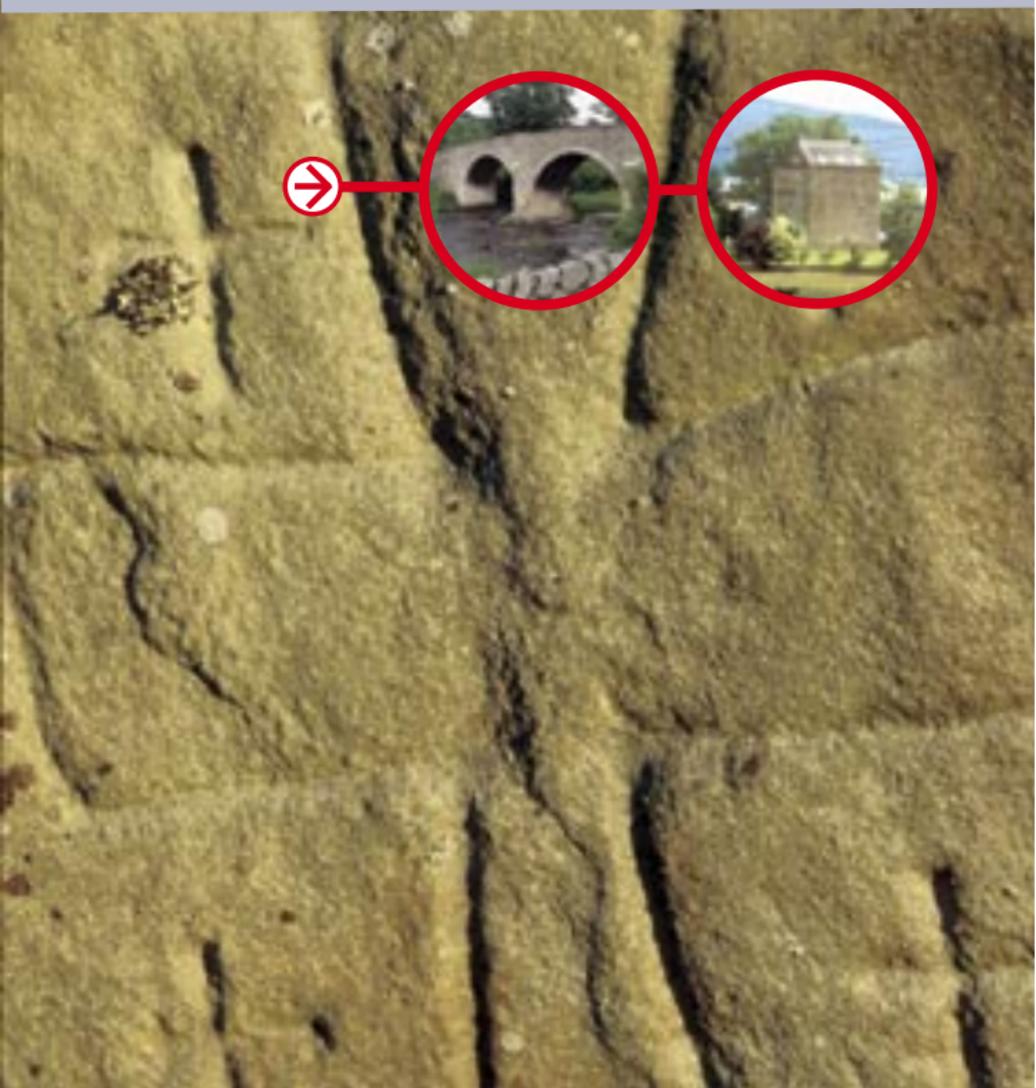


The Southern Upland Way

archaeology

guide



Carved crosses on Laggangarn Stones



**THE SOUTHERN
UPLAND WAY**





ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND

The earliest remains are from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, usually in the form of burial mounds or standing stones. In AD79 the Romans invaded and occupied much of south and central Scotland. The Southern Upland Way twice crosses Roman roads that were made through Nithsdale and Annandale to the northern outposts. The trail also passes close to the largest Roman complex in southern Scotland, Trimontium, so named due to its proximity to the three peaks of the Eildon Hills. The region was later influenced by Norse invaders along the coastal fringes, Anglian Kingdoms to the south of the Border and by Irish settlers from the west.



