The Otterburn Ranges

ACCESS AREA

Routes to explore, using moderate, moorland paths and tracks. All the routes are steep as you climb out of the valley, but soon reward you with expansive views.

2 Mountain Refuge Circuit



A circular walk with classic Cheviot and border country views. Distance approx. 16km (10 miles)

Start: Park at Buckham's Bridge.

Walk left along the road to Blindburn 0.5km. Turn left through the gate and up the hill for 2km to Yearning Law. Follow the bridleway for 2km to the Mountain Refuge Hut. Follow the border ridge for 5km NE over Lamb Hill, Beefstand Hill, Mozie Law to The Street. Go S down The Street for 4km until paths cross at Hindside Knowe. After the gate, follow the fence down the hill to the stile. Aim for Carlcroft, the farm in the trees up the valley, 1km away.

At Carlcroft cross the footbridge to the farm and follow the track to rejoin the road for 1 km back to the car park.

Iron Age Ascent

A walk or ride for older families along Dere Street into Scotland to Woden Law hillfort and return. Distance 12km (7.5 miles).

Start: Chew Green Car Park.

Walk up to Chew Green Roman camps. Follow the Pennine Way north for 1km to the gate on the border ridge. Cross the border into Scotland. Follow Dere Street for 2.5km to Blackhall Hill. Follow the track as it descends left (W) for 1.75km. Climb Woden Law and enjoy the views. Return by the same route, but after 1km you can follow the sign to take Dere Street south of Blackhall crags. This will return to your original path.

SAFETY! WHICH ZONE ARE YOU IN?

This military training area has two zones which are used for different types of training:

OPEN ACCESS AREA: marked CREAM on the map below. You are welcome to explore this area all year round, but please avoid troops in training. You may see soldiers but they will not be using live ammunition. However, they may be using blank rounds and pyrotechnics.

DANGER ARE

CONTROLLED ACCESS AREA:

marked MAUVE on the map below. Access is closed when red flags are flying, as firing with live ammunition may be taking place.

When no red flags are flying, keep to the roads or way-marked paths.

Please obey all signs and do not enter MOD roads where a red flag is flying.

Do not touch or pick up any object lying on the ground.

IF IN DOUBT please contact Range Control tel. 01830 520569.

