

SOUTHERN BORDERS LOOP

CYCLE ROUTE

P1



What is it?

A choice of a 50-mile circuit or longer 75-mile loop travelling through Hawick and Newcastleton.

Why do it?

Scenic countryside, quiet roads and interesting visitor attractions along the way. Great places to stay, high quality restaurant and coffee stops en-route.

How tough?

The shorter route is MODERATE and can easily be completed in a day. The larger circuit is HARD (suitable for more experienced cyclists) with 5 significant climbs over 300m.

Getting there

The nearest railway station to Hawick/Newcastleton is Carlisle (24 miles from Newcastleton). Several specialist organisations in the Scottish Borders, including some of the accommodation providers, will offer bike/passenger transfer services. There is a regular bus service from Carlisle to Hawick.

Where to stay?

The shorter route is best undertaken in a clockwise direction and can be started from either Newcastleton or Hawick. The longer loop is best cycled anti-clockwise and could be broken with an overnight stay in Newcastleton, Hawick or Langholm depending upon the starting location.

Many of the accommodation providers below have **Cyclist Welcome accreditation** or offer special facilities for cyclists such as secure bike storage and clothes-drying facilities.

There is more accommodation available in all areas
Visit www.visitscottishborders.com for details.

Where to Stay

Inexpensive (under £40pppn)

HAWICK

Brougham House B&B (Awaiting grading)
15 Brougham Place, Hawick
Tel 07814 354106
www.broughamhouse.com

Lynnwood Cottage, 4★ B&B,
12 Liddesdale Road, Hawick
Tel 01450 372461
www.lynnwoodcottage.co.uk

Wiltonburn Farm, 3★ B&B, Hawick,
Tel 01450 372414
www.wiltonburnfarm.co.uk

Oakwood House, 3★ B&B, Buccleuch Road, Hawick
Tel 01450 372814
www.smoothhound.co.uk/hotels/oakwood

Billerwell Farmhouse, 4★ B&B, Bonchester Bridge,
Hawick
Tel 01450 860656
www.billerwellfarm.co.uk

NEWCASTLETON

The Grapes, 16 Douglas Square, Newcastleton,
Tel 013873 75245
www.the-grapes-hotel.com

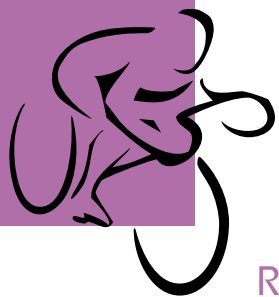
Liddesdale Hotel, 17 Douglas Square, Newcastleton,
Tel 01387 375 255
www.liddesdalehotel.co.uk

Sorbietrees, 3★ B&B, Newcastleton
Tel 013873 75215
www.sorbietrees.co.uk

Woodside B&B, North Hermitage Street,
Newcastleton
Tel 013873 75431
<http://www.woodside.newcastleton.net>



Hermitage Castle



SOUTHERN BORDERS LOOP

CYCLE ROUTE INFO

Recommended coffee stops/lunch/dinner:

HAWICK

Turnbulls

Light lunches, coffees and homemade cakes
4 Oliver Place, Hawick,
Tel 01450 372020

Damascus Drum Café & Bookshop

Snacks, coffees and lunches. Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm
2 Silver Street, Hawick
Tel 07707856123
www.damascusdrum.co.uk

Bean Scene Coffee and Music House

Meals, snacks, drinks. Mon-Sun 9am – 10pm
(7pm Sundays)
Towermill, Kirkstile, Hawick
Tel 01450 376228
www.beanscene.co.uk

NEAR HAWICK

Horse & Hound Country Inn, Bonchester Bridge

Lunch and dinners.
Bonchester Bridge, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 8JN
Tel 01450 860645



NEWCASTLETON

Olive Tree Café

Coffees, teas, lunches, take away
38 South Hermitage Street
Newcastleton
Tel 013873 75479

The Grapes

Coffees afternoon teas, snacks, drinks, lunch/dinners
16 Douglas Square, Newcastleton,
Tel 013873 75245
www.the-grapes-hotel.com

Liddesdale Hotel

Lunches and dinners
17 Douglas Square, Newcastleton,
Tel 01387 375255
www.liddesdalehotel.co.uk

Biking Information

Cycle Hire/Repairs/Transfers

HAWICK

Teviot Cycles (Sales)

