



Kelso

Kelso Abbey

Kelso's history is closely linked with that of the abbey, the first of those founded by King David I in the 12th century. Tironesian monks moved here from Selkirk around 1128 and founded the oldest and, at one time, the largest of the Border Abbeys. Kelso was very wealthy and this coupled with its proximity to the English border meant that the abbey was a natural target for marauding English armies. The buildings were attacked on several occasions before finally being dismantled by Spanish mercenaries on behalf of the Earl of Hertford in 1545. What little remained of the abbey was repaired by the Duke of Roxburghe in 1866. The impressive west end of the Romanesque church with its unusual transepts and central tower still remains.

In the care of Historic Environment Scotland.
Free entry.



The centre of Kelso, a cobbled square, has a most attractive, almost French feel to it, enhanced by a number of fine buildings dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The square was once used as a cattle market. Opposite the abbey is Turret House (1678), which formerly held the Kelso Museum. The former town hall in The Square now houses the Tourist Information Centre.

Floors Castle, home of the Duke of Roxburghe, was designed by William Adam in the 1720s. Originally called Fleurs, Floors Castle was extensively redesigned by William Playfair between 1837 and 1845. Parts of the castle are open to view in the summer months. The castle can be seen from the Way, on the opposite side of the river, near the Junction Pool.

Along the way Kelso to Jedburgh

The Teviot

The Tweed and Teviot rivers meet just outside the town at the Junction Pool. From the Junction Pool upstream look out for fish jumping. Salmon, trout and grayling are some of the fish that anglers catch from the river.

Roxburgh Castle

This was once one of the most important strongholds in Scotland. In the 12th century, this was one of the four principal Royal Burghs in Scotland (the others were Edinburgh, Stirling and Berwick), and a Royal Mint was sited here.

Old Railway Lines

The Roxburgh Viaduct, designed by John Miller, dates from 1847 and is a typically confident piece of Victorian engineering, striding across the river on a curve; its high brick arches at once, powerful and elegant. Signs of the old stations at Ormiston, Nisbet and Jedfoot may be seen along the route. Between Nisbet and Jedfoot it is possible to see the route of the long gone rail bridge across the Teviot.

Dere Street

This old Roman road was built by Agricola in around 80AD. Dere Street originally ran from York to Perth, and the section through the Borders is very well preserved.

The Jed Water

Walking along the easy paths adjacent to the Jed in Jedburgh allows for great views of the river wildlife. Grey wagtail, mallard and heron may be seen in the river. Other birds use the cliffs on the opposite bank of the river as nest and roost sites.



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

1. Kelso Abbey Cloisters 2. The Junction Pool 3. Teviot Bridge
4. Roxburgh Castle 5. Walkers by the Teviot 6. The Jed Water



Kelso to Jedburgh

Riverside, old railway lines, farmland

Path surfaces - riverside paths, tracks, road

Distance (to Jedburgh Abbey) - 22km/ 13 1/2 miles approx

Total ascent - 100 metres/ 330 feet (mainly level) approx

Kelso to Jedburgh

This is a fairly flat and reasonably easy route, largely beside the River Teviot. There is one moderate climb towards the end of the section along the Roman Road, Dere Street, followed by a gradual descent into Jedburgh.

This section may be done in two shorter walks between Kalemouth and Kelso and Kalemouth and Jedburgh. Take the bus to the junction of the A698 and the B6401 near Teviot Water Gardens and walk along the road to join the route back to your start point.

From the route, to reach the A698 at Kalemouth turn South at Ormiston and follow the road for about 1.5km, crossing the bridge at Kalemouth. Turn right to reach the road junction for the B6401 where the bus route passes. The bus stop is in Eckford.

Maps

The section described here is covered by OS Landranger map 74 (Kelso) and by OS Explorer maps OL16 and 339.

Buses

A regular bus service between Kelso and Jedburgh (service 20). This service crosses the route at Jedfoot as well as connecting the two towns. It also goes to Eckford and goes past the road junction of the B6401 and the A698 near Kalemouth. Journey time between Kelso and Jedburgh is 25 minutes.