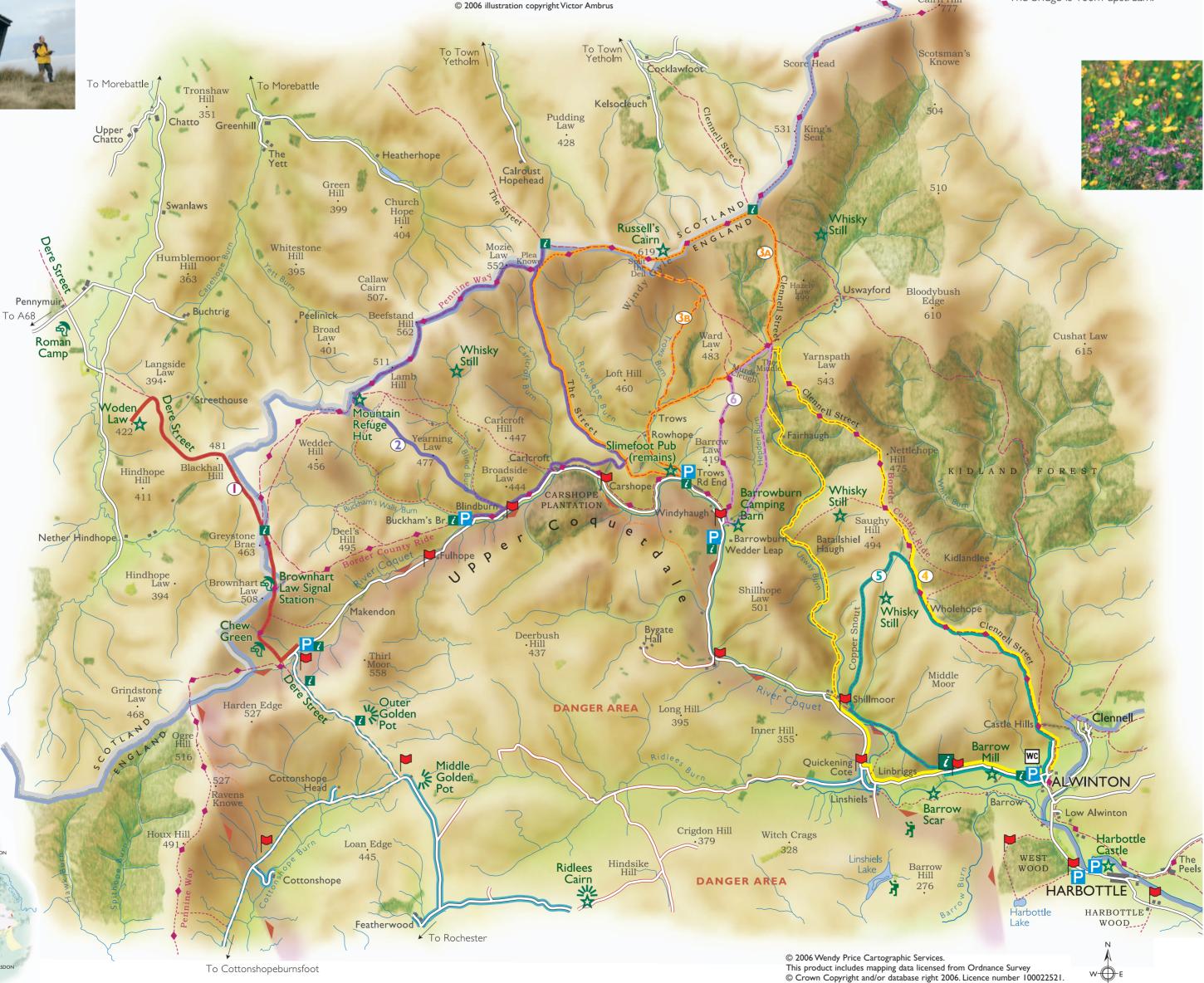
3 Reiver's Return

A walk up The Street to the border, returning by Clennell Street. Distance 15km (10 miles).

Start: Trows Road End car park.

Cross the bridge to the foot of The Street. Climb for 5km to the Border Ridge. Follow the Pennine Way for 2km east to Windy Gyle. Continue for 2km to Clennell Street, and descend S down Clennell Street. After 500m take the path that forks off right. After a similar distance take the next path right, down a long ridge, for 2km to join the track back to Trows. Follow the road back to the car park 3km.





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3B Shorter Reiver's Return Distance 11.5km (7 miles).

Start: As route 3A but this route descends after Windy Gyle. Take the path south east off Windy Gyle. After 1.25km take the path forking right (heading SW). This follows the broad ridge down to Trows for 2km. Rejoin the road for 1.5km walk back to the car park at Trows Road End.

> Whisky Smugglers The ancient border routes were used by cattle drovers and by smugglers like Black Rory, who carried illicit whisky down from Scotland, hidden in stone jars known as grey hens, to be sold at the remote farms in Coquetdale.



Fording the Usway Burn at Fairhaugh. The bridge is 100m upstream.

4Clennell Street and Usway Burn Distance approx. 21.5km (13.5 miles).

A ride for experienced riders on tracks and narrow paths into the heart of Cheviot country.

Start: From the car park at Alwinton turn left. Cross the bridge over the burn and onto Clennell Street. Climb for 4km to Wholehope. Follow the track NW for 6km, to where it meets the track from Uswayford below Hazely Law. Return S by the track over The Middle and through the forest, 1.5km to Fairhaugh.

Cross the bridge to go past the house. The bridleway is a narrow path 50m on your right, after the house. Follow this for 6km along the Usway burn – some sheer drops to your right. It becomes a wide path and then a road to Shillmoor.

