



Gore Water by Borthwick

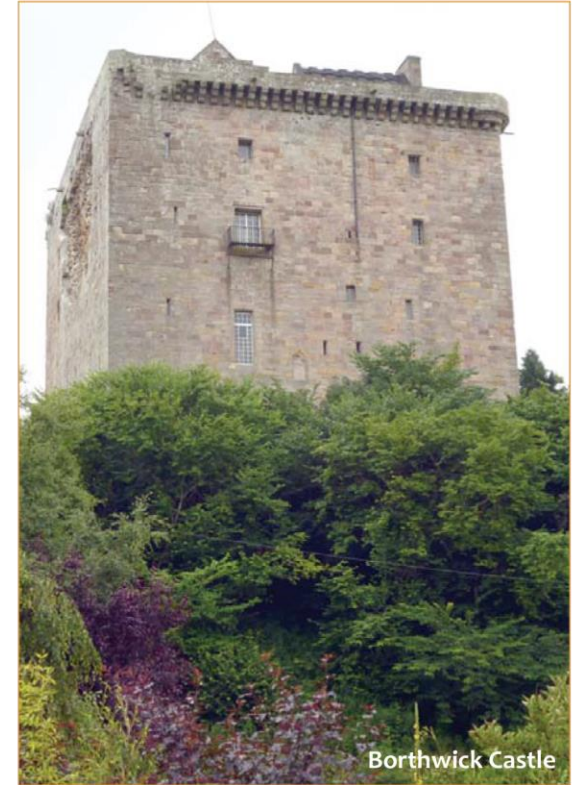
## Description

This circular walk takes you through fields and by the Gore Water so it can be very muddy at times. There are also some fences to climb along the way. The way back from Borthwick is on metalled roads, quiet country lanes with little traffic and no pavements so care is required. The route takes you up to the entrance to Borthwick Castle.



Gore Water at Robertson Bank

**Borthwick Castle** is one of the best preserved 15th century keeps in Scotland. It was visited twice by Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1563 and 1567, when she was besieged inside while under the protection of the 6th Lord Borthwick. She escaped by disguising herself as a page. In 1650 the Castle was attacked by Oliver Cromwell's forces, and was surrendered after only a few cannon shots. The damage to the walls from this attack is still visible. After a period of abandonment, the Castle was restored by 1914. During World War II it was used as a hiding place to store national treasures. In 1973 it was leased from the Borthwick family and converted into an exclusive hire venue. It is now a private residence and privacy must be respected.

