

PATHS IN & AROUND THE LAMMERMUIRS

A GUIDE TO A SPECIAL LANDSCAPE



Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
Safeguarding public access since 1845

FURTHER READING AND Other Information

- Paths around Duns
Scottish Borders Council (2007)
- Walks on the Eastern Section of the Southern Upland Way – Scottish Borders Council (2008)
- To Follow the Dogs and Carry the Stick
Bob Jaffray (2015)
- Glimpses into the Past in Lammermuir
John Hutton Browne (1892, reprinted 1998)
- Scottish Hill Tracks – Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (2011)
- www.visiteastlothian.org/activities-walking.asp
- www.walkscottishborders.com
- www.southernuplandway.gov.uk
- www.johnmuirway.org
- www.heritagepaths.co.uk
- www.oldroadsotscotland.com

Please keep your dog under close control or on a short lead during the bird breeding season (usually April to July) to prevent disturbance.

Be aware that grouse shooting takes place in the hills between 12th August and 10th December with most shoots occurring during the earlier part of the season. Disruption can be minimised by being aware of the possibility of shooting and taking advice on alternative routes. Avoid crossing land where a shoot is taking place until it is safe to do so.

A live firing range is located in the western Lammermuirs. It is marked as a Danger Area on this map and by signage around its perimeter and on the approaches. When in use (circa 10 days, March to July), red flags are flown and access rights are restricted.

EXPLORING THE Lammermuirs

The Lammermuirs is an under-appreciated yet stunning area of high moorland traversed by the boundary between East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. Although the Lammermuirs lies within easy reach of Edinburgh and the busy coast of East Lothian and Berwickshire, its charms are largely hidden from the modern road network and it is easily overlooked.

Its attractions include impressive hill forts at White Castle and Addinston, woodland walks through Pressmennan Woods and the Yester Estate, and riverside walks such as those along the Dye Water and the River Tyne. Reservoirs provide opportunity for fishing and sailing - Whiteadder is known to be visited by osprey!

Meikle Says Law is East Lothian's highest point – and its shoulder is Berwickshire's too. It boasts its own trig point, though Lammer Law's pillar is probably more visited; for trig baggers, there are at least 25 more pillars to find. There is no shortage of geocaches either. If hill-bagging is your thing, the Lammermuirs have three Marilyns – Meikle Says Law, Spartleton and Darrington Great Law.

The Southern Upland Way crosses the Lammermuirs. Designated one of Scotland Great Trails, it was Scotland's first coast to coast long-distance walking route. One of its best known and loved viewpoints is from Twin Law Cairns, an incredible vantage point from which to cast your eyes over the Lammermuirs, and to see beyond these moorlands to the Eildon Hills and the Cheviots. There are many wonderful routes and sites to visit in the Lammermuirs, so we hope that this map inspires you to explore.

Images
Left: View from Twinlaw Cairns
Bermuda image © Neil Mackay
All other images © Eileisha Fahy

ABOUT ScotWays

The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays) is a charity dating from 1845 which has as its objectives: **“The preservation, defence, restoration and acquisition for the public benefit of rights of access over land in Scotland including public rights of way and their amenity”.**

Its reputation was made in the 19th century by fighting and winning some major legal battles in defence of public access. Later that century, the Society erected the first of its well-known green signs on paths in the Cairngorms and the Pentland Hills. It now has signs on many rights of way and other valued routes throughout Scotland.

Nowadays, ScotWays achieves much by negotiation and mediation, rather than confrontation, but it continues to be recognised for its expertise on legal issues. ScotWays also maintains the National Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW) and responds to over a thousand access enquiries every year. ScotWays has also combined its history and knowledge of paths to create the Heritage Paths project.

ScotWays' continued work is made possible through membership subscriptions and donations. If you would like to support our work please visit www.scotways.com or contact us at: ScotWays, 24 Annandale Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4AN.



THE LAMMERMUIRS Project

An extensive network of routes can be seen on old maps of the Lammermuirs. In recognition of their recreational and cultural value, ScotWays has produced this new map to promote public access to an area today considered remote by many. The Lammermuirs project has also aimed to improve the signposting of routes, so ScotWays volunteers have been auditing, repairing and replacing existing signs and noting potential locations for new signage. Although installation of new signage is underway, signposting is an ongoing part of ScotWays work, so updates and suggestions continue to be very welcome.