Sanquhar Castle

After Robert the Bruce won independence for Scotland the area was one of conflict and unrest. The remains of the fortified tower-houses (or Pele Towers) built in these times are stark testament to the Borders' bloody history. Further troubles erupted in the 17th century as Covenanters rebelled against the impositions of the English Bishops - the many martyrs' memorials reflecting the violence

of those "Killing Times". Even the relatively recent past provides insights into a way of life now gone; industrial and agricultural monuments tell of the revolutions that



Cove Harbour

peacefully swept the country and wartime monuments remind us that the region has not always been a peaceful place.



ARCHAEOLOGY ALONG THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

Features marked with an * are not marked on current 1:50,000 OS maps.

1 Portpatrick

The information shelter on the north side of the harbour gives details about the history of the village and the numerous shipwrecks in the area.

2 Standing Stone, Knock & Maize NW 998 579

It may not be of prehistoric significance, but instead a more recently erected cattle rubbing post.

3 Castle Kennedy

Built in 1607 and accidentally burnt down in 1716, it is now a roofless four-story ruin. Surrounded by formal gardens, open daily Easter - September (admission charge).

4 Standing Stones of Glenterrow NX 143 626

Four stones forming a rectangle, with a prostrate boulder a few metres to the NE. They may have been Bronze Age burial markers or had some other religious or ceremonial significance.

5 Caves of Kilhern NX 198 644

This chambered long cairn was a communal burial place constructed during the Neolithic period some 4000 to 5000 years ago.



6 Fauldinchie Farmstead NX 192 648 (Marked as hut circles)

Two groups of buildings, their stone walled yards and corn drying kiln were already in ruins in the mid 19th Century. The "rig and furrow" shows that the surrounding land used to be cultivated.

7 Burnt Mound NX 192 649 * (between track and public road, near junction - hard to find)

During the Bronze Age, fire-heated stones were immersed in stone or wood lined water troughs which were then used for cooking or bathing or both! The broken waste stones were thrown to one side to form the low, round or kidney-shaped mounds we see today.

8 Cairn na Gath NX 212 674

A chambered long cairn built some 4-5,000 years ago.

9 Laggangarn Standing Stones NX 222 716

Two standing stones which may have originally been part of a larger stone circle. Christian crosses were added at a later date, probably in the 6th or 7th centuries AD.



10 Wells of the Rees NX 229 723

The "wells" are three drystone domed structures each about three feet high built over small springs. There was said to have been a chapel beyond the dyke to the west and there was a suggestion that the wells lay on a route to a leper colony to the north, at Liberland. The "rees" are the nearby walled sheep enclosures.

11 Linn's Tomb NX 245 726



A walled enclosure with inscribed plaques commemorating Alexander Linn, a shepherd from New Luce, who was shot by dragoons near this spot, for adhering to his religious beliefs.

12 Corn drying Kiln, Garchew NX 336 754 *

An elevated low mound of about 15m diameter once used for drying grain.

13 Martyrs' Tomb, Caldons NX 397 788

A walled enclosure with plaque and replica grave marker commemorating six Covenanters who were surprised at prayer and immediately shot.

14 Steps of Trool, battle site NX 422 797

An information board describes the events leading up to Robert the Bruce's victory here in 1307.

15 Black Laggan NX 469 777

Abandoned farmstead last occupied earlier this century. At that time there was no road in from Craigencallie or Glentool, the usual approach was from the south by cart track from Newton Stewart via Drigmorn. The forest road was not built until the 1970s.

16 Clatteringshaws NX 551 763 (Off The Way)

Forest Enterprise Visitor Centre with local history and a reconstruction of a hut dwelling. Nearby there is a Bruce's Stone commemorating another victory over the English in 1307.

17 The Score, Waterside Hill NX 605 816 *

A circular trench cut into the turf which supposedly marks the spot where a reveller from Dalry escaped the witches by marking a circle with his sword- they dared not enter the circle but cut off his horse's tail which hung out over the line. This tale is said to be the original inspiration for Robert Burns' *Tam O Shanter*

18 St. John's Town of Dalry

There is an information shelter down past the town hall beside the footbridge over the river. It gives details about the medieval motte, the Covenanters and items of historical interest in and around the village.



