

Original description of the NSA from the publication *Scotland's Scenic Heritage* published by the Countryside Commission for Scotland in 1978, and available on the Scottish Natural Heritage website at <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B464646.pdf> (6.52mb)

## **UPPER TWEEDDALE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA** *The Scottish Borders*

### **Description from *Scotland's Scenic Heritage* 1978**

The upper course of the River Tweed is contained in a narrow steep-sided valley flanked by rounded hills of considerable stature. The general sense of containment created by the narrow valley is given interest and variety by the inter-relationship of woodlands, sometimes shelterbelt, hedgerow or plantation, and both deciduous and coniferous, with farmland which ranges from rough grazing on the hill, through parkland, pasture and arable to riverside meadows.

The valley floor widens at each of the confluences of the Holm, Lyne and Manor Waters to give longer views into these tributary glens and the higher summits at their heads, and then narrows again at Neidpath where the castle guards the defile between Cademuir and the Meldons. The river itself contributes greatly to the scene, winding through its haughlands with a majesty that assumes greater magnitude than it really possesses. The dale is ornamented with castles, mansions, kirks, and prosperous farmhouses, and the hills marked with the innumerable remains of ancient occupation.