



available from www.visitscotland.com. Those in search of less energetic pursuits will find a wide variety of other activities and attractions, including golf courses and historic sites.

can be combined with those developed through Tweed Trails, but there is no guarantee as to the condition of these routes. Some paths marked on the Ordnance Survey or other maps can prove difficult to follow on the ground. Details of other paths in the areas are available from VisitScotland and Pebles office or from a selection of walking guides. The West Linton Golden Jubilee Heritage Trail leaflet offers a wealth of local historical information, linked to a self-guided walk around West Linton, with an accompanying 'I Spy' trail leaflet for children. At one time an important market town on the crossing of the main drove roads north-south and east-west, West Linton is now an attractive village with various general stores, a post office, bookshop, several pubs and restaurants offering food to suit varying tastes and budgets. The post office and several other local shops carry copies of leaflets about the area. For visitors to the area, there are a variety of places ready to welcome you on your stay from impressive castles to friendly farmhouses and town-based bed and breakfasts. Details of accommodation for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and motorists are available from www.visitscotland.com. Those in search of less energetic pursuits will find a wide variety of other activities and attractions, including golf courses and historic sites.

Geology of the West Linton Area

The geology and soils of this area reveal how the local landscape has been fashioned over many thousands of years. Between West Linton and Romanno Bridge, the valley floor is lined by red sandstones some 400 million years old. As the ice retreated some 10,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age, these softer sandstones were more deeply eroded than the harder, more resistant rocks of the hills. The boundary between these two types of rocks, the Southern Uplands Fault, is marked by a steep scarp near Romanno Bridge.

The prominent scarp of The Loan and The Catwalk marks another fault, separating the softer sandstones of the valley from the more resistant crystalline volcanic rocks of the same age. Mendick Hill is also formed of this volcanic rock, whereas the Pentland Hills are formed of sandstones with volcanic intrusions.



The retreating ice deposited a tenacious boulder clay on top of the bedrock, containing fragments of rock gouged out by the movement of the ice sheet. Lying on this are sands and gravels deposited by meltwater coming out of the ice. On either side of the A702 south of West Linton, these sands and gravels form terraces, "kaimes" and "eskers", which have in the past been quarried. Repeated meltwater floods, perhaps as ice-dammed lakes burst, scoured out the dramatic gorge at the Catwalk.

On top of all of these layers are river sediments deposited by the Lyne and West Water, and in places peat.

The map overlaid indicates the Tweed Trails paths which have been developed around West Linton, Newlands and Romanno Bridge. As well as clear waymarking, gates have been replaced so that they are easy to open and close, and drainage work has been undertaken to resolve identified problems. However, in keeping with the rural setting, the majority of these paths are unsurfaced and stout footwear is therefore recommended. There are no stiles on Tweed Trails paths, to improve accessibility for people of all ages and abilities, although varying gradient and uneven surface may restrict some users. The information overlaid is intended to help you decide for yourself which paths suit your needs, interests and abilities. Together these paths form an integrated network - the possibilities for walking, cycling and riding are limited only by your imagination, time and energy! There are no fixed routes or distances, it is up to you to work out a route as long or as short as you want. Larger scale maps should be used to follow routes on the ground, such as Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50,000 map no. 72 Upper Clyde Valley and 1:25,000 Explorer Maps no. 344 The Pentland Hills and 336 Broughton and Biggar. Similar leaflets to this are available from VisitScotland and other local outlets outlining Tweed Trails paths around Pebles and Eddleston; Innerleithen and Walkerburn; the Cross Borders Drive Road from the Pentlands to Traquair and routes on the Cheviot Hills. An overall leaflet summarising the 350km South of Scotland Countryside Trails network and accommodation for horse and rider is also available. More detailed route descriptions are available on www.southofscotlandcountrysidetrails.co.uk. There are many other paths around North Tweeddale, as well as further afield in the Borders and adjoining counties to the north and west, which

Most of the paths described in this leaflet can be enjoyed at any time of year, but avoid riding or cycling grassy or unsurfaced paths during wet weather when the surface is easily chewed up. Remember that there are responsibilities attached to the right of public access.

- Respect the privacy, safety and livelihoods of those living and working in the countryside, and the needs of other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Look after the places and routes you visit and enjoy: take only memories, leave only footprints.
- Accept responsibility for your own actions.
- Keep dogs under close control at all times, ideally on a short lead, particularly where there are livestock.

Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code - for more information visit www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

The paths described in this leaflet were initiated by North Tweeddale Paths, a local voluntary community group, and have been developed through Tweed Trails, the Scottish Borders section of South of Scotland Countryside Trails. Under the umbrella of Southern Uplands Partnership, this innovative project has developed a network of over 350km of off-road routes enabling walkers, cyclists and horse-riders to enjoy Southern Scotland's rich heritage of ancient routes. HLF funding has been co-ordinated by Tweed Forum through the Tweed Rivers Heritage Project.

www.southofscotlandcountrysidetrails.co.uk

If you are interested in helping develop or maintain paths in North Tweeddale, please contact Roger Oakes, Chairman of North Tweeddale Paths, tel. 01968 660614.

Supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**



Designed by Dumfries and Galloway Council Graphics Team

The Tweed Trails project, the Scottish Borders section of South of Scotland Countryside Trails, has taken advantage of unique funding opportunities to improve public access in Tweeddale. Over 1,000 local residents were independently involved in public consultations co-ordinated by community councils and newly formed local path groups to identify priority paths.



At the foot of the Pentland hills, North Tweeddale Newlands, with links to other longer distance paths. Romanno Bridge, Blyth Bridge, Carlups and Highlanders and markets south of the border runs high up into the hills, intersected by the typically straight road along the foot of the Pentlands built by the Romans to link their garrisons at Biggar and Elginhaugh. More local paths provide short walks and links between longer distance routes.

Tweed Trails paths are part of the 350km South of Scotland Countryside Trails network.



Cauldstane Slap

The old drove road from West Linton heads up the tarmac public road to Baddingsgill, beyond which a stony track climbs north, gradually becoming grassier to the breach in the Pentlands at the Cauldstane Slap. From here a narrow, unsurfaced path leads on northwards.

Old Roman Road (west)

The firm track between Dolphinton and West Linton following roughly the line of the old Roman road follows the contour along the side of the Pentland Hills, and is therefore relatively level but largely unsurfaced.

North Slipperfield to Garvald

This track runs parallel to the old Roman road west of West Linton, but once branching off the tarmac road to West Water Reservoir, is more of a hill path with uneven surface and variable gradient. The moorland sections of the path are relatively exposed and can be wet and boggy at times, but this route makes an enjoyable circular in conjunction with the old Roman road, with option for a longer route through to Dunsyre, or linking to other paths over the Pentlands and to the Covenanters Grave.

Mendick Hill

From the old Roman road, an informal grassy path winds up to the summit of Mendick Hill, affording views of the Lyne Valley below.

Old Roman Road (east)

From Lynedale, the old Roman road continues north-east to Carlops as a wide stony track of varying gradient and uneven surface.

Stonypath to Baddingsgill

The inviting grassy track following the contour of the hill parallel and to the east of the old drove road south of Baddingsgill links via a stony track to the old Roman road south of Stonypath. An ideal medium-length circular route in conjunction with the quiet road to Baddingsgill.

The Catwalk

As its name implies, this narrow footpath is perched along the side of a gorge and is suitable only for sure-footed walkers. A short link joins up with The Loan to form a circular walk.

The Loan

Sections of the stony road climbing north-west from West Linton to join the Roman road near Stonypath have been improved through Tweed Trails, but the surface remains unconsolidated with varying gradient.

Kaimes

A new path climbs up a stony farm track to the aerial, levelling out onto a grassy track, skirting down around the back of Kaimes House to an attractive path alongside a shelterbelt, and linking down through fields to Halmyre along farm tracks.

Henderland Hill Fort

Developed entirely by the local community group, this new informal grassy path leads up to the summit of the hill fort.

John's Path

From Blyth Bridge, an attractive informal grassy footpath follows the west bank of the Tarth Water south, linking back to the public road towards Castle Craig. The path is named after John Shaw, the dedicated local volunteer who initiated this path.

Old Coach Road

The old road between Blyth Bridge and West Linton is now an enjoyable gently undulating track, grassy at the southern end and stony towards the north, readily accessible but with the feeling of being well off the beaten track.

Old Drove Road south

From Halmyre, the old drove road climbs as an uneven grassy track between twin dykes, up onto wide open hill between Drum Maw and Hag Law. No sign of habitation is visible as you drop down between rolling hills to cross Fingland Burn, before climbing gently again along a clearly defined track to the forest boundary near the Flemington Burn.

Carlops area

The distinctive little village of Carlops has a useful car park with direct access to a variety of circular walks. Although not directly developed through Tweed Trails, these paths have been well signed by Pentland Regional Park and Scotways.