19 Barlaes to Butterhole Bridge

The ridge leading from Earlston Burn towards the public road (NX 639 854 - NX 636 867) has traces of many ancient sites including field clearance cairns, a ring ditch, rig and furrow and hut circles. The ruin by the old Scots Pine trees beside the road (NX 643 857) used to be the local school. Beyond Butterhole Bridge, where the Way leaves the road again, there are two isolated large trees and the remains of a settlement (NX 644 883). Field enclosures and another settlement are just visible on the other side of the burn, downstream from the trees.

20 Stroanfreggan Cairn NX 640 915



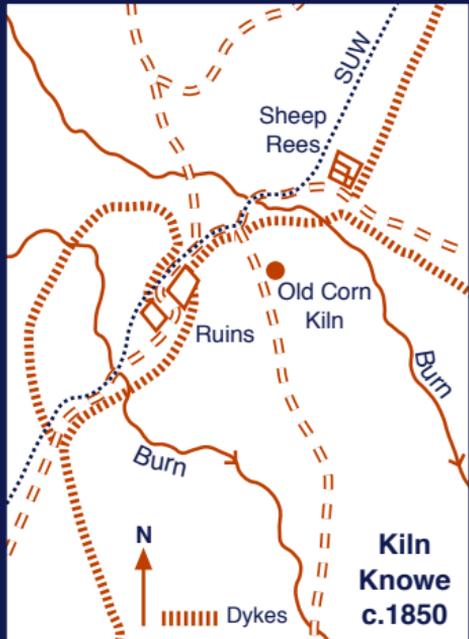
It appears as a low pile of stones, 25m in diameter, on the east side of the SUW between the road and Stroanfreggan Burn. A Bronze Age sealed stone cist was found here containing a flint knife. (The rounded hump on the opposite side of the track is believed to be a natural feature).

21 Stroanfreggan Fort NX 636 921 (Off the Way)

Measuring up to 50m across, it straddles the Craig and now consists of two concentric walls of fallen stones.

22 Kiln Knowe NX 647 925 * (Marked by one tree)

This farm settlement (the original Stroan Patrick) was already in ruins in the mid 19th century when the first 6" Ordnance Survey map was published. Look out for ruined dykes, rig and furrow systems and outlines of the farmhouse. The corn drying kiln is visible as a depression in the hillock to the east (see map).



23 Allan's Cairn NS 698 008

George Allan and Margaret Gracie were shot on the Fawns of Altry, an area of open moorland 1km east of the Whigs Hole (NS 671 000) a natural feature once used for open-air conventicles. Their inscribed sandstone memorial lies on the junction of three parish boundaries.

24 Diel's Dyke NS 766 075

A long low earthwork running parallel to the River Nith. It may have been a medieval boundary to a hunting preserve. It is best seen on the hillside east of the Way, opposite Ulzieside plantation.

25 Kemp's Castle NS 774 088 (off the Way)

Set on a tree-covered promontory between the Euchan Water and Barr Burn this earthwork was probably a medieval stronghold. There are no signs of walls or building foundations.

26 Sanquhar

There is an information shelter on the Way beside the River Nith at Blackaddie Bridge, with details about the town and the Covenanters. The Tolbooth Museum on the High Street has more historical information and numerous local artefacts. Sanquhar Castle NS 785092 is on the Way where it enters the town. Sanquhar has a Heritage Trail

27 Cogshead NS 830 132

A ruined farmhouse. If light conditions are right, the area where peat was dug for fuel can be seen on the opposite hill.

28 Wanlockhead

Visit the Museum of Leadmining to learn about the long and interesting history of the mining industry here. Open daily, Easter - mid October, (admission charge).



Beam Engine & Miners' Cottages

29 Roman Road, Over Fingland NS 928 095

The road is visible beside the stile as a shallow ditch roughly parallel with the present road. It connected Durisdeer and Nithsdale with outposts to the north, meeting up at Elvanfoot with an important Roman Road running up from the north of England through Beattock.

30 Memorial Stone, Mosshope NT 020 071* (On east side of Way, north side of burn)

Marks the spot where a shepherd perished in a snowstorm and was buried where he was found. There is a short inscription on the top.

