

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Local Place Plan

2025 - 2035

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust



Upper Teviotdale
& Borthwick Water
Community Council



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Foreword and Acknowledgements

01

Foreword and Acknowledgements

We are delighted to present this Local Place Plan, representing the views and hopes of the people and organisations of Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water.

The consulting team from Community Enterprise have done a great job! Their experience, knowledge of working with communities and authorities, and hard work have combined to produce a quality plan of which we are immensely proud. We thank them for their professionalism, patience and guidance.

Most importantly, we wish to thank all those who contributed to the survey, 1:1 conversations, young folk consultation and various drop-in events. We are confident we have gathered views and aims that will shape and align our two organisations' priorities for the next few years and continue to make this a great place to live and visit!

Walter Douglas, Chair

Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water Community Council

David Warwick, Chair

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust



Photo credit: Jannine Arnott

Introduction and Overview

02

2.1 Introduction

A Local Place Plan¹ (LPP) is a new type of community-led plan, introduced by Section 14 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. This gives communities the opportunity to come up with proposals for the development and use of land in their local area². Local Place Plans present how communities would like to see their places develop in the future.

This Local Place Plan will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council to validate and register and will be taken into consideration during the development of its next Local Development Plan³. The plan will identify what should happen in each community and where it should happen.

However, the purpose of a Local Place Plan is not only to contribute to the next LDP. The project ideas outlined in this plan can be initiated and executed by the community itself, with support from statutory bodies through collaborative partnerships, where relevant. As such, this LPP contains a range of projects, some relevant for planning and development aspects of the LDP as well as ones that are not considered within the remit of SBC spatial planning.

With a Local Place Plan registered and verified, the people of our community will be able to influence and drive developments in the area, and this is our platform to voice our own aspirations for the area.

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council⁴ and Borthwick Water Community Development Trust⁵ has developed this Local Place Plan together. It will be submitted by the Community Council, which is an eligible community body to submit a Local Place Plan to Scottish Borders Council⁶.

In 2024, Scottish Borders Council awarded funding, provided by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund⁷ through the Placemaking Framework⁸, to allow independent consultants Community Enterprise⁹ to co-produce a Local Place Plan with the Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water community.

Work has continued into 2025 to ensure alignment with the Local Place Plans being developed in some of our nearby Community Council areas, including Denholm and District, Southdean, Hobkirk, and Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage.

Hawick and Jedburgh are key services providers to this area and have developed place plans too¹⁰.

We have worked alongside Community Enterprise to develop this Local Place Plan for the area, which sets out the long-term vision that our community wants to achieve over the next five years and beyond.



Photo credit: Pat Douglas

¹ <https://www.ourplace.scot/home/local-place-plans>

² <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d426e6addf114cbe86be1cf0cf564214>

³ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/plans-guidance/local-place-plans>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069455281546>

⁵ <https://www.borthwickwater.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087906963291>

⁶ i.e. a community council established in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory-record/7744/upper-teviotdale-and-borthwick-water>

⁷ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/community-grants-funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/2>

⁸ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b8af497ec5d0471597354de63ff05fe4>

⁹ <https://communityenterprise.co.uk/>

¹⁰ Hawick: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1670/hawick-place-plan> Jedburgh: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b071c4a0101b4e6eb1aa993e219ed444>

2.2 Our Vision¹¹

Our vision is for a welcoming, sustainable community where people thrive. We create opportunities for young people and protect our landscapes and heritage. Through collaboration and care, we support diversity, connection, and future generations.

2.3 Our Investment Themes and Strategic Objectives

The Place Plan process has identified core thematic areas that will underpin and support the achievement of the vision.

Directly aligned to the investment themes, we have identified strategic objectives with the specific purpose of setting out what we want to achieve, and to express where we want to get to.

Theme 1: A great place to live and work

Strategic Objective: We will be a place with great facilities, where people of all ages enjoy a good standard of living and quality of life, and where local businesses can thrive.

Theme 2: A sustainable, beautiful and accessible place

Strategic Objective: Our natural and built environment will be well looked after, accessible to all, and transitions our community to net zero.

Theme 3: A resilient local community

Strategic Objective: We will be a thriving community, where our assets can be of benefit to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Theme 4: A place that celebrates, preserves and promotes its natural assets and historical heritage

Strategic Objective: We will be proud of the assets in our area and preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Theme 5: A great place to visit

Strategic Objective: Our area will have excellent amenities for visitors and be a great base for visitors to explore the South of Scotland.

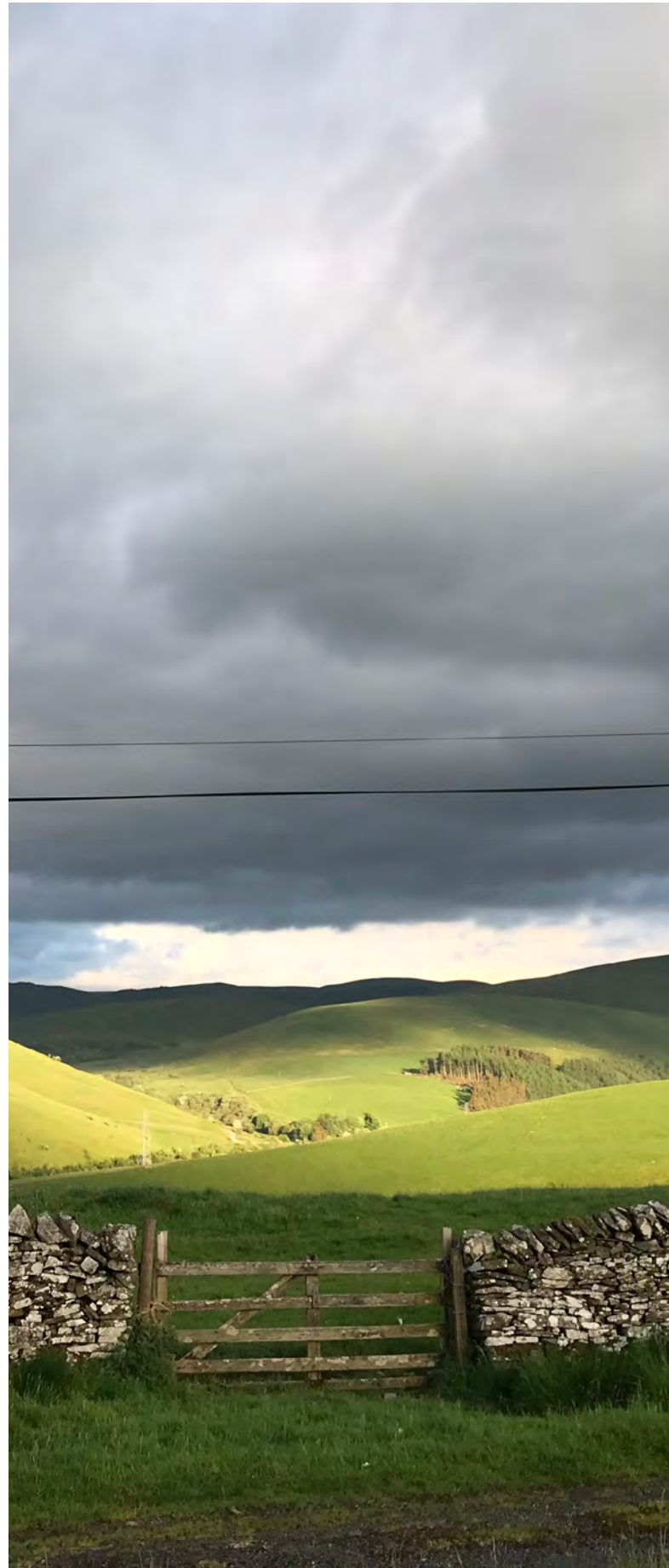


Photo credit: Pat Douglas

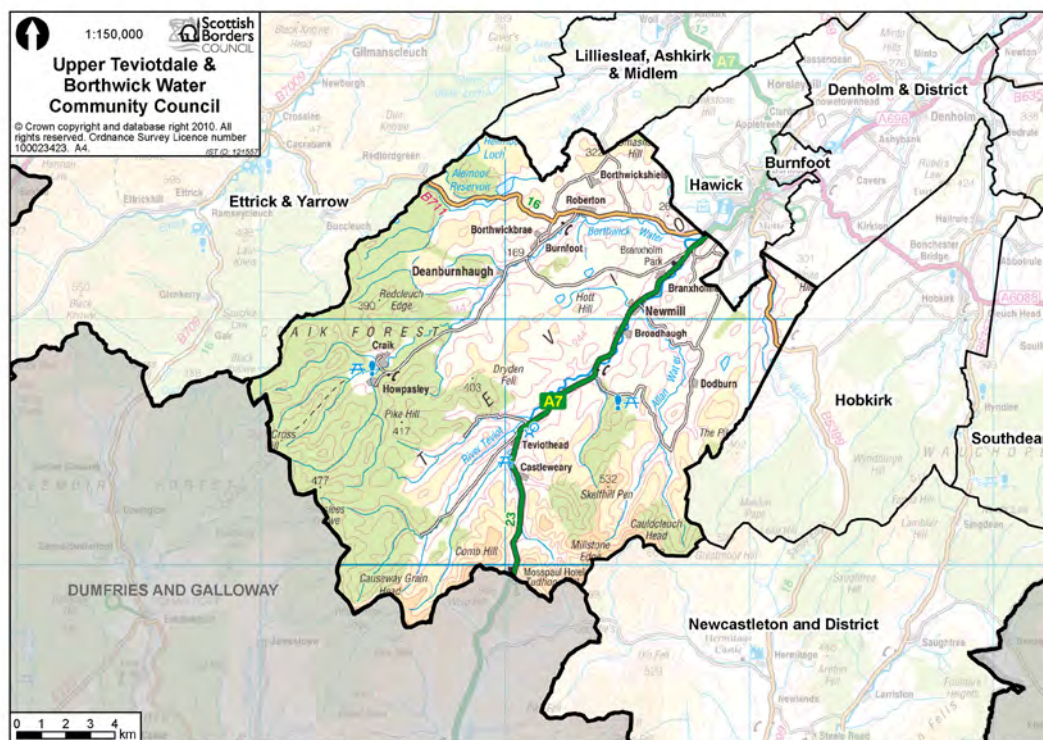
¹¹ Vision statement developed from local people's priorities and insights into the future of our area.

Description and Context of the Area

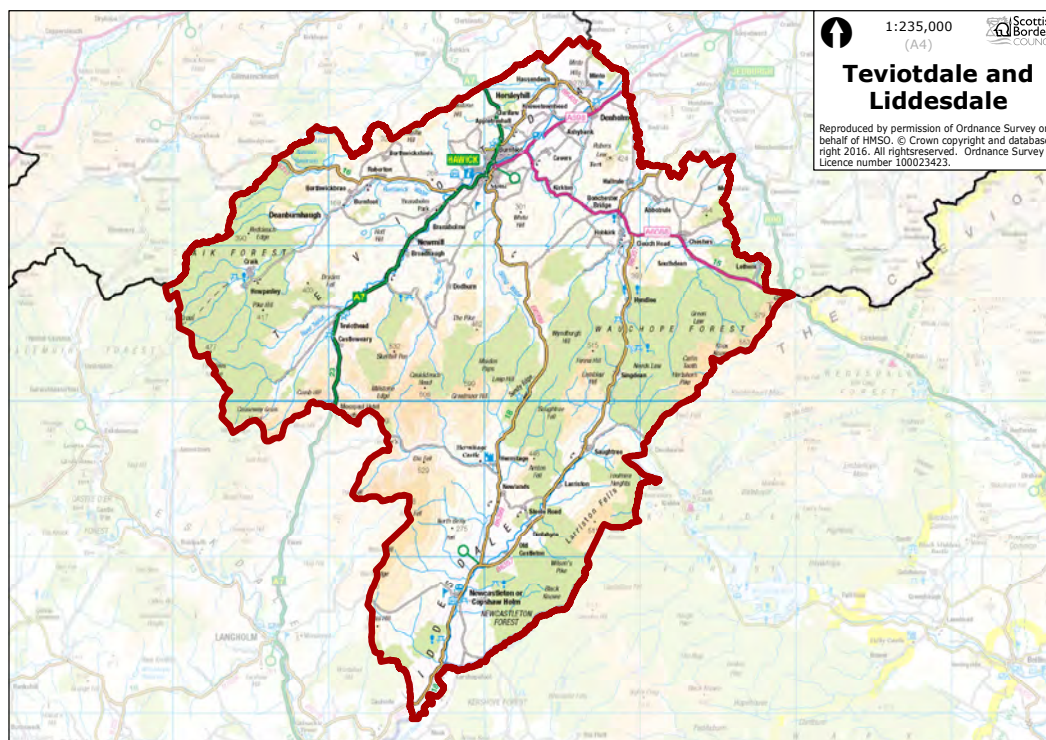
03

3.1 Local Place Plan Area Map

The Local Place Plan boundary follows the Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council boundary¹², which is as follows:



This Local Place Plan needs to be considered in the wider context of the Teviotdale and Liddesdale Locality¹³, as well as the wider context of Scottish Borders Council.



