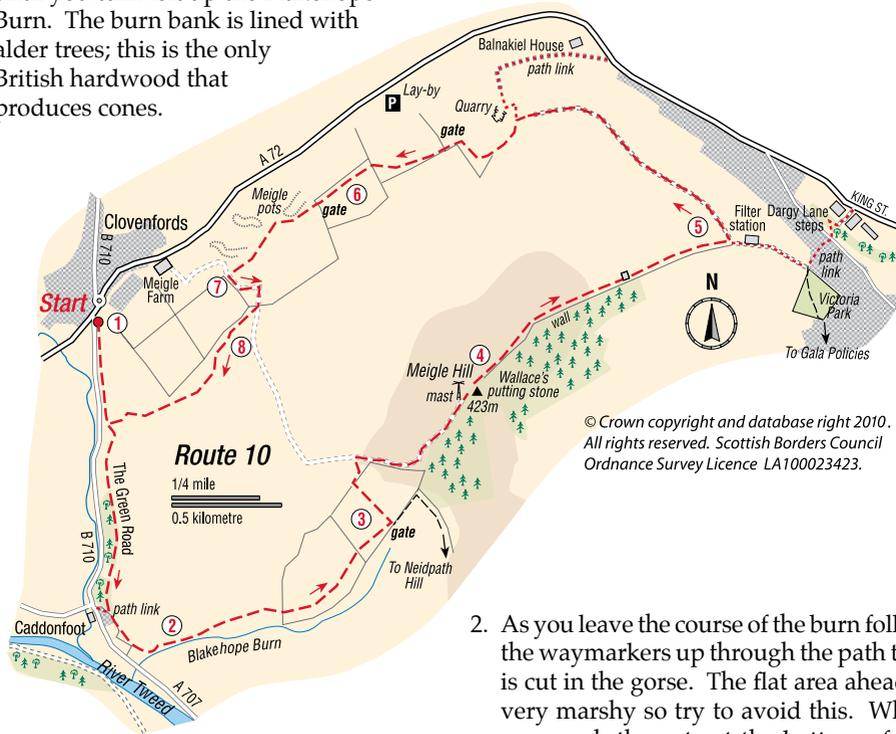
Meigle Circular

**Start and finish:** The Green Path, Meigle Farm, Clovenfords  
**Distance:** 10km/6 miles  
**Time:** 4 - 5 hours  
**Terrain:** paths, field margins and tracks. Stepping stones.



Looking south from the Green Path

1. The start of the Green Road can be found just as you turn left onto the B710 to Caddonfoot. A short path called the green path leads to the historic Green Road. Follow the Green Road for 1.5km until you turn left up the Blakehope Burn. The burn bank is lined with alder trees; this is the only British hardwood that produces cones.



2. As you leave the course of the burn follow the waymarkers up through the path that is cut in the gorse. The flat area ahead is very marshy so try to avoid this. When you reach the gate at the bottom of the bank, enter this field and follow the dyke up to the next gateway. Go through this gate and follow the dyke until you reach a hunt gate.

3. Turn left, with the hunt gate behind you, and cross the field going uphill towards the field gate ahead of you. Go through, turn right and climb Meigle Hill along the track that was built for access to the masts. Just inside the woodland stands an impressive cairn near to Wallace's Putting Stone, a glacial erratic.
4. From here follow the dyke downhill for 1.3km passing a pumping station. Keep following the dyke until a track goes off to the left.
5. Follow this track for just over 1km round to the quarry. Follow the waymarkers that take you along the back of the quarry. When you reach the first field turn right and go through the gate at the bottom. Then turn left, go through the gate straight ahead of you and cross the stepping stones in front of you. Continue along this field exiting the gate straight ahead of you. Follow the track through the middle of the next field and exit this field through the gate in the middle of the dyke.
6. From here follow the track through Meigle Potts. This area is alleged to have housed secret outdoor services of the Covenanters in the 1640s. When you reach the concrete track that leads down to Meigle Farm, turn left to head uphill. Turn right to follow the field edges. Continue through gates beside fields. In this last field veer left downhill to meet the Green Road again. Go through the field gate and turn right round on yourself to go back through the hunt gate exiting along the Green Road back to Clovenfords.

**Links**

**From Caddonfoot,** where the B710 meets the A707 take the gate that leads up the gorse bank and follow the path that winds its way up to the Green Road.



Autumn on the Green Road

**From Galashiels,** take the steps at Darghai Lane from King Street by walking through the old mill buildings here. Turn right at the top where you meet Manse Street near Victoria Park. Follow the road up to the filter station until it joins the track at the base of Meigle Hill. From here on follow the instructions as for above. The third link into Galashiels is along the quarry road that leaves the A72 signposted for Balnakiel.