31 Holmhead NT 036 047 * (Just north of Foy's Bridge)

A square enclosure of unknown significance probably associated with Holmhead Farm, the ruins of which lie further up the burn.

**32 Motte and Bailey, Holmshaw NT 051 040
(Off the Way)**

An imposing medieval fortification close to the Garpol Water. Nearby, in open country on the other side of the river, is an extensive rectangular enclosure 90m x 60m, with ramparts about 1m high.

**33 Memorial Stone NT 056 020 *
(Just within the forest)**

Marks the spot close to the road where a shepherd died while collecting lambs in the early hours of the morning.

**34 Witch's Wate NT 060 020 *
(On the north side of road)**

A place where travellers of old armed themselves with a rowan tree "rung" and two pieces of red thread as protection against witches lying in wate (rung = stout stick; wate = place of ambush).

35 Beattock Hill Fort NT 066 021

One of the more important forts in the area with excellent views across Annandale. Twenty-four kilometres to the south lies flat-topped Burnswark Hill, site of the most extensive fortification of any kind within the valley.

36 Horse Mill NT 076 027

A circular building beside the public road at Beattock Farm which once housed a horse-operated mill. No admittance.

37 Telford Bridge NT 077 027

Designed by Thomas Telford, there are two plaques beside the SUW fingerpost giving dates of construction and alterations.



**38 Lochhouse Tower
NT 083 036
(off the Way)**

Built by the Johnstones in the 16th century it is now used as a private house. It is best seen from the road to Moffat but can just be seen from the SUW half a mile after crossing under the motorway.



39 Roman Road NT 086 029

Visible only as a faint farm track, this road led northwards to Clydesdale. About a mile to the south there was a large Roman Fort complex but its outlines can now only be seen from the air.

40 Cornal Tower NT 112 045 (off the Way)

Very little remains of this 16th century tower, one of many that guarded the approach to the Moffat area.

41 Cornal Burn Settlement * NT 120 045

At the gate into the forest look to the north to the tall Scots Pines. Around them are the remains of the settlement.

42 Over Kirkhope, Deserted medieval village and chapel NT 209 122*

The remains of a medieval village represented by the turf-covered mounds of a number of small houses. To the NW are the remains of what is believed to be a small chapel. An early medieval (Dark Age) carved stone was found here and is now in the National Museum of Scotland.

43 Ettrick Church NT 259 145 (Off the Way)

A "New Kirk of Ettrick" has existed since the beginning of the 16th century but it is impossible to date more closely the first appearance of a church on this site. The existing building dates from 1824 and it is of interest for its internal layout that perpetuates the typical post-Reformation plan of a "preaching kirk". The tombs of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, and Tibbie Shiel are in the churchyard.

44 Tibbie Shiel's Inn NT 240 205

This inn was opened early in the 1820s and first run by Isabella "Tibbie" Shiel, widow of a local molecatcher. The inn was soon a roaring success and became a meeting place for various literary figures including James Hogg and Walter Scott.

Archaeology along the Southern Upland Way



Walking the Southern Upland Way provides a glimpse of a turbulent past. There are many chances to examine some feature of historical interest, dating back several thousands years or perhaps only a few centuries. If you keep your eyes open as you walk along the route you will be

Southern Upland Way



able to pick out evidence that shows that even along the remotest and most inhospitable parts of the Way there have been people living and working the land for hundreds if not thousands of years.

45 St Mary's Loch NT 260 228

On the slopes of the hill above Bowerhope are a series of medieval cultivation terraces. These were formed when medieval farmers ploughed horizontally along the hillside in an effort to reduce soil erosion. The terraces are currently under tree cover.

46 St Mary's Chapel NT 253 236* (Off the Way)

The burial-ground contains only one tombstone legibly dated to before 1707, a small headstone inscribed "MEMENTO / MORY (sic) HEIR / LYS / IEAN WEALCH / WHO DYED OCTO/BER 10 DAY 1699". The church of St. Mary of the Lowes, on record in 1292, probably stood in the NW corner of the enclosure, where a small heap of debris can be seen.