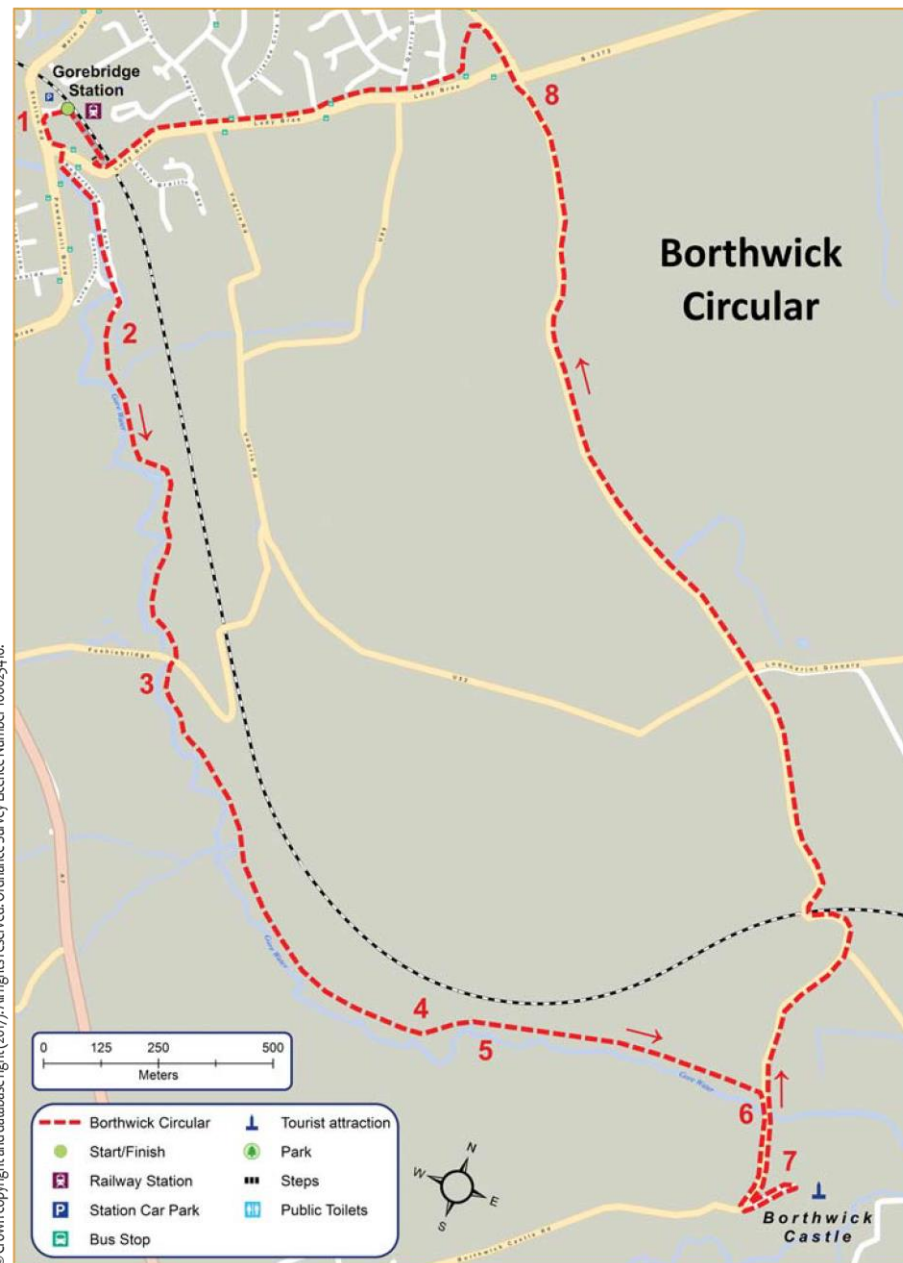


Borthwick Castle

## The Route

- 1 From the station, turn left downhill and cross the road at the bottom. Turn left to go uphill and almost immediately take the path to the right signed Gore Way, by Scally's autobreaker. Follow the path as it continues along the bottom of Robertson Bank, past the houses on the right, one of which is the former home of Annie S. Swan the author. Turn right into the field at the gate.

- 2 Take the path, as it passes along the bottom of 3 fields, with 2 kissing gates, following the Gore Water. When you reach the road at Fushiebridge, cross and climb over the fence by the bridge where the path is signed to Borthwick.
- 3 The path is quite clear as it follows the Gore Water, when you see the remains of a bridge ahead, take the path diagonally to the left and climb up the slight incline amongst a group of trees. Take the path diagonally right to the corner of the field by the burn, passing the electricity pole.
- 4 Climb over the fence here and walk along the path, crossing another fence to enter the next field. Look out for your first views of Borthwick Castle and the spire of Borthwick Parish Church ahead. At the junction with the next field, there are 2 fences to cross using the step stiles. This next field can be very boggy!
- 5 Continue along the field, keeping close to the burn. You will see a step stile over the fence on your right, half way along the field. This takes you along a path on the Gore Water side of the fence, which is a little bit harder to walk along but worth it to see the wildlife along the water.
- 6 Climb the stile to join the road by the road bridge. Turn right over the bridge and up the hill, turning sharp left at the corner to Borthwick Parish Church and Borthwick Castle.
- 7 Retrace your steps to the bridge and continue on this road as it winds up hill, over the railway and head straight across at the crossroads, passing Wrights Houses farm on the left heading uphill.
- 8 Continue on this road until you reach Mossend, the group of cottages on the left at the Pathhead junction. This is a dangerous crossing so take great care as you cross the road. Walk along the pavement on the right and pick up the footpath going downhill. This will take you down Lady Brae and back to the station.



© Crown copyright and database right (2017). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100023416.