¹² <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/1033/upper-teviotdale-and-borthwick-water>

¹³ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/2250/teviot-and-liddesdale-map>

The adjacent Community Councils, who have been notified of this Local Place Plan¹⁴, are:

- Ettrick and Yarrow
- Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk and Midlem
- Hawick
- Denholm and District
- Hobkirk
- Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage

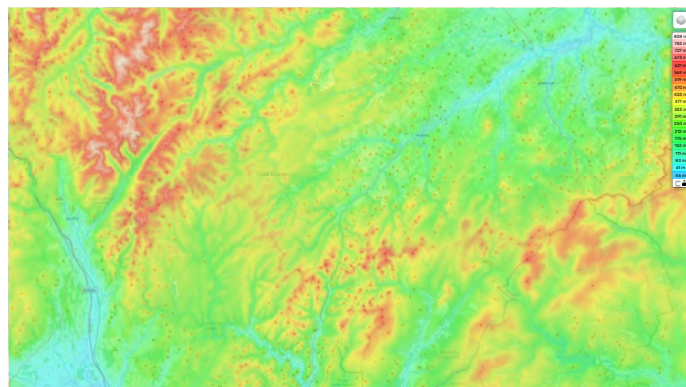
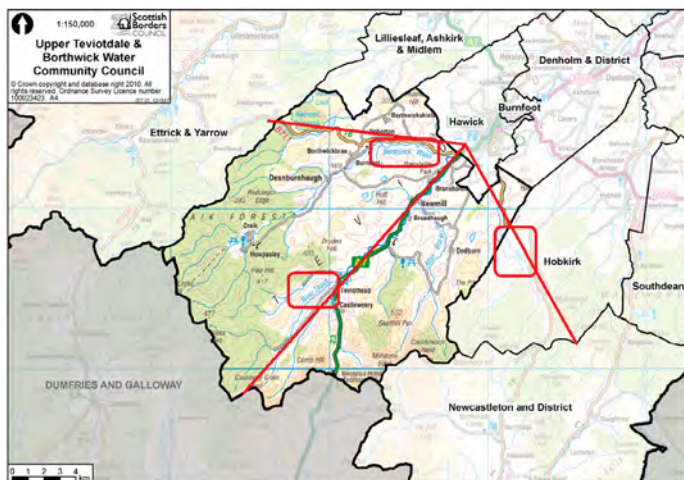
3.2 About the Area

Overview and history

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water consists of the rural communities of Teviothead, Newmill and Roberton. Access is from the A7, one of the principal routes into the Scottish Borders which links Edinburgh with Carlisle. The area is noted for its scenic beauty and is rich in song and tradition, the latter stemming principally from the time of the Border Reivers when the area was known as the Debatable Lands and perpetuated via the writings of Sir Walter Scott among others. In addition to traditional country sports the area also offers excellent opportunities for hill walking, mountain biking, horse riding, golf and more.

The main industries in the area are agriculture (predominantly sheep farming), and forestry, which has been increasing in the area since the 1950s, by both Forestry and Land Scotland and private companies.

The topography of the area is significant to the community and its history. The area has three rivers and valleys: Borthwick Water, Slitrig Water and River Teviot. When the local community refer to 'the valley', they generally mean one of the three, and identify with that as their local community, rather than the (somewhat artificial) boundary of the Community Council¹⁵.



Key Settlements

Roberton is made up of a number of detached houses focused around the B711 that runs through the village and a minor road that follows Roberton Cleuch. A church and the village hall serve the wider community and provide a central focus in the area. There is no longer a school in the village.

Teviothead is a scattered rural community located approximately 7 miles to the south of Hawick.

Newmill (Newmill on Teviot) is a rural hamlet based on the northwest side of the A7, around 5 miles south of Hawick.

¹⁴ Section 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021

¹⁵ Topographic map – screenshot from <https://en-hk.topographic-map.com/map-np69m/Scottish-Borders/?center=55.34724%2C-2.93924&zoom=11>

Facilities and services

Hawick is the nearest town, to the north of the area. It has amenities including shops, primary and secondary schooling and leisure facilities.

Children mainly attend Drumlanrig St Cuthbert's Primary School¹⁶ (in Hawick) and Hawick High School¹⁷. Some attend schools in Langholm.

Public transport

The A7 (Edinburgh to Carlisle) runs through the Community Council area. The Teviothead area is served by one bus service, the x95, which runs through Hawick and along the A7 from Edinburgh to Carlisle.

Serving the Slitrig Valley, Telford's Coaches operates the 128 bus along the B6399 from Hawick to Newcastleton. These services operate three times a day in the week and once a day on a Saturday.

Roberton is not along this service. Residents of Borthwick Valley do have access to the school bus that operates in this area (to Hawick in the morning and return mid-afternoon). However, this bus is currently at capacity (16 seats). In practice, this route does not offer viable public transport for local residents.

The organisation Border Wheels¹⁸ is a charity which provides community transport services at a cost but is subsidised by the Borders Council.

Rail services can be accessed from Tweedbank to the north and Carlisle to the south.

Outdoor activities and tourist information

Walking, cycling and riding are all popular activities, both for residents and for visitors to the area. BWCDT have developed a guide booklet 'Roberton Walks' for the area.

Scottish Borders Council lists details of cycle routes¹⁹, and the area features in the map of the Hawick Local Cycle routes²⁰.

Parts of Teviothead feature in the Border Reiver Trail²¹, a 50 mile long walking route around famous Reiver sites, these include Hawick Archeological Society Memorial To Johnnie Armstrong and the Borderlands Museum. Other walks in the area featured on Google Maps include Skelfhill Pen and Old Northouse.

Walking, running, cycling and riding trails are promoted through the Town of 1,000 Trails initiative²².

The area supports nature-based tourism, such as wildlife photography. Sightings of rare species such as golden eagles and red squirrels make this area an attractive prospect for wildlife tourism.

Heritage sites

The area features a number of heritage sites. These include:

- [Harden house – one of the oldest inhabited houses in Scotland Harden | History & Heritage - Scotland Starts Here](#)
- [Stobs Camp](#)
- [War Memorial](#)
- [Display of coins and artefacts at Forman Hall \(see photos\)](#)
- [The Borderlands Museum](#)
- [Will H Ogilvie Memorial Will H Ogilvie Memorial Trust](#)
- [Henry Scott Riddell monument: Colterscleuch Monument | History & Heritage - Scotland Starts Here](#)
- [Hawick Archeological Society Memorial To Johnnie Armstrong](#)

Natural assets

The local area is an upland rural landscape with a range of important natural assets. This includes a range of local hills and moorland and Craik Forest (managed by Forestry and Land Scotland).

The area has three main rivers: River Teviot, Borthwick Water and Slitrig Water. Alemoor reservoir is located near Roberton and offers a spot for coarse fishing locally.

Additionally, the area has several Site of Special Scientific Interest:

- [Allan Water, Hillhead SSSI](#)
- [Alemoor West Loch and Meadow SSSI](#)
- [Branxholme Wester and Easter Loch SSSI](#)
- [Slaidhills Moss SSSI](#)

¹⁶ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory-record/20103/drumlanrig-st-cuthbert-s-primary-school>

¹⁷ https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory-record/20120/hawick_high_school

¹⁸ <https://borderswheels.org.uk/community-transport/>

¹⁹ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/parks-outdoors/cycling>

²⁰ https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/919/hawick_cycle_routes

²¹ <https://theborderreivertrail.co.uk/#reiver-trail-60>

²² <https://www.townof1000trails.co.uk/>

Visitor accommodation

Visitor accommodation locally includes a range of holiday cottages and guest houses. This includes holiday cottages at Harden, Meadshaw²³, Woodburn, Borthwickmains, Borthwickbrae²⁴, Howparsley, Craik, Roberton and Girnwood.

A range of other options are also available e.g.

- [Whitchester Christian Guest House and Retreat](http://www.whitchester.org.uk/) (<http://www.whitchester.org.uk/>)
- [The Chisholm Institute](#)²⁵
- [The Wisp retreat](#)²⁶
- [Branxholme Castle](#)²⁷
- [Borthwickshiels Estate](#)²⁸
- [Cuddies Lodge](#)
- [Colterscleuch House and Cottage](#)
- [Hoscote Estate](#)

3.3 Demographics

A range of data sources has been assessed. Details are at Appendix 8.1. Some key facts and figures:

- **Total population** of area covered by the demographics report is 666 people.
- **Higher older population** than the national average (25.8% in area compared to 20% nationally). The highest age bracket in the area is 50-64 years (29.4% of local population).
- **Lower proportion of young families:** there are more couples living in the area with no children in the household than the national average (30.6% vs. 17.4%).
- **High level of self-employed people** in the area (22%), which is more than 3x the national average (6%).
- **Poor access to services:** The area is highlighted as within the 10% most deprived areas of Scotland regarding geographic access to services.
- **Low levels of deprivation:** Generally, in the 40-50% least deprived areas in Scotland (aside from deprivation in terms of access to services).
- **High rates of car ownership:** 94.6% of households own a car, with over 60% of households having multiple cars.
- **High levels of privately rented homes** locally: more than double the national average (25% locally vs. 12% nationally). The availability of socially rented housing is very low across the area – with the 2022 census highlighting 10 socially rented houses across the relevant output areas. Locally, however, it is believed that this figure is much lower²⁹.
- **Mixed profile of housing affordability** locally: 42% of homes are in the more affordable Council Tax Bands A-C, 31.5% in Bands D-E and a further 26.3% are in the most expensive Council Tax Bands F-H.

3.4 Assets

Assets in a community include not just physical assets but also things like organisations and events, which foster a sense of local identity and civic pride.

Community groups

The Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council is the Community Council for the area. Information on the Community Council can be found on the SBC website³⁰ and their Facebook page is used to share local information³¹.

“Formed in the mid-1990s the Community Council covers the Borthwick Water area, the land along the A7, through Newmill, Teviothead to Moss Paul and stretches across to part of the Slitrig from Hawick to Stobs. It is one of the largest Community Councils in area and, with a population of only about 450 people, one of the smallest in terms of registered voters”³².

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust acts as a key community anchor organisation for the Borthwick Water area.³³ Borthwick Water Community Development Trust broadly covers the Borthwick Valley from the A7 to Craik, including an extension along the B711 to Buccleuch. This area incorporates the settlements of Roberton, Highchesters, Deanburnhaugh, and Craik.

²³ <https://www.vrbo.com/en-gb/p1625915>

²⁴ https://www.facebook.com/borthwickbraeshepherdsretreat/?locale=en_GB

²⁵ <https://www.chisholme.org/>

²⁶ <https://wispretreat.co.uk/>

²⁷ <https://www.branxholmecastle.co.uk/>

²⁸ <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/accommodation/stables-cottage-at-borthwickshiels-p3048581>

³² Taken from the Borthwick Water Community Welcome Pack

³³ <https://www.borthwickwater.co.uk/>

“The valley is about fifteen miles long and about five miles wide. About a hundred households lie in its territory and about 180 voters on the electoral roll. The main occupation is farming, with farms and smallholdings along the whole length of the valley. However, in terms of population, farmers are now in the minority, with many people working outwith the valley and in a variety of occupations”³⁴.

Other community groups include:

- Newmill & Teviothead Scottish Women's Institute
- Borthwick Water Newsletter
- Gardener's Forum
- Borthwick Red Squirrel Network

Community events

There are regular events at the two Village halls within this Community council area. These include: musical evenings, quizzes, carpet bowls, summer fun days, cream teas, yoga, and weaving.

Additionally, the area has two annual agricultural shows that are usually held in September each year.

- Teviothead Show³⁵

- Robertson Show³⁶

It has been suggested that attendance at these shows has been declining, and local discussions highlight a potential opportunity to reshape these agricultural shows to attract more local people and tourists. Other suggestions include combining these shows into one, larger attraction.

Village Halls

The area has two main community halls:

- **Forman Memorial Hall in Robertson:** [Forman Memorial Hall and Facebook](#)
- **Teviothead Village Hall:** [Teviothead Village Hall website](#)

Additionally, local residents benefit from the use of Cogsmill Hall³⁷ in neighbouring Hobkirk Community Council.

Churches

There are two Church of Scotland churches in the area, in Robertson and Teviothead. Robertson Church is linked with St Mary's & Old Parish Church in Hawick³⁸ and Teviothead Church is linked to Wilton Church in Hawick³⁹. Due to parish amalgamations, the two church properties in the UTBW area have been earmarked for disposal by the Church of Scotland.

3.5 National and Local Planning Policy Context

This Local Place Plan has been drafted in line with the following:

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
- Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan (LDP)
- Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan 2020
- Scottish Borders Community Plan 2023/33

The details of how this Plan aligns with those policies are set out at Appendix 8.5.



Photo credit: Dave Cawthorn

³⁴ Taken from the Borthwick Water Community Welcome Pack

³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/Teviotheadshow/>

³⁶ https://www.facebook.com/robertonshow/?locale=en_GB

³⁷ https://www.facebook.com/cogsmill/?locale=en_GB

³⁸ <http://www.smop-tero.org.uk/tero.html>

³⁹ <https://powis.scot/sites/wilton-church-of-scotland-hawick-borders-4906/>

Community Engagement

04

4.1 Overview

Our Local Place Plan has been developed using a variety of different community engagement mechanisms, aimed at giving as many people as possible the opportunity to share their views. These were:

- A community survey
- 1:1 semi structured interviews with a range of local residents, businesses and organisations
- Open drop in events in February 2025 at Teviothead Village Hall and Forman Hall, Robertson
- Children and Families event in March 2025 to engage local families in LPP
- A visit to Cogsmill Hall in April 2025 to engage with committee (Hall located in Hobkirk Community Council but used by residents of Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water)

- An external review of the available minutes from Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water Community Council undertaken by Community Enterprise
- Feedback events on draft LPP in June 2025 at Teviothead Village Hall and Forman Hall, Robertson

We are satisfied that there has been a good level of engagement with the process, given the small population in our area.