Upper slopes of Meigle Hill

Route 11

Torwoodlee Circular

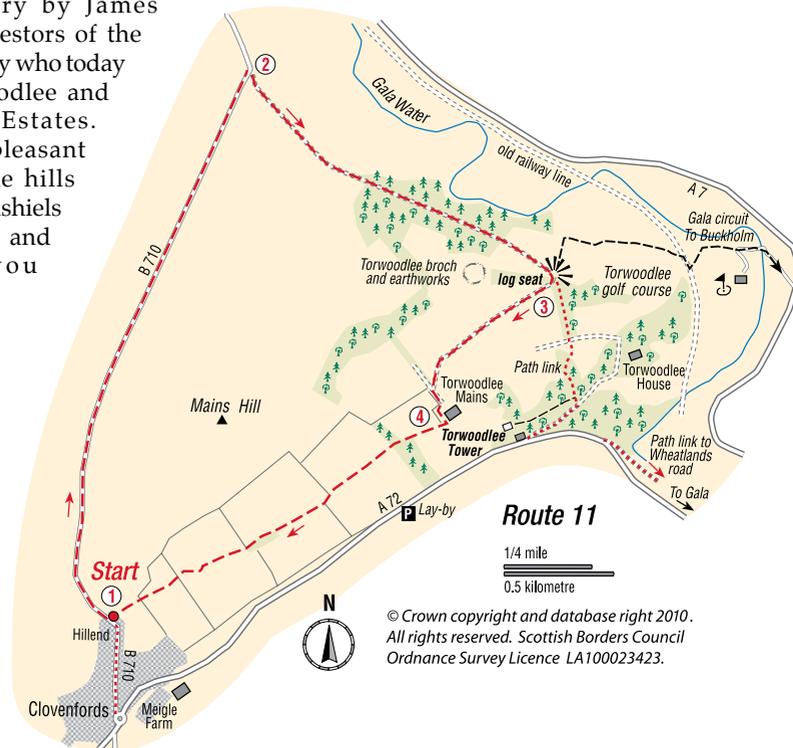
**Start and finish:** Clovenfords  
**Distance:** 7km / 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles  
**Time:** 3 - 4 hours  
**Terrain:** farm and woodland tracks, minor roads



Torwoodlee Tower

walkit

1. Start in Clovenfords taking care to park considerably. Head to the start by following the B710 to Hillend at the north edge of Clovenfords. Follow this road up the hill for approximately 2.75km. Look out for Whytbank Tower to your left almost hidden in the woodlands. This tower was built in the 16th century by James Pringle, ancestors of the Pringle family who today own Torwoodlee and Buckholm Estates. There are pleasant views of the hills around Galashiels to the north and east as you ascend.



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2. At a fingerpost you will be guided right, along a track towards Torwoodlee Mains. Go through three gates on this track before reaching a Y-junction. Take the right hand fork here. This track winds its way up through a young scot's pine woodland. You will get pleasant views down to the Gala Water as you ascend. Follow the track for 1.5km until you reach a junction that looks over Torwoodlee Golf Course on your left. Take the track to your right, with the golf course behind you, towards the farm buildings.
3. This track is set between fields looking over to Torwoodlee Mains on your left. When you reach the farm buildings follow the signs through the farm steading that lead you on to a well maintained track.
4. You will have to go through several gates on this stretch so please leave them as you find them. Torwoodlee is a working farm so please be considerate when there are farm operations occurring at the time of your visit. Sections of this track may be muddy as the cattle and sheep have feeding stations along this section. This track will lead you straight back to your starting point at Hillend.



Sir Walter Scott Memorial

**Links:** You can follow the old railway line then follow the pavement up to the bottom of Torwoodlee House's drive. You can follow the drive until the waymarkers take you left up to Torwoodlee Tower or further on to meet Torwoodlee Circular. You will join the Torwoodlee Circular at the gate that leads into the golf course.