The most famous old route across the Lammermuirs is the Herring Road. It is thought to have been predominantly in use during the 18th and 19th centuries when the herring industry was strong, but records of the inland trade in fish go further back. In places V-shaped gouges may indicate the repeated passage of heavily laden carts or packhorses over soft ground. The route was used by fishwives carrying huge creels of herring from Dunbar to the markets in Lauder, and by folk travelling to Dunbar to get a stock of salted fish for the winter. The Herring Road's recorded alignment has varied over time, so the signposted line long promoted by ScotWays, is just one suggested variant.

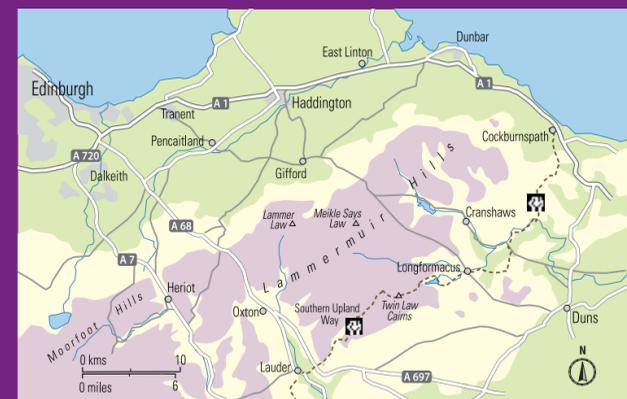
Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-1755) shows a route labelled as Muir Road from Lauder to Dunbar. This herring road lies further west than the main promoted route; although in places it is less distinct on the ground, it repays perseverance. Occasional small stones appear to mark the way and it passes near the site of the Shiel Inn beside the Dye Water, surely at one time a place of welcome refuge.

A possible medieval road runs between Haddington and Lauderdale. It ascends from Longyester and bypasses Lammer Law on its

east side to reach Tollishill. The old road to Duns runs from the Monynut Forest to Ellemford. Most enigmatic of all is Crachoctrestrete, a possible Roman Road, in the east of the project area. The Heritage Paths project is always pleased to receive information whether it be details about the history or the accessibility of any of these old routes.



Using these historic routes, promoted trails, rights of way and other local paths, there is a great network of routes to explore in the Lammermuirs. Through this project, ScotWays has tried to improve the accessibility of the routes shown on the map. Despite this, some of the paths still await signposting improvement or pass over very faintly-tracked moorland, so can be challenging to find and walk. Anyone interested in using the routes shown should consult a modern Ordnance Survey map. More detailed route description information may be available from the Heritage Paths website, www.heritagepaths.co.uk, or in our book *Scottish Hill Tracks*.



THE HERITAGE PATHS Project

The Heritage Paths Project aims to identify as many old paths and tracks across Scotland as possible, to research those paths and to promote them for people to use. The Project classifies Heritage Paths as old paths or roads that have been used for a specific purpose. These include a wide range of types of path - Roman roads, medieval roads, coffin, kirk and pilgrimage routes, drove roads and other trade routes, and military roads, along with many other types of route.

ScotWays' intention is to raise awareness of this part of our cultural heritage by recording Heritage Paths and by promoting public use of those that can still be followed or visited. We aim to help secure their long-term care through people enjoying and appreciating them.

For more information about Heritage Paths see our website www.heritagepaths.co.uk which has details of over 400 historic paths throughout Scotland with information about their history and accessibility.



Bermuda, Earnsclough Water

BOOK

SCOTTISH HILL TRACKS

With 344 routes, Scottish Hill Tracks is a unique resource for walkers, cyclists, riders and runners wishing to explore the network of paths, old roads and rights of way which criss-cross Scotland's hill country from the Borders to Caithness. A number of these routes cross the Lammermuirs and form the basis for the network shown on this map.

KNOW THE CODE before you go



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code**.

Find out more at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or by phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

For a free leaflet outlining the law on access to the outdoors in Scotland send an SAE to ScotWays.

For more detailed information to the law on access rights and rights of way in Scotland see: *Access Rights and Rights of Way: A Guide to the Law in Scotland* by Professor R.R.M. Paisley. Available from ScotWays for £5 (plus P&P).