At Shillmoor cross the river. Turn left for a 4.5km return to Alwinton.

Making Hay Coquetdale was a thriving community in Victorian times. Farmers from the valley held dances, markets and mass-clippings of their sheep at Barrowburn village hall.

In June and July the hay meadows by Barrowburn Farm are full of wild flowers like wood cranesbill, rough hawksbit, ox-eye daisy and lady's mantle.

(5) Clennell Street and Copper Snout

Distance approx. 11.5km (6.5 miles). A shorter ride on tracks and narrow paths into wild country above Coquetdale.

Start: From the car park at Alwinton turn left. Cross the bridge over the burn and onto Clennell Street. Climb Clennell Street for 4km to Wholehope Hill. Pick up the track north of the summit, which follows the ridge W above Wholehope Burn, SW for 2.5km down to Shillmoor. After the farm follow the track left for 150m to the bridleway.

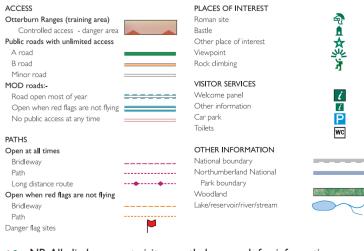
Follow the contour for 1km to cross the stream before climbing 0.5km up Pass Peth. Descend 1km to the road for a 1.5km return to Alwinton.

6 Wedder Leap and Barrow Law A family route in the Cheviot foothills.

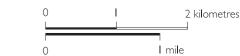
Distance 8km (5 miles).

Start: From Wedder Leap Car Park, turn left up the road. After 100 metres cross the bridge. Climb the stiles and walk up to the edge of the plantation. Turn left and continue 300 metres to Barrowburn. Follow the track north into the valley of the Barrow Burn as it dips and then climbs 2km to become a green track into the forest. Head north through the forest for 1km. After the forest, keep straight ahead for 1km along The Middle to join the track to Trows. Turn left and follow for 0.75km. At the end of the plantation, turn left over a stile. After 15m turn right onto a grassy track. Follow this

along the ridge for 2.5km back to Barrowburn.



NB.All climbers must visit www.thebmc.co.uk for information on accessing climbs here.



walkers, cyclists and on horseback Explorer's map with routes for



DEFENCE ESTATES



The Otterburn Ranges

Northumberland National Park

Welcome to the Otterburn Ranges.

This military training area has some of the most breathtaking scenery in Northumberland National Park. There are two zones where different access arrangements apply – please read the safety information.

This guide to the **Open Access Area** covers the Upper Coquet Valley and the hills to the north up to the border ridge. The map inside shows where you may go and suggests some routes as an introduction to exploring this beautiful area - on foot, by bike or on horseback.

Military Training

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Otterburn Range is the second largest live firing range in the country and has been used for military training since 1911. It covers over 90 square miles. The wide variety of terrain and the farms on the ranges with their buildings, fields and livestock provide a realistic environment for the British and NATO soldiers who train here each year with the latest infantry weapons, artillery and helicopters.

The **Open Access Area** is used for training using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics, however you are warned not to touch or pick up any objects lying on the ground. You may see soldiers training here but they will not be using live ammunition and you are free to explore on foot or ride its bridleways by bike or on horseback.

The Open Access Area is always open to explore, but red flags are flown when the Controlled Access Area is closed due to training.



When red flags are flying the **Controlled Access** Area is closed to visitors. When you don't see red flags, feel welcome to use some of the most remote roads in the country. If in doubt about where you can go, contact Range Control on 01830 520569.



To find out about firing times and discover more about the Otterburn Ranges

Public Toilets: Alwinton, National Park Car Park; Otterburn, Main Street

Visit the Northumberland National Park Visitor Centres in Rothbury and Ingram

food and water. You are also advised to carry a compass in case of mist and

of year. Make sure you have suitable clothing to meet all eventualities, along with

shelter on the highest sections and the weather can change quickly at any time

exposed hill sections. The paths are easy to follow with a map, but there is little

This is a challenging area so please be prepared. Most of these routes involve

1:50,000 map no. 80 Cheviot Hills and Kielder Water; and 1:25,000 Explorer

Our map shows some suggested self-guided routes. These should always be used

in England. You can walk over most land in Scotland, provided you do so responsibly.