1 Oliver Place
Hawick
TD9 9BG
Tel 01450 377611

Scottish Borders Bike Hire

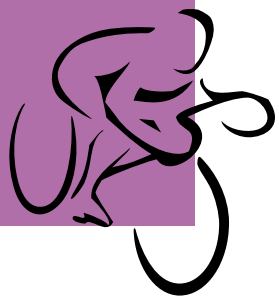
Cycle hire and a pick-up and drop-off
service for hire customers or guests of
Brougham House B&B.
Tel 07805 465372
www.scottishbordersbikehire.com

SCOTLAND

Go-Where

Passenger and bike travel and transport
services
(for up to 12 clients) throughout Scotland
Tel 01896 888096
www.go-where.co.uk





SOUTHERN BORDERS LOOP

CYCLE ROUTE INFO

What to see? A few suggestions on things to see en-route:

WILTON LODGE HAWICK MUSEUM/ WALLED GARDENS

Local history museum including information on famous Hawick folk, 'The Old Schoolroom', nature displays, archaeology and a gift shop. There is also a park and a walled garden to explore.

Open Jan-December (exact opening days/times vary visit www.scotborders.gov.uk for details)
Tel 01450 373457

HEART OF HAWICK

Cinema/café/visitor centre/heritage archive

Visit the Heritage Hub to find out about Borders family history, communities, industries and people. Discover how the Scottish Borders has evolved and developed through the centuries in this state of the art archive facility. There is also a Tourist Information Centre and Textile Towerhouse on the same site.

Open Mon-Sat, Tel 01450 360699
www.heartofhawick.co.uk

HAWICK CASHMERE

Mill Shop and The Hawick Cashmere Visitor Centre where visitors can watch the machines at work and browse around an extensive range of knitwear.

Hawick Factory Visitor Centre, Arthur Street, Hawick TD9 9QA, Tel 01450 371221

Open Mon-Sat 9am – 5pm



Hawick's Heritage Hub

LIDDESDALE HERITAGE CENTRE

The museum houses a large collection of historical artifacts with facilities for genealogical research. A commemorative bicentenary tapestry created by local needleworkers is a unique exhibit. Of special interest is a collection of Waverley Line railway memorabilia.

Open Good Friday – end September (closed Tuesdays)
Old Townfoot Kirk South Hermitage Street, Newcastleton,
Tel 01387 375816

Admission charged

HERMITAGE CASTLE (NR NEWCASTLETON)

Hermitage Castle has a history filled with intrigue, murders, trysts, torture, and treason.

Open Mon-Sun, April 1st – September 30th

Admission charged

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

FARMERS MARKETS

The Scottish Borders is home to a host of local producers creating everything from cured meats and cheeses, to farmhouse ice creams.

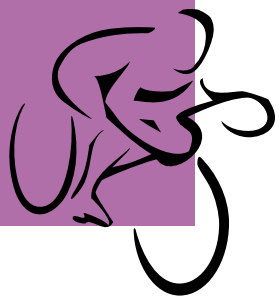
Great places to pick up goodies for a packed lunch or foodie gifts to take home.

Hawick Farmers Market – 3rd Friday of the month,
9.30am - 1.30pm

Langholm Producers' Market – 1st Saturday of the month,
9am - 1pm

- ▶ General info on attractions and accommodation in the Scottish Borders (www.visitscottishborders.com)
- ▶ General info on attractions and accommodation in the Dumfries and Galloway (www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk)
- ▶ General info on attractions and accommodation in Newcastleton (www.visitnewcastleton.com)





SOUTHERN BORDERS LOOP

RIDE THE ROUTE #1

LOOP 1 (50 MILES)

DETAILS OF THE ROUTE

Hawick to Bonchester Bridge – 9.5 miles

From the start/finish option in Hawick (main car park) to Start/ Finish option in Bonchester Bridge (Horse and Hound Hotel).

- 1 Take the main exit from the car park and turn right.
- 2 At the T junction turn right
- 3 At the T junction turn right and then pass over the river.
- 4 At the roundabout bear left onto the B6399 and follow the road round past the end of the high street and through the narrow section of road.
- 5 Take the second left onto Mill Path and climb up passing under the old railway bridge.
- 6 At the cross roads turn right and continue climbing.
- 7 Take the 3rd left into Braid Road – follow this road out of Hawick. The surface is initially poor but it does improve.
- 8 The road meanders around until a T junction at about 2.25 miles from Hawick. Turn left.
- 9 Turn left again at the next T junction onto the A6088 and then take the first right.
- 10 Follow this minor road ignoring all turnings until the junction at approx 4.5 miles from Hawick. Turn right, signposted Bonchester Bridge.
- 11 At the junction at approx 5.3 miles from Hawick, turn right signposted Bonchester Bridge.
- 12 Follow this road across the foot of Rubers Law ignoring all turnings off.
- 13 At the junction with the A6088, turn left.
- 14 Follow the A6088 into Bonchester Bridge

Bonchester Bridge to Newcastleton – 19 miles

From Start/Finish option in Bonchester Bridge to Start/ Finish option in Newcastleton (Grapes Hotel).

