

TWEED VALLEY SESSION 1 – A JOURNEY DOWN THE TWEED

SOURCE OF THE TWEED

- 1. TWEEDSMUIR - The River Tweed rises on Tweedsmuir, about 6 miles north of the town of Moffat and within a few hundred yards of the Clyde and the Forth.**
- 2. TWEED'S WELL STONE – The source of the Tweed is marked by the the Tweed's Well Stone, which is carved with scenes depicting the history of the river.**
- 3. MERLIN The last of the druids, Merlin of Caledon, is said to have visited the Well in about 680AD.**
- 4. CHRISTIANITY The stone illustrates St. Cuthbert and the great Border Abbeys.**
- 5. RIVER TWEED The Tweed has provided the means for transport and industry through the centuries.**
- 6. TWEEDSMUIR 2 The Tweed begins its journey in the wild landscapes of Tweedsmuir.**
- 7. MAIL COACH MEMORIAL This wilderness has claimed lives over the centuries, like the guard and driver of the Dumfries to Edinburgh Mail-coach, who were overcome by snow in 1831.**
- 8. TWEED NEAR SOURCE At first, the Tweed is an insignificant stream.**
- 9. DRUMELZIER The Tweed soon passes through Drumelzier, said to be the site of Merlin's dramatic death in about 580AD.**
- 10. DRUMELZIER CASTLE Little remains of Drumelzier Castle, seen here in ruins in 1791.**

LYNE WATER AND MELDON BURN

- 1. LYNE WATER 1**
- 2. LYNE WATER 2**
- 3. BRIDGE AT NEWLANDS**
- 4. WHITE MELDON Is topped by an Iron Age hillfort**
- 5. WHITE MELDON Piles of field stones can be seen in the foreground.**
- 6. LYNE A large Bronze Age Burial cairn overlooks the Lyne Water**
- 7. LYNE Other important prehistoric remains include three burial cists. The east-west alignment suggests early Christian burial practice. 1**
- 8. LYNE Burial cists 2**
- 9. LYNE Burial cists 3**
- 10. LYNE ROMAN FORT Lies about 4 miles west of Peebles. It was built c. 158AD at the time when the Roman frontier had moved northwards to the Antonine Wall.**
- 11. LYNE ROMAN FORT AERIAL VIEW.**
- 12. LYNE KIRK Stands close by the fort. It was built between 1640 and 1645 by Sir John Hay of Yester, at the time of the Covenanters.**
- 13. LYNE KIRK Pulpit**
- 14. LYNE KIRK Pews.**

MANOR WATER

- 1. MANOR WATER** Merlin's grave is said to lie at the head of the wild Manor Valley.
- 2. MACBETH'S CASTLE** There are many prehistoric sites in the Valley, like this hill known as Macbeth's Castle.
- 3. CASTLEHILL TOWER** There are at least 7 medieval towers in the Valley, too.
- 4. BLACK DWARF'S COTTAGE** At the beginning of the 19th century, this was the home of David Ritchie (Bowed Davey), the original for Walter Scott's "Black Dwarf".
- 5. CADEMUIR** Thought to be the site of King Arthur's seventh battle, Cademuir is topped by a large Iron Age hillfort.

PEEBLES TO ABBOTSFORD

- 1. NEIDPATH CASTLE** Overlooking the Tweed a little to the west of Peebles is Neidpath Castle. First built as a stronghold of the Frasers, later held by the Hays of Yester. Neidpath fell to Cromwell's artillery in 1650.
- 2. TWEED AT NEIDPATH** The Castle overlooks the River Tweed as it passes through a deep wooded gorge.
- 3. TWEED AT PEEBLES** The Tweed has become much wider by the time it reaches Peebles. This ancient royal burgh was a favourite residents of the kings of Scotland.
- 4. TWEED AT PEEBLES BRIDGE 2**
- 5. HORSBURGH CASTLE** Guarding the Tweed from a bleak hill at the eastern edge of Peebles is Horsburgh Castle.
- 6. ELIBANK TOWER** Around Peebles, the modern plantations of Cardrona and Glentress provide a glimpse of the once great Caledonian Forest that covered the area until the Middle Ages. In the 1590s, Elibank Tower was home to Margaret, daughter of Sir Gideon Murray – "Muckle Mouthed Meg" as she was known.

