

paths

around Chirnside and Paxton



Our Scottish Borders
Your destination

£2.00

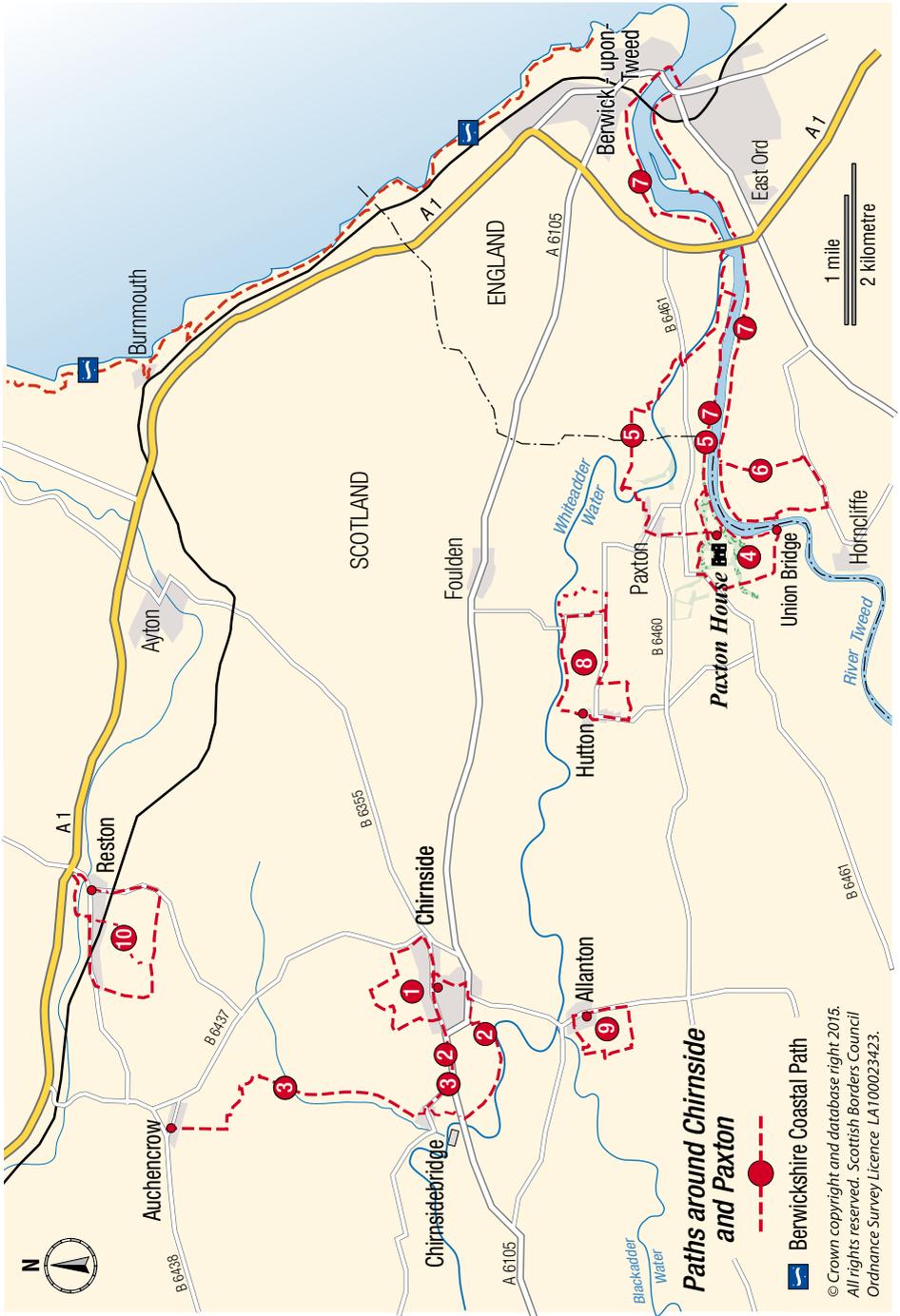
Contents

Route 1	5km/3miles	The Loanings, Chirnside	8
Route 2	5.5km/3½miles	Ninewells & Whiteadder Water, Chirnside	10
Route 3	7km/4½miles	Chirnside to Auchencrow	12
Route 4	5km/3miles	Paxton House to Union Chain Bridge	14
Route 5	10km/6miles	Paxton House to Whiteadder Bridge	16
Route 6	5.5km/3½miles	Union Chain Bridge Circular	18
Route 7	9km/5½ miles	Paxton House to Berwick-Upon-Tweed	20
Route 8	5.5km/3½miles	Hutton Circular	24
Route 9	4.5km/2½miles	Allanton Circular	26
Route 10	5km/3miles	Reston Circular	28



Paxton House

Cover image: River Tweed meets the Whiteadder west of Berwick



Introduction

This booklet includes routes starting from Chirnside and Paxton House in Central Berwickshire, Scottish Borders along with circular routes around Hutton, Allanton and Reston. The walks provide a variety of distances, terrains and choice of locations in mid-Berwickshire, close to the Anglo-Scots border. It also offers walks along the banks of the River Tweed and the Whiteadder Water. The routes are especially suitable for walkers. Other users may not be able to use all parts of the routes where there are steps and/or stiles.

The routes described range from short strolls to longer walks to Berwick-upon Tweed (from Paxton House). Each route has a summary containing distance, estimated time to complete, start and finish points and an indication of the terrain to be expected. The routes include historical and natural interest which is alluded to in the text.

Acknowledgements

The co-operation of farmers, landowners, estate managers, local communities, walking groups and Northumberland Rights of Way Officer in developing these routes is gratefully acknowledged.

Chirnside

Perched on a ridge, Chirnside can be seen for miles from the surrounding area. The village derives its name from the 'Cairn' which stood on the hill at the east end. The Scottish Enlightenment philosopher David Hume (1711-1776), went to school in Chirnside and lived in Ninewells House just south of the village. Chirnside is also the last resting place of Jim Clark the former world champion Formula One racing driver. The clock in the centre of the village stands as a memorial to his achievements.



Jim Clark Memorial

The Jim Clark Room in Duns contains a display of trophies, photographs and other memorabilia.

Paxton

A small village situated beside the River Tweed, it was traditionally home to villagers working on the land and the salmon fishery. Paxton is also the location for Paxton House. This Georgian stately home, grounds and collections are open to the public between April and November. The house is well worth a visit with its wonderful collections providing a wealth of interest. In 1988, the last laird of Paxton House, John David Home Robertson, gave the country house and its 80 acre estate to the nation for their benefit and enjoyment. The Paxton Trust now encourages, preserves and protects this asset for the public. The Tea

Room is open throughout the year. Paxton House charges a grounds admission fee (valid for whole year) to cover the preservation and maintenance of the House and Grounds. Further information can be found at www.paxtonhouse.co.uk.

River Tweed

One of the great salmon rivers of Britain, the Tweed rises in the hills near where the rivers Clyde and Annan also rise. The river is 156km long and flows primarily through the scenic Scottish Borders region. Continuing eastwards the river forms the historic boundary between Scotland and England and its lower reaches are near Berwick. The name of the river comes from the Gaelic word for north, 'thuaidh', which was later Anglicised into Tweed.

Whiteadder Water

The Whiteadder flows from the Lammermuir Hills and joins the River Tweed to the west of Berwick. On its journey it joins the Fasney Water to form the Whiteadder Reservoir (created in 1968). From there it passes through a number of communities including Chirnside, Allanton and Paxton. At Allanton the Water joins with the Blackadder Water. The lowermost section of the Whiteadder is a Site of Scientific Interest by virtue of its water crowfoot, salmon, lamprey and moulting mute swans. The water also provides recreational salmon and trout fishing.

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 or telephoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

General Advice

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

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

Take great care when walking on country roads.

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

Livestock

Some of the routes in this booklet pass through livestock farming areas. Please remember that the farmer's livelihood may depend on the rearing and sale of livestock, and always act responsibly. Dogs can be a particular concern for farmers during lambing time (March – May) and when cows are calving (Spring & Autumn). NEVER approach a calf that's on its own; the mother will not be far away and may attack you.

