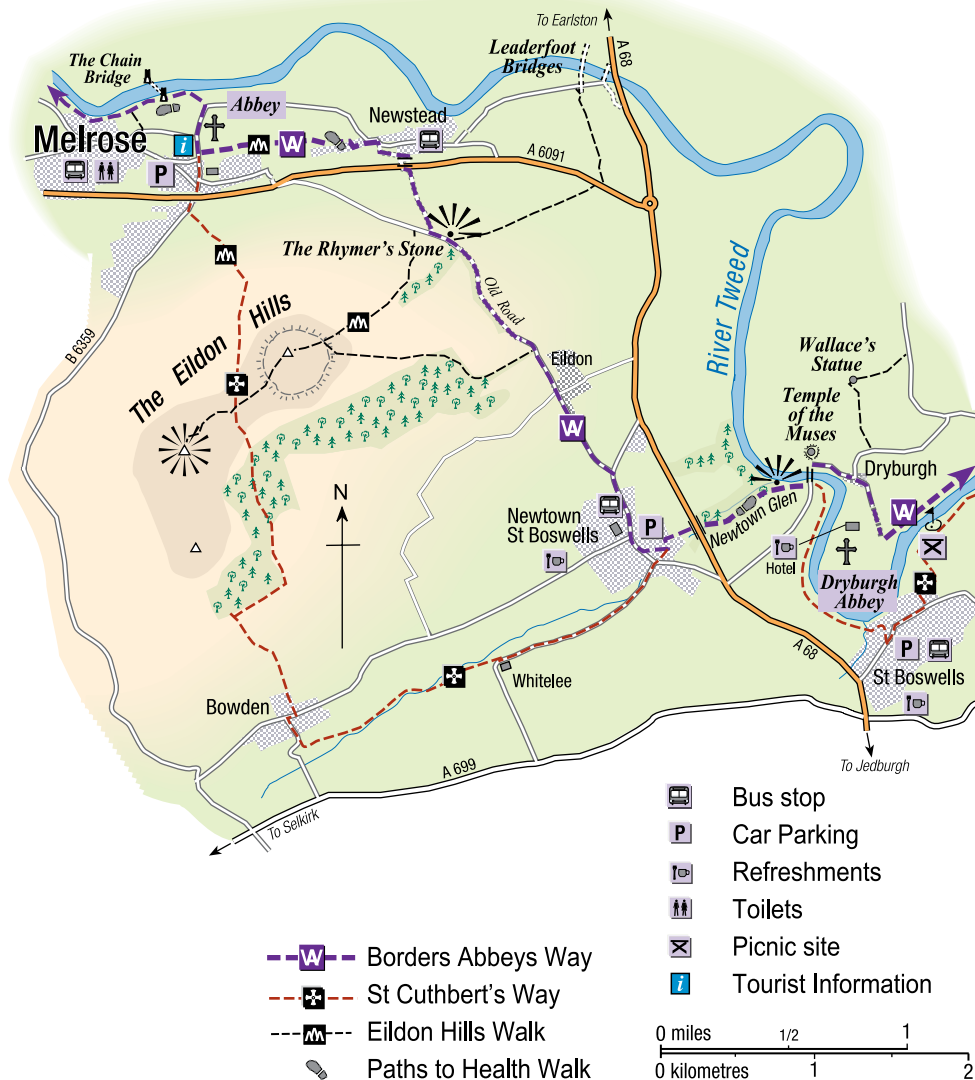


The Borders Abbeys Way Melrose to Kelso

Part 1 Melrose Abbey to Newtown St Boswells



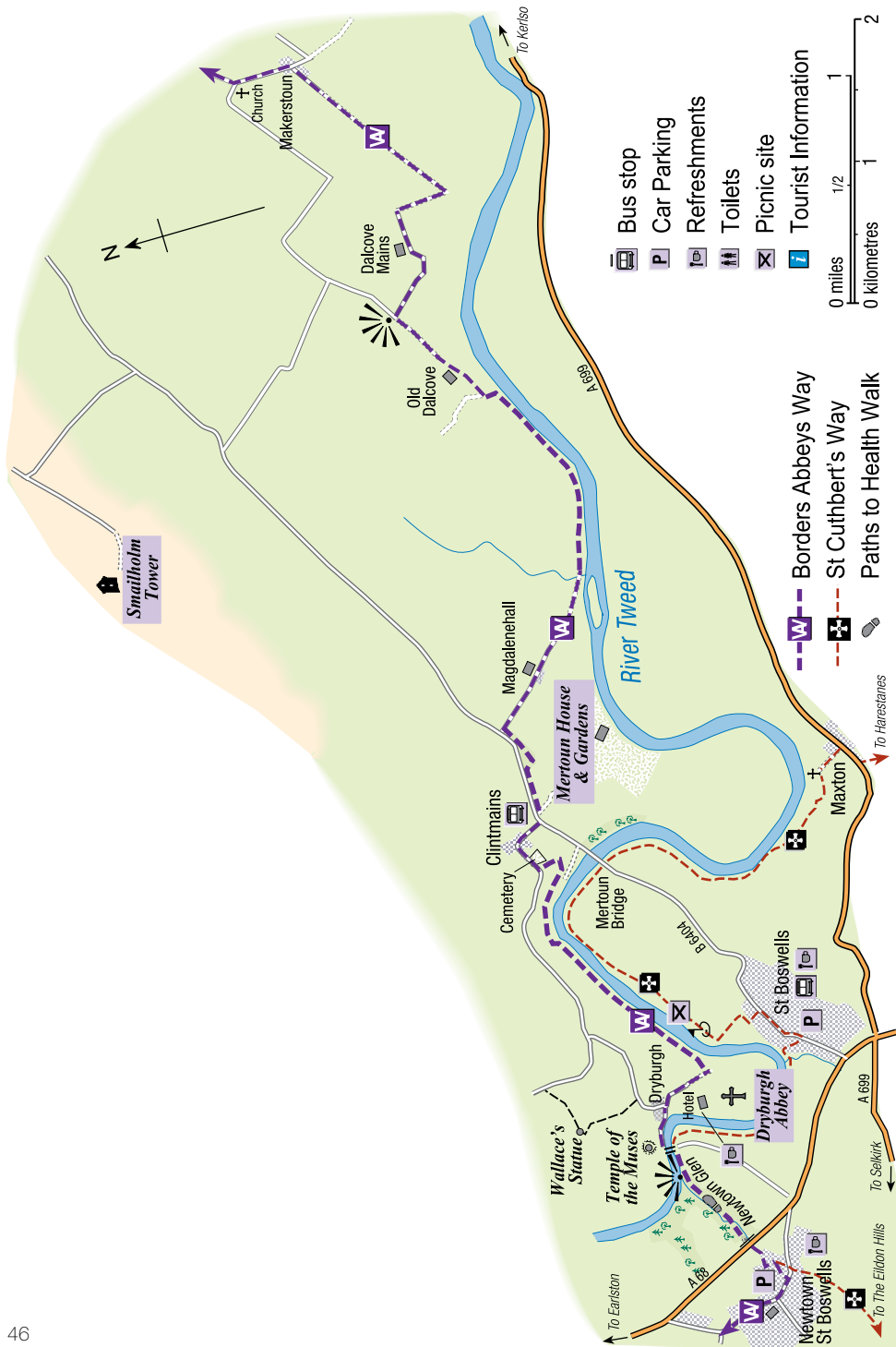
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From **Melrose Abbey**, go up Abbey Street, then turn left onto the path at the end of the railings (Priorswalk). Follow this path, turning left after a bridge, to reach a housing estate. Go straight ahead for about 150 metres, and then turn left along a narrow path in front of a small row of houses. Follow this path for 800 metres until reaching a road. Turn left, then right, up a track at the road junction.

You are now at the edge of **Newstead**. Follow the track under the old railway bridge, through the subway under the bypass and up the slope, with Eildon Hill North to your right. When meeting the road, turn left, passing the site of the Eildon Tree and the **Rhymer's Stone**. Follow the road (the former main road between Melrose and Newtown St Boswells, but now closed to through traffic) for 2km to a junction at **Newtown St Boswells**. Turn right, and using the pavement, follow the road into the village, passing the headquarters of Scottish Borders Council, a 1960s building that dominates the village, on your right. When reaching the Bank of Scotland building, turn left onto Tweedside Road to join St Cuthbert's Way.