7. **WOOD CARVINGS** Carved statues of Meg and young Walter Scott of Harden. **STORY OF MUCKLE MOUTHED MEG.**
8. **TWEED AT INNERLEITHEN** Beyond Peebles, the Tweed reaches Innerleithen.
9. **ST. RONAN'S WELL** In 1826, the little spa at Innerleithen became a famous watering place after the publication of Sir Walter Scott's novel, "St. Ronan's Well".
10. **INNERLEITHEN MILL** At Innerleithen, the fast-flowing waters of the Tweed have gained sufficient strength to power the woollen mills that were once such a feature of the Tweed Valley. The first water-powered mill was built at Galashiels in the 1770s. By 1830 there were 10 mills at Galashiels.
11. **TWEED AT WALKERBURN** A few miles downstream is Walkerburn, another mill-town of the 19th century.
12. **WALKERBURN AERIAL VIEW** Walkerburn was built in the 1850s, to serve the woollen industry.
13. **WALKERBURN BRIDGE** – A steel bridge built in 1914
14. **CLOVENFORDS** The Tweed is joined by the Caddon Water near Clovenfords. Sir Walter Scott stayed at the Clovenfords Inn before moving into the nearby farmstead of Ashiesteel, where he wrote the "Lay of the Last Minstrel" and "Marmion".
15. **ABBOTSFORD** In 1811, Sir Walter bought Cartley Hole Farm, near Melrose, where he built his grand country mansion of Abbotsford. Scott died here in 1832.

ETTRICK AND YARROW

- 1. JAMES HOGG STATUE** Overlooking St. Mary's Loch is a memorial to James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd.
- 2. ST. MARY'S LOCH 1**
- 3. ST. MARY'S LOCH 2** At the junction of St. Mary's Loch with the Loch of the Lowes, stands Tibbie Shiels' Inn, a favourite meeting place for Scott and Hogg and other writers of the day.
- 4. DRYHOPE TOWER** A little to the East of St. Mary's Loch stands Dryhope Tower, birthplace in about 1550 of Mary Scott, the Flower of Yarrow.
- 5. YARROW STONE 1 –**
- 6. YARROW STONE 2** This prehistoric standing stone displays 5th century Christian inscriptions "to the sons of Liberalis".
- 7. NEWARK CASTLE** The "Dowie Dens" of Yarrow have a mournful reputation for tragic events. Newark Castle was the scene of one of the most tragic - the slaughter of hundreds of prisoners following the defeat of the Royalists in 1645 at nearby Philiphaugh, during the Civil Wars.

GALA WATER AND LAUDERDALE

- 1. PACKHORSE BRIDGE, STOW** The valleys of the Gala and the Leader Water have provided routes for transport for centuries. This packhorse bridge at Stow was built in the mid 17th century.
- 2.** The valley of the Gala Water is also known as Wedale – sometimes translated as the “Vale of Woe”. It has associations with King Arthur and is said to be the scene of his eighth victorious battle against the pagans.
- 3. Dere Street** The main Roman north/south road, followed the line of the Leader Water along Lauderdale.
- 4. ROAD/RAIL BRIDGES** The route of the old Waverley Railway Line from Edinburgh to Hawick follows the Gala Water.
- 5. LEADER BRIDGES** The main Roman north-south road of Dere Street follows the line of the Leader Water, which joins the Tweed at Leaderfoot, near Melrose.
- 6. LEADER VIADUCT** The magnificent Leaderfoot Viaduct once carried the Berwickshire Railway on its way to join the East Coast Main Line at Reston. The line closed after severe flooding in 1948.