- Dogs therefore should not be taken into fields where there are young livestock. This includes all young livestock such as lambs, calves and foals. In more open countryside where lambs are present, keep your dog on a short lead. Disturbance at this time can separate young livestock from their mothers leaving them cold, hungry and exposed to predators.
- Dogs should not be taken into fields of cattle when they have calves, as the cows see a dog as a threat and may attack it. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land.
- During the bird breeding season (April – June) keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in ground nesting areas.

Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, keeping a safe distance from stock and watching them carefully, you should experience little or no difficulty. Please leave gates as you find them and ensure that if you have to open a gate, you close it securely behind you. Thank you for your cooperation, which will help to ensure that these walks are available for those who follow in your footsteps in future years.



Health Warning!

Germs from animals can cause serious human illness.

Stay safe from diseases when out in the countryside by:

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

Contact the Public Health Department for more information 01896 825560

Waymarking and Maps

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

Key to map symbols

- promoted route
- other path
-  Berwickshire Coastal Path
-  viewpoint
-  caution, take care
-  car parking
-  bus stop
-  cafe
-  public toilet
-  visitor information



Walk it is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders and aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. Our walks are usually short and easy though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients. For information telephone 01835 825070.



Walk it Further. These are a series of progression walks. The routes are longer; typically 4 miles plus and would take over 1.5 hours to complete. However they are accessible and achievable for Walk It Walkers.

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.

Visit: www.borderswalking.com

Toilet Facilities

Public toilets are available in Chirnside, Paxton House and Berwick-upon-Tweed.



Route 1

The Loanings, Chirnside

Start and finish: Crosshill Car Park, Chirnside



Distance: 5 km / 3 miles

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

Terrain: Pavements, grass paths, farm tracks.

Parking: Crosshill Car Park

Facilities: Toilets, café and shops in Chirnside

The Loanings is a network of paths and tracks to the north of Chirnside. On a clear day walking The Loanings gives you a good panoramic view of the surrounding countryside including the Lammermuir Hills. The area is rich in wildlife due to the small plantation of trees and abundant hedgerows. You may see many hedgerow birds, game birds, or be lucky and see hares, foxes and roe deer.

- 1 Leave Crosshill car park and head east along the pavement on Main Street East End. After 800m you leave Chirnside and follow the pavement round to the left.
- 2 A finger post directs you to 'The Loanings' and a grass path that runs north between a fence line and a hedge. After 600m leave the grass path and turn left onto a farm track.
- 3 Follow this path for a further 400m and then turn right and follow a field margin keeping the fence line to your right. This will take you to the northern end of 'The Loanings'.



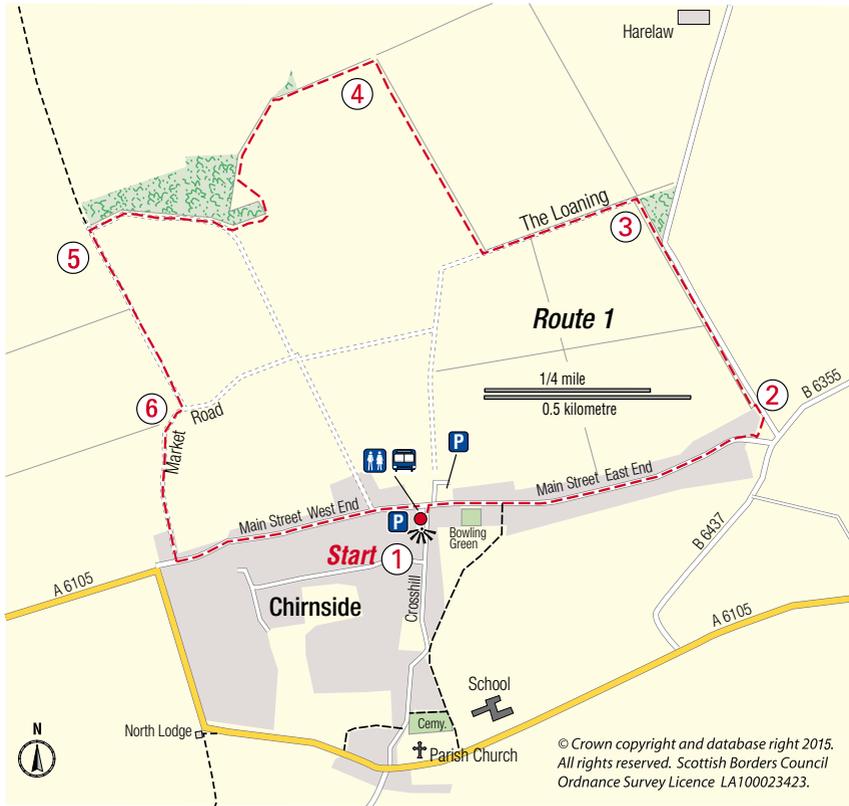
Chaffinch

- 4 At the top of the field turn left still keeping the fence line on your right. At the southern end of a wooded area you cross over a stile and follow the edge of the wood, keeping it on your right.
- 5 Exiting the field through a break in the hedgerow you turn right onto another farm track. To your right you will see the imposing sight of Chirnside Mill's chimney stack.
- 6 At the intersection of another farm track turn right and follow this path back to Chirnside. Exiting onto Main Street West End turn left and head back up the hill to where you started

Within 'The Loanings' are a number of intersections and farm tracks that will lead you back to Chirnside. These are shown on the map so you can decide if you wish extend or shorten your walk.



Hare



Lammermuirs

Route 2

Ninewells and the Whiteadder Water, Chirnside

Start and finish: Crosshill Car Park, Chirnside



Distance: 5.5 km / 3½ miles

Time: 1½ – 2 hours

Terrain: Pavements, grass paths, farm tracks and roads

Parking: Crosshill Car Park

Facilities: Toilets, café and shops in Chirnside

This route is the start of the David Hume Walk to Auchencrow.

- 1 Leave Crosshill car park and head east along the main street. After passing the Co-op there is a sign post for 'School', turn right and head down the path. Heading down the hill you will see the 12th century church along with panoramic views of the Merse. After 250m on your right will be the Ninewells Dovecot.

'Ninewells Dovecot'. This circular structure dates back to the 16th century and is one of a number of dovecots built to house and feed pigeons over the winter. It is reputed that the land on which it stands was won in a wager, from the owner of Whitehall, by Hume of Ninewells who erected the dovecot so the birds would feed on his neighbours crops.

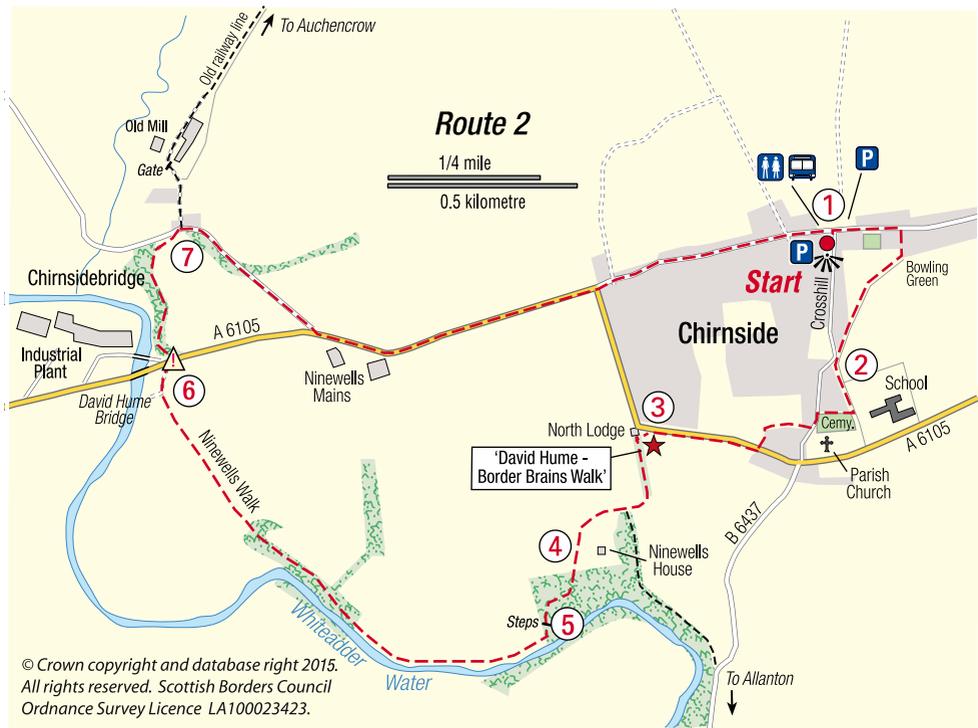
- 2 Continue down the hill for another 75m and turn right. As you exit the path onto the pavement turn left. At a gravel car park near to the church follow the sign post for 'McBain's Path'. Exiting onto a tarmac road turn left and then at the junction cross over to the pavement and turn right.