For further information, contact:
Traveline on 0871 200 2233
www.travelinescotland.com

Car Parking

There are large car parks at The Knowes, Kelso, adjacent to the start of the walk; and at Murray's Green, Jedburgh, next to the Tourist Information Centre and bus station. There is limited parking space in Roxburgh village. Please do not park elsewhere along the route, and never block access gates or farm roads.

Tourist Information

There is a Tourist Information Centre at Murray's Green in Jedburgh. For opening times and other information see www.visitscotland.com

Toilets

There are public toilets at Kelso and at Murray's Green, Jedburgh.

Refreshments

There is a selection of shops including bakeries and general stores in both Kelso and Jedburgh. There is a range of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both towns.

1. Small tortoiseshell 2. Small copper 3. Red admiral 4. Peacock
 5. Meadow brown 6. Painted lady 7&8. Common blue

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.



Paths to Health

Short easy walks on and near this section include

Jedburgh Riverside

Follow the riverside path through the town and return the same way or find another route through the town. Path is tarmac and fairly level.

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre

Waymarked routes available (Visitor Centre is open April to October, paths open all year) Hard surfaced fairly level paths.

The Borders Abbeys Way Kelso to Jedburgh

Part 1 Kelso Abbey to near Kalemouth, Eckford

From Kelso Abbey, follow the signs out to the main road, turn left, and cross Rennie's fine bridge over the River Tweed, which has stood here since 1803. Turn right on the A699, pausing to admire the grand classic archway ahead, designed by James Gillespie Graham in 1822 and once the main entrance to the long-demolished Springwood Park House.

Follow the road as it swings left at the point where Teviot and Tweed meet. This is one of the most favoured (and expensive) salmon fishing beats on the Tweed, and is much in demand. Go right with the road, to cross the Teviot by another lovely old bridge, dating from 1795. In a further 250 metres, cross the wall on the left by a stile and go down steps to the riverside path. As the path swings left with the river, the ruins of **Roxburgh Castle** are seen on the steep slope to the right. This fortress once dominated Roxburgh town, of which no trace now remains.

Continue along the riverside path for nearly 3km. You may see mallard, moorhen, mute swan, oystercatcher and heron along this stretch of the river. The path eventually leaves the river to climb a bank and continue along a field edge, giving a good view of **Heiton Mill** across the river.

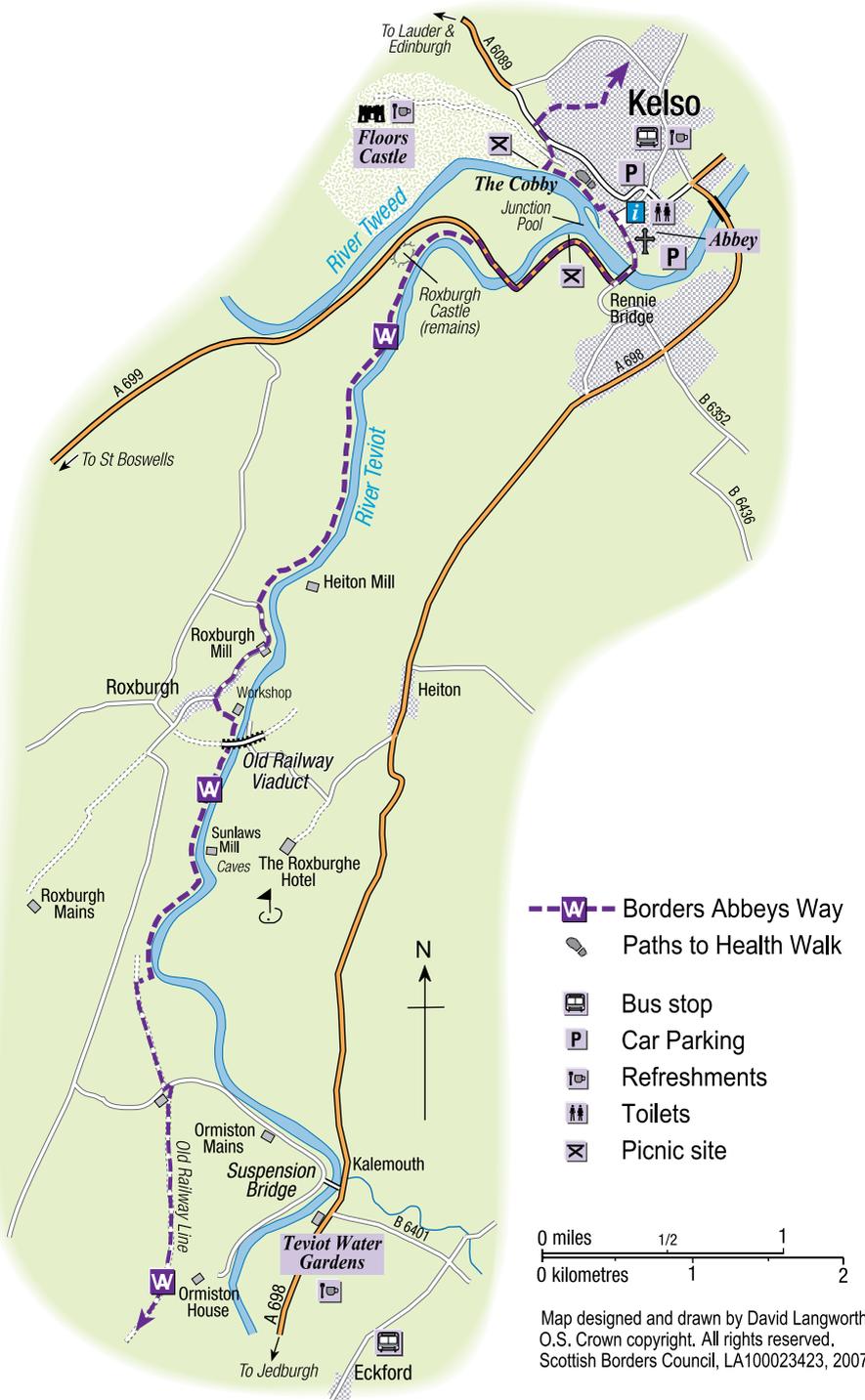
A stile leads you on to a minor road. Turn left through **Roxburgh Mill Farm** and continue towards **Roxburgh** village, with