47 Dryhope Tower NT 266 246



Many tower houses were built in the Borders during the 15th and 16th centuries. This tower was home to Mary Scott, remembered in literature as the "*The Flower of Yarrow*" who was to marry the infamous Border reiver Walter Scott or "*Auld Wat*" of Harden. In 1592, King James VI ordered the tower to be demolished due to the participation of Scott on a raid, lead by Francis Stewart, Earl of Bothwell, against the king in his own palace at Falkland, in Fife.

48 Mid Hill NT 272 254

On a rise to the east of the Way are the much eroded remains of an Iron Age fortified farming settlement. The settlement is enclosed within a single bank and ditch with a possible entrance passage in the south-west corner.

49 Dryhope Rig NT 266 257*

About 350m to the north-west of the Way is the remains of a medieval hamlet. The turf-covered remains of seven buildings are visible, four of which have associated outhouses or annexes. This is the remains of a small farming community. On the opposite side of the Deephope Burn to the hamlet are the remains of a D-shaped earthen enclosure, possibly an Iron Age farmstead.

50 Blackhouse Tower NT 280 272

Thought to have been built in the late 16th century by the Stewarts of Traquair. The tower is now quite dilapidated although some of the walls survive to a height of 5 metres. The tower once held a circular stairway in the south-west corner and still sports a gunloop by the entrance. On the bank of the Douglas Burn opposite the tower are the remains of three medieval cottages. No admittance to the tower.

51 Blake Muir NT 310 307*

About 500m downslope from the Way is an Iron Age hamlet comprising five huts. The hut circles are in good condition save for one that is overlain by a modern sheepfold.

52 Glen House NT 297 330 (Off the Way)

Built in 1854 for Charles Tennant of the St Rollex Chemical Works, near Glasgow, and named after the Tennant's farm in Ayrshire. Charles Tennant discovered the use of chemical bleach and, in its day, St Rollex was the largest chemical works in the world. During the Second World War valuable paintings from the National Gallery of Scotland were stored in the cellars here, as a precaution against air-raids in Edinburgh.

53 Traquair Parish Church NT 320 335

The church of St Bride was part of the diocese of Glasgow, which was based in Strathclyde and paid particular honour to saints from Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Although first recorded in 1116, nothing of the medieval church can now be seen. The main part of the present parish church was built in 1778.

54 Traquair House NT 330 354*



It is claimed that Traquair is the oldest inhabited house in Scotland and it was, at one time, a favourite residence of Scottish Kings. Originally a tower house, the earliest part of the building probably dates to the period around 1492 when James Stewart 1st, of Traquair was given a charter to the property. The building was altered and extended during the 16th and 17th centuries, and two

wings were added later. The building contains living quarters, a functioning brewhouse, even a chapel, and it is still possible to see the "priest's hole" which provided a concealed refuge in times of religious intolerance. The famous Bear Gates (added in 1745 and closed in 1796 following the death of the 7th Earl's wife) stand at the main entrance, and the house and grounds are open to the public. Admission charge.

55 Innerleithen NT 330 365 (Off the Way)

Innerleithen was a small rural hamlet prior to the opening of the first modern mill in the Borders (Caerlee Mill) in 1788 and the medicinal spring being publicised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *St Ronan's Well* (1824). Robert Smail's Printing Works on the main street is preserved by the National Trust for Scotland and open to the public.

56 Minchmoor Road (Starts in Traquair NT 331 346)

This is an ancient drove road said to have been used by the monarchs of Scotland, when travelling to hunt in Old Ettrick Forest from Traquair. This road was used by the Marquis of Montrose to escape after being defeated at the Battle of Philiphaugh (near Selkirk) in 1645.

57 Cheese Well NT 360 336

The spring derives its name from the practice of travellers dropping food or cheese into the well to pacify spirits who were supposed to live in the area.

58 Wallace's Trench NT 387 327

On the western side of Brown Knowe lies a man-made embankment and ditch called Wallace's Trench, through which the Way passes. This feature dates from the Early Historic or Dark Age period and served as a land boundary, to mark the limits of the territory held by the Angles (to the east) and the native Britons (to the west).

59 Williamhope Burn NT 4215 3245*

On the hillside to the north of the Way stands a stone pillar that is said to mark the spot where one of the Earls of Douglas was killed c.1353.