- 3 Just before the North Lodge you pick up the 'Ninewells Path'. Take this path, pass through a gate and turn left down a grass track. Passing a sign post follow the directions for 'Chirnside Mill' along a grass track. On your left is Ninewells House.

Ninewells is named for the springs that flow from the hillside into the Whiteadder Water. In the 19th Century it was described as 'a handsome Tudor edifice of 1840-41', successor to an older mansion, which was the childhood home of the historian and philosopher David Hume (1711-76), and his occasional residence after his fame was won. Monty Python even praised him in their Philosopher's Song. It was the seat, too, of his nephew and namesake, Baron Hume (1756-1838), the eminent writer on criminal jurisprudence. During World War II it was designated as a hostel for Polish and Eastern European displaced persons. Some Polish army personnel were billeted there with others lodging with Chirnside families. Around 1942-1943 it was designated as a prisoner of war camp.



Ninewells Dovecot



- ④ Passing through a gate you enter a wooded area. On a quiet day you can hear the running water of the Whiteadder. Descend down some steps and turn right at the bottom. In the valley below you get your first glimpse of Whiteadder Water.
- ⑤ Another set of steps takes you down to the riverside. Follow the river upstream for 600m where upon a way post directs you up into a wooded area and a steep climb. Continue to follow the path through the woods passing two further way posts. Exiting onto a farm track turn right to the main road.
- ⑥ Carefully cross the road and 50m to the right is a sign directing you into another wooded area. Along this path to the left is Chirnside Paper Mill.

The first mill dates from 1827 although all that remains is thought to be the Porter's Lodge. In 1842 it was reconstructed and enlarged by David Cousin for the Young Trotter Company. It grew again in the 19th century to meet the demands for fine paper produced from rags. The disused railway line used to deliver materials to the factory.

- ⑦ At the end of this path exit onto a minor road. At this point if you wish to continue on the David Hume Way go to Route 3. Otherwise turn right being aware of the oncoming traffic. Continue the walk along the pavement to the next junction and the main road into Chirnside. Turn left here, the outskirts of the village are reached in 750m; the car park is 650m along the road.

Route 3

Chirnside to Auchencrow

Start and finish: Crosshill Car Park, Chirnside to Auchencrow

Distance: 7 km / 4½ miles

Time: 2 – 2½ hours

Terrain: Pavements, grass paths, farm tracks

Parking: Crosshill Car Park

Facilities: Toilets, café and shops in Chirnside. Craw Inn, Auchencrow



Chirnside bridge Paper Mill

Buses are available from Duns to Chirnside and Auchencrow. Check Travelline Scotland for bus times in order to plan your journey if doing a linear route. A return trip via the road back to Chirnside is 6km / 4miles.

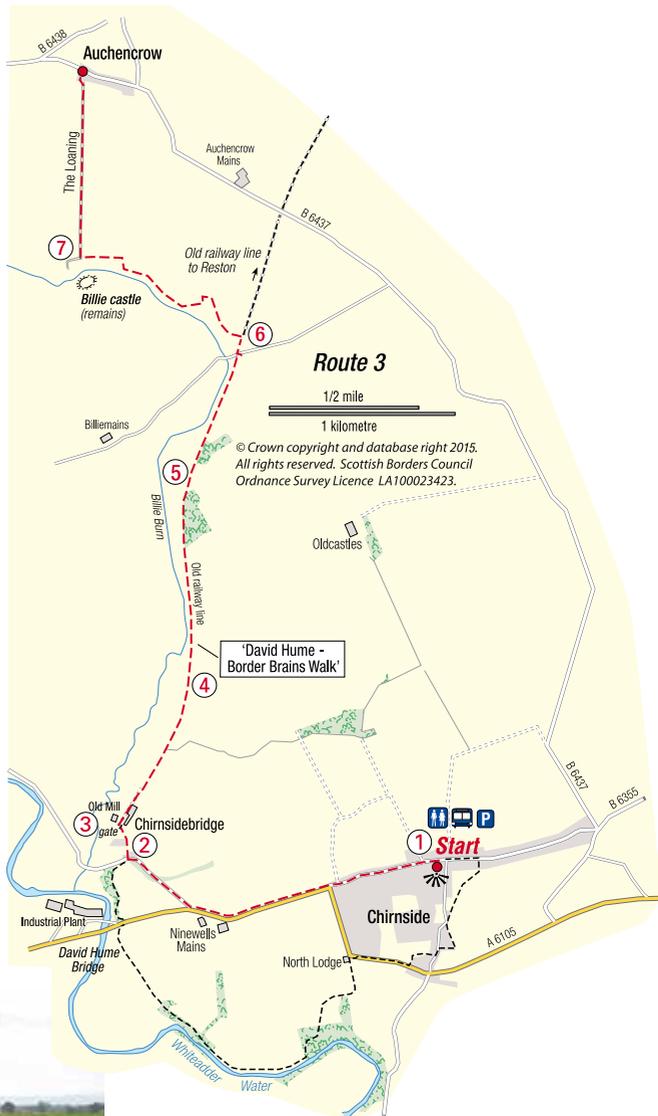
This route is part of the David Hume Walk. You can extend this walk by starting with Route 2 which takes you past Ninewells and the Whiteadder Water.

David Hume is hailed as Britain's greatest and most loved philosopher, who influenced the novelist Sir Walter Scott and the scientists Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein. He was also a popular historian and his best-selling, six volume History of England was in continuous print for 100 years, making him a very rich man. At the mere age of 28, Hume published his masterpiece A Treatise of Human Nature: an ambitious project to establish a science of man. In April 2011, Chirnside celebrated the 300th anniversary of Hume's birth by hosting a Philosophy Festival for villagers and visitors.

Further information is available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking

- ① Leave the car park and head left down Chirnside's Main Street keeping to the pavements. After 600m cross the road and continue west along the A6105. After a further 750m take the road to the right and head for Chirnsidebridge.
- ② After passing a telephone box on your right turn right onto a tarmac road at the Rockcliffe House. Follow the road round to the left when you will come to a farm. Go through the small gate on the left and turn right keeping the wooden fence on your right.
- ③ Pass through a metal farm gate and keep to the field margin. After 175m you start walking on the dismantled Berwickshire Railway Line. After 750m you pass through a wooden gate. As you are walking along the track look out for the wildlife including hares, partridge and pheasant.
- ④ A further 300m along pass through another gate. On your left is the Billie Burn which runs down from Billiemains. Further along are two ponds either side of the track with reed beds before you descend a slope and pass through two gates. There is a finger post indicating Auchencrow is 2mils. On your right is a wood plantation which you follow for 300m.

- 5 Behind you on a good day you can see the chimney stack of Chirnside Mill. At the end of the woodland pass through two more gates. After 800m head down a slope and cross over a stile.
- 6 Cross over the minor road and go through the gate on the opposite side. Turn left and follow the fence line for 125m. At the finger post turn left for Auchencrow and go through a gate and keep the hedgerow on your left. After 350m go through a second gate and turn left. After 800m you come to another gate; at this point in the field to the south are the remains of Billie Castle.
- 7 Go through the gate and turn right. Looking behind you on a good day you will be able to see Chirnside on the horizon. A kilometre later you arrive in Auchencrow. Turn right at the road and the Craw Inn is 250m on the left.



Remains of Billie Castle

During the war of the Rough Wooing, a conflict between Scotland and England 1543 -1550, Billie Castle was burnt during the withdrawal of King Henry's Lieutenant Lord Hereford's army in 1544. The mention of the castle in traditional song suggests it could date from at least the late 11th century.