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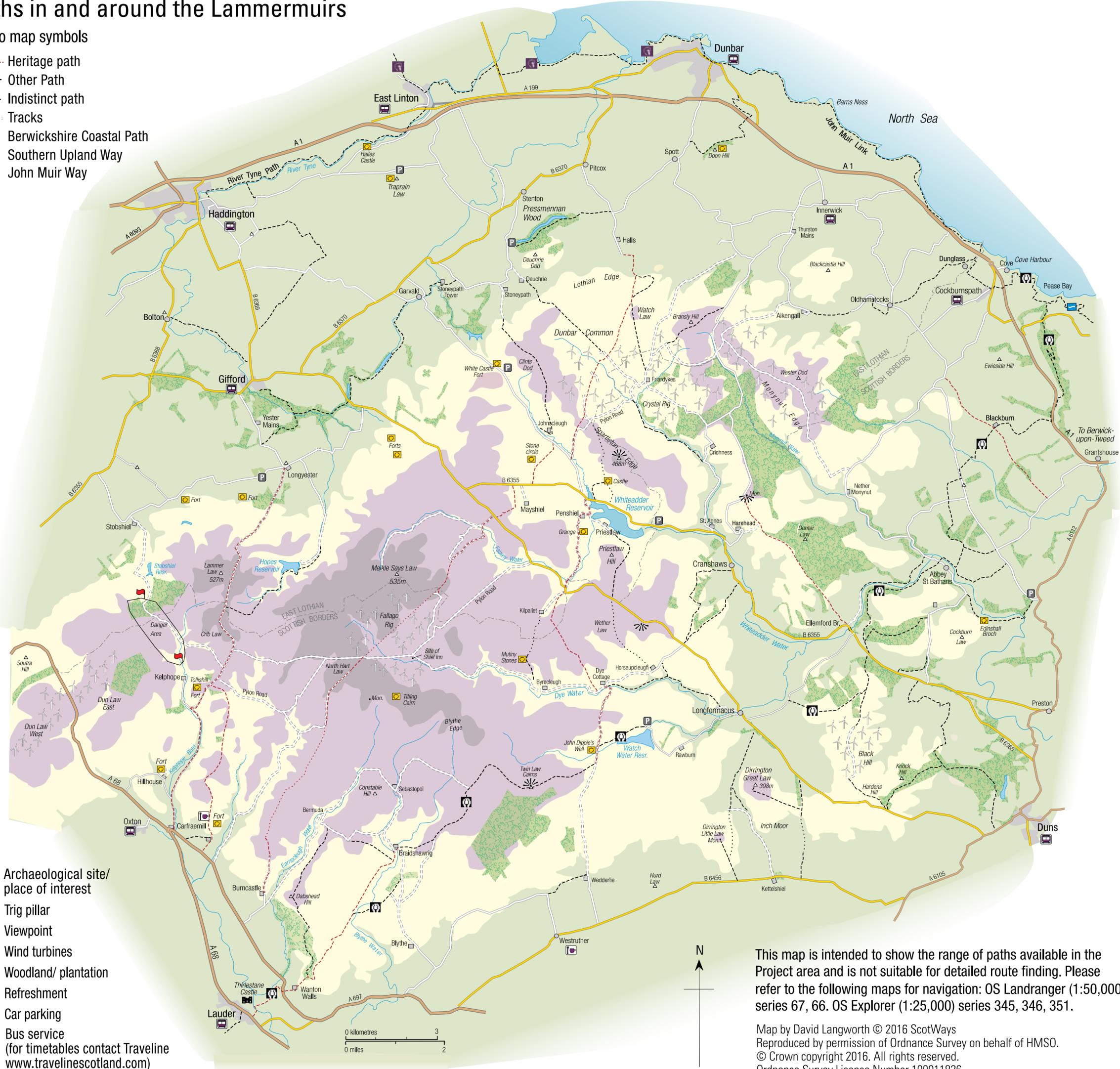
This leaflet was funded by ScotWays, East Lothian Council, Scottish Borders Council and Gifford Community Council. The project was also supported by the Lammermuirs Moorland Group and Lammermuir Community Council. Many thanks to all the land owners and land managers who contributed their time and energy – the support of those living and working in the Lammermuirs has been especially appreciated. Last, but not least, thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to the project – surveying routes and auditing signposts, sharing photos and simply letting us know their favourite spots in these lovely hills.

Paths in and around the Lammermuirs

Key to map symbols

- - - - - Heritage path
- - - - - Other Path
- Indistinct path
- - - - - Tracks
- ▬ Berwickshire Coastal Path
- ▬ Southern Upland Way
- ▬ John Muir Way

- Archaeological site/
place of interest
- ▲ Trig pillar
- ☀ Viewpoint
- ⚙ Wind turbines
- Woodland/ plantation
- Refreshment
- P Car parking
- 🚌 Bus service
(for timetables contact Traveline
www.travelinescotland.com)



This map is intended to show the range of paths available in the Project area and is not suitable for detailed route finding. Please refer to the following maps for navigation: OS Landranger (1:50,000) series 67, 66. OS Explorer (1:25,000) series 345, 346, 351.

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