EILDON HILLS AND MELROSE

- 1. EILDONS** The three peaks of the Eildons are a prominent landmark. The Romans named the nearby fort at Newstead “Trimontium”.
- 2. EILDON NORTH** Eildon North is topped by one of the largest Iron Age hill-forts in the Borders, probably one of the tribal capitals of the Votadini tribe. The Eildons have been a place of mystical significance since prehistoric times.
- 3. RHYMER’S STONE** It was at the of Eildon North, by the Eildon Tree, that Thomas the Rhymer is said to have been carried off by the Queen of the Fairies.
- 4. MELROSE ABBEY** The ruined Cistercian Abbey at Melrose is one of four great medieval Border abbeys.
- 5. SCOTT’S VIEW** The most famous view of the Eildons is known as Scott’s View.
- 6. SCOTT’S VIEW 2** The first monastery of Old Mailros was built here sometime between 635 and 650AD, in a horseshoe bend of the Tweed.
- 7. SANDYKNOWE FARM** Walter Scott first visited the Borders as a young boy, sent to stay with his grandfather and aunt at Sandyknowe Farm, north of Kelso, where the fresh air would be good for his poor health.
- 8. SMAILHOLM 1** The farm stands in the shadow of Smailholm Tower, a Pringle stronghold.
- 9. SMAILHOLM 2**
- 10. SMAILHOLM DISPLAY** The Tower contains a collection of models depicting some of the magical tales and heroic stories that Scott recorded in his *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders*.
- 11. WALLACE STATUE** A huge statue of another Scots hero, William Wallace stands overlooking the Tweed not far from Scott’s View.

- 12. SCOTT'S VIEW** When Sir Walter Scott's body was carried to its last resting place at Dryburgh Abbey in 1832, his carriage horses pulling the hearse automatically stopped for several minutes at his favourite view.
- 13. DRYBURGH ABBEY 1** Sir Walter lies buried at Dryburgh Abbey.
- 14. DRYBURGH ABBEY 2** Founded about 1150 by Premonstratensian white friars from Alnwick.

PART TWO

TEVIOT AND JED WATER

- 1. TEVIOT AT HAWICK** The Teviot springs in the wild moorland near Teviothead and flow to the town of Hawick.
- 2. TEVIOT AT HAWICK 2** By the mid-19th century, more than a dozen woollen mills like Wilton Mill had sprung up in Hawick. Powered first by the waters of the Teviot, later supplemented by steam.
- 3. REIVER STATUE, HAWICK** Long before the industrial revolution, Teviotdale was one of the most notorious haunts of the Border reivers.
- 4. MOTTO** Hawick's motto is "Teribus ye Teriodin", old Welsh meaning "The Land of Death, The Land of Odin".
- 5. JED AT JEDBURGH** The Jed Water is a tributary of the Teviot. At Jedburgh, it flows past the magnificent Abbey, founded in the 1130s by King David I, for Augustinian canons. The Borders have close associations with Mary Queen of Scots. The Abbey was destroyed in 1545 by the English troops during the campaign known as the Rough Wooing, Henry VII's attempt to intimidate the Scots into marrying their infant Queen to his heir, Prince Edward.
- 6. QUEEN MARY'S HOUSE** In the winter of 1566, Mary Queen of Scots spent time recovering from illness in this tower in Jedburgh, on her return from visiting her lover James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. At Hermitage Castle.
- 7. KALE WATER AT MOREBATTLE** The Kale is another tributary of the Teviot.
- 8. ROXBURGH CASTLE** The Teviot joins the Tweed beside Roxburgh Castle. Little remains of this once mighty castle, held by the English until 1460, when it was finally captured and destroyed by the Scots.
- 9. FLOORS CASTLE** On the opposite bank of the Tweed stands Floors Castle – a palace fit for Oberon and Titania, seat of the Duke of Roxburghe.

KELSO TO COLDSTREAM

1. **KELSO BRIDGE** The Tweed is spanned at Kelso by the splendid bridge designed in 1803 by John Rennie.
2. **KELSO ABBEY** Built in the 12th century for the Tironensian Order, Kelso Abbey became the richest and grandest religious house in southern Scotland. Like the other great Border abbeys, Kelso's medieval wealth was founded on the wool trade. The English destroyed the Abbey in the 1540s.
3. **EDNAM HOUSE** - Built in 1761 by James Dickson, who ran away from Kelso at the age of 11 to make his fortune in London.
4. **HORSESHOE** Bonnie Prince Charlie found little support in Kelso, and is said to have lost a horseshoe as he galloped out of the town in 1745.
5. **MARKET PLACE, KELSO** The Town Hall of 1816 gives Kelso Market Square the look of a French market town.
6. **REDDEN BURN** To the East of Kelso, the Border is marked by the tiny Redden Burn.
7. **CARHAM** The Tweed was established as the Border following the Battle of Carham in 1018.
8. **WARK ON TWEED** The Castle at Wark was one of the mighty English fortresses guarding the frontier along the Tweed.
9. **TWEED NEAR CORNHILL**
10. **COLDSTREAM FROM BRIDGE**
11. **COLDSTREAM BRIDGE**
12. **BURNS PLAQUE** – On 7th May 1787, Robert Burns crossed the bridge at Coldstream to enter England for the first time. This plaque marks the occasion.
13. **FISHING NEAR COLDSTREAM**