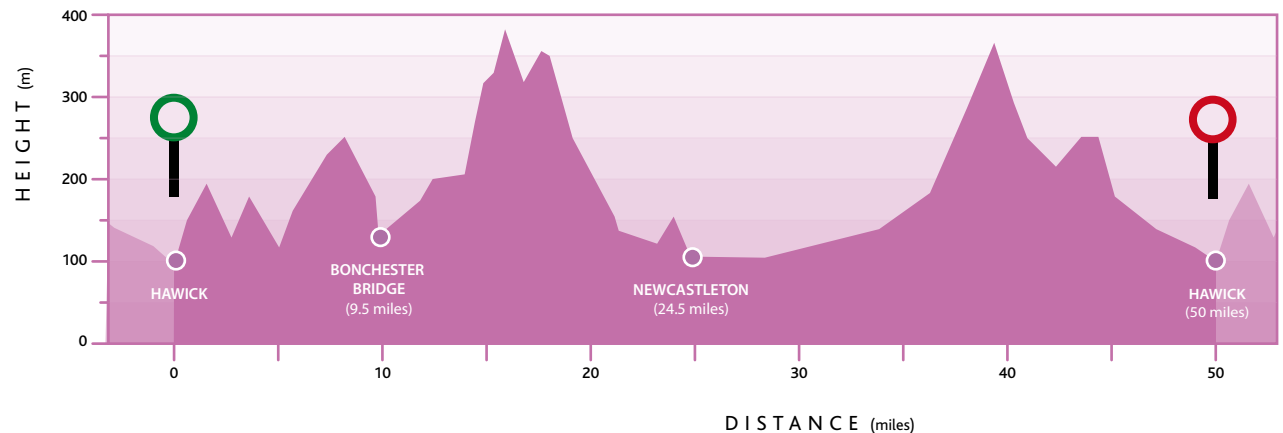
- 1 Take to minor road directly opposite the Horse and Hound Hotel signposted Hobkirk and Harwood.
- 2 Pass through Hobkirk.
- 3 Ignore the turning to Harwood, instead following the road round to the left and over a bridge.
- 4 Take the next right (phone box on the junction).
- 5 Follow the road along the edge of the forest, pass the turning for Wauchope Cottages, and then up steeply to the B6357.
- 6 Turn right (no signposts).
- 7 Follow the road up through the Wauchope Forest, down past the turning to Kielder and onwards towards Newcastleton.
- 8 At the junction with the B6399, bear left to Newcastleton.
- 9 Follow the road into Newcastleton.

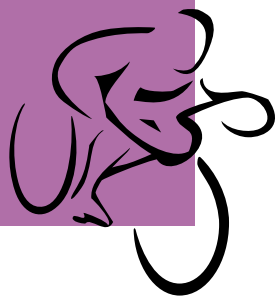
Newcastleton to Hawick – 21.5 miles

From Start/Finish option in Newcastleton (Grapes Hotel) to Start/Finish option in Hawick (main car park).

- 1 Head north along the B6357 out of Newcastleton.
- 2 Where B6357 turns off to the right, follow road round to left onto B6399, signposted Hawick.
- 3 Follow road ignoring all turnings, passing Whiterope Heritage centre and the turning for the Hermitage Castle, up over Lime Kiln Edge, and down to Hawick.
- 4 In Hawick, follow the road into the town centre, ignoring all turnings, passing through a narrow section as you enter into the end of the high street and turning round and down to the roundabout at the A7.
- 5 Bear right at the roundabout and pass over the river bridge.
- 6 Take the first left, and then turn left again.
- 7 Turn left into the car park.

LOOP 1 PROFILE





SOUTHERN BORDERS LOOP

RIDE THE ROUTE #2

LOOP 2 (75 MILES)

DETAILS OF THE ROUTE

Hawick to Langholm – 44 miles

From the start/finish option in Hawick (main car park) to the start/finish option of Langholm (main car park).