The views and insights gathered from across these sessions have been anonymised and form the basis of section 5 and 6 of this plan.

4.2 Community Survey

The survey was available online between early Feb – early April 25. Posters were distributed across the area, and it was promoted via local social media pages. Paper copies were available at Teviothead Village Hall and Forman Memorial Hall in Robertson.

80 people responded directly to the survey, and respondents also indicated that it also represented the household views of an additional 60 adults, 12 young people aged 13-17, and 14 children aged 12 and under.

Overall views about the area were explored via the Place Standard tool. This highlighted the following:

- Natural space in the area was rated most positively
- This was followed by a sense of feeling safe locally
- The lowest scoring categories were public transport; work opportunities and local economy; followed by streets / roads and influence / control.

Using the Place Standard visual tool, this can be represented in the graph below (the bigger the shaded area, the more positive the response).

A full survey analysis can be found in Appendix 8.2.





Photo credit: Dave Cawthorn

4.3 Children and Families Engagement

In March 2025, a facilitated discussion was hosted with young adults and families with young children in the local area. This group were identified as critical for the future and their views fed into the creation of this Local Place Plan. In total 17 adults and 6 children attended. This session was facilitated by 5 representatives from local organisations including the UTBW Community Council, Borthwick Water CDT.

A record of this session is presented in Appendix 8.3.

Assets	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and space Beautiful environment and nature Close knit community Local community halls and shows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of public transport Logging lorries on roads Speeding and safety on roads Lack of children's facilities Poor connectivity (mobile / broadband) Lack of groups / activities
Small Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased signage on roads and paths More community activities and groups Better sharing of local info – community website etc. 	
Big Projects (with funding available): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More children's facilities and groups Local pub / restaurant Reduced electricity cost for locals Community land purchase – for affordable housing and/or biodiversity projects Paid staff to facilitate more activities / events / workshops locally 	

4.4 Stakeholder Conversations

1:1 conversations were undertaken by Community Enterprise with people from the following groups and organisations. The views of these stakeholders have been anonymised and included within section 5 of this Plan.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craikhope Outdoor Centre• Teviothead Village Hall• Upper Teviotdale Pastoral Society (who run the Teviothead show)• Teviothead Church• Newmill & Teviothead WI• Teviothead Weavers• Forman Memorial Hall• Roberton Show• Cogsmill Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teviot and Borthwick Red Squirrel Network (TBRSN)• Gardeners Forum• Roberton Church• Hawick Cycling Club (whose members regularly cycle through the area)• Will H Ogilvie Memorial Trust• The Celtic Goldsmith / The Johnnie Armstrong Gallery and Borderlands Museum• The Chisholme Institute
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4.5 Community Drop-in Events

Additional drop-in community events were held in Teviothead Hall and Roberton Hall in June 2025. These offered local people an opportunity to find out the draft findings and key projects within the Local Place Plan. A summary of these events can be found in Appendix 8.4.



Photo credit: Pat Douglas

Assets, Opportunities, Needs and Challenges

05

5.1 Overview

The 2017 Feasibility study for a proposed Scottish Borders National Park⁴⁰ found that the area (covering Cheviot, Teviot and Liddesdale) has:

- Beautiful, historically authentic and geologically significant Borderland landscape that is nationally outstanding and admired.
- A continuing vibrant and distinct identity with a strong coherent pride of place treasured across all age-groups arising from a unique cultural heritage.
- Land based businesses and communities entering a new era of policy and support mechanisms.
- Social and economic special needs like incomes, jobs and digital connectivity that, for many residents, are well below the national average.

Some of the key facts and numbers included:⁴¹

- Centralisation of education, caring, community and retail services in Teviot.
- High residential desirability but ageing demographic and

outmigration of young.

- GVA below average growth, low average visitor stays and low national and international area profile.
- Maturing forestry – low added value and high impact on roads.
- Wildlife habitats - Rare but accessible and species-rich e.g., golden eagles and red squirrels.
- Landscape - Outstanding quality, beauty and variety, no major roads or large settlements. Moorland mosaic with wide horizons and distant unobstructed views – grand and intimate scales – wildland qualities.
- Historic sites - Greatest density of scheduled monuments in Borders.
- Economy - Dependence on primary industries and small business. Lack of professional jobs. GVA per head below Scottish average. Poor broadband and mobile coverage.

The campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park was ultimately unsuccessful but the challenges identified remain, and new ways will need to be found to address them.

5.2 Landscape

The area has immense natural beauty which is appealing to both residents and visitors. Additionally, it is praised for being peaceful and quiet.

The local landscape is a key local asset although more could be done to increase accessibility into the countryside.

Beautiful walking and cycling routes in the area were highlighted but issues such as path closures in Craik Forest and traffic on roads impacts on the ability to access the local landscape safely and easily.

5.3 Community

The community itself is an asset, with many people highlighting the community spirit across the area. Additionally, residents describe the community as resilient, although largely through informal connections.

Long-term sustainability of social infrastructure needs to be assessed; there is concern that committees and events which are put on by volunteers are not being well attended. Additionally, informal gatherings, e.g., sewing bee, book club – take place in peoples' homes, rather than the halls.

Over half of survey respondents (51%) expressed support for expanding the remit of the Borthwick Water Community

Development Trust to cover the whole community council area. However, there was a considerable portion of the community who were uncertain about how this would work in practice with volunteering levels a concern (38%). It was noted that it was challenging for the Teviothead area to apply for funding without a development trust-type organisation in place. The potential to explore one development trust for the area – with two local subcommittees was proposed.

Despite the strong community spirit, there is still concern about the isolation and loneliness experienced by members of the community.

⁴⁰ Page 7: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/645920f54a2dc2492e2f0b55/t/6500556bef1d9355d5f7b066/1694520691947/Borders-National-Park-Feasibility-Study.pdf>

⁴¹ At pages 11-12

5.4 Housing

There are a total of 288 households in the defined area⁴².

A large proportion of homes are 'couples with no children' (30.6%) and 'one person households' (22.6%). These numbers vary widely from the national averages for the same category (17.4% and 37.1% respectively).

5.5% of the local housing stock is classified as second homes⁴³. Empty homes account for 8.9% of local housing stock (the third highest in the Scottish Borders region) including 4.2% categorised as long-term empty (6 months+).

Housing in the area is of mixed affordability with fewer dwellings in Council Tax Band A and H locally, and relatively higher levels in the midrange Bands B-E.

The current Local Development Plan for the Scottish Borders has identified two sites for housing in the Borthwick Water region of this district. These sites are located in the settlement of Roberton and have a capacity of 10 homes. These sites have conditions linked to future development i.e., maintaining the character of the settlement and implementing drainage measures. Neither of these sites are required to provide affordable housing (as per the 17 unit minimum within the Scottish Borders Council Affordable Housing Policy)⁴⁴.

A Housing Needs survey of Borthwick Water was published by Rural Housing Scotland in July 2023.

Key findings:

- Seven households from Borthwick Water indicated that they have a current or future housing need (25% of all respondents).
- Twelve responses highlighted households who had moved away from Borthwick Water because of lack of suitable housing. Those households comprised young adults and working age households.
- Young and working age households predominate amongst those needing to access alternative affordable housing - 5 of the seven households in need fit these categories.

Recommendations:

Vacant and empty properties represent a considerable proportion of local housing stock:

- Continue negotiations with empty property owners.
- Establish contact with Scottish Land Fund, Scottish Borders Council and South of Scotland Enterprise for support and financial assistance for purchase.

Land for new build options locally is limited to the two sites in Roberton (let for grazing). Recommendation to explore options for affordable housing through local housing association.

Other:

The Community Council may also wish to explore linking any new housing options to 'Rural Burden' legislation which enables a % discount on open market value and the right of pre-emption for property buy back⁴⁵.

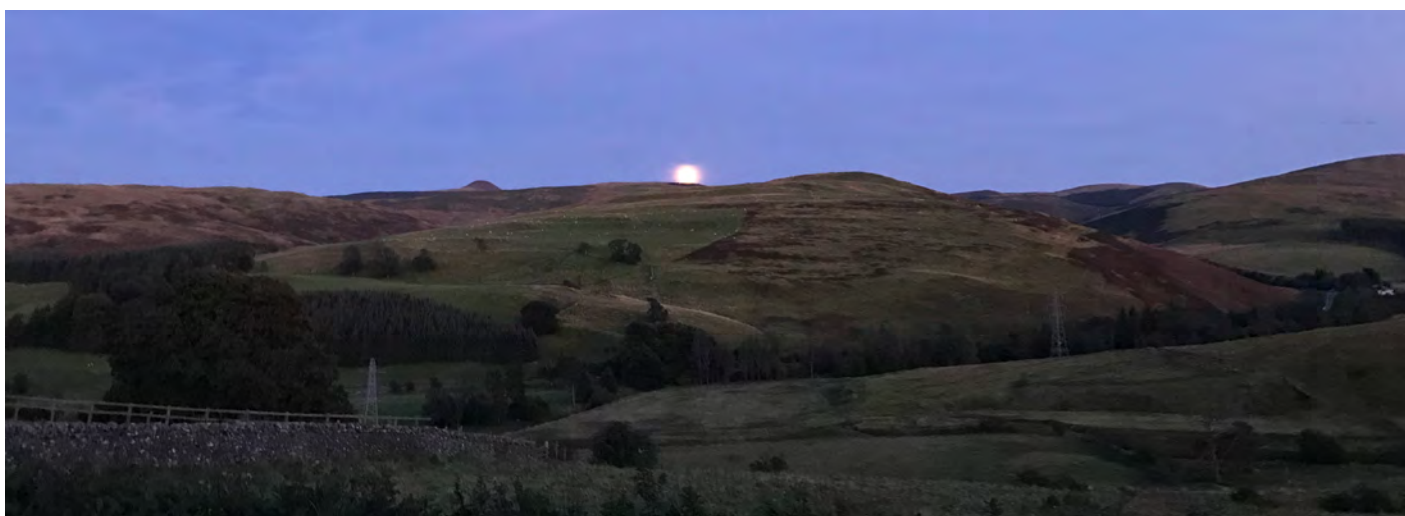


Photo credit: Pat Douglas

⁴² See Appendix 8.1 for full Demographic report and definition of area.

⁴³ 2021 Census data using Data Zone S01012355 - Teviothead and Hermitage. <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/nrs-small-area-household-estimates/>

⁴⁴ See Appendix 8.5

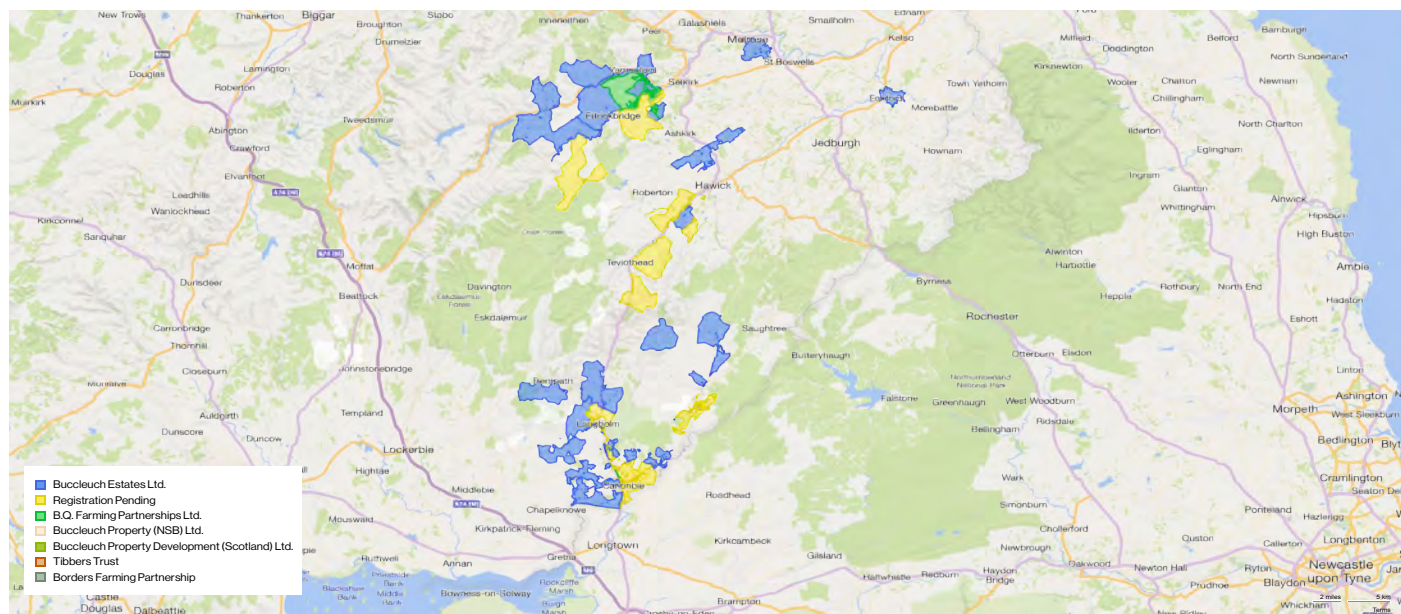
⁴⁵ <https://www.chtrust.co.uk/rural-housing-burden1.html>

5.5 Connectivity

Digital connectivity is poor, which has implications for people studying or working from home in particular. Mobile phone coverage has improved in the Borthwick Water area with the recent installation of a mast, and BT have installed fibre broadband. Scottish Borders is part of a Project Gigabit which is currently underway⁴⁶.