the imposing former **railway viaduct** an unmistakable marker ahead of you. The path goes left, down a lane past a furniture workshop, and back to the river to turn right under the viaduct.

A short diversion to the right here would take you into Roxburgh village. The bus shelter has panels on the history of the village. In the field to the right are the remains of Wallace's Tower, a 16th century stronghold of the Ker family. A bridge is suspended from the viaduct to give access to the east bank of the river and up to the village of Heiton.

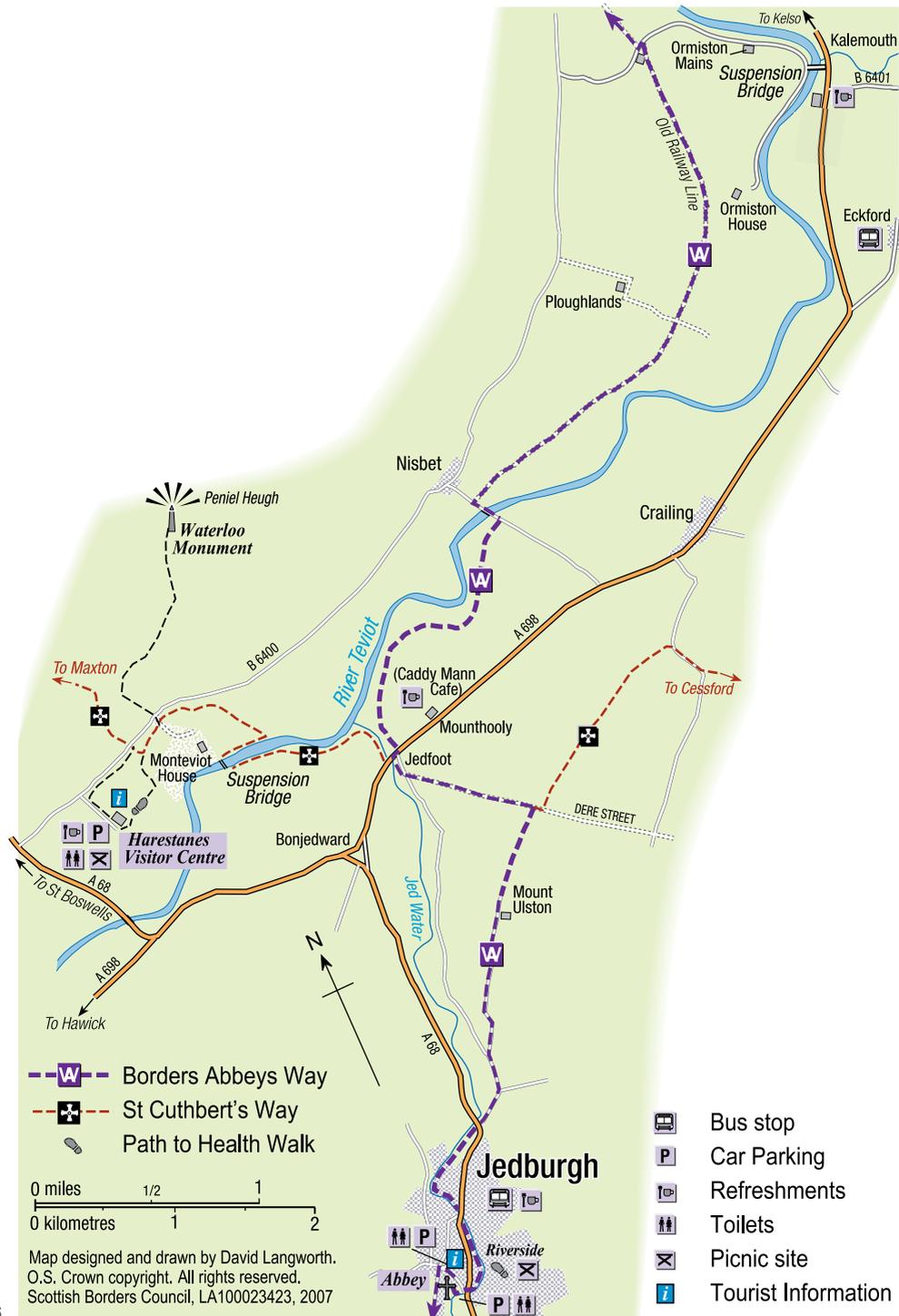
Continue along the river bank for about 2.5km. Across the river is **Roxburgh Hotel**; in its extensive grounds is the championship-standard Roxburgh Golf Course. There are also five sizeable **caves** in the river bank. One is called the Horse Cave. Legend has it that it was used as a hiding place for Bonnie Prince Charlie's horses in 1745 while he and his Jacobite army were marching from Kelso to Jedburgh.

As you draw level with an island in the river, turn right at the dyke, following the edge of the field uphill to a stile and steps which give access to the old railway line. Turn left and follow the line for about one kilometre, leaving it down steps to a minor road.



The Borders Abbeys Way Kelso to Jedburgh

Part 2 near Kalemouth, Eckford to Jedburgh



Turn left for a few metres, cross the road and continue up the track as signed. This track soon rejoins the old railway line, which is followed for more than 3 kms, a flat and easy path, to **Nisbet**, with the river swinging through a series of broad curves away to your left.