Scotland - You can cross into Scotland, where access law is different from that

Keep dogs under close control (on leads 1 March – 31 July and always when

with the relevant OS map on the ground. eg. Ordnance Survey Landranger

or Otterburn Mill TIC or visit www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

www.otterburnranges.co.uk



Otterburn Ranges Information

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OLI6 The Cheviot Hills.

Consider other people.

near livestock).

Please respect this historic environment

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.

Please follow the Countryside Code

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.

YJ9In Safety

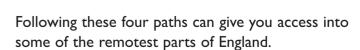
please visit our website: www.otterburnranges.co.uk

Northumberland National Park Visitor Services

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The **Pennine Way** long distance footpath follows the border ridge and gives wide, panoramic views deep into Scotland.

of the hill was named Russell's Cairn in his memory.

Further north on **Clennell Street** the border crossing was known as 'Hexpathgate'. Wardens charged with keeping peace north and south of the border met around here during the 15th and 16th centuries to make terms. In 1585, at one meeting 'under truce' on Windy Gyle, the English Lord Francis Russell was shot and killed. The large Bronze Age burial cairn on the summit

The Street, an ancient drove road into Scotland, follows a broad ridge down from the border to Trows Road End. There was once a pub here, the Slimefoot, sadly long gone! Cattle were brought down this track from the Highlands to be sold in English markets.



More sheep than people

the 'White Lands' to this landscape. bleaches to a pale straw in winter and gives the name These hardy breeds feed on the moor mat grass which for over 600 years, or the horned Scottish Blackface. which have been bred in these bleak, windswept hills 13/14th century. Look out for white-faced Cheviots Sheep have been grazed in the Cheviots since the

shelter sheep in the winter blizzards. The circular stone pens you see are 'stells' which

Folklore

walks into the hills. can now cross the bridge at Wedder Leap to start weight, was drowned in the stream's cold depths. You burn. He lost his footing and, dragged down by its sheep) and tried to escape by jumping with it over the local legend. A sheep thief stole a 'wedder' (a male Wedder Leap, near Barrowburn, takes its name from a





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The aerial view below

camps at Chew Green

with Dere Street

entering from the

shows outlines of Roman

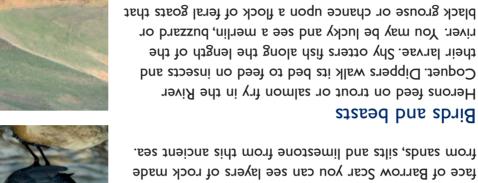
flung out around 400 million years ago by a chain of Coquet are weathered hills formed from lava and ash The distinctive 'whaleback' summits north of the river

face of Barrow Scar you can see layers of rock made washed against these bare hills. At the steep, broken 500 million years later a shallow sea fed by river deltas

Birds and beasts

the Cheviot, in the mid 19th Century. those released in the College Valley, to the north of roams the heather. These goats are descended from black grouse or chance upon a flock of feral goats that river. You may be lucky and see a merlin, buzzard or their larvae. Shy otters fish along the length of the Coquet. Dippers walk its bed to feed on insects and Herons feed on trout or salmon fry in the River





A land of passage

hill-fort at Woden Law.

The Cheviot Hills and the border ridge have been

crossed by people from the earliest times and the

rustlers – from both sides of the border.

Dere Street; The Street; and Clennell Street.

roads used in the past by cattle drovers and pedlars,

You can cross the border along three ancient tracks:

The Roman road of Dere Street from York, which

ran north to legionary forts in Scotland, crosses the

at Chew Green and walk along Dere Street into

Scotland to climb the ramparts of the Iron Age

Ranges. You can visit the earthworks of Roman camps

soldiers and 'reivers' - fighting men, thieves and cattle