GLENDALE AND TILL VALLEY

- 1. THE CHEVIOTS** The tributaries of the Till, like the Bowmont Water, rise in the Cheviot Hills.
- 2. BOWMONT WATER** The River Till is fed by a multitude of streams including the Breamish, the Glen and the Bowmont Water.
- 3. GYPSY MEMORIAL** Kirk Yetholm on Bowmont Water was a town ruled by a gypsy king and queen until the early 20th century.
- 4. YEAVINGER HILL FORT** The area around the Cheviots is scattered with prehistoric remains. The most impressive is the great hill-fort of Yeavinger Bell.
- 5. YEAVINGER RECONSTRUCTION** The site was occupied from at least the Brone Age until the Anglo-Saxon period.
- 6. MILFIELD HENGE** Many sites, like the wooden henges of the late Bronze Age, now lie under farmland. This reconstructed henge is at Milfield.
- 7. GEFRIN THEATRE** The Anglian kings of Northumbria established a royal palace at Gefrin, at the foot of Yeavinger Bell.
- 8. GEFRIN HALL**
- 9. FLODDEN MEMORIAL** Glendale and the Milfield Plain have been the scenes of numerous battles over the centuries. The most famous and one of the bloodiest was Flodden Field, in September 1513.
- 10. HEATHERSLAW MILL** The fast flowing waters of the Till provided power for the water-mill at Heatherslaw.
- 11. TWIZEL BRIDGE** The Till joins the Tweed at Twizel (a Celtic word meaning “Fork in the river”). The 15th century bridge was used by part of the English army marching to Flodden in 1513. At the time it was the widest single span of any bridge in Europe..

NORHAM TO BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

- 1. NORHAM CASTLE** Along with the fortress at Wark, Norham Castle was considered the most dangerous place in England during the Middle Ages.
- 2. NORHAM WEATHER-VANE** The Tweed is tidal as far upstream as Norham. Salmon netting has been an important part of the village economy since medieval times.
- 3. NORHAM BRIDGE** Norham Bridge, like many in the area, was built as part of the great expansion of turnpikes and toll-roads during the 18th and early 19th centuries.
- 4. TOLL HOUSE** The toll-house at the Scottish end of the bridge was also used for irregular marriages.
- 5. UNION CHAIN BRIDGE** Opened in 1821, the Union Chain Bridge of Suspension was the first suspension bridge in the world to be built to carry wheeled traffic.
- 6. PAXTON FISHING**
- 7. TWEED NEAR WEST ORD**
- 8. SHIEL 1**
- 9. SHIEL 2**

WHITEADDER AND BLACKADDER

- 1. EDIN'S HALL BROCH** Pictish-style brochs are rare in Scotland outside the Highlands and Western Isles. Edin's Hall Broch overlooks the Whiteadder Water, near Abbey St. Bathans.
- 2. EDIN'S HALL, AERIAL VIEW** The broch is part of a site that developed over centuries. The first settlement, dating from about 500BC, was protected by a double rampart and ditches. Between about 100BC and 100AD, the site was rebuilt with t more substantial stone, with the broch as its focal point. This was a high status, and almost unique settlement. It was probably abandoned at about the time of the Roman invasion, but reoccupied as an unfortified settlement in the 2nd century AD.
- 3. EDIN'S HALL RECONSTRUCTION**
- 4. BLACKADDDER AT GREENLAW** Greenlaw, the old county town pf Berwickshire stands on the Blackadder, a tributary of the Whiteadder, which joins the Tweed near East Ord.

THE MOUTH OF THE TWEED

- 1. BERWICK CASTLE** – The first castle was built here in about 1121, in the reign of King David I of Scotland.
- 2. ROYAL BORDER BRIDGE**
- 3. OLD BRIDGE**
- 4. SALMON FISHING** The last commercial salmon netting station is Gardo, near the Old Bridge.
- 5. QUAYSIDE**
- 6. MOUTH OF THE TWEED**