Route 4

Paxton House to Union Chain Bridge Circular

Start and finish: Paxton House, Paxton



Distance: 5 km / 3 miles

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

Terrain: Trodden paths, farm tracks and minor roads

Parking: Paxton House

Facilities: Toilets, café and attractions at Paxton House

Paxton House stands on the site of a fortified bridgehead. This was constructed in 1639 for King Charles 1's army, who occupied a large entrenched camp on the English bank of the River Tweed. In this campaign Charles' forces were opposed by an army encamped on Duns Law. Built in 1758 for Patrick Home of Billie, Paxton House is one of the finest 18th century Palladian (a European style of architecture) country houses in Britain. It boasts interiors by Robert Adam and furniture by Thomas Chippendale. The east wing was added in 1812 by architect Robert Reid to house the library and picture gallery. Paxton is one of the National Galleries of Scotland and houses over 70 paintings from national collections.

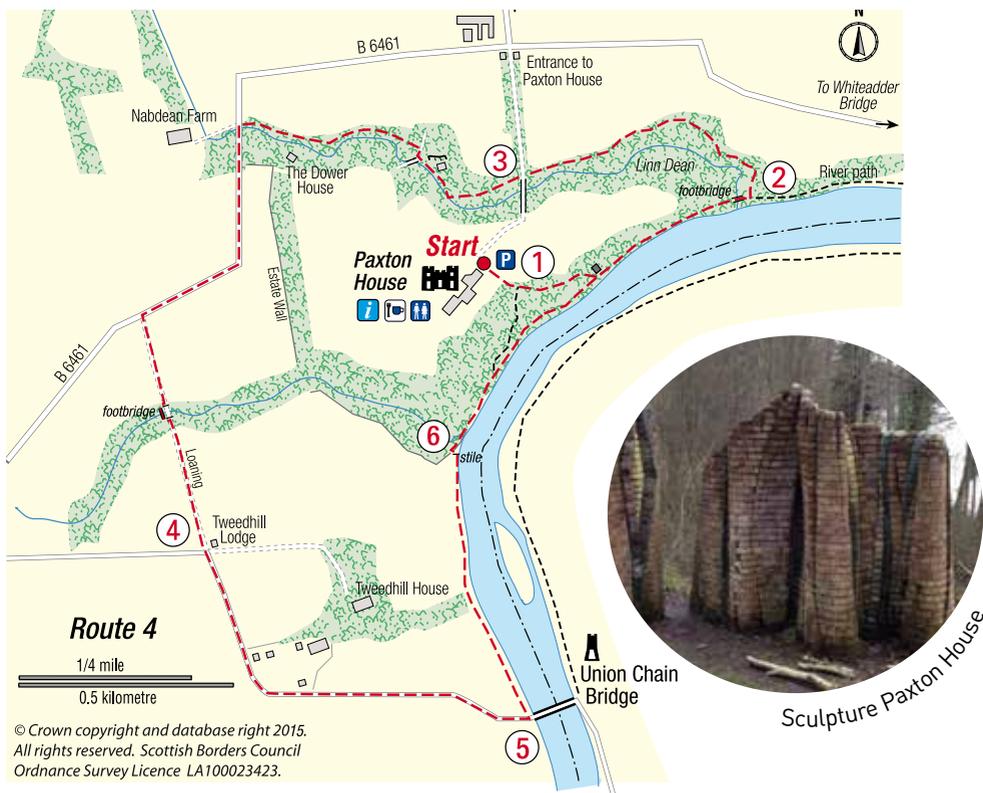
- ① From the car park follow signs to the Playground and Boat House. A vehicle track leads downhill past the play park to the "Boat House Museum" and the old stone Boat House.



Paxton House

Netting for Salmon and Sea Trout is conducted at Paxton House for scientific and conservation purposes by the Tweed Foundation and the Paxton Fishery Crew. Members of the public are invited to attend and watch the netting, learn about the history, traditions and conservation work. Visit Paxton House website for dates and times.

- ② Turn left and head upstream. After crossing the Linn Burn via a foot bridge you continue your walk along the boundary of the estate. After passing a weir you will cross the main entrance road leading to Paxton House.
- ③ The track follows the Nabdean Burn for 750m. Exiting the estates grounds, turn left. Carefully walk for 600m on the road before following a sign post 'The Loaning' and a grass track on the left hand side. Cross the burn by the footbridge and then through the woodland on The Loaning.
- ④ Exit the woodland at Tweedhill Lodge and continue straight along the minor road for a further kilometre and on to the Union Chain Bridge.



- ⑤ From the Union Chain Bridge drop down to the River Tweed, turn left and follow the path downstream for 600m. At this point you cross two stiles passing through the high wall which surrounds the whole of the estate of Paxton House.
- ⑥ Turn right to follow the riverside path downstream leading to the “Bird Hide”. From here you will be amazed at the range of wildlife that makes this estuary home. tufted duck, goldeneye, kingfishers, herons and grey seals all make this tidal water home, because of the rich food source on offer. Continue along the path and you will return to the Boat House.



Union Chain Bridge

Route 5

Paxton House to Whiteadder Bridge

Start and finish: Paxton House, Paxton

Distance: 10 km / 6 miles

Time: 3 – 3½ hours

Terrain: Trodden riverside paths, minor roads and pavements

Parking: Paxton House

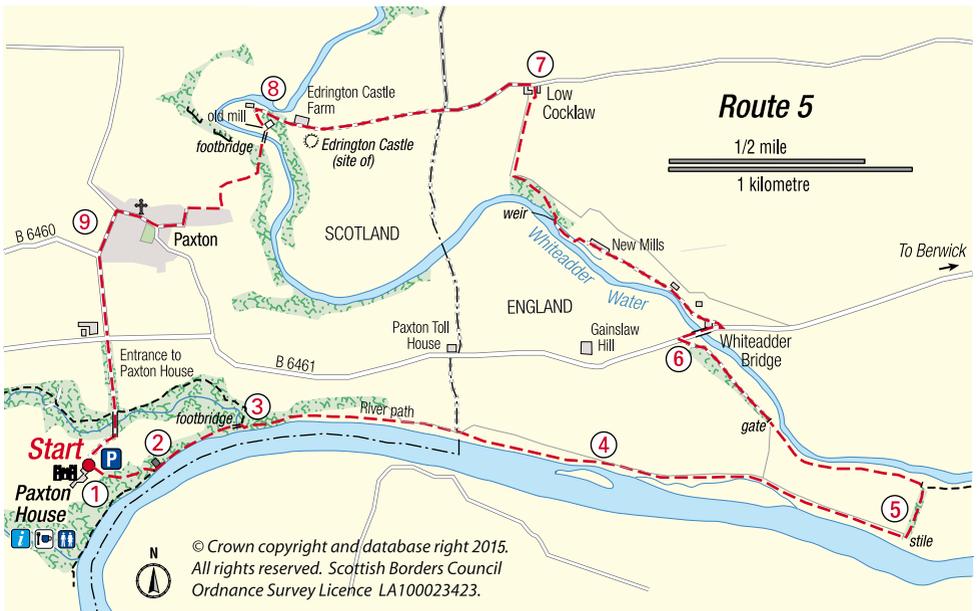
Facilities: Toilets, café and attractions at Paxton House



Low Cocklaw Weir

- ① From the car park follow signs to the Playground and Boat House. A vehicle track leads downhill past the play park and to the “Boat House Museum” and the old stone Boat House.
- ② Take a moment to look in to the Boat House, which provides an insight to salmon fishing history on the river. Turn left and follow the mown grass path downstream, below the towering straight stems of the poplar trees.

- ③ The Linn Burn is crossed by a timber footbridge. Turn right, to pass around the large stone wall of Paxton Estate and rejoin the path on the riverbank. Passing the Fishing Shiel, the path becomes a defined track. At a vehicle gate, a track leads away from the river. Ignore this and continue over the stile down a track leading to another Fishing Shiel. Beyond the path becomes a field margin and you



cross another stile opposite an island in the river, a good habitat for harbouring bird life.

- ④ Follow the fence line to your left hand side from here, which leads away from the rivers edge and go through another two field gates and over a stile. Pass through the right hand gate/stile and continue to the shiel in the distance. A strip of mature woodland is visible in the distance, running perpendicular to the river, follow the path to the field gate and turn immediately left, leading to a farm track through the woodland.

- ⑤ At the end of the woodland you will be met by the Whiteadder Water (if you are going onto to Berwick follow Route 7). It is to the Whiteadder Water that the communities turned to, first to mill grain and latterly as a source of employment. Turn left and follow the Whiteadder upstream. This will take you onto Whiteadder Bridge (Canty's Bridge).