- 1 Take the main exit from the car park and turn left.
- 2 Follow the road round to the right past the park gates and then take first left.
- 3 Take second left (the one after the left that's signposted 'museum').
- 4 Pass the playing fields and at the road junction by the river, bear left.
- 5 At the T junction turn right onto the B711.
- 6 Follow the B711, ignoring all turnings, through Robertson.
- 7 Continue on the B711, ignoring all turnings, up over the pass down to a reservoir, on through the edge of a forest and some open moorland.

- 8 Head downhill into Tushilaw (not signed) and the junction with the B709.
- 9 Turn left and head up the Ettrick Valley on the B709.
- 10 Continue on the B709 past Ettrick, through the Eskdalemuir forest and down to the Samye Ling Tibetan Centre.
- 11 Pass the Tibetan centre (or stop for refreshments), and continue on the B709 to Eskdalemuir.
- 12 At Eskdalemuir, ignore the turning for the B723 and follow the B709 round to the left and over the river bridge.
- 13 Follow the B709 to Langholm.
- 14 At the junction with the A7, turn left.
- 15 After 200m turn into main car park.

Langholm to Newcastleton – 9.5 miles

From the start/finish option of Langholm (main car park) to the start/finish option of Newcastleton (Grapes Hotel).

- 1 Exit the car park and turn left onto the A7.
- 2 Take the first right. This turns back towards the opposite direction and climbs steeply.

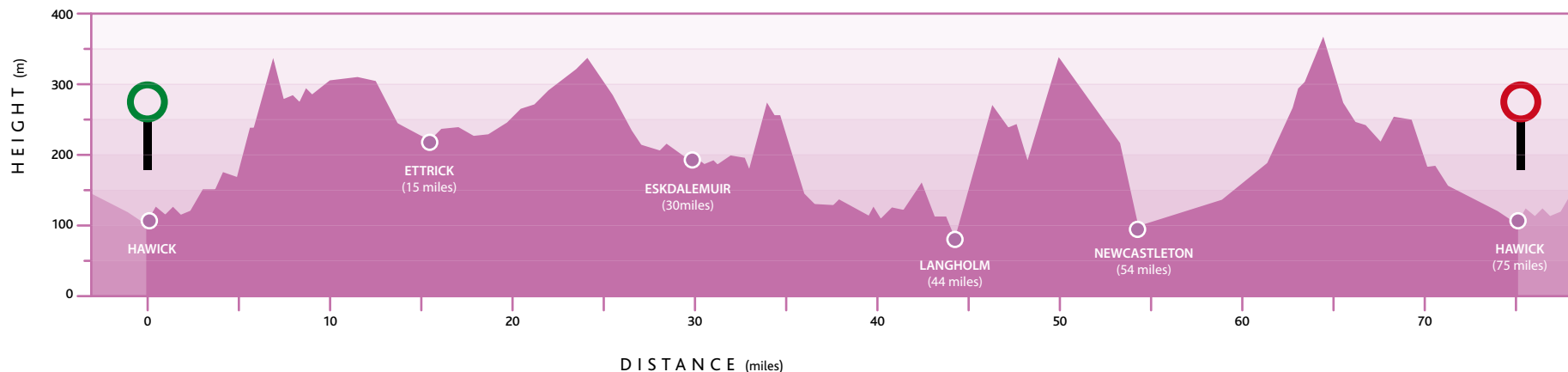
- 3 Follow the minor road up past the monument on White Hill, down into the next valley and then back up onto the top of the moorland.
- 4 Continue along the road, ignoring all turnings, down into Newcastleton.
- 5 At the junction in the centre of the village turn left onto the B6357.
- 6 The main car park and the Grapes Hotel are on the left.

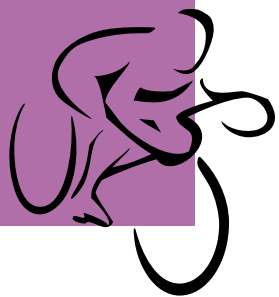
Newcastleton to Hawick – 21.5 miles

From Start/Finish option in Newcastleton (Grapes Hotel) to Start/Finish option in Hawick (main car park).

- 1 Head north along the B6357 out of Newcastleton.
- 2 Where B6357 turns off to the right, follow road round to left onto B6399, signposted Hawick.
- 3 Follow road ignoring all turnings, passing Whiterope Heritage Centre and the turning for the Hermitage Castle, up over Lime Kiln Edge, and down to Hawick.
- 4 In Hawick, follow the road into the town centre, ignoring all turnings, passing through a narrow section as you enter into the end of the high street and turning round and down to the roundabout at the A7.
- 5 Bear right at the roundabout and pass over the river bridge.
- 6 Take the first left, and then turn left again.
- 7 Turn left into the car park.