5.6 Land Use

The area is an upland district that is largely rural in nature. Buccleuch Estate is a large local landowner with farmland across the area (see map below).



Buccleuch Estate owned land around Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water ⁴⁷

Forestry is also a key local land use. These include Craik Forest (part of the wider Eskdalemuir Forest), which is managed by Forestry and Land Scotland and offers around “4250 hectares of largely coniferous upland plantation forest”⁴⁸. A range of other forestry areas are owned and managed by private companies. As part of the wider Central Southern Uplands, woodland cover is around 22% of land area (higher than Borders average of 18%)⁴⁹.

This figure represents a broad area of the Scottish Borders and may underestimate the % of land in forestry use – or planned use - within the UTBW CC area.

⁴⁶ See second table in section 3: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-gigabit-progress-update-november-2024/project-gigabit-progress-update-november-2024#project-gigabit-contracts-and-procurement-pipeline>

⁴⁷ <https://www.buccleuch.com/land-registration/buccleuch-land-ownership/>

⁴⁸ <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/consultations/craik-land-management-plan>

⁴⁹ https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/962/technical_advice_note.pdf



SP Energy Network Cross Border Connection – proposed route through Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water district.

Land use relating to renewable energy projects is also an increasingly important consideration locally.

- **Langhope Rig Wind Farm** – located in the hills between Robertson and Ettrickbridge. Developed in 2017, it offers £5k p/mW generated to a community benefit fund - around £80,000 annually⁵⁰.

- **Teviot Wind Farm** – 52 turbine project proposed by Muirhall Energy. The site is located on the southern side of the A7, close to Teviothead. This project is offering £7k p/mW in community benefit funding and up to a 10% stake in ownership of the development to local communities. Currently rejected by SBC with a public inquiry currently in progress (as of June 25)⁵¹.
- **Mid Hill Wind Farm** – 27 turbine project in consultation and development phase by Invenery. This site is located in the middle of the Community Council district from the hills behind Teviothead into the Borthwick Water valley⁵². The project is offering £5k p/mW of community benefit funding⁵³.

Additionally, the area is being explored as part of the route for SP Energy Networks Cross Border Connection⁵⁴. This new double circuit 400kV overhead line is proposed to run from Galashiels to Newcastleton (and further connections) in the south.

The new developments proposed for the local area – from wind farms to the new energy connection - have been a source of tension within the community. The debate over these developments has been contentious amongst local residents.

“It has very much fragmented the local community – it has introduced ill feeling – it has divided the community very much, which is not something we’ve experienced before in the valley.”

5.7 Roads, Traffic and Public Transport

The main A7 trunk road provides the main road link in the area. Speeding on this route (and other country roads in the region) is a concern for local people. The impact of timber lorries on this road have also been highlighted as a growing concern. The route taken by timber lorries between Craik and Robertson has been identified as a particular issue, especially at school bus travel times (narrow roads, speeding and limited passing space). Alternative routes for timber haulage from Craik Forest have been recommended in the past e.g., via B709 or a new ‘in-forest’ route from Craik eastwards to the A7⁵⁵.

Due to the lack of regular public transport, it was also highlighted that people feel the need to move into Hawick, or further afield, as they get older or as their health fails.

Borders Wheels Community Transport⁵⁶ is a local asset in the area but awareness of this as a community resource was noted as limited. Peer learning from groups and organisations already exploring projects such as Community Transport is recommended. DTAS offers support for peer learning and other programmes such as Community Learning Exchanges can be explored⁵⁷.

⁵⁰ <https://wwwFOUNDATIONSscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/langhope-rig>

⁵¹ <https://www.muirhallenergy.co.uk/projects/34-teviot>

⁵² <https://midhillwind.invenery.com/news-and-resources>

⁵³ https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blt1b4c58e01961ab11/bltdc76976fdd8c8ba82/682756b96555216497314d5e/MidHillWind_Boards_2nd_Exhibition.pdf?branch=production

⁵⁴ https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx

⁵⁵ <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/336-improving-timber-transport-case-study-craik-forest/viewdocument/336>

⁵⁶ <https://borderswheels.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Teviot-Wheels-Community-Transport-leaflet.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://www.scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/community-learning-exchange>

5.8 Employment

Employment in this area of the Borders is linked to the neighbouring town of Hawick as well as commuting opportunities to Carlisle (a closer commute than Edinburgh).

The area had a strong textiles manufacturing industry but this pattern of employment has been replaced with public and private sector roles including Wholesale and Retail trade and Health and Social Work. This area in particular is also strongly linked to the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector⁵⁸. It was highlighted that there is an ongoing concern about the insecurity faced by tenant farmers in the area.

57% of the population over the age of 16 are classed as economically active which is on par with the national average. The area is particularly high in self-employed people when compared to Scotland in general – likely reflecting the rural nature of the location. The number of retirees locally is slightly higher than national levels and around 5% of local people have additional caring responsibilities.

5.9 Visitor Provision

Better / more visitor infrastructure needs to be considered (e.g., public toilets). However, tourism needs to be balanced with the retention of the area's rurality.

Nature based tourism linked to the area's local wildlife (e.g., golden eagles), rural landscape and dark skies should be encouraged.

5.10 Demographics

Demographics have changed over time, due to the changing size and scale of the farms associated with the wool industry.

Due to this changing demographic, Borthwick Water lost its primary school 10-15 years ago. The site was converted into private housing. However, now there are 25 children under the age of 5 and the reinstatement of a primary school could potentially be revisited.

5.11 Access to services

Access to services like the GP, optician and dentist is limited locally - these are all based in Hawick and require transport. The nearest hospital is the Borders General Hospital, a 40min drive away.



Photo credit: Tracey Jackson

⁵⁸ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/54/teviot-and-liddesdale-learning-community-profile-feb-2015>

Proposals

06

6.1 Overview

Our vision is for a welcoming, sustainable community where people thrive. We create opportunities for young people and protect our landscapes and heritage. Through collaboration and care, we support diversity, connection, and future generations.

The responses and engagement with the community, groups and organisations in our area, have helped us to identify the challenges faced by the community, and the actions we should undertake to work towards achieving that vision.

They require combinations of actions by Scottish Borders Council and partnership working with other agencies, by local organisations, and the community itself. In many areas, funding will need to be secured to deliver these actions. Some of the focus is on consolidating and sustaining projects and plans that are already underway.

6.2 Fit with LDP

The Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 22 August 2024⁵⁹.

Alignment with the overarching policy themes is set out at Appendix 8.4.

Due to the small hamlets in our area, only one settlement, Robertson is featured in the LDP settlement profiles (see Appendix 8.5).

This Local Place Plan does not propose any changes to the existing Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan.

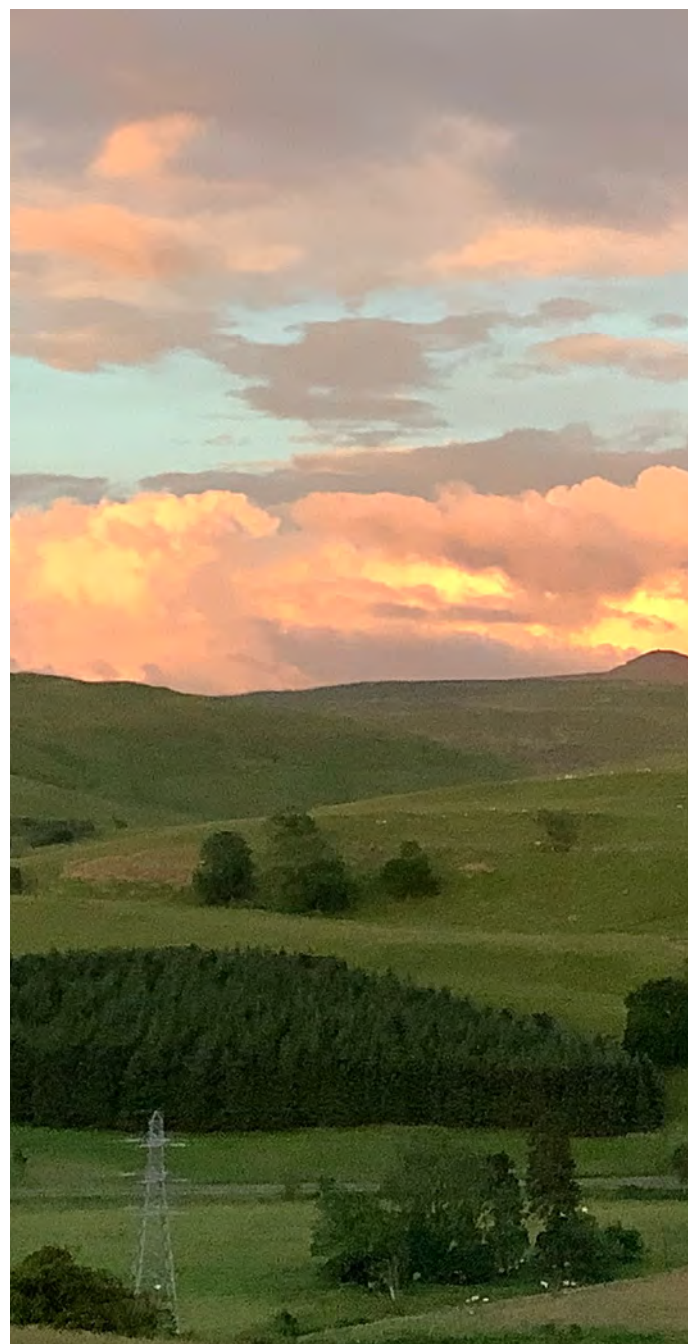


Photo credit: Pat Douglas

⁵⁹ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/plans-guidance/local-development-plan>

6.3 Themes, Priorities and Projects

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 1: A great place to live and work		
We will be a place with great facilities, where people of all ages enjoy a good standard of living and quality of life, and where local businesses can thrive.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Housing</i> • <i>Connectivity</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote access to affordable housing and consider community options to increase housing stock locally e.g., empty and vacant properties in area. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support identified Robertson housing area (in current LDP) – potential to explore community-owned housing b. Regularly engage with owners of vacant buildings 2. Work with partners to improve existing housing stock, including energy efficiency measures. 3. Promote and support initiatives which return families and young people to the area. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Affordable housing. b. Children and families activities/groups/facilities. c. Home working initiatives and connectivity. 4. Support improvements to necessary infrastructure, such as mobile phone coverage and fibre broadband. 	BWCDT Community Council (including consideration of planning applications)	SBC Sustainable Borders ⁶⁰ Communities Housing Trust Building Digital UK / Project Gigabit ⁶¹

⁶⁰ <https://sustainableseil Kirk.org.uk/about/>

⁶¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-kickstarts-work-with-scottish-government-to-boost-broadband-in-rural-scotland-powering-prime-ministers-plan-for-change>

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 2: A sustainable, beautiful and accessible place		
We will be a place with great facilities, where people of all ages enjoy a good standard of living and quality of life, and where local businesses can thrive.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New safe, walking and cycling routes.</i> • <i>Road maintenance, traffic calming, and improved safety.</i> • <i>Public and community transport.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop safe and accessible active travel routes including walking and cycle paths: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Craik Forest b. Old Northouse 2. Lobby Scottish Borders Council for improved road safety including road improvements and traffic control measures. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A7 trunk road b. Robertson / B711 ~ alternative timber routes 3. Work with existing public transport providers to improve the service across our area. 4. Consider community owned transport options, in partnership with other Community Councils and existing local providers such as Borders Wheels⁶². 5. Promote active and lower-emission travel in area e.g., electric vehicle charging points. 6. Continue to engage with planned Borders Railway extension 	BWCDT Community Council	SBC A7 Action Group Sustrans ⁶³ Sustainable Borders ⁶⁴ Other Community Councils Forestry and Land Scotland Borders Wheels Borders Railway Campaign

⁶² <https://borderswheels.org.uk/community-transport/>

⁶³ <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-scotland/>

⁶⁴ <https://sustainableseil Kirk.org.uk/about/>

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 3: A resilient local community		
We will be a thriving community, where our assets can be of benefit to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community events.</i> • <i>Physical assets.</i> • <i>Children and young people.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and develop regular community events to bring community together and provide a sustainable income for the local hall(s). 2. Develop a playpark in the area – explore locations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teviothead Hall / Forman Hall. 3. Additional services to be explored at Teviothead/Forman Hall Hall(s) e.g., parcel collection/delivery. 4. Consider future use of Church properties in CC area e.g., Teviothead Parish Church / Roberton Church. 5. Explore potential of expanding BWCDT to cover whole CC region – with two subcommittees to oversee local projects. 	Teviothead Village Hall Forman Hall BWCDT Community Council DTAS	Cogsmill Hall (in Hobkirk CC) Church of Scotland

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 4: A place that celebrates, preserves and promotes its natural assets and historical heritage		
We will be proud of the assets in our area and preserve them for future generations to enjoy.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Natural assets.</i> • <i>Conservation and development.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance the natural environment, including working with local landowners, and scrutinising and commenting on planning proposals for land use, such as forestry, windfarms and infrastructure developments. 2. Consider and seek support to better understand community land purchase for key priorities in plan e.g., affordable housing, conservation, and biodiversity. 3. Advocate for increased maintenance of Craik Forest including path access, facilities, and windfall. 4. Promote and protect unique aspects of our area, e.g., Local heritage sites, Areas of Conservation, Dark Skies⁶⁵. 	Community Council BWCDT Cross-Border Action Group	Neighbouring Community Councils Landowners / Homeowners Forestry and Land Scotland SOSE COSS / Community Land Scotland The South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA)