The present Canty's Bridge was opened in 1973 and replaced a temporary Bailey Bridge (a portable, pre-fabricated, truss bridge developed by the British during World War II for military use) which at the time was the longest in the country (133.5m). It was erected by the Royal Engineers after the old stone bridge of 1868 was swept away in the Great Flood of 1947.

- ⑥ Cross over the bridge and turn left following the signs for Low Cocklaw. Look out for buildings with the Mayors of Berwick etched on the walls from the late 1700s. Just before the weir you cross an old stone bridge and head up into a wooded area before exiting onto an open field and on to Low Cocklaw.



Whiteadder Bridge

- ⑦ At the minor road turn left and after 400m continue your walk along a farm track. After 500m you pass the remains of Edrington Castle.

Little is known about the castle itself although it was an important place in the Border wars. Since the 14th century these lands were disputed and fought over and as a result the castle itself was built and rebuilt. Little evidence of the Castle remains on the site with the remains likely forming the farm buildings, and neighbouring buildings on its site.

- ⑧ At the farm houses turn left and cross the footbridge. Follow up a steep incline veering right at the top of the hill. Follow this path back into Paxton keeping the fence line on your left.
- ⑨ Passing 'The Cross' public house, continue along the main street for 150m. Turn left and head down the road. At the T junction follow the sign for Berwick keeping to the pavement. At the next junction carefully cross the road and enter the estate of Paxton House and on to the car park.

Route 6

Union Chain Bridge Circular

Start and finish: Union Chain Bridge, near Paxton

Distance: 5.5 km / 3½ miles

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

Terrain: Grass tracks, trodden paths and unclassified roads

Parking: Union Chain Bridge

Facilities: Toilets, café and attractions at Chain Bridge Honey Farm and Paxton House



Union Chain Bridge Info Board

The Union Chain Bridge was built by Royal Navy Captain Sir Samuel Brown, with advice from Scottish Civil Engineers Robert Stevenson and John Rennie. Opened in 1820, it is the oldest and the longest (137 m) wrought iron suspension bridge in Britain and was the first vehicular bridge of its type in the UK costing around £7,700. The bridge is embedded into the natural rock on the English side, but hung from a free-standing tower on the Scottish side. The parapets on both sides are adorned with plaques bearing an entwined rose and thistle and the motto "VIS UNITA FORTIOR 1820" translated as "United Strength is Stronger". On the Scottish side of the Tweed stood the Union Bridge Tollhouse which has now been converted into a private dwelling.

- ① From the Car Park head across the Chain Bridge and into England. When across turn left and go through a metal gate heading for 'Low House' on a tarmac Road.
- ② Passing through a farm gate you follow the River Tweed down stream on a grass track. After 250m you pass through a second farm gate. Across the river you will see a hole in a stone wall; this is an entrance to the Paxton House Estate.

- ③ A further 350m on you cross a stile and continue down stream. After passing the 'Start Fishery' cross a second stile. After 450m cross another stile and the building on your right is 'Yardford Shiel' which has been converted into a cottage.

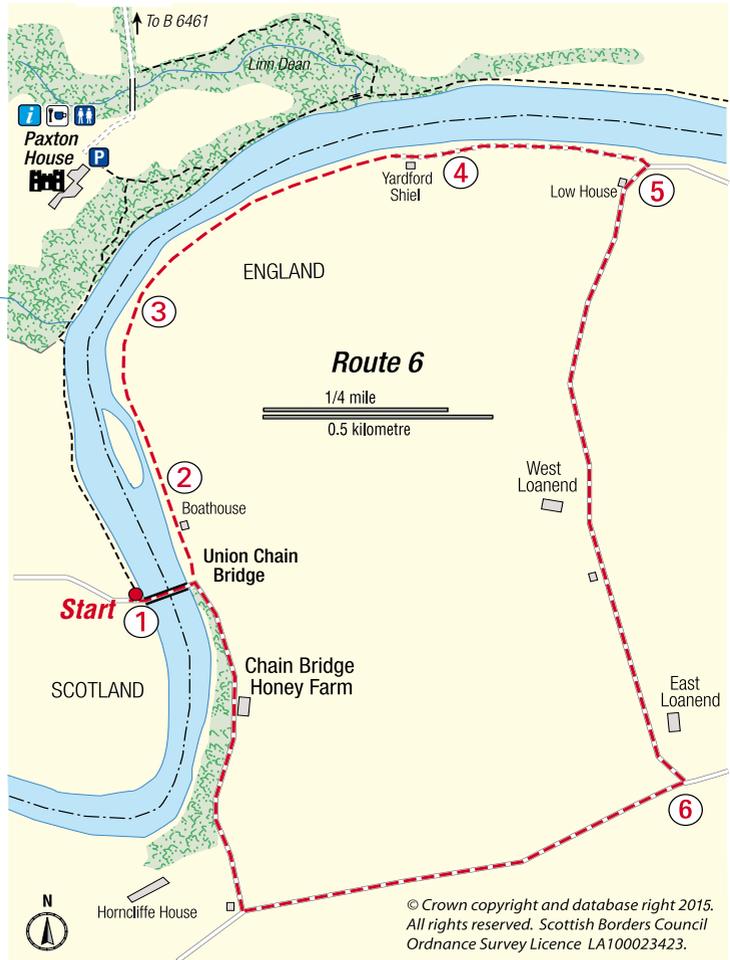
Continue along the riverbank. You will see a number of birds including swans, herons and various species of ducks. In the distance is 'Low House' and you head for this building.

- ④
- ⑤ Cross the stile and veer off to the right and when on the tarmac road turn right and cross a cattle grid. You start walking up a slight incline and after a further 500m cross a second cattle grid. After 350m you pass West Loanhead and 650m from here you come to a junction.

At the junction turn right and head for Horncliffe. After 1km turn right and follow the signs for the Chain Bridge Honey Farm. A further 500m and you pass the entrance of the Honey Farm. Take the opportunity to visit if you have come this far. Further information is available at www.chainbridgehoney.co.uk. Another 300m and you return to the Chain Bridge.

- ⑥

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge was founded to support the preservation of the Union Chain Bridge and to conserve, protect and enhance its immediate environment for public benefit; and to secure proper restoration in time for its bicentenary in 2020. It is a community based organisation which aims to promote the historical and engineering importance of the unique structure both locally and internationally by the advancement of education, information and appreciation of it. For further information go to www.unionbridgefriends.com.



Union Chain Bridge

Route 7

Paxton House to Berwick-Upon-Tweed

Start and finish: Paxton House, Paxton

Distance: Berwick: 9 km / 5½ miles
Circular: 18 km / 11 miles

Time: Berwick: 2½ – 3 hours
Circular: 6 – 6½ hours

Terrain: Trodden riverside paths, solid pavements in Berwick

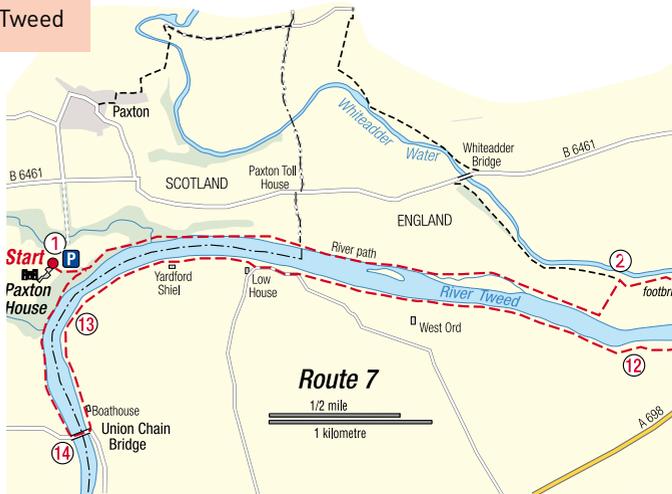
Parking: Paxton House

Facilities: Toilets, café and attractions at Paxton House and Berwick-upon-Tweed

The River Tweed rises in the Lowther Hills at Tweed's Well near Moffat and is Scotland's 4th largest river and 2nd largest river basin. It is an important example of a nutrient rich river system which supports a vast wealth of biodiversity. This lower stretch is especially teeming with birdlife, with the salt marshes providing an ample food supply. If you are lucky you might even spot a Grey Seal, attracted upstream by the abundance of fish in the river.