North Eildon from Rhymers Stone



The Borders Abbeys Way Melrose to Kelso

Part 2 Newtown St Boswells to Makerstoun via Dryburgh Abbey

In Newtown St Boswells at Tweedside Road, after 100m turn left between buildings to join St Cuthbert's Way, follow the track, then a path down into **Newtown Glen**. Climb the path to the right and follow it above the River Tweed, with excellent views over the valley. The path drops down to meet a road at **Dryburgh Bridge**. Leaving St Cuthbert's Way, cross the bridge and follow the path, passing the **Temple of the Muses** on your left. Follow the road into the scattered but attractive village of **Dryburgh**, passing a large gateway on your left. This striking gateway was also built by Buchan, in memory of his parents and as the entry to his fourteen acre orchard, the walls of which can still be seen across the fields. At the junction, turn right towards **Dryburgh Abbey**.

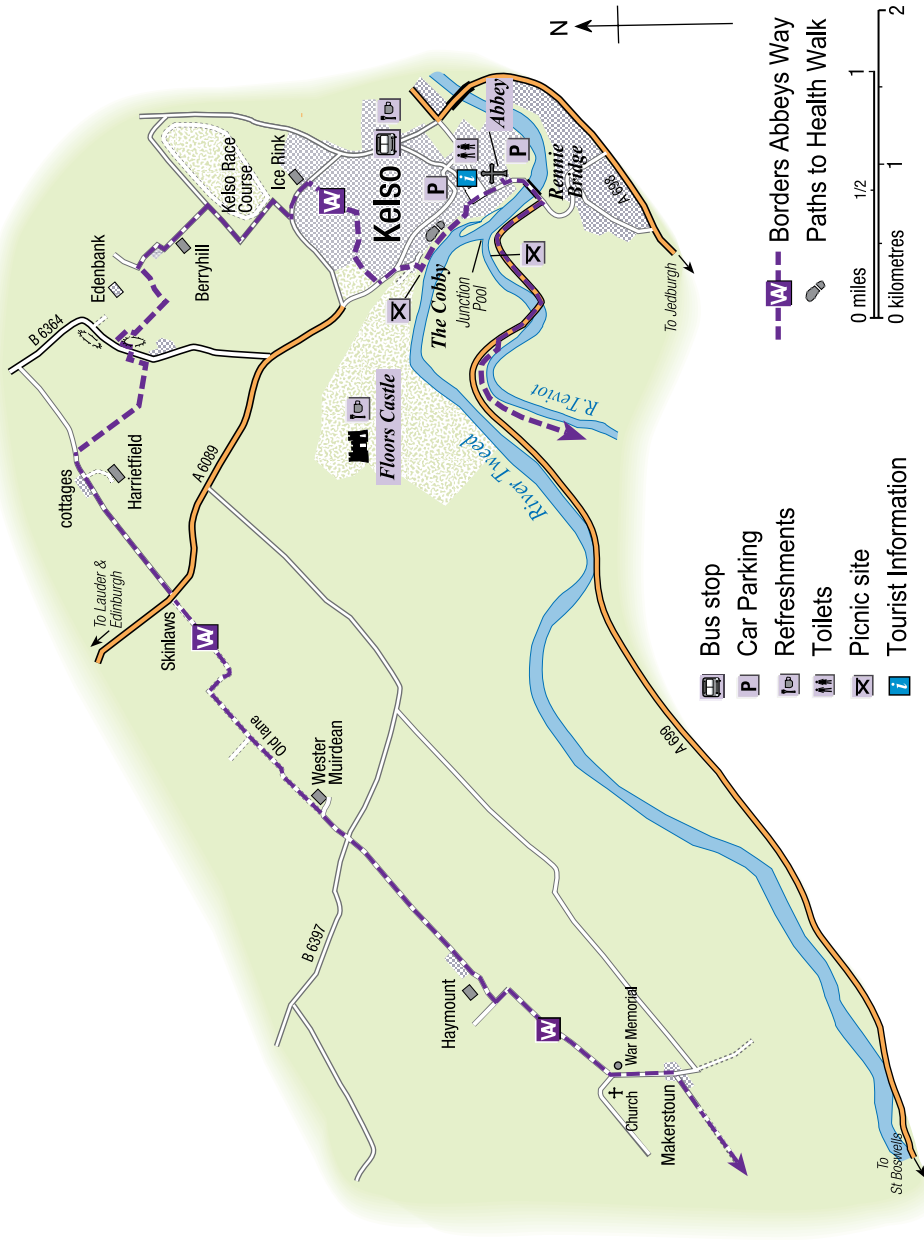
From Dryburgh Abbey, follow the track to the left of Dryburgh House Lodge and past the toilets. After 150m turn left and follow a path that comes out alongside the Tweed. Walk along the riverside, and continue with a field on your left. At the end of the field, leave the riverside, walking uphill through a small woodland. Look out for a view of **Mertoun Bridge**. On reaching a field, go along the right-hand edge of the field to a gateway. Follow the track up past Mertoun Cemetery to a road. Turn right and pass carefully along the road, through the hamlet of **Clintmains** to meet a main