⁶⁵ <https://www.ssdalliance.com/destination-development/dark-skies/>

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 5: A great place to visit		
Our area will have excellent amenities for locals and visitors and be a great base for visitors to explore the South of Scotland.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provision of tourist information.</i> • <i>Promotion of the area as a location for nature-based eco-tourism.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review, develop and promote resources for local information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps, leaflets • Local noticeboards • Digital resources 2. Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, viewpoints and new signage e.g., Old Northouse, Craik Forest, heritage sites. 3. Explore provision of infrastructure for visitors (and locals) e.g., café provision, EV charging, public toilets, water re-fill points, and bike repair stations. 4. Work with local partners / wider region in collective marketing of area⁶⁶. 	BWCDT	South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) ⁶⁷ SOSE ⁶⁸ Visit Scotland ⁶⁹ Scottish Community Tourism ⁷⁰ Forestry and Land Scotland Other Community Councils

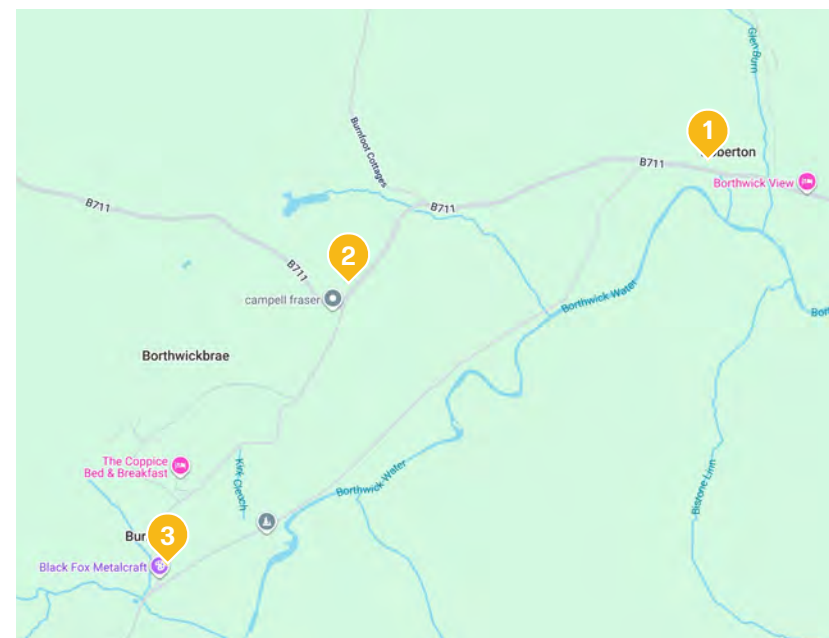
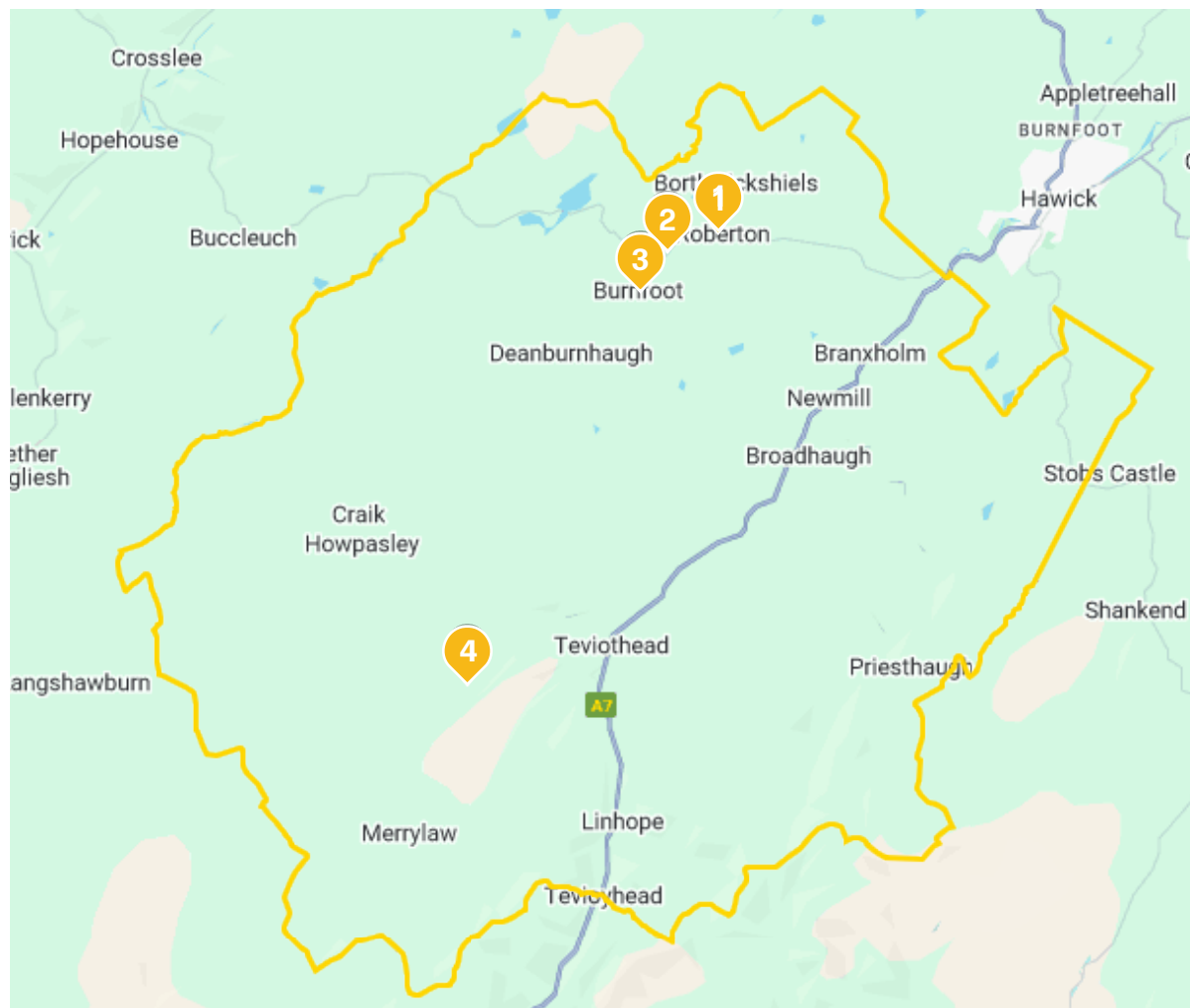
⁶⁶ e.g. <http://www.rulewater.co.uk/> and <https://www.visitnewcastleton.com/>

⁶⁷ <https://scotlandstartshere.com/destinations/teviot-eskdale-and-liddesdale/>

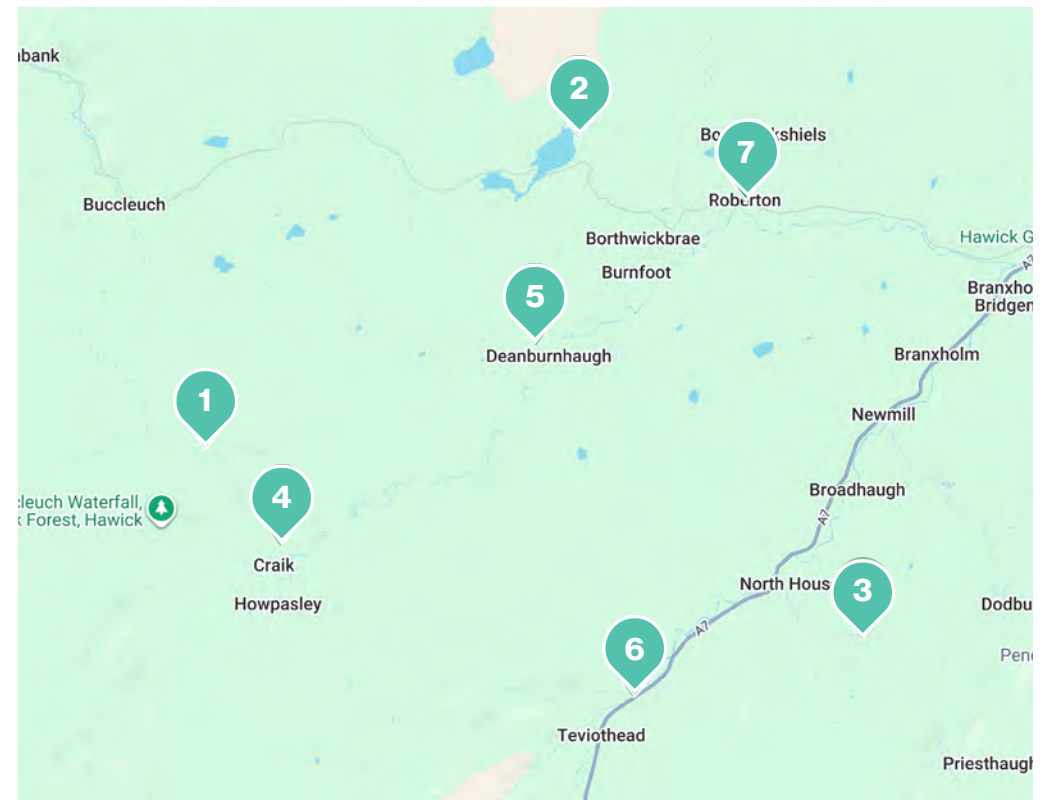
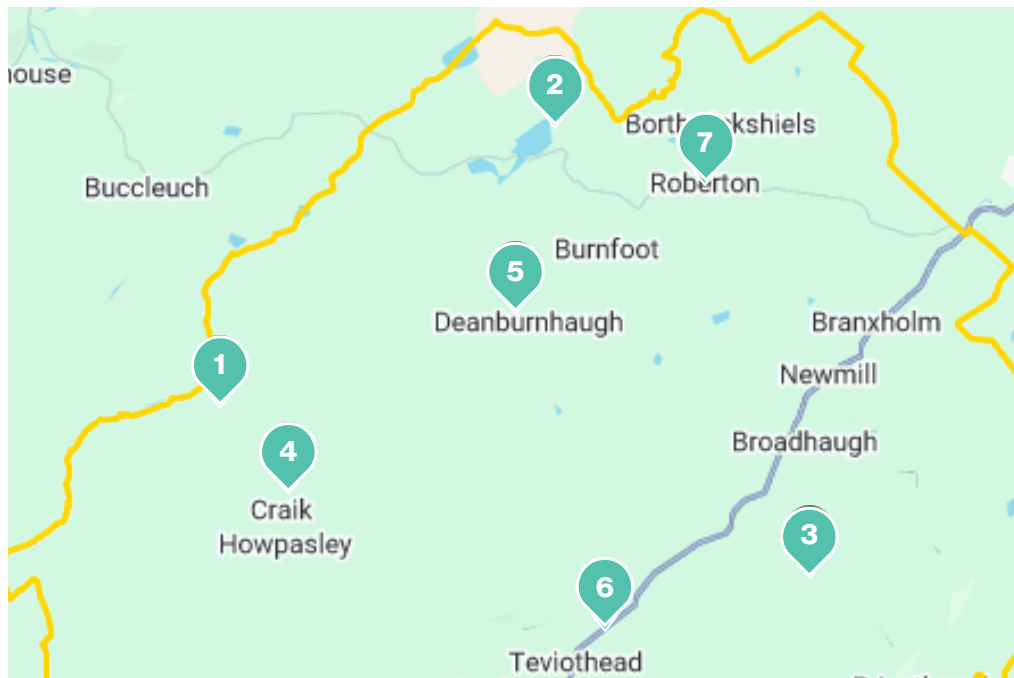
⁶⁸ <https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/services>

⁶⁹ <https://www.visitscotland.com/>

⁷⁰ <https://www.scoto.co.uk/>



Theme 1 - A great place to live and work		
Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	1.1a	Site of future community-led housing
2	1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing
3	1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing
4	1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing

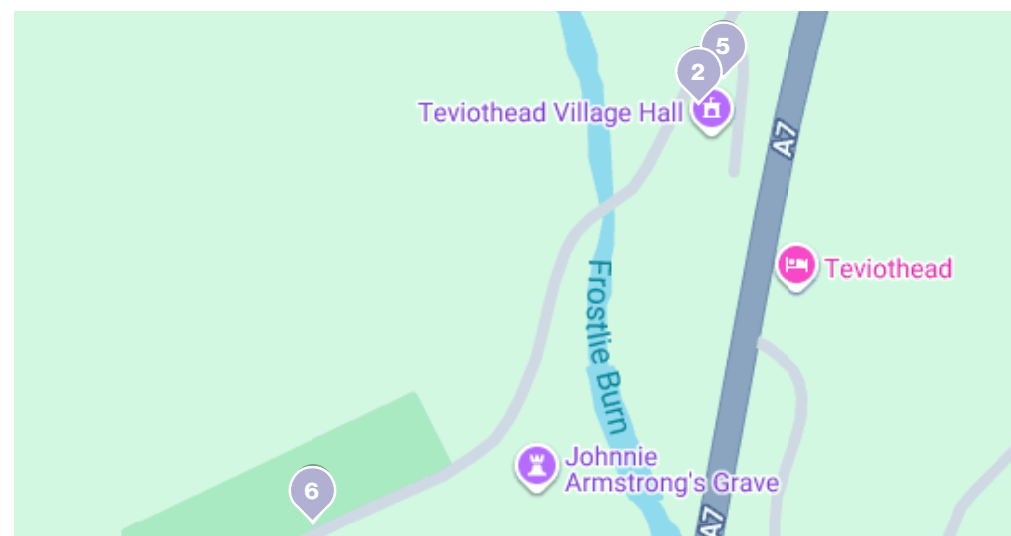
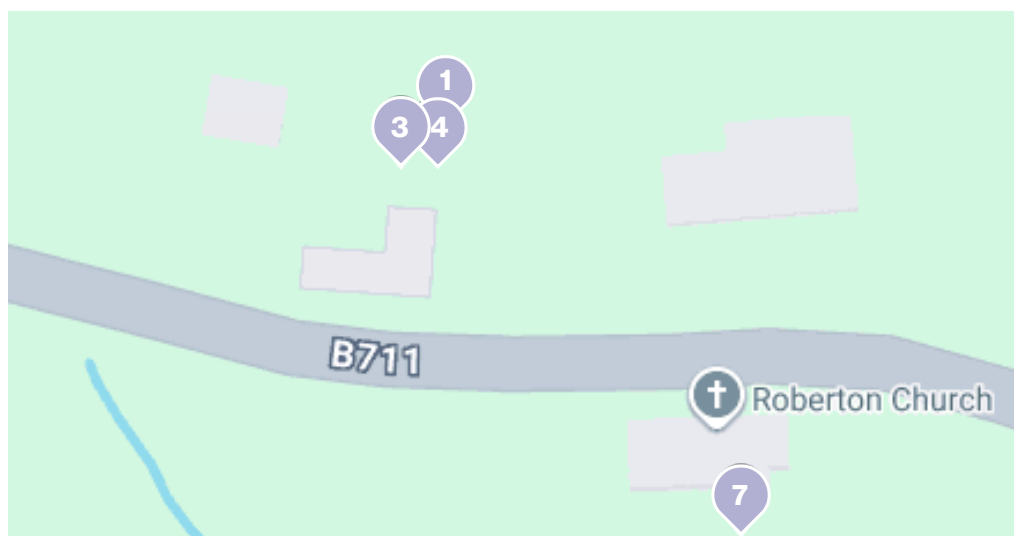


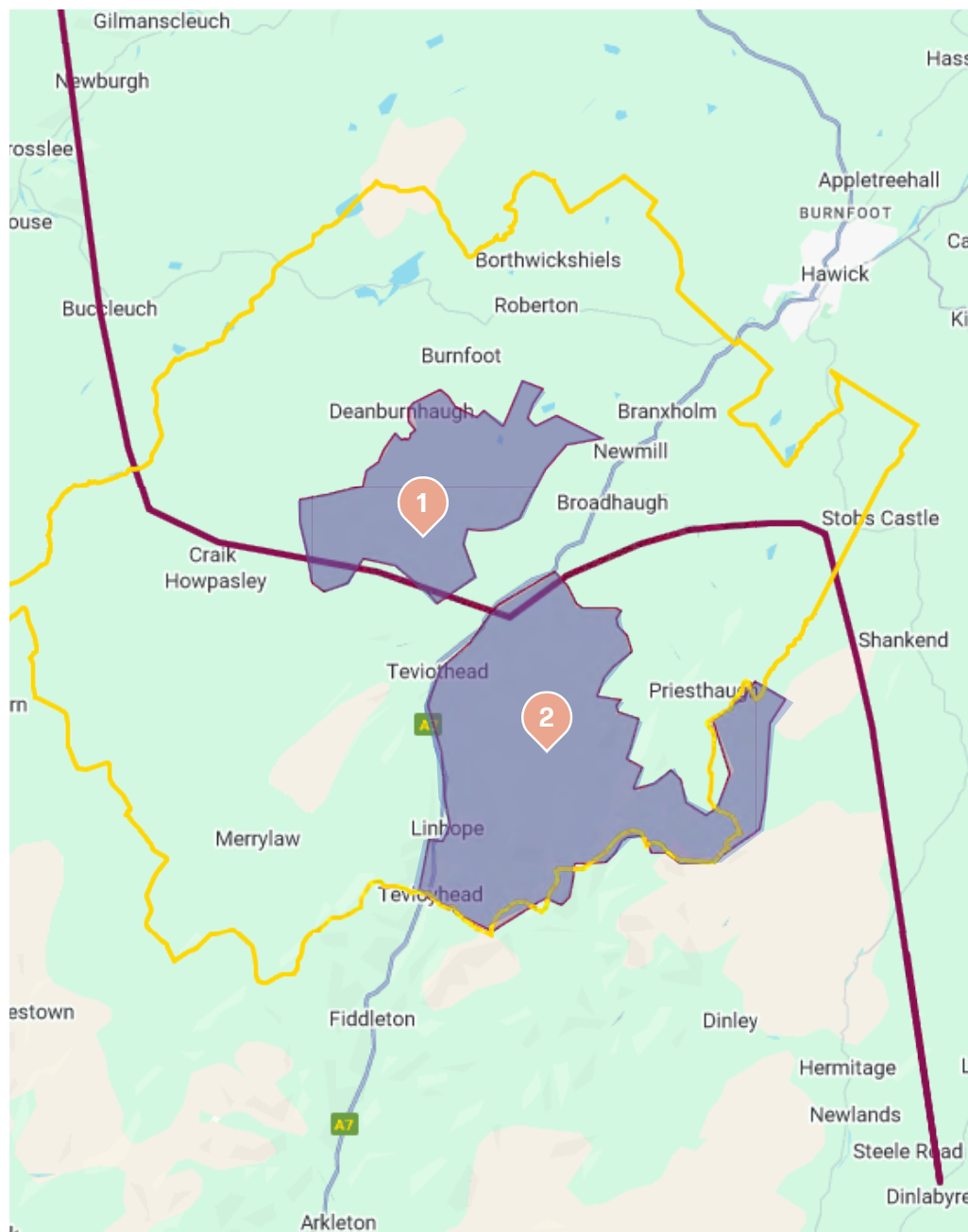
Theme 2 - A sustainable, beautiful and accessible place

Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	2.1	Improve access to Craik Forest walks
2	2.1	Potential for walk / bench at Alemoor Reservoir
3	2.1	New paths at Old Northhouse
4	2.2	Timber lorries using Craik to Roberton road posing risk locally (speed/use of convoys) – especially at school bus times. Advocate for use / development of other routes e.g. B709 or new 'in-forest route from Craik east to A7'.
5	2.2	Speeding measures and times for timber lorries
6	2.2	Speeding on A7 - traffic calming measures
7	2.5	Promote active and lower-emission travel in area e.g. electric vehicle charging points






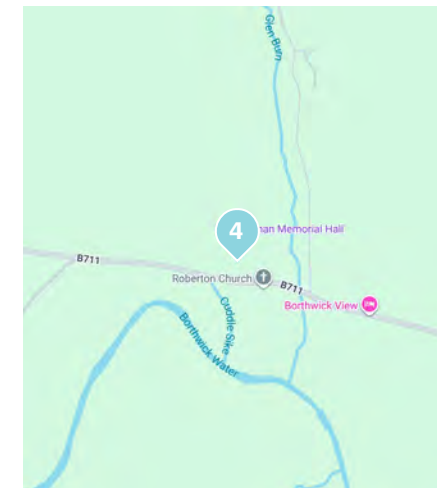
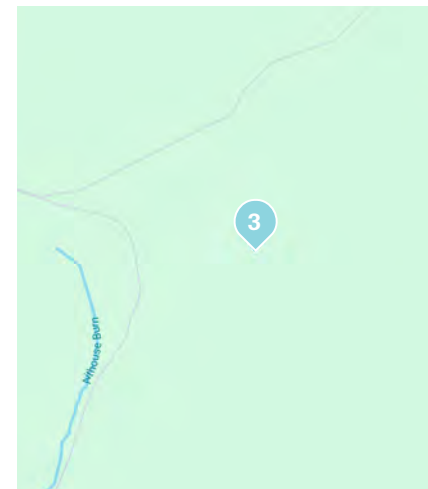
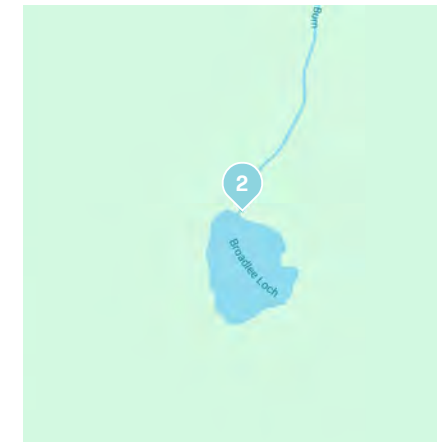
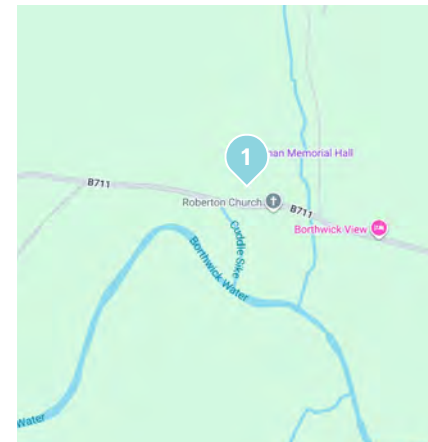
Theme 3 - A resilient local community		
Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	3.1	Events and activities at Forman Hall
2	3.1	Events and activities at Teviothead Village Hall
3	3.2	Playpark/facilities for children
4	3.3	Additional facilities and services at Forman Hall e.g. parcel delivery
5	3.3	Additional facilities and services at Teviothead Village Hall e.g. parcel delivery
6	3.4	Explore future community use of Parish church(es) in area
7	3.4	Explore future community use of Parish Church(es) in area





Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Local Place Plan

Theme 4 - A place that celebrates, preserves and promotes its natural assets and historical heritage		
Map Pin Number/ Key	Project Number	Project Description
1	Project 4.1 (Mid Hill Wind Farm proposed)	Events and activities at Forman Hall
2	Project 4.1 (Teviot Wind Farm proposed)	Protect and enhance the natural environment, including working with local landowners, and scrutinising and commenting on planning proposals for land use, such as forestry, windfarms and infrastructure developments
	Project 4.1 (Cross Border Pylon Route proposed)	SP Energy Networks developing high wire pylon route through area.
	Project 4.1 (Mid Hill Wind Farm - proposed)	Rough outline of proposed Mid Hill Wind Farm site
	Project 4.1 (Teviot Wind Farm Proposed)	Rough outline of proposed Wind Farm



Theme 5 - A great place to visit		
Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	5.2	Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, signage and viewpoints
2	5.2	Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, signage and viewpoints
3	5.2	Viewpoints, signage and benches improved at Craik Forest
4	5.3	Explore provision of infrastructure for visitors (and locals) e.g. café provision, EV charging, public toilets, water re-fill points, and bike repair stations

Acronyms:

UTBW CC: Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council

BWCDT: Borthwick Water Community Development Trust

SBC: Scottish Borders Council

FLS: Forestry and Land Scotland

SOSE: South of Scotland Enterprise

SOSCT: South of Scotland Community Housing

DTAS/COSS: Development Trust Association / Community Ownership Support Service

	Land / Asset	Who?	What and when?
1.1 Promote access to affordable housing and consider community options to increase housing stock locally			
1.1a	Potential to explore community-owned affordable housing at Roberton.	BWCDT SOSCT	Site(s) identified in LDP2 for 10 houses to be developed next to Forman Hall in Roberton.
1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing.	BWCDT SOSCT	Identify vacant properties across area and work with local owners.
2.1 Develop safe and accessible active travel routes including walking and cycle paths			
	Old Northouse	BWCDT	New paths, signage and benches.
	Craik Forest	UTBW CC, BWCDT and FLS	3 core trails in Craik Forest have closure notices due to windfall and tree felling.
	Alemoor Loch	BWCDT	Suggested walk / benches at Alemoor Reservoir.
2.2 Lobby for improved road safety including road improvements, and traffic control measures			
	A7 trunk road	SBC Bear Scotland	Speeding / traffic such as timber lorries key safety concern.
	Lobby for alternative timber routes.		Near residential areas on A7 and B711.
	Roberton / B711		Timber lorries using Craik to Roberton road posing risk locally (speed/use of convoys) – especially at school bus times. Advocate for use / development of other routes e.g. B709 or new <i>'in-forest route from Craik east to A7'</i> ⁷¹ .
2.5 Promote active and lower-emission travel in area e.g. electric vehicle charging points			
	Forman Memorial Hall / Teviothead Hall.	BWCDT	Consider ways to encourage active travel and lower-emission travel locally e.g., EV charging points, water refill stations.
3.1 Support and develop regular community events and activities to bring community together and provide a sustainable income for the local hall(s)			
	Teviothead Hall	Teviothead/Forman Hall Committees UTBW CC BWCDT	More community events and activities in Halls to sustain vital community assets.
	Forman Memorial Hall		Reduce isolation and loneliness, improve community connections.

