



Signs of Winter

The route is way-marked, however an Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50 000 or Explorer 1:25 000 map should be used in conjunction with this leaflet to help identify the hills and other points of interest.

## Waymarking and Maps

- Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions.
  - If there is no pavement or path, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light, keep close to the side of the road. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
  - Pavements or paths should be used if provided.
- Take great care when walking on country roads.

## Acknowledgements

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



Snowfall along Blainslie Road

## Disclaimer

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, howsoever caused.

Front cover:  
Carolside suspension Bridge and a view up Leader Water from the Bridge

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact Scottish Natural Heritage, Galashiels (01896 661710).

### Find out more visit

- respect rights of way and customary management;
- work with your local authority and other bodies to help integrate access and land management operations;
- act reasonably when asking people to avoid respect access rights;

### When you're managing the outdoors:

- take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.
- keep your dog under proper control;
- care for your environment and take your litter home;
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively;
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind; actions and act safely;
- take personal responsibility for your own

### When you're in the outdoors:

things are:  
in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The key access rights and responsibilities are explained to place providing they act responsibly. These recreation, education and for going from place right to be on most land and inland water for Enjoy Scotland's outdoors! Everyone has the

### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly! Know the Code before you go...



## Contact Information

### Scottish Borders

#### VisitScotland iCentres

Jedburgh, Peebles, Melrose, Kelso and Hawick.  
Opening dates and times vary  
For Information go to [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

#### Scottish Borders Council

[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

#### Access & Countryside Team

Tel: 01835 825070

Email: [outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk)

#### Walk Scottish Borders

[www.walkscottishborders.com](http://www.walkscottishborders.com)

For further information on walking in Scotland:  
[www.walkwild.org](http://www.walkwild.org)

#### Traveline (for public transport information)

Tel: 0871 200 2233 [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

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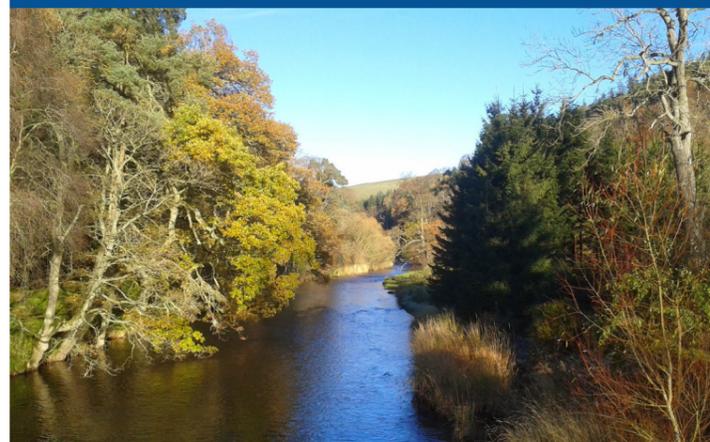
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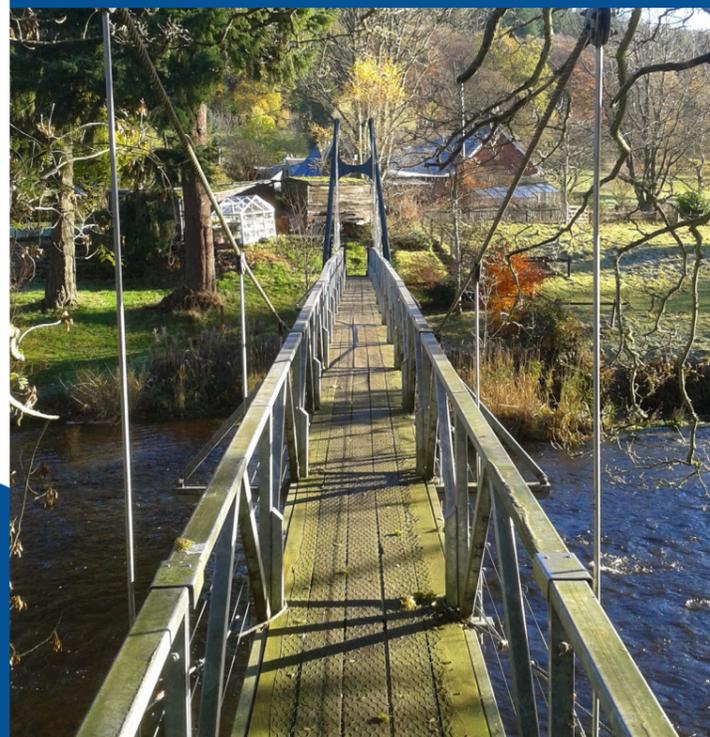


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# Earlston Circular Walk



## Earlston - Carolside - Clackmae



**walkit!** Walk it is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders and aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. Our walks are usually short and easy though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients. Visit Scottish Borders Council website for information on Earlston Walkit group.



Earlston Square War Memorial

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and 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.



Red foxes

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.

## Access in Scotland



Earlston from the Black Hill

## 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.



Songbirds such as robins and song thrushes can be seen here at all times of year. Great tits (pictured), blue tits and chaffinches can also be seen at the edge of the track. In winter

look out for flocks of redwing and fieldfare.

**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.



Common Buzzard

Sitka spruce trees can be seen in the woodland. You may see small structures on the branches that look like a cone. These are pseudo cones. They are a type of gall formed by a gall wasp. The adult wasp lays its eggs in the branch and this causes the foliage to grow into the unusual shape. The young larvae then live inside the pseudo cone until they emerge as adult wasps.



**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.



Park Bridge from Carolsidehill Wood



Trees along this forest track include Larch, Scots pine, Norway spruce and Douglas fir. The cones of the Douglas fir are noticeable due to the bracts that protrude from the cone which look like little mouse tail shapes

**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.

This black and white bird dips up and down on stones to enable it to see through the water to catch invertebrates to eat. Other river birds include goosander, heron, mallard and grey wagtail.



**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.



Grey Heron



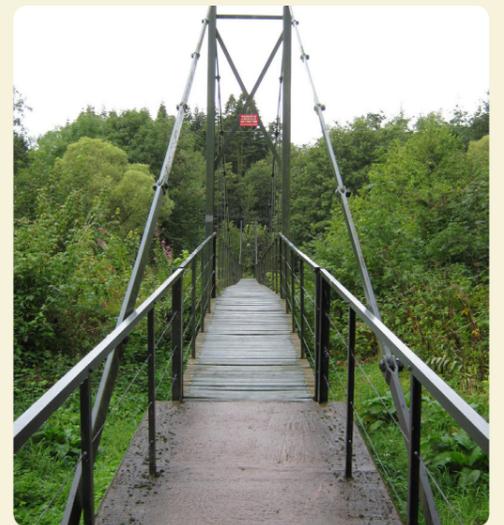
On your left is a track which takes you down to Park Bridge, a late 18<sup>th</sup> century bridge which linked Carolside and Leadervale estates. From here you will be able to view Carolside House. **Do not proceed any further onto the private estate.**

Carolside House, a Georgian mansion, was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and is set in the beautiful grounds of a former deer park. The gardens house a National Collection of pre 1900 Gallica roses and are open to the public in July each year. [www.carolside.com](http://www.carolside.com)



**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.



Clackmae Suspension Bridge



Robin