A bus service connects Paxton and Berwick. Check Travelline Scotland for bus times if doing a linear route. Alternatively explore the River Tweed by boat from/to Paxton House, discovering the stunning scenery, active wildlife and fascinating history of our local area. As the boat trips are tide dependant visit Paxton House website for dates and times.

This route follows the Tweed downstream into England, passing through the walls of Berwick-upon-Tweed within 2½ hrs. The return route is slightly more strenuous and longer and follows English Rights of Way along the south bank of the Tweed to the Union Chain Bridge.

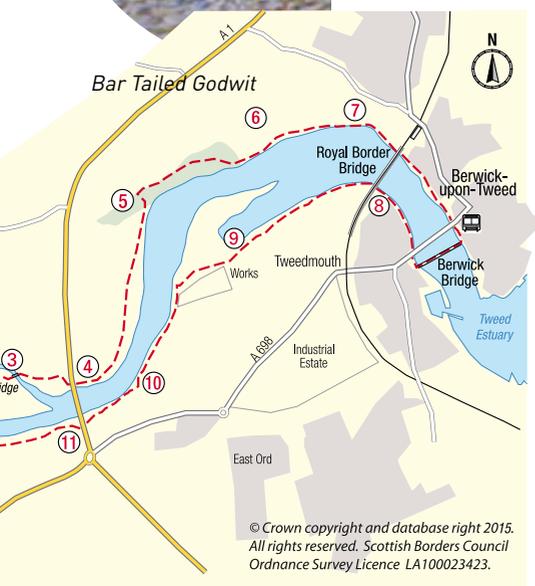


- ① Initially follow the directions for Route 5.
- ② At the end of the woodland you'll be met by the Whiteadder Water. Turn right and follow the riverbank downstream around the field margin leading to a large steel footbridge in the distance.

- ③ Crossing the bridge, turn right towards the noisy A1 Berwick-Upon-Tweed bypass. A stile leads you over the fence. Continue up a flight of steps to the road. Be extremely careful when crossing. A fingerpost guides you to the path on the opposite side - "Berwick Upon Tweed 2¼". Alternatively, and at low tide,



Swans



carefully make your way around the road embankment to your right, and under the bridge, where there is a concrete surface to walk on.

- ④ The path is close to the river as you follow the Hawthorn hedge line. Be careful of the steep drop to the river below. When

you reach the open farmland continue to follow the hedge and fence line away from the river. After about 600m a short waymarker post should be visible in the middle of the field. Head towards this and continue on this course to the woodland in the distance at the end of the grassy plain.

- ⑤ Cross the small footbridge, taking time to watch the mudflats at low tide, which will be alive with birdlife. You are far enough away from the noise of the bypass and the town to fully appreciate the bird calls. Listen for curlew (long curved beak) and oystercatcher (bright red beaks). Pass through the kissing gate to enter the woodland and follow the path directly uphill to a path junction and fingerpost indicating "Berwick, 1½ miles". Turn right and follow this track uphill. After 500m the path quickly descends downhill offering great views of the Royal Border Bridge through the branches, in winter months. A tarmac pavement (elevated from the river by a stone wall) follows the riverside from "Chateau Pedro" to the Town Walls. You pass through the White Wall by a passage (Sally Port) under the Tower.
- ⑥ The pavement continues along the river, past the Boat House of the Berwick Amateur Rowing Club, England's Most Northerly Rowing Club. Continue under the bridge, to the cast-iron fingerpost directing you to "The Chandlery" or "The Barracks".
- ⑦ The return route is by the south side of the river and this is reached by crossing "Old Berwick Bridge", which takes you to Tweedmouth and the War Memorial. Follow the pavement past the War Memorial and on round the corner, turning right at a pavement junction, leaving the road side, to follow the path up-stream to Royal Border Bridge.
- ⑧ Leave the pavement and the road behind to pass under the arches of the Bridge. Follow the trod, below the woodland strip along the high water mark until you reach a junction with a path coming down the banking from the right. Continue on the lower path which winds through the woodland before reaching gates, a picnic area, where you get a great opportunity to view any wildlife on the river. It is possible to cancel out the droning noise of the town centre and busy A1 bypass at this distance.

If you are stopping for lunch, perhaps take time to walk along past the Chandlery on the Town Walls, noting the lovely old merchants houses which look out across the estuary. It is possible to spend a few hours taking in the shops, buildings and the Town Walls of Berwick; so you may want to spend more time in Berwick-Upon-Tweed. The bus to Paxton leaves from Golden Square; reached by following the path leading uphill to the Royal Tweed Bridge, which you just passed under.

Note: During a high Spring tide it will be necessary to take an alternative route or you will be sure to get wet feet. Prior to passing under the arches turn left and follow the path for 200m. Before the tarmac road turn right and keeping the field margin on your left follow the path for 275m when you will rejoin the river path.



Oystercatcher

- 9 Follow the path upriver, around the woodlands in the distance which hide the sewerage works. Turning left at the first of two stiles leads you round the woodland, before emerging onto the public road serving the works. Turn right, follow the road for 20m before turning right to make your way along the grassy field margin, which again, passes along the top of a wooded banking which steeply slopes down to the estuary.
- 10 As you get closer to the A1 (the intensity of the noise becomes unmistakable), the path leaves the field margin, to descend through the woodland, by a flight of steps. Cross the small burn by way of the timber bridge, pass the disused fishing shiel, and then climb uphill away from the river, to emerge at East Ord Picnic site.
- 11 Cut through the car park and carefully cross the A1. Turn right and 30m on your left a fingerpost directs you to "Horncliffe 4½". Cross a stile and keep the fence line on your right. From this section you will get a good view of both the river Tweed and the Whiteadder Water. After crossing another stile you will descend down some steep steps, across a wooden bridge and back to the banks of the Tweed.
- 12 Follow the river upstream passing two disused fishing shiels, cross a wooden bridge. Passing through a gate you enter a field margin with a cottage in the distance. After passing this you pickup a grass track then a tarmac road. After 250m leave the road and cross a stile to your right. After crossing a second stile Paxton House Estate is on the other side of the River.
- 13 Passing 'Start Fishery' on your left you cross a stile and in the distance is the Union Chain Bridge. Passing through two farm gates leads you to a tarmac road and on to the bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right. Go to Route 6 for further information on the Union Chain Bridge.
- 14 Drop down to the River Tweed, turn left and follow the path downstream for 600m. At this point you cross two stiles passing through the high wall which surrounds the whole of the estate of Paxton House. This will take you back to the river bank and back to Paxton House.



Royal Border Bridge

Route 8

Hutton Circular

Start and finish: Hutton Church, Hutton



Distance: 5.5 km / 3½ miles

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

Terrain: Trodden paths, farm tracks and minor roads

Parking: Hutton Church

Facilities: Toilets, café and attractions at Paxton House



Hutton Bridge

Hutton Church was dedicated by Bishop de Bernham (Bishop of St Andrews) on 6 April 1243. In 1652 seating was installed within the Parish Church. Previously members of the congregation brought their own seats. Between 1655-1660 the Church underwent repairs which included the addition of a gallery on the west side of the church and the roof being re-thatched.