⁷¹ <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/336-improving-timber-transport-case-study-craik-forest/viewdocument/336>

3.2 Develop a playpark in the area			
	Potential locations: Forman Hall.	Teviothead/Forman Hall Committees UTBW CC BWCDT	Need identified for children's activities and facilities.
3.3 Additional services to be explored at Teviothead/Forman Hall(s) e.g. parcel collection/delivery			
	Potential locations: Teviothead Hall / Forman Hall.	Teviothead/Forman Hall Committees UTBW CC BWCDT	Additional services at local Halls to reduce travel to Hawick.
3.4 Consider future use of Church properties in CC area			
	Teviothead Parish Church / Robertson Church.	UTBW CC BWCDT Church of Scotland	Two churches in area earmarked for closure by Church of Scotland. Potential to consider asset transfer to community – would need community consultation/ sustainable business plan.
4.1 Protect and enhance the natural environment, including working with local landowners, and scrutinising and commenting on planning proposals for land use, such as forestry, windfarms and infrastructure developments			
	Mid Hill Wind Farm	UTBW CC	Inverenergy ⁷² in midst of developing Mid Hill Wind Farm. Local engagement event in Feb and May 25. Planning submission aimed for Sep 25.
	Teviot Wind Farm	UTBW CC	Muirhall Energy – public inquiry in progress.
	Cross Border Network	UT&BW CC Cross Border Pylon Group	SP Energy Networks development high wire pylon routes through area.
5.2 Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, improved signage and viewpoints e.g. linked to recreation areas, active travel routes and heritage sites			
	Craik Forest	BWCDT	Improve accessibility and tourism offerings locally.
	Broadlee Loch		
	Old Northouse		
		FLS	
5.3 Explore provision of infrastructure for visitors (and locals) e.g., café provision, EV charging, public toilets, water re-fill points, and bike repair stations			
	Forman Hall Craik Forest	UTBW CC BWCDT	Improve facilities locally for local people and tourists.

⁷² Inverenergy (2025) Mid Hill Wind Farm – Resources https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blt1b4c58e01961ab11/blt3f8992f08b0a656d/67c6232353fc5eab7bb1bb64/INV_MidHillWind_Boards_A1_020625_DigitalVersion.pdf?branch=production

6.5 Management and Governance

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council will act as the lead body to monitor progression and implementation of this LPP. They will support the delivery of projects by community groups and relevant statutory bodies and will ensure continued engagement with Scottish Borders Council.

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust will use relevant sections to inform and determine priorities for its Community Action Plan.

The Community Council will oversee the success of the Local Place Plan but will also be responsible for reviewing it periodically to respond to changes in the local environment, many of which we will not be able to envisage just now.

We want the plan to be clear and agreed but there may be opportunities that emerge that will require the leadership of local community groups, encouraging on-going community involvement, volunteering and activism.

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council will:

- Stimulate / support organisations to take on the actions identified in the Local Place Plan
- Promote the Local Place Plan
- Review progress
- Monitor the impact of the Local Place Plan



Photo credit: D. Cawthorn

Afterword

07

We are proud that we have developed this Local Place Plan, alongside our nearby Community Councils. We want to thank the residents, businesses and organisations of our community who gave their time and ideas.

Keep an eye on our Facebook pages and website for more developments:

- [Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Community Council](https://www.facebook.com/p/Upper-Teviotdale-and-Borthwick-Water-Community-Council-100069455281546/)⁷³
- [Borthwick Water Community Development Trust](https://borthwickwater.co.uk/)⁷⁴

If you want to contact us directly, you can email us at:

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council:
Contact CC Chair walterdouglas@tiscali.co.uk



⁷³ <https://www.facebook.com/p/Upper-Teviotdale-and-Borthwick-Water-Community-Council-100069455281546/>

⁷⁴ <https://borthwickwater.co.uk/>

Photo credit: Jim Arnott

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Local Place Plan

2025 - 2035

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust



Upper Teviotdale
& Borthwick Water
Community Council



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Foreword and Acknowledgements

01

Foreword and Acknowledgements

We are delighted to present this Local Place Plan, representing the views and hopes of the people and organisations of Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water.

The consulting team from Community Enterprise have done a great job! Their experience, knowledge of working with communities and authorities, and hard work have combined to produce a quality plan of which we are immensely proud. We thank them for their professionalism, patience and guidance.

Most importantly, we wish to thank all those who contributed to the survey, 1:1 conversations, young folk consultation and various drop-in events. We are confident we have gathered views and aims that will shape and align our two organisations' priorities for the next few years and continue to make this a great place to live and visit!

Walter Douglas, Chair

Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water Community Council

David Warwick, Chair

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust



Photo credit: Jannine Arnott

Introduction and Overview

02

2.1 Introduction

A Local Place Plan¹ (LPP) is a new type of community-led plan, introduced by Section 14 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. This gives communities the opportunity to come up with proposals for the development and use of land in their local area². Local Place Plans present how communities would like to see their places develop in the future.

This Local Place Plan will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council to validate and register and will be taken into consideration during the development of its next Local Development Plan³. The plan will identify what should happen in each community and where it should happen.

However, the purpose of a Local Place Plan is not only to contribute to the next LDP. The project ideas outlined in this plan can be initiated and executed by the community itself, with support from statutory bodies through collaborative partnerships, where relevant. As such, this LPP contains a range of projects, some relevant for planning and development aspects of the LDP as well as ones that are not considered within the remit of SBC spatial planning.

With a Local Place Plan registered and verified, the people of our community will be able to influence and drive developments in the area, and this is our platform to voice our own aspirations for the area.

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council⁴ and Borthwick Water Community Development Trust⁵ has developed this Local Place Plan together. It will be submitted by the Community Council, which is an eligible community body to submit a Local Place Plan to Scottish Borders Council⁶.

In 2024, Scottish Borders Council awarded funding, provided by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund⁷ through the Placemaking Framework⁸, to allow independent consultants Community Enterprise⁹ to co-produce a Local Place Plan with the Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water community.

Work has continued into 2025 to ensure alignment with the Local Place Plans being developed in some of our nearby Community Council areas, including Denholm and District, Southdean, Hobkirk, and Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage.

Hawick and Jedburgh are key services providers to this area and have developed place plans too¹⁰.

We have worked alongside Community Enterprise to develop this Local Place Plan for the area, which sets out the long-term vision that our community wants to achieve over the next five years and beyond.



Photo credit: Pat Douglas

¹ <https://www.ourplace.scot/home/local-place-plans>

² <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d426e6addf114cbe86be1cf0cf564214>

³ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/plans-guidance/local-place-plans>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069455281546>

⁵ <https://www.borthwickwater.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087906963291>

⁶ i.e. a community council established in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory-record/7744/upper-teviotdale-and-borthwick-water>

⁷ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/community-grants-funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/2>

⁸ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b8af497ec5d0471597354de63ff05fe4>

⁹ <https://communityenterprise.co.uk/>

¹⁰ Hawick: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1670/hawick-place-plan> Jedburgh: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b071c4a0101b4e6eb1aa993e219ed444>

2.2 Our Vision¹¹

Our vision is for a welcoming, sustainable community where people thrive. We create opportunities for young people and protect our landscapes and heritage. Through collaboration and care, we support diversity, connection, and future generations.

2.3 Our Investment Themes and Strategic Objectives

The Place Plan process has identified core thematic areas that will underpin and support the achievement of the vision.

Directly aligned to the investment themes, we have identified strategic objectives with the specific purpose of setting out what we want to achieve, and to express where we want to get to.

Theme 1: A great place to live and work

Strategic Objective: We will be a place with great facilities, where people of all ages enjoy a good standard of living and quality of life, and where local businesses can thrive.

Theme 2: A sustainable, beautiful and accessible place

Strategic Objective: Our natural and built environment will be well looked after, accessible to all, and transitions our community to net zero.

Theme 3: A resilient local community

Strategic Objective: We will be a thriving community, where our assets can be of benefit to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Theme 4: A place that celebrates, preserves and promotes its natural assets and historical heritage

Strategic Objective: We will be proud of the assets in our area and preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Theme 5: A great place to visit

Strategic Objective: Our area will have excellent amenities for visitors and be a great base for visitors to explore the South of Scotland.

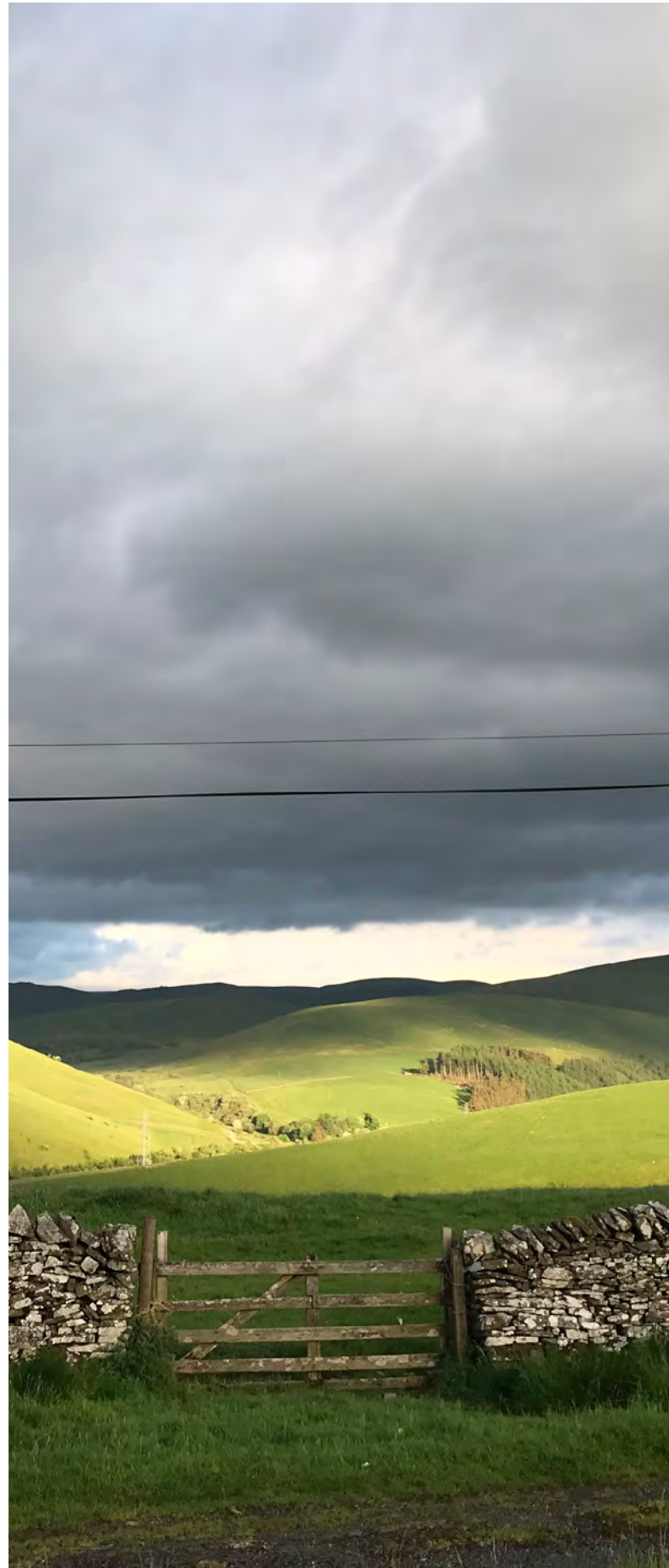


Photo credit: Pat Douglas

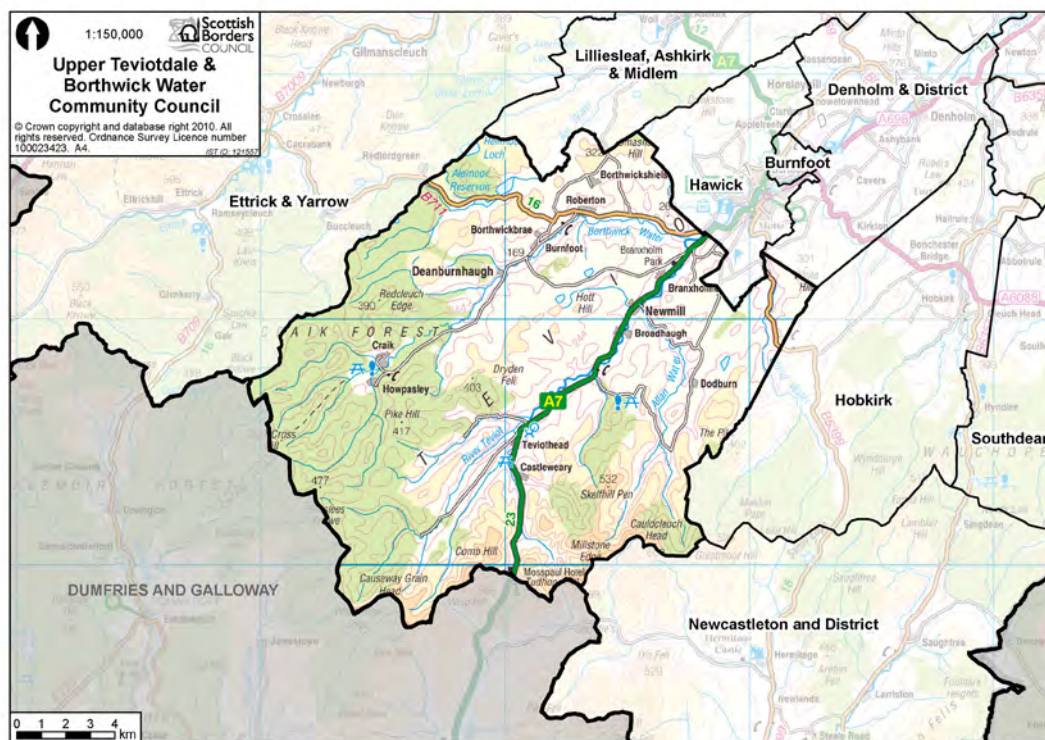
¹¹ Vision statement developed from local people's priorities and insights into the future of our area.

