

A group of 9 members of Surrey County Walkers went to the Scottish Borders to walk from Galashiels to Kelso, roughly following the River Tweed. The walk started in Galashiels and went via Melrose, St Boswells and Roxburgh to Kelso.

The group stayed in guest houses



in Kelso. This is a market town with an impressive square with the Cross Keys Hotel



and the town hall



Like many other border towns, Kelso has the remains of a ruined abbey.



On the outskirts of town, there is a park.



Flowering cherries were still out in the Scottish Borders, even though they were over in southern England.



Out in the countryside, bluebells were also still out.



Apart from the towns of Galashiels, Melrose and Kelso and the village of St

Boswells, this region is largely open country, with few signs of habitation. There are large fields for arable crops



though a few farm animals (sheep and cattle) were seen.

The walk went from Galashiels via Melrose and St Boswells to Kelso. Galashiels is a moderate sized town.



After leaving the town of Galashiels, we started walking out into the country.



Views over Galashiels were obtained.



The walk continued into open country beside dry stone walls, with views towards the Eildon Hills.



The walk continued down to the River Tweed.



A little further along, Sir Walter Scott's house at Abbotsford could be seen across the river.



We came to a railway bridge over the newly reinstated Borders Railway from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank via Galashiels, which largely follows the alignment of the disused Waverley route from Edinburgh to Carlisle. A crowd was awaiting the Flying Scotsman, which was visiting the new line.



We came down from the railway to join the River Tweed.



We reached Melrose, which is a small town



We walked along beside the River Tweed



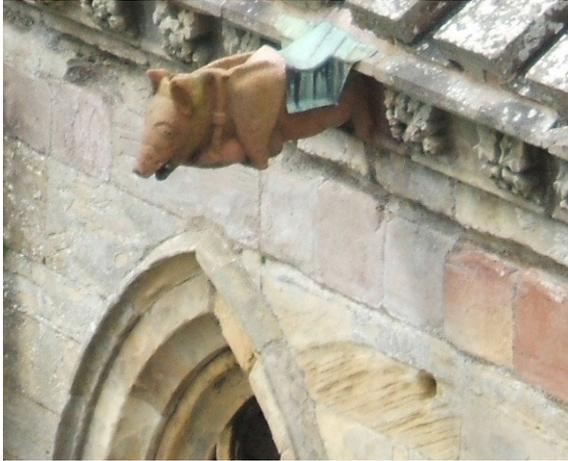
with substantial remains of the former abbey.



and saw a heron.



From a viewing platform on the roof of the abbey remains could be seen an unusual gargoyle of a pig.



The walk from Melrose continued through open countryside.



The Romans had passed through this area and there were monuments to their passage.



We saw a railway viaduct.



The walk now crossed the river and went steeply uphill to Scott's view.



Going downhill, we passed the Wallace monument



and walked downhill through beech woods



into Dryburgh for a lunch stop at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel.



Next to the hotel is another ruined abbey, this time Dryburgh Abbey.



We crossed the river by a suspension bridge and walked beside the River Tweed until we reached St Boswells.

The walk from St Boswells was largely on country roads but, soon after the start, the path followed the river, but often at a slightly higher level.

At one point, a row of poplar trees were seen across the river.



After leaving the river, the walk was mainly across country on country lanes. Views of the Eildon Hills were seen across fields.



We saw a country house in extensive grounds.



We reached the settlement of Roxburgh which has a major disused railway viaduct.



Some of the group returned from Roxburgh along the old railway line,



while others returned by taxi. Another day, a couple of us explored the other side of the River Teviot from Kelso to Roxburgh.



The river passes the few remains of the former Roxburgh castle.



After 3 days' walking, we had a restful day, visiting Floors Castle, the seat of the Duke of Roxburgh, which is just on the outskirts of Kelso.