Old driveway to Torwoodlee Tower

Route 12

Gala Circuit

**Start and finish:** Gala Policies  
**Distance:** 25km / 16 miles  
**Time:** 8 - 10 hours  
**Terrain:** Paths, tracks, minor roads (some areas may be muddy at times)



Looking west towards the Moorfoot Hills from Buckholm

1. From the starting point follow the Southern Upland Way through the policy woodlands, heading south west. Continue to follow the Southern Upland Way for 3km until you reach the gate below Hogg Hill, a fingerpost will cite the different routes at this point. Here you will leave the Southern Upland Way, turn right, but do not go through the gate, and head along the field between the fence and the woodland. Go through the next gate and head straight up the next field along the side of the dyke, keeping the dyke on your left. When you go through the gate at the top of the hill you can walk up to the cairns and take in the most spectacular views. However, if visibility is poor you should turn right immediately.
2. Follow the dyke along the brow of the hill and then downhill. When you reach the corner of the field continue following the dyke, keeping it on your right hand side. Go through the hunt gate halfway along this dyke. Cut straight across the field with the hunt gate behind you and go uphill towards the field gate ahead of you. When you go through the field gate, head up to join the track just above you. Turn left when you reach the track and follow it downhill for 1km until you go over a cattle grid then following the waymarking, you go through a gate then along a field margin. Go through the gate at the other end of the field. Go through the next field and exit the gate straight ahead of you; in this last field veer left

downhill to the corner of the field. Go through the field gate and turn right to go back through the hunt gate to return to Clovenfords on the woodlands path.

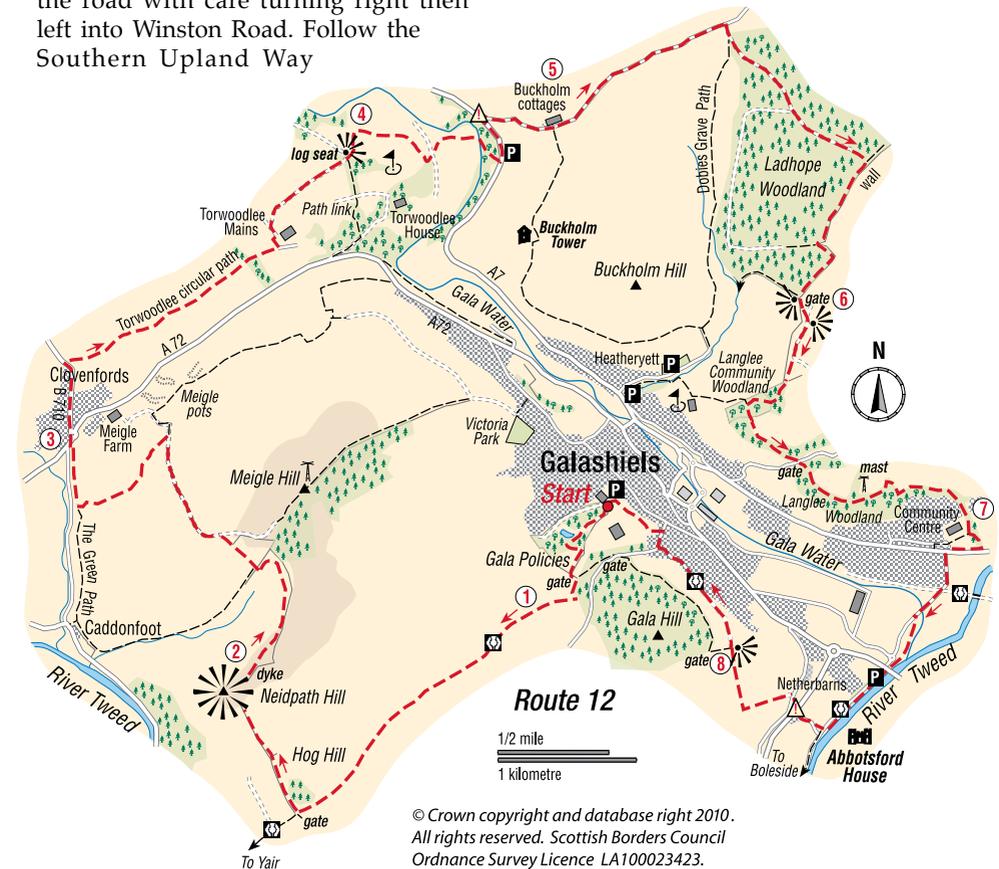
3. When you reach Clovenfords turn right onto the A72. At the roundabout head straight up the B710. At Hillend turn right onto the Torwoodlee Circular path and follow the track through to the farm yard and beyond until you reach Torwoodlee Golf Course.
4. Go through the hunt gate into the golf course giving due consideration to the golfers and keeping well into the left around the perimeter. When you reach the bridge, over the former railway line, turn left and follow the road leading out of the golf course turning left onto the A7. Follow the A7 along the footpath for less than 500m. Then with care cross the A7 to turn right into Buckholm.
5. Continue, eventually joining the Buckholm Circular at Buckholm cottages. Continue on the minor road for 1.5km until you reach the right turn into Ladhope Woodland. Follow the way marked track through the woodland for 1.5km until you reach the edge of the woodland.