On reaching the road at Nisbet, turn left and cross the river. Once across, turn immediately right down some steps to follow the flood bank and then the riverside for about 800 metres. At a track turn left then turn right as signed to rejoin the old railway line for a final section to **Jedfoot**, where the Jed Water joins the Teviot. From this stretch there is a fine view across the river to the **Wellington Monument** on Peniel Heugh, a noted Borders landmark which can be reached by a signposted route from the Harestanes Visitor Centre.

A stile leads you out to the A698 road (the Caddy Mann tearoom is about 400 metres to your left here). Cross the road with great care and follow the signs (also now showing St Cuthbert's Way) to the start of **Dere Street**, a clear track leading straight uphill. The track is followed for about 800 metres, before you leave it to turn right (St Cuthbert's Way goes straight on). Go down a path which leads in turn to the access road at **Mount Ulston**. Follow this road downhill to join another road. Turn left and follow this road down to the A68.



Old Railway line near Ploughlands

Cross the road with care and take the riverside path which starts opposite. Follow the path which becomes a road. Where two bridges cross the river, cross the first bridge. Continue, keeping left and joining a path that passes through a subway under the road. Continue to follow the riverside path, and after 800 metres you will have a good view of the abbey ahead of you. Pass under a subway to the roadside opposite the end of this section, at **Jedburgh Abbey** (see page 14).