60 Three Brethren NT 432 319

Three stone cairns known as The Three Brethren, constructed during the Middle Ages to mark the boundary between three properties which meet here: Selkirk Burgh, Yair & Buccleuch.



61 Yair Bridge NT 451 325

Yair Bridge was built in 1760 to accommodate a new "turnpike" road, which ran from Selkirk via Clovenfords and Stow to Edinburgh. Traditionally this neighbourhood was the assembly place for Scottish armies on the way south into England. It was here during one of these gatherings that the Black Death first broke out in Scotland in 1349. A short distance from Yair Bridge is a parking area with picnic tables and interpretation boards.



62 Galashiels NT 490 360

Before 1790 Galashiels was little more than a village, with only the church manse and one other house having slate roofs, until the rapid development of its weaving industry in the late 18th century. Today there are several points of interest including Old Gala House and the Market Cross.

63 Skirmish Field NT 533 346*

This is the site of a battle between the Scotts, Kers, Elliots and the Douglases for the custody of King James V on 25 January 1526. In the ensuing combat the Scott faction lost eighty men and were routed, although the Ker laird of Cessford was cut down by a servant of Scott's.

64 St Helens Haugh NT 536 347 to NT 562 346*

Along the river bank and just within the river itself at this point, the remains of river revetments probably constructed by the Cistercian monks of Melrose Abbey during the Middle Ages have been identified. The tops of wooden piles used to face and support the revetments can be picked out at times of low water.

65 Melrose Abbey NT 548 341*

Melrose was founded by a colony of Cistercian monks in or about 1136. Although this was one of Scotland's wealthiest

monasteries, it suffered badly in the wars that ravaged much of the Borders in the medieval period.

The abbey suffered particularly violent attacks in 1322, 1385, 1544 and

1545. The magnificent rebuilding of the late 14th and 15th centuries, which comprises most of what is visible today, arose following destruction by the English in 1385. The 16th century Commendator's House is now a museum and the Chapter House contains the burial of a heart, thought to be that of King Robert I, "The Bruce".



66 Eildon North Hill NT 555 328* (Off the Way)

The summit of Eildon North Hill is crowned by the largest hillfort in Scotland. Built in the 10th century BC, this fortified site contains visible remains of nearly 300 hut circles. When the Romans arrived in the Borders almost 1,000 years later they built a Roman watch tower on the summit of the hill and the shallow ditch that enclosed it can still be seen today. Footpaths that incorporate the hill include the Eildon Walk and St Cuthbert's Way.

67 Chain Bridge NT 545 346

An early suspension bridge built of iron, opened on 26 October 1826.



68 Covenanters Well NT 535 418*

This is the site of an old well, said to have been frequented by the Covenanters, that has now vanished but the spring that once fed the well still issues forth at this site.

69 Chester Hill NT 526 468

Iron Age Hillfort. This defended farmstead was originally surrounded by double ramparts but has been much denuded by quarrying. There is an entrance in the east side and what may be the remains of house platforms near the southern interior rampart.

70 Lauder NT 530 475

A medieval burgh founded in the 12th century when King David I granted the town and lands to the Norman, Hugh de Morville. Lauder is unique in the Scottish Borders in that it still retains its medieval shape of a wide main street with two "back lanes".

71 Thirlestane Castle NT 534 479*

Built 1590 by John Maitland and enlarged 1670-76 by the Duke of Lauderdale. The castle is well preserved and is surrounded by a designed landscape. It is open to the visitor seasonally (admission charge). The castle sits on a Motte built for an earlier castle and the remains of ditches, possibly indicating the presence of a fortified site of the Iron Age can be seen on the hill.

72 Braidshaw or Broadshaw Rig NT 582 526*

The remains of a copper mine can still be seen here.

73 Twinlaw Cairns NT 625 548

Two Bronze Age burial cairns, excavated and reconstructed in the 19th century, stand on the top of Twinlaw. The cairns were flattened by Polish army tanks on manoeuvres during World War II and have since been rebuilt.



74 Twinlawhouse Burn NT 647 556*

18th century farmstead. Between the Way and the Twinlawhouse Burn are the turf-covered remains of a farmstead along with an associated enclosure, possibly used to pen animals. This farm was known as Twinlaw House in the 19th century and is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps.