Turn right and follow the path along the woodland edge for another 1.3km.

6. Leave the woodland through a gate on your left almost in the corner of the wood. Turn right when you go through this gate joining a track heading south that meets the path to Langlee Community Woodland. At this point you are joining Route 3. Follow the waymarkers through Langlee Community Woodland and Langlee Woodland.
7. Continue to follow the path past Langlee Community Centre staying on the woodland path to Melrose Road. Cross the road with care turning right then left into Winston Road. Follow the Southern Upland Way

along the River Tweed and then with care cross the A7 continuing through Netherbarns and returning to Gala Policies.

8. An alternative route from this point follows the path along Gala Hill. If you wish to take this route turn left once you go through the gate, where stands a memorial stone to Roger Quin. Follow the route up to and through Gala Hill as shown on the map. The path at the other side of Gala Hill comes out to connect with Gala Policies or drops back into the town centre.



### Further route suggestions

Information on these and other routes is available from Visit Scotland and at Tourist Information Centres in the Scottish Borders. The Scottish Borders Council website includes booklets and information free to download. This includes the town trail, Borders Abbeys Way, St Cuthberts Way, Southern Upland Way short walks, Paths around towns and cycling trails. [www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk).

### Galashiels Town Trail

Set up with the Old Gala Club, Scottish Borders Council and the Tourist Board at the time. The route of the Galashiels town trail is outlined on the back of this booklet.



### The Southern Upland Way

is Britain's first official coast to coast long distance path. It runs 340km (212miles) across southern Scotland from Portpatrick on the south-western coast to Cockburnspath on the east coast. The booklet "Short Walks on the Southern Upland Way" describes a range of routes including The Three Brethren and Lauder Common.



### The Borders Abbeys Way

The Borders Abbeys Way reaches Galashiels near Abbotsford House. It provides an opportunity to explore the Scottish Borders. Abbeys, towns, villages, rivers, countryside, wildlife and many other points of interest are all part of this 109km (68mile) trail linking Jedburgh, Hawick, Selkirk, Melrose, St Boswells, Kelso and Jedburgh. Regular public transport is available to and from Selkirk, Melrose and St Boswells, allowing for linear walks back to Galashiels. A full booklet is available.

### St Cuthberts Way

A 100km(62.5 mile) route from Melrose to the Northumberland Coast and Lindisfarne.

### Paths around Towns booklets

Booklets are available that include paths around many local towns. The Melrose and Selkirk booklets include many routes within a short distance of Galashiels. Paths include the Eildon Hills, Abbotsford and Cauldshiels Loch. Tweed and Ettrick river paths, Bowhill and Philiphaugh.

### Forestry Paths

The Forestry Commission has waymarked trails at Thornielee Forest, reached by taking the A72 West of Clovenfords. Also at Lindiny Wood at Yair.



Meg and Willie Sculpture, Thornielee Forest

### Buckleuch Country Ride

A set of maps outlining these horseriding routes may be purchased from Visit Scotland or one of the Tourist Information Centres in the Borders.

### Local Cycling Trails

These leaflets describe colour coded signed routes. Routes in the Galashiels area are included in the Selkirk and Melrose Cycling Trail leaflets.

### Acknowledgements

The routes in this booklet were developed by the local Galashiels community and in co-operation with the owners and farmers whose land they cross. Their co-operation is gratefully acknowledged. Funding for the routes came from the European Union whose assistance is also acknowledged.

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.

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

### Contact Information

**Abbotsford House**  
[www.scottsabbotsford.co.uk](http://www.scottsabbotsford.co.uk)

**Old Gala Club**  
[www.oldgalaclub.org.uk](http://www.oldgalaclub.org.uk)

**Borders Forest Trust – Glenkinnon and Langlee Community woodlands**  
[www.bordersforesttrust.org](http://www.bordersforesttrust.org)

**VisitScotland Borders**  
 Shepherd's Mill, Whinfield Road,  
 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, Melrose, Kelso,  
 Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.  
**Opening dates and times vary**  
 For Information: Tel: 01835 863170

