Earlston Circular Walk

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information and advice contained in this leaflet is correct at the date of publication. However, it is always for you to assess whether completing this walk is within your capability, using your common sense and your knowledge of your own state of health and fitness, competence and experience. No liability is accepted by the authors or publishers for any loss, injury or damage, arising out of, or in any way connected with, any person or persons undertaking or attempting to undertake the walk described in this leaflet, however caused.

**Acknowledgements**
The co-operation of farmers, landowners, estate managers, local communities and Earlston Paths Group in developing this route is gratefully acknowledged.

**Contact Information**
**Scottish Borders**
VisitScotland iCentres
Jedburgh, Peebles, Melrose, Kelso and Hawick.
Opening dates and times vary
For Information go to www.visitscotland.com
**Scottish Borders Council**
www.scotborders.gov.uk
**Access & Countryside Team**
Tel: 01835 825070
Email: outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk
**Walk Scottish Borders**
www.walkscottishborders.com
For further information on walking in Scotland: www.walkwild.org
**Traveline** (for public transport information)
Tel: 0871 200 2233 www.traveline.org.uk

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**Access in Scotland**

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code came into effect in February 2005. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act establishes a statutory right of responsible access to most land and inland waters for outdoor recreation, crossing land, and some educational and commercial purposes. The Access Rights are now exercisable on most land and inland waters. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives detailed guidance on your responsibilities when exercising access rights and if you are managing land and water. The Act sets out where and when access rights apply. The Code defines how access rights should be exercised responsibly.

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**Earlston - Carolside - Clackmae**

**Traveline** (for public transport information)
Tel: 0871 200 2233 www.traveline.org.uk

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Earlston Circular Walk

Start/finish: Earlston
Distance: 7.25 km / 4½ miles
Time: 2 – 2½ hrs
Terrain: Roads, pavements, grass paths, farm and woodland tracks.
Parking: Earlston
Facilities: Available in Earlston; toilets, café, shops, pubs, hotels & accommodation

1. Leaving the square head back to the main road (A68) and follow the pavement round to the right. Head up Huntshaw Road for 150m, continue straight on (do not follow the road round to the right) and head up the unclassified road for 500m. Take in the excellent views to the south over the village of Earlston, the Black Hill and the Eildon Hills.

2. Turn left onto a field track just before a small area of wetland. In Spring look out for frogs, frogspawn and the yellow flag. Continue on the track for 475m passing through two kissing gates and heading down the path into Carolsidehill Wood. Throughout the year the woodland can be boggy in sections. You may see buzzards flying high above the wooded area, often heard before they are seen.

3. You continue along the path through the wood for 1.7km before coming to the A68. As you go through the wood, you pass an area on your left where there is a good view across the valley and in the distance is Park Bridge on the Carolside Estate.

4. At the A68 make sure you have a good sight to the left and right and cross with great care to the other side. Climb over the barrier, turn left and walk between the bushes and the crash barrier.

5. Walk down through the small wooded area and pass over the stile into the Carolside Estate. Walk along the path above Leader Water towards the cottages. Follow the waymarks to the left around the cottages and then head back to the river; pass through the gates and onto the suspension footbridge. The bridge, built in 2004, replaced the older wooden bridge. If you stand on the bridge you may be lucky enough to see a dipper.

6. Once off the bridge turn left and follow the path as it winds uphill through the wood. Continue on the path for 600m as it follows the fence line then heads downhill.

7. Re-trace your steps from the bridge to the junction of paths and head straight along the old drive, which exits on to the minor Blainslie Road. Turn left here and follow the road for a short while over the Clackmae Bridge to Clackmae Farm. Turn left and head down the tarmac road, which becomes a rough track back to the Leader Water.

8. Cross the Clackmae Suspension bridge and follow the track and minor road back into Earlston taking care when crossing the A68.