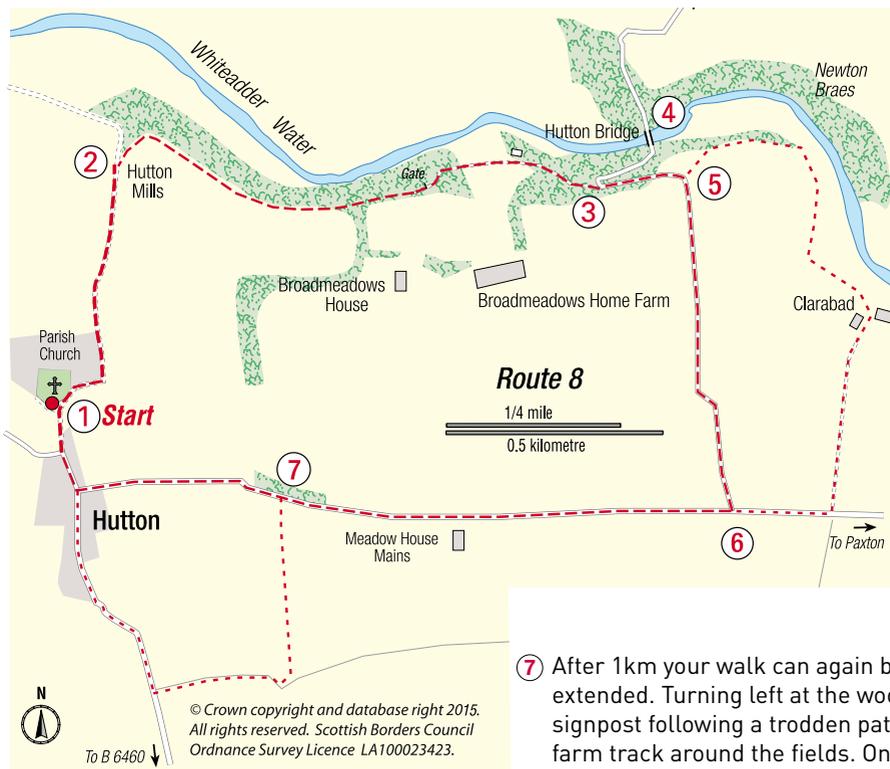
A new church was built in 1765 with seating for 400 people. The church had an earthen floor, un-plastered walls no ceiling and a thatched roof. A paved floor was laid in 1791 along with the plastering of the walls and ceiling. It was demolished in 1834 because it was said to be in a state of disrepair bordering on ruinous. The present Church dates from 1835 and is one of the earliest Romanesque Revival churches in Scotland.

- ① From Hutton Church leave the village on a farm track in a northerly direction, passing the village hall on your left hand side. To the west on a clear day you can see the Lammermuir Hills.
- ② After 500m, pass through a farm gate, turn right and follow a grass track around the edge of the deciduous woodland. The

woodland has established itself on this steep hillside and occasional views can be had of the Whiteadder Water in the valley bottom. After 500m, pass through a field gate in front of you and follow the farm track which descends to another gate before reaching an old mill. Turning right, the track continues uphill to another gate which leads to the public road.

- ③ Turning left, the public road (150m) leads down to Hutton Bridge for views of the steep river valley. Look out for herons fishing on the river.

This bridge, with three spans of 55 ft over the Whiteadder Water, was erected in 1837 to a state-of-the art design by James Jardine with iron tension-rod truss spans supported on 50 ft tall, elegant, stone piers. In 1878 the trusses and deck were replaced by iron-lattice girders and deck. In 1985 this superstructure was in turn replaced by a steel beam and reinforced concrete slab deck. The original piers and abutments were retained. One of the original 1878 iron bridge plaques were re-erected on site in 1985 and the other can be seen at the Institution of Civil Engineers Museum, Heriot-Watt University.



④ Retracing your steps you follow the minor road for 1km, past the track you emerged from, continuing uphill to a T-junction.

⑤ If you wish you can extend your walk. After 350m from the bridge a sign will appear on your left for Clarabad Farm. Pass through the field gate and follow the fence line on your left. After a further 300m Whiteadder Water comes into view. Keeping the Water on your left you are heading for the farm track that passes up through the wooded area. Follow this track to Clarabad Farm. Please beware this is a working farm. Follow the farm road until you come to a T junction.

⑥ Turn right and follow this minor road, between Hutton and Paxton for 1.5km. The road leads back to the village.

⑦ After 1km your walk can again be extended. Turning left at the wooden signpost following a trodden path and farm track around the fields. On a clear day, great views of The Cheviot Hills are on offer. Emerging from the farm track, turn right and follow the public road leading back into the village.



Hutton Church

Route 9

Allanton Circular

Start and finish: Telephone box, Allanton

Distance: 4.5 km / 2½ miles

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

Terrain: Grass paths, farm tracks and minor roads

Parking: Allanton Telephone Box

Facilities: Toilets, café and shops in Chirnside. Allanton Inn, Allanton



Allanton was traditionally part of the estate of the Blackadders, a powerful border clan. The Blackadder family was an integral part of the constant Borders' feuds, and opportunistically extended their lands by grants from King James II of Scotland.

The earliest cottages in Allanton were built in the late 18th to early 19th centuries. In the 20th century the village was notable as a village of tailors' shops, having three, the last of which closed in the 1960s. Other properties were originally a school for the daughters of senior staff on the Estate and a bake house and bakers shop.

The Allanton Inn was formerly two cottages joined in the 1830s. It is joined to the Old Fire Station (originally a stable and hayloft for the Inn).

- ① After parking by the telephone box in Allanton head south for 200m when you will come upon a wooded plantation. Follow the path through the wood for 600m. If lucky you may well see a deer. At the end of the wood turn right and follow a farm road for 650m that leads to Blackadder Mount. At this point there is a sign post 'Path' directing you to turn



Allanton Old Fire Station

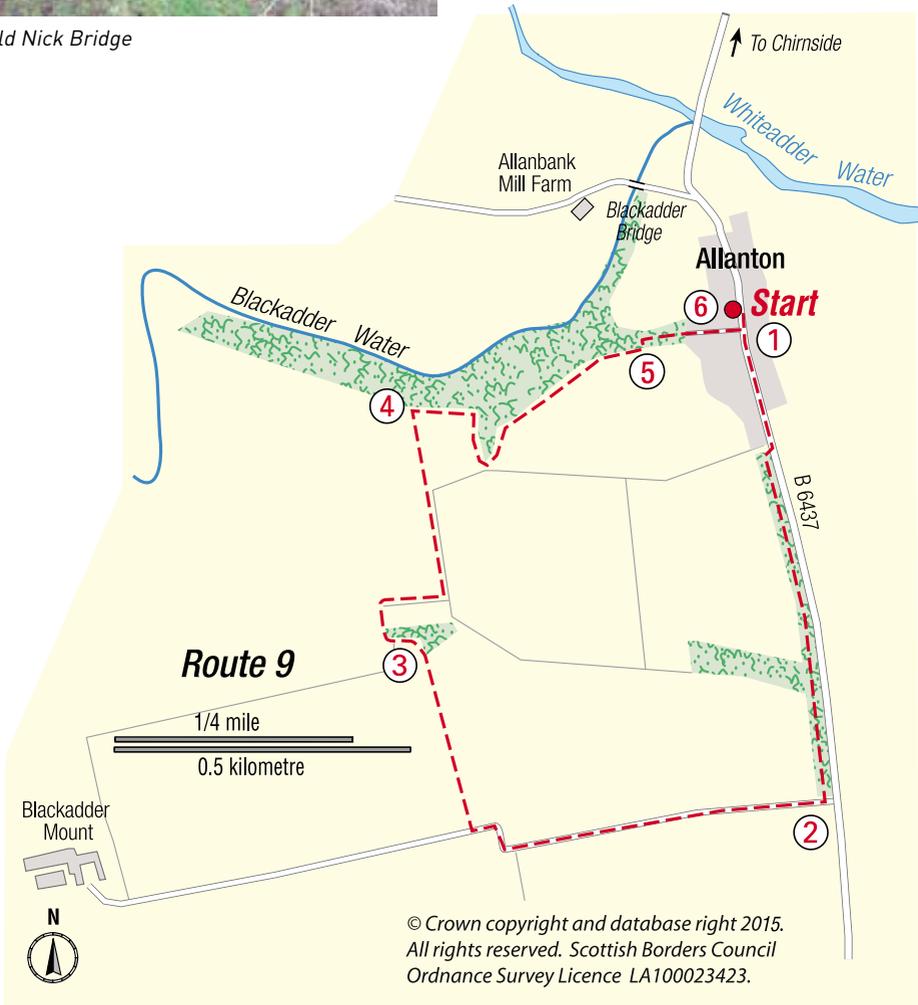
- ② right. Keeping the fence line on your right, head towards the small copse 300m in the distance.
- ③ Go around the copse keeping it on your right. As you turn right there is a break in the hedge line 100m in front of you. Cross into the other field and turn left. Keeping the hedge line on your left follow the path for a further 275m.
- ④ At the end of the field turn right and follow the wooded area. At the next way post you will see Gold Nick Bridge. Continue to follow the path for 450m keeping the wood on your left hand side.

Dating back to the late 18th century, the bridge spans a small tributary of Blackadder Water and was utilized by visitors for Blackadder House coming from Allanton village. It is very grandiose, although now in a poor condition, due to heavy traffic when the house was demolished and the stone was removed from the estate, during the late 1920s .



