

## 3·2 Jedfoot Bridge to Kirk Yetholm

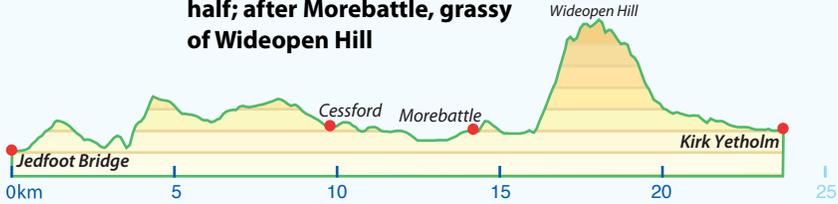
**Map** panel 2

**Distance** 15 miles (24km)

**Terrain** paths through fields and woods, followed by a small grass path over low hills

**Food and drink** Morebattle (shop, hotel), Town Yetholm (shops, hotels), Kirk Yetholm (hotel)

**Summary** high pastureland alternating with small woods for the first half; after Morebattle, grassy of Wideopen Hill



- From the turnoff just after Jedfoot Bridge, follow the track quite steeply uphill, to a side-path on the right signposted to Jedburgh by the Border Abbeys Way.
- From the path junction, keep uphill on the stony track of St Cuthbert's Way for 200m. Turn left at a horse stile into a strip of woodland, and follow the small green path for one mile (1.5km) to a lane.
- Turn right for 300m to where the lane bends right. Here bear left into a green track, leading down to Oxnam Water, which you cross by a footbridge pictured below at the right. Just upstream is a fine outcrop of Old Red Sandstone: see page 26.



- After the footbridge, turn half-left (south-east) across the riverside field and up through a gate. As the slope eases a bit, the faint path bends left (north) to reach trees, then bends back right to a gate to the right of a house.
- Follow the tarmac driveway track away from the house, steeply uphill. At its top turn left through more woodland.
- The path heads north under tall beeches, to reach another lane. Turn right for 400m to a T-junction. Turn left for 40m, then go through a kissing-gate on the right just before Brownrigg House.
- Head down to cross a footbridge, then skirt around the foot of a field. This leaves you heading uphill (south) to bear left on a track into some trees. This is the first of three woodlands in this section.
- Follow the track down into a dip. As it rises again, it narrows to a path which runs along the left edge of the woodland to a gate at its corner.
- The path continues along the right edge of a field, then the right edge of the second wood, which is of pines. Keep straight on along the right edge of another field, to bend left (north-east) at its corner.
- Turn right over a wall stile to head slightly uphill, with a wall on your right, to the third wood, a hilltop plantation.
- Turn left alongside the wood, then turn right around its corner and along its northern edge. At a track junction, turn left, away from the wood.



### **Waterloo Monument**

*The Tweed valley is dotted with small hills that proved inviting to builders of monuments and follies. Most prominent of these is the 150ft-high Waterloo Monument on Peniel Heugh. The first attempt at a monument, a massive stone pyramid, stood less than a year before collapsing 'with a tremendous crash'. Its replacement, a column with spiral staircase, was completed in 1824. From its viewing platform you can survey many miles of St Cuthbert's Way, and it's a popular picnic spot. If you've time to spare, the climb takes you only about a mile off-route from Monteviot: refer to a large-scale map.*

*Waterloo Monument from Mount Ulston path*





Cessford Castle

- Over the next 2km the track runs downhill, north-east then east, to Cessford. Bear right over a stream to Cessford Farm, where you turn left.
- The road leads toward and past Cessford Castle: see panel.
- After the castle, descend to the B6401. Here you turn right past the wall of Otterburn House and into Morebattle.

Morebattle's name has nothing to do with fighting, but means 'marsh settlement' from the swamp or mere, Linton Loch, that once lay just to its north. Its shop, Culbertsons Stores, has restricted opening hours, but there's also a fine pub, the Templehall Inn, at the far end of the village: see page 9.

- At the east end of Morebattle, bear right up a lane signed Hownam. After 1km it drops to meet a road, where you turn right.
- Follow the road for 500m and turn left to cross the Kale Water by a footbridge. Cross a field to join a track, and turn right on this.
- The track passes up to right of an old quarry, then zigzags uphill to a point behind a small hill fort. Turn right over a ladder stile and head uphill to the right of a plantation.



#### Cessford Castle

*Interpretation boards present the uncertain and uncomfortable life of the fortress in the reiving times: see page 22. Cessford was the stronghold of a branch of the Kerr family. Kerr was 'Carr' on the English side of the border, but the same warrior tribe, and equally feared in both countries. Robert Kerr of Cessford was the most notorious raider, blackmailer and feuder of the late 16th century.*

*According to legend, many of the Kerrs were left-handed. While most such refuge towers had a spiral staircase favouring the right arm of the swordsman retreating upwards, the Kerr strongholds had their staircases spiralling the other way, anticlockwise. Because of the dangerous stonework, it's not possible to verify this.*



- The path heads uphill through grass, to pass just left of the first hump, Grubbit Law.
- In the next col, ignore a crossing track, and bend left (north-east) to join a wall. The path follows the main ridge line with the wall on its left, to cross a ladder stile on the second summit hump.
- The path and wall continue to the third summit, Wideopen Hill: see panel.
- Now the ridge wall bends right, downhill, before bending back left, through another slight col. Bypass a basalt outcrop before continuing gently down the ridgeline, always keeping the wall to your left, as waymarked. In mist, maintain the direction north-east as you descend.



#### **Wideopen Hill**

*At 367m (1208ft) this is the highest point of the Way (although not yet its half-way point). Rising steeply at the northern edge of the Cheviot range, it offers views over the wide plains of the Tweed. Back in the west is the Waterloo Monument, with the triple top of Eildon beyond, 16 miles away as the crow flies. Below you, in the same direction, low sunlight may reveal the Iron Age settlement on Morebattle Hill.*

*To the north-east, the ridge points along Bowmont Water to Kirk Yetholm. Just to the left, behind Yetholm Law, gleams the water of Yetholm Loch. Southwards the views are shorter, rising to the ridgeline of the Cheviots with the English border along the skyline. At its left end rises the wide hump of the Cheviot itself, decorated by tiny granite tors.*

- As the descending ridge reaches fields, the path turns right over a ladder stile, then after 50m back down the ridgeline over another stile.
- Pass through some scattered pines, to reach a further stile into a lane. Turn right, down to a road beside Bowmont Water.
- Turn left for 1.5km to Primsidemill. Join the B6401 towards Town Yetholm.
- After 500m, beside a cemetery, turn off right into a minor road. Within 60m turn left on a green track to the riverside. Cross a field to a road bridge between the Yetholms. (This bridge is the half-way point of the Way, and not Wideopen Hill as its sign claims.)
- Turn right across the bridge, and take a path on the opposite side of the road. It crosses one field, then bends right into Kirk Yetholm.

*Pines on the descent from Wideopen Hill*