LOOP 2 PROFILE

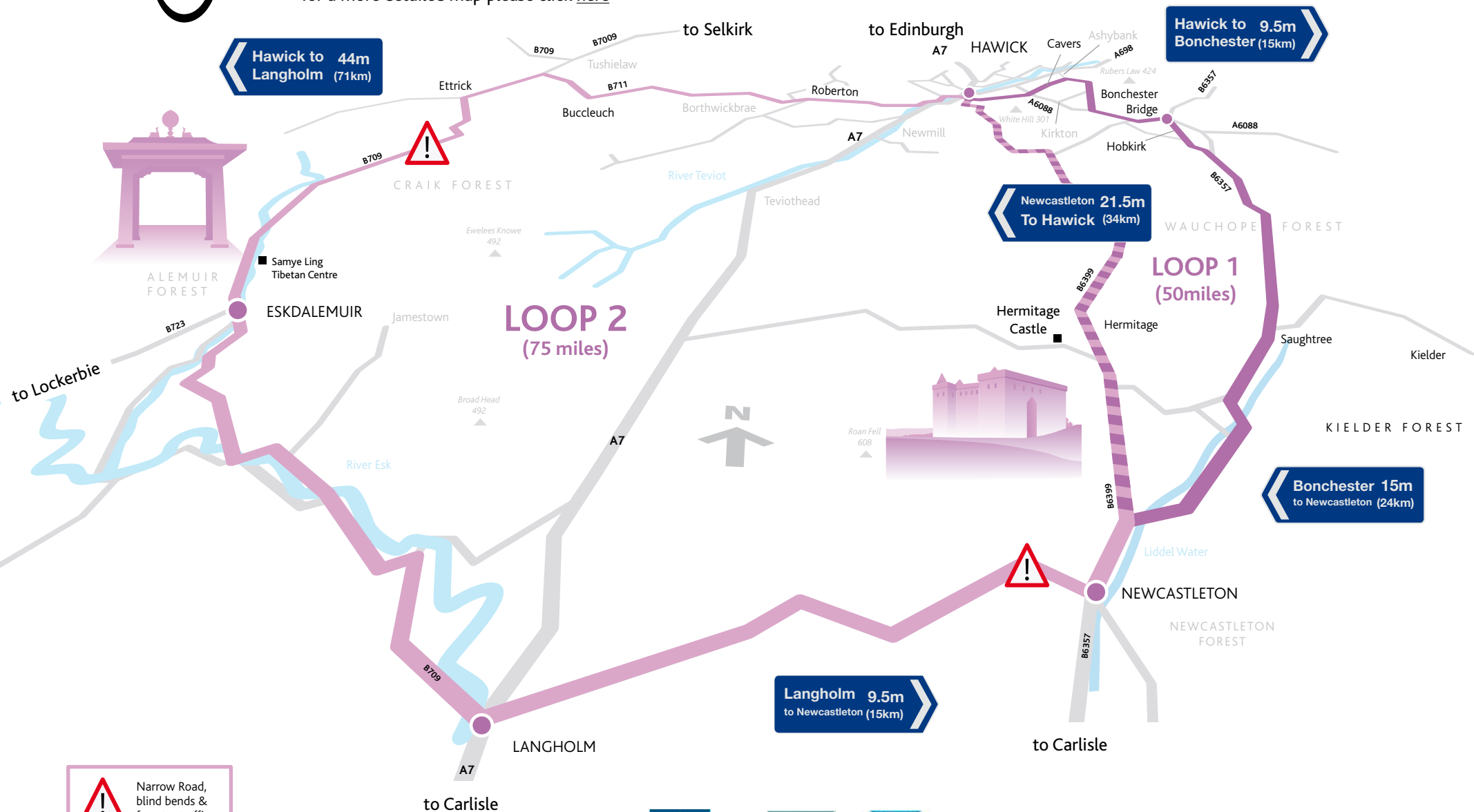




SOUTHERN BORDERS LOOP CYCLE ROUTE MAP OVERVIEW

for a more detailed map please click [here](#)

Route: new (unmarked)
Distance: 50/75 miles
**Difficulty: moderate/
difficult**



Hawick to Langholm (71km) 44m

Hawick to Bonchester (15km) 9.5m

Newcastleton To Hawick (34km) 21.5m

LOOP 2 (75 miles)

LOOP 1 (50 miles)

Bonchester to Newcastleton (24km) 15m

Langholm to Newcastleton (15km) 9.5m

Narrow Road, blind bends & forestry traffic