75 John Dippie's Well NT 646 559

This well bears the inscription "There is no water in the Lammermuirs sweeter than that at John Dippie's Well." The inscription was erected in 1898 but travellers used the well for a long time before this.

76 John Dippie's House NT 647 559

The remains of an 18th century farmstead and associated enclosure are visible opposite John Dippie's Well. Traditionally this was the home of the Keeper of the Well. This farmstead was known as Twinlawford in the 19th century and is shown as such on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps.

77 Watch Water Valley NT 65 56*

The north facing slopes of the Watch Water valley all show signs of medieval rig-and-furrow cultivation. This is clearly visible from the Way.

78 Old Scarlaw Tower NT 658 567*

Only the foundations of this 16th century tower house survive.

79 Longformacus Parish Church NT 644 573

The present parish church was built in 1730 on top of the foundations of an earlier church that dates back to the 13th century.

**80 Ellem Old Parish Church NT 728 601*
(Off the Way)**

Built in the 13th century. Used as a meeting place by James IV in 1496 before an expedition into England. The church fell into disuse during the 17th century by which time Ellem parish had been merged with Longformacus. Only the footings of the church survive today but the site provides an open view westward over the haugh lands of Ellem where the Scottish army camped in 1496.

81 Barnside NT 747 612*

Ruined medieval farmstead. The footings of three buildings arranged around a yard can be picked out. This farmstead is recorded on a 16th century map as Frampetth.

82 Abbey St Bathans Priory NT 758 622



A priory for Cistercian nuns was founded at Abbey St Bathans in the 12th century and stayed in use until 1622. The present parish church is built on the site of the priory and it is possible to pick out

the original masonry along the foot of the north and south walls of the present church.

83 Edin's Hall Broch NT 772 603 (Off the Way)

More often associated with northern Scotland and the Islands, this Broch is one of only three known in the Scottish Borders, and is one of the most



impressive archaeological features in Southern Scotland. Enclosed within the remains of an earlier hillfort or settlement are the remains of a massive stone tower, and there are secondary enclosures within the main ramparts, which contain the remains of house sites. The tower and complex would have been in use about 2000 years ago.

84 Cove Harbour NT 785 716

In the 1750s and again in the 1820s attempts were made to build a harbour, but in each case the works were wrecked by storms before completion. The existing harbour, completed in 1831 consists of two piers, forming a simple harbour. Carved into the cliff is a tunnel that connects the harbour to the track down to the harbour. Inside this tunnel are four cellars, which are often thought of as smugglers hide-outs but were in fact used for the barrelling and curing of white fish. The cellars are no longer open to the public but the tunnel can still be visited.

85 Cockburnspath Cross NT 774 711

The Mercat Cross was erected circa 1503 to commemorate the marriage of King James IV of Scotland to Margaret Tudor, sister of King Henry VIII of England. The proposed union of the two countries is symbolised by the thistle and the rose that are carved onto the cross. Improvements to the Market Place were carried out in 1999 by the Scottish Borders Council with EU assistance.

86 Cockburnspath Parish Church NT 774 711

This Church was originally a dependant chapel of Coldingham Priory. It was occupied for a time by Oliver Cromwell's troops after the battle of Dunbar in 1650 and was severely damaged by the encamped soldiers, afterwards needing repairs and a new roof. The church has been further added to and repaired in the intervening centuries and, with its well-maintained graveyard, it lies close to the village square.

➔ The Southern Upland Way wends its way from coast to coast across the hills of the Southern Uplands. The rich and varied landscape is the result of aeons of geological activity combined with the relatively recent impact of man.



Further information about walking the Southern Upland Way can be obtained from:

Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Service, Rae Street, Dumfries DG1 2LW or
Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service, Harestanes Visitor Centre, Ancrum, Jedburgh TD8 6UQ

Official website for up to date information:
www.dumgal.gov.uk/southernuplandway



The upkeep, development and promotion of the Southern Upland Way is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Councils.

*Photographs by the Countryside Ranger Services
Designed by the Technical Team, Planning & Environment,
Dumfries and Galloway Council August 2003*