road. Across the road is the driveway to **Mertoun House and Gardens**. The Gardens are open to the public at weekends during the summer.

Turn left, then cross the road to go along the road verge. After 300m turn right on an old tarmac road, then left to follow the path through the woodland on your left. At the end of the woodland, turn right along a minor road, pass the farm steading of **Magdalenehall** and continue straight ahead down a track that eventually reaches the bank of the River Tweed. After 1½ km, follow the track away from the riverbank, and then turn right through a gate. Follow the track up through the field, where livestock are often grazing (make sure your dog is under proper control), past **Old Dalcove** to another gate. Old Dalcove is the site of a medieval tower house, which was "brent, rased and caste downe" by the Earl of Hertford in September 1545.

Go through the gate, then straight on up the track. At the road turn right. From this road, good all-round views back to the Tweed, Eildon Hills and towards Smailholm Tower, Peniel Heugh and the Cheviot Hills can be had. At the end of the road, turn right down an old lane. Follow the lane to the left and continue straight on to reach the small settlement of **Makerstoun**.

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The Borders Abbeys Way Melrose to Kelso

Part 3 Makerstoun to Kelso Abbey

At the road junction turn left. From this road, **Makerstoun Church** can be seen to the left. Before the church, turn right at the **war memorial** and pass the former school. Follow this minor road through attractive rolling farmland, turning left, then right, past the farm and cottages of **Haymount**, eventually to meet a main road.

Cross this road carefully and go straight ahead, towards and then past the farm of **Wester Muirdean** (another place that fell victim to the Earl of Hertford), taking the rough old lane ahead as the road bends to the right. This lovely old lane eventually reaches a main road. This spot (**Skinlaws**) was a toll point for the 1799 Whiteburn to Kelso Turnpike. Cross carefully and go straight ahead on a minor road with wide verges, passing **Harrietfield**.

200m after a row of cottages, turn right onto a track between fields, towards the distant Cheviots. When the track meets a road, go straight across, taking care. Go through a gate into a field. Turn left and follow the edge of the field past a large mound and around to another gateway. The mound is known as Kaim Knowes and is a large deposit of material left by retreating glaciers about 12,000 years ago. Go through the gate and follow the left-hand edge of the field to a gate onto an old grassy lane. Turn left to the end of the lane, then right, up a quiet road,

past **Berryhill**, to the edge of **Kelso Racecourse**. The course is the home of Borders horse racing and was opened in 1822. It was also voted as 'Britain's Friendliest Racecourse'. Turn right, then left, around the Racecourse, following the road to a junction. Turn left and follow the pavement for 300m. Just after the golf clubhouse and opposite the **ice rink**, turn right on a tarmac path and straight on through a housing estate.

With the home of Kelso rugby club, Poynder Park, ahead of you, zigzag down the hill. Turn right to follow the path parallel to the road at the bottom. Eventually meet the road with Croft Park on your right and follow it to the main road ahead. Turn left, then right at the next junction. After 100m, turn right, down to the grassy bank of the Tweed.

Turn left along what is known as the **Cobby Riverside Walk**, which is flooded occasionally by the river, with the spire of Kelso North Parish Church to the left. At the end of the Cobby are what remains of the foundations of the water mill that was associated with the abbey. Go up the ramp, then straight ahead into the town centre. Turn right, passing The Square, formerly a large market place and the hub of the town from the Middle Ages, to reach the ruins of **Kelso Abbey** on your left.