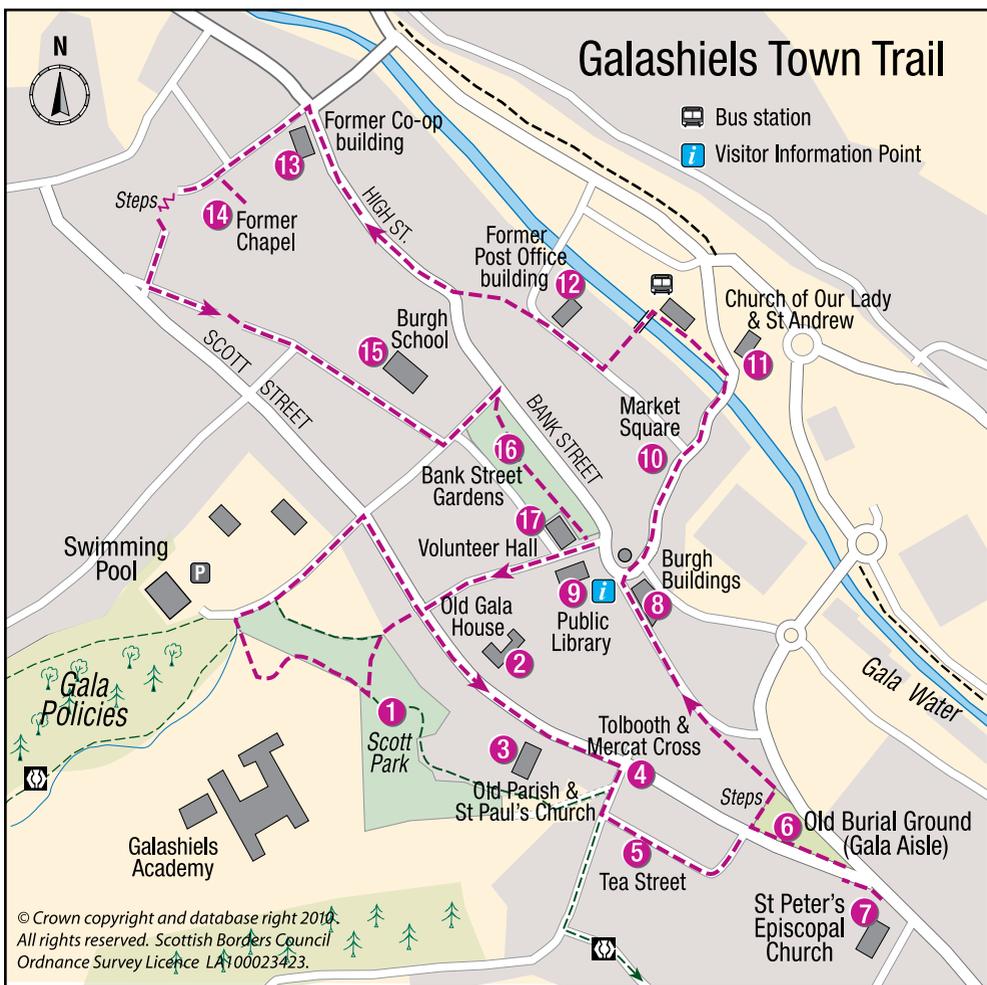
**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
*(Information on Scottish Outdoor Access Code*  
 Lothian & Borders Area Office  
 Tel: 01896 756652  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)  
**Forestry Commission Trails**  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

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

**Scottish Borders Council**  
*Town Trail, cycling routes, Tweedbank Park, Langlee Woodland, Gala Policies, and Old Gala House Museum.*  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)  
**Scottish Borders Countryside** website:  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking)  
**Access & Countryside Team & Walk It**  
 Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells,  
 Melrose, TD6 0SA  
 Tel: 01835 825060  
 email: [outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk)  
 email: [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)  
 email: [walkit@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:walkit@scotborders.gov.uk)

**Other websites**  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/bordersabbesway](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/bordersabbesway)  
 For further information on walking in Scotland, visit: [www.walkingwild.com](http://www.walkingwild.com)  
**The Southern Upland Way** website is  
[www.southernuplandway.gov.uk](http://www.southernuplandway.gov.uk)  
**Scottish Borders Walking Festival**  
[www.borderswalking.com](http://www.borderswalking.com)

**Mountain Rescue Team** - Scottish Borders  
 It is considered best practice to alert the MRT to all incidents where a casualty is located on a hill, moor, upland or other countryside, or missing on such ground even if the Ambulance Service has been requested.  
 To call the MRT to such incidents the following procedure should be followed:  
 1. Dial 999  
 2. Ask for Police  
 3. Tell the Police that you require Mountain Rescue  
 Tell the Police why and where you require the MRT.



A short and easy walk you may like to try is the **Galashiels Town Trail**. The trail takes about 2 hours to complete and is an excellent way to discover the town of Galashiels. It provides an added dimension of local history and flavour of the towns development through time. The full Town Trail guide is available from Visit Scotland or online at [www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking)



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