Gold Nick Bridge

- ⑤ At this point you turn left and enter the wood. Turn right and after 175m you return to Allanton's Main Street.
- ⑥ From the Allanton Inn if you head north towards Chirnside you cross the Allanton Bridge, which is dated 1841. At this point the Whiteadder and Blackadder Waters join. Adder is from the old English word 'awedur', meaning 'running water' or 'stream'.



Route 10

Reston Circular

Start and finish: Car Park (east end), Reston

Distance: 5 km / 2 miles

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

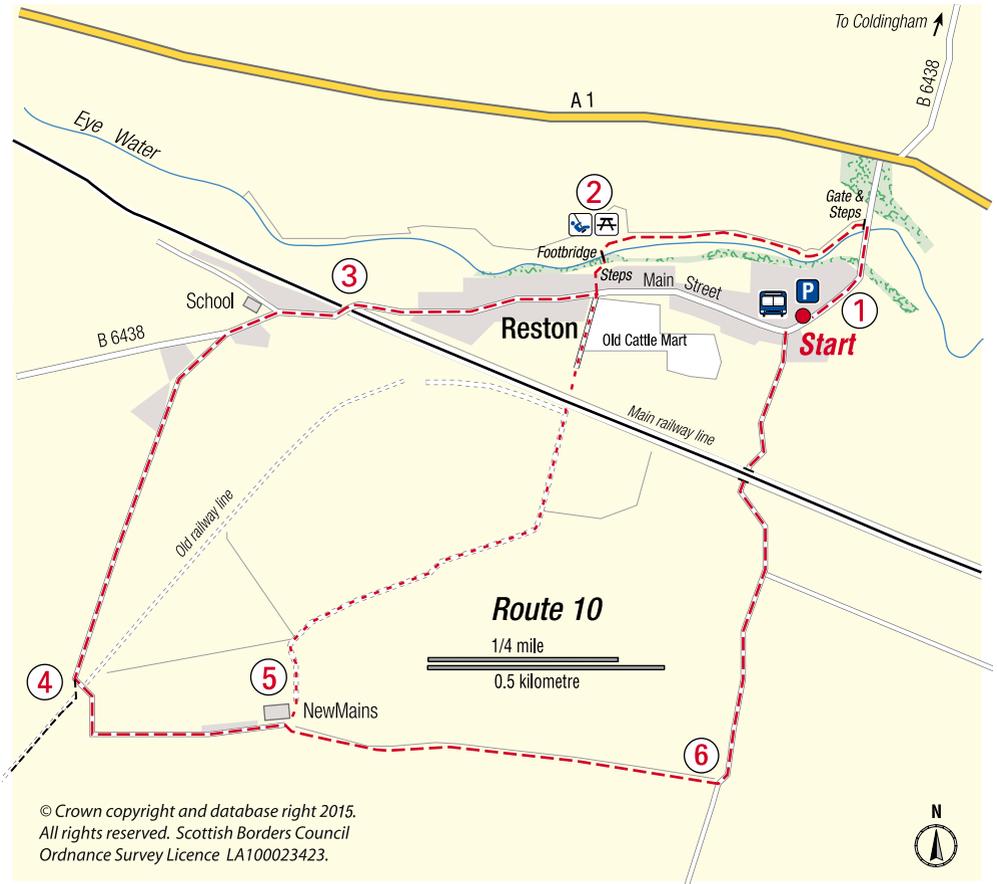
Terrain: Pavements, farm tracks, grass tracks and minor roads

Parking: Car park east end of village

Facilities: Shop in Reston (serves tea/coffee)



Mallard ducks



- ① Leave the car park and turn left heading towards the A1. Cross over the Eye Water, turn left down some steps and pass through two gates. You follow the banks of the Eye Water for 350m along a grass track where you come upon a play park and picnic area.

The Lammermuir Hills is the source of the Eye Water and flows to the estuary in Eyemouth. Its total length is approx 35km/22mls.

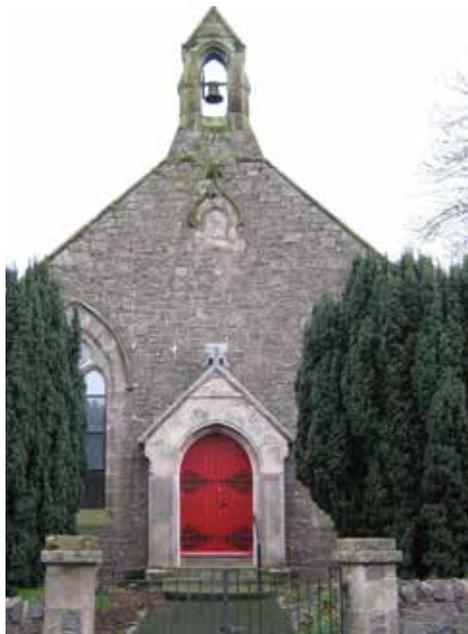
- ② Cross the bridge on your left and go up a flight of steps. Exiting onto the main street turn right. After 150m you pass Reston's Parish Church.

Reston Church was built in 1880 for the Free Church. The interior is unusual because it retains some box pews either side of the pulpit, features typically dispensed with from most Scottish churches during late Victorian times.

- ③ A further 350m along the pavement you cross over the main east coast railway line. Pass the Primary School to your right and after 100m take the tarmac road on the left heading for Newmains Farm. Heading along this road there is a slight uphill gradient. After 570m you pass Loanside Holding and a further 250m you cross over the dismantled Berwickshire Railway.

Reston had a railway station between 1846 and 1964 on the main line of the North British Railway (Edinburgh to Berwick) and for most of its life was the junction for the branch to Duns. A study published in 2013 proposed that Reston Station be reopened.

- ④ Continue to follow the road for another 500m where you enter Newmains Farm. Be aware this is a working farm. Passing farm buildings on your left you have two options to return to Reston and the car park.
- ⑤ Going left is shorter by 200m. Follow a grass track for 700m which then becomes a stone track for the final 500m back into Reston. At the junction turn right and the car park is a further 500m down the road. In late autumn and winter this route can be muddy. Alternatively go right and follow the track to the minor road which heads into Reston.
- ⑥ At the end of the farm track go through a farm gate and turn left and head towards Reston along the minor road. After 700m you pass under the East Coast line. Be aware of the oncoming traffic. At the junction turn right and the car park is across the road.



Parish Church

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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River Tweed

Contact Information

Scottish Borders

Tourist Information Centres

Jedburgh, Peebles and Melrose,
Kelso, Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.

Opening dates and times vary

For Information: Tel: 01835 863170

Berwick-Upon-Tweed Tourist Information

www.visitnorthumberland.com/berwick-upon-tweed

Scottish Borders Council

www.scotborders.gov.uk

Access & Countryside Team

Council Headquarters,
Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA.

Tel: 01835 825070

Email: outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage

(Information on Scottish Outdoor Access Code)

Lothian & Borders Area Office

Tel: 01896 756652

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Traveline

(for public transport information)

Tel: 0871 200 2233

www.traveline.org.uk

Other websites

Visit Scotland:

www.visitscotland.com

Paxton House and grounds:

www.paxtonhouse.co.uk

Chain Bridge Honey Farm:

www.chainbridgehoney.co.uk

Scottish Borders Council countryside website: www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess

For further information on walking in Scotland: www.walkwild.org

Mountain Rescue Team - Scottish Borders.

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

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

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

Alternative format/language

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Scottish Borders Council | Built and Natural Heritage | Planning and Regulatory Services | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE TD6 0SA





The Attractions

- 1 Regency Gift Shop
- 2 9 Hole Putting Green
- 3 Waiting Room
- 4 Toilets
- 5 Picture Gallery
- 6 Stables Tea Room
- 7 Ellem Fishing Club Exhibition

- 8 Restored Georgian Kitchen
- 9 Herbaceous Borders
- 10 Well Garden
- 11 Sculpture
- 12 Riverside Viewing Hide
- 13 Adventure Playground
- 14 Boathouse, Salmon Netting Museum

- 15 Salmon Netting
- 16 Salmon Look-out Tower
- 17 Bridge (1767)
- 18 Ice House
- 19 Squirrel & Bird Viewing Hide
- 20 Car Park