Description and Context of the Area

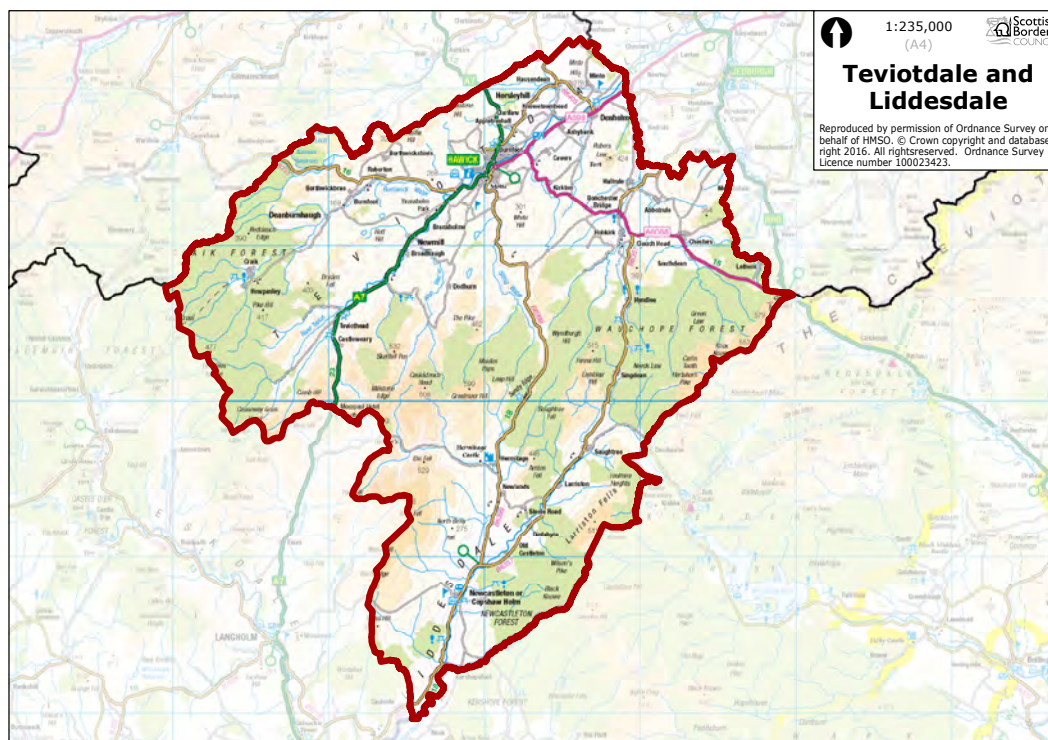
03

3.1 Local Place Plan Area Map

The Local Place Plan boundary follows the Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council boundary¹², which is as follows:



This Local Place Plan needs to be considered in the wider context of the Teviotdale and Liddesdale Locality¹³, as well as the wider context of Scottish Borders Council.



¹² <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/1033/upper-teviotdale-and-borthwick-water>

¹³ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/2250/teviot-and-liddesdale-map>

The adjacent Community Councils, who have been notified of this Local Place Plan¹⁴, are:

- Ettrick and Yarrow
- Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk and Midlem
- Hawick
- Denholm and District
- Hobkirk
- Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage

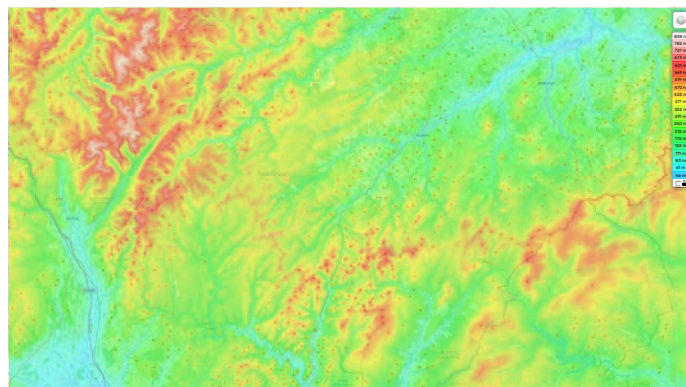
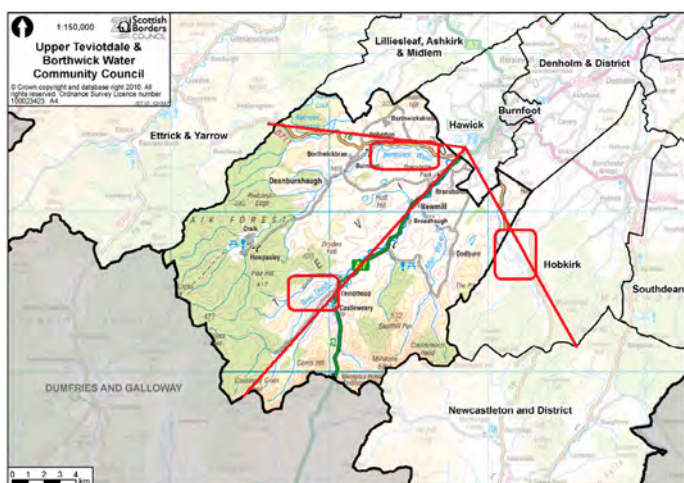
3.2 About the Area

Overview and history

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water consists of the rural communities of Teviothead, Newmill and Roberton. Access is from the A7, one of the principal routes into the Scottish Borders which links Edinburgh with Carlisle. The area is noted for its scenic beauty and is rich in song and tradition, the latter stemming principally from the time of the Border Reivers when the area was known as the Debatable Lands and perpetuated via the writings of Sir Walter Scott among others. In addition to traditional country sports the area also offers excellent opportunities for hill walking, mountain biking, horse riding, golf and more.

The main industries in the area are agriculture (predominantly sheep farming), and forestry, which has been increasing in the area since the 1950s, by both Forestry and Land Scotland and private companies.

The topography of the area is significant to the community and its history. The area has three rivers and valleys: Borthwick Water, Slitrig Water and River Teviot. When the local community refer to 'the valley', they generally mean one of the three, and identify with that as their local community, rather than the (somewhat artificial) boundary of the Community Council¹⁵.



Key Settlements

Roberton is made up of a number of detached houses focused around the B711 that runs through the village and a minor road that follows Roberton Cleuch. A church and the village hall serve the wider community and provide a central focus in the area. There is no longer a school in the village.

Teviothead is a scattered rural community located approximately 7 miles to the south of Hawick.

Newmill (Newmill on Teviot) is a rural hamlet based on the northwest side of the A7, around 5 miles south of Hawick.

¹⁴ Section 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021

¹⁵ Topographic map – screenshot from <https://en-hk.topographic-map.com/map-np69m/Scottish-Borders/?center=55.34724%2C-2.93924&zoom=11>

Facilities and services

Hawick is the nearest town, to the north of the area. It has amenities including shops, primary and secondary schooling and leisure facilities.

Children mainly attend Drumlanrig St Cuthbert's Primary School¹⁶ (in Hawick) and Hawick High School¹⁷. Some attend schools in Langholm.

Public transport

The A7 (Edinburgh to Carlisle) runs through the Community Council area. The Teviothead area is served by one bus service, the x95, which runs through Hawick and along the A7 from Edinburgh to Carlisle.

Serving the Slitrig Valley, Telford's Coaches operates the 128 bus along the B6399 from Hawick to Newcastleton. These services operate three times a day in the week and once a day on a Saturday.

Roberton is not along this service. Residents of Borthwick Valley do have access to the school bus that operates in this area (to Hawick in the morning and return mid-afternoon). However, this bus is currently at capacity (16 seats). In practice, this route does not offer viable public transport for local residents.

The organisation Border Wheels¹⁸ is a charity which provides community transport services at a cost but is subsidised by the Borders Council.

Rail services can be accessed from Tweedbank to the north and Carlisle to the south.

Outdoor activities and tourist information

Walking, cycling and riding are all popular activities, both for residents and for visitors to the area. BWCDT have developed a guide booklet 'Roberton Walks' for the area.

Scottish Borders Council lists details of cycle routes¹⁹, and the area features in the map of the Hawick Local Cycle routes²⁰.

Parts of Teviothead feature in the Border Reiver Trail²¹, a 50 mile long walking route around famous Reiver sites, these include Hawick Archeological Society Memorial To Johnnie Armstrong and the Borderlands Museum. Other walks in the area featured on Google Maps include Skelfhill Pen and Old Northouse.

Walking, running, cycling and riding trails are promoted through the Town of 1,000 Trails initiative²².

The area supports nature-based tourism, such as wildlife photography. Sightings of rare species such as golden eagles and red squirrels make this area an attractive prospect for wildlife tourism.

Heritage sites

The area features a number of heritage sites. These include:

- [Harden house – one of the oldest inhabited houses in Scotland](#) [Harden | History & Heritage - Scotland Starts Here](#)
- [Stobs Camp](#)
- [War Memorial](#)
- [Display of coins and artefacts at Forman Hall \(see photos\)](#)
- [The Borderlands Museum](#)
- [Will H Ogilvie Memorial](#) [Will H Ogilvie Memorial Trust](#)
- [Henry Scott Riddell monument: Colterscleuch Monument | History & Heritage - Scotland Starts Here](#)
- [Hawick Archeological Society Memorial To Johnnie Armstrong](#)

Natural assets

The local area is an upland rural landscape with a range of important natural assets. This includes a range of local hills and moorland and Craik Forest (managed by Forestry and Land Scotland).

The area has three main rivers: River Teviot, Borthwick Water and Slitrig Water. Alemoor reservoir is located near Roberton and offers a spot for coarse fishing locally.

Additionally, the area has several Site of Special Scientific Interest:

- [Allan Water, Hillhead SSSI](#)
- [Alemoor West Loch and Meadow SSSI](#)
- [Branxholme Wester and Easter Loch SSSI](#)
- [Slaidhills Moss SSSI](#)

¹⁶ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory-record/20103/drumlanrig-st-cuthbert-s-primary-school>

¹⁷ https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory-record/20120/hawick_high_school

¹⁸ <https://borderswheels.org.uk/community-transport/>

¹⁹ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/parks-outdoors/cycling>

²⁰ https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/919/hawick_cycle_routes

²¹ <https://theborderreivertrail.co.uk/#reiver-trail-60>

²² <https://www.townof1000trails.co.uk/>

Visitor accommodation

Visitor accommodation locally includes a range of holiday cottages and guest houses. This includes holiday cottages at Harden, Meadshaw²³, Woodburn, Borthwickmains, Borthwickbrae²⁴, Howparsley, Craik, Roberton and Girnwood.

A range of other options are also available e.g.

- [Whitchester Christian Guest House and Retreat](http://www.whitchester.org.uk/) (<http://www.whitchester.org.uk/>)
- [The Chisholm Institute](#)²⁵
- [The Wisp retreat](#)²⁶
- [Branxholme Castle](#)²⁷
- [Borthwickshiels Estate](#)²⁸
- [Cuddies Lodge](#)
- [Colterscleuch House and Cottage](#)
- [Hoscote Estate](#)

3.3 Demographics

A range of data sources has been assessed. Details are at Appendix 8.1. Some key facts and figures:

- **Total population** of area covered by the demographics report is 666 people.
- **Higher older population** than the national average (25.8% in area compared to 20% nationally). The highest age bracket in the area is 50-64 years (29.4% of local population).
- **Lower proportion of young families:** there are more couples living in the area with no children in the household than the national average (30.6% vs. 17.4%).
- **High level of self-employed people** in the area (22%), which is more than 3x the national average (6%).
- **Poor access to services:** The area is highlighted as within the 10% most deprived areas of Scotland regarding geographic access to services.
- **Low levels of deprivation:** Generally, in the 40-50% least deprived areas in Scotland (aside from deprivation in terms of access to services).
- **High rates of car ownership:** 94.6% of households own a car, with over 60% of households having multiple cars.
- **High levels of privately rented homes** locally: more than double the national average (25% locally vs. 12% nationally). The availability of socially rented housing is very low across the area – with the 2022 census highlighting 10 socially rented houses across the relevant output areas. Locally, however, it is believed that this figure is much lower²⁹.
- **Mixed profile of housing affordability** locally: 42% of homes are in the more affordable Council Tax Bands A-C, 31.5% in Bands D-E and a further 26.3% are in the most expensive Council Tax Bands F-H.

3.4 Assets

Assets in a community include not just physical assets but also things like organisations and events, which foster a sense of local identity and civic pride.

Community groups

The Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council is the Community Council for the area. Information on the Community Council can be found on the SBC website³⁰ and their Facebook page is used to share local information³¹.

“Formed in the mid-1990s the Community Council covers the Borthwick Water area, the land along the A7, through Newmill, Teviothead to Moss Paul and stretches across to part of the Slitrig from Hawick to Stobs. It is one of the largest Community Councils in area and, with a population of only about 450 people, one of the smallest in terms of registered voters”³².

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust acts as a key community anchor organisation for the Borthwick Water area.³³ Borthwick Water Community Development Trust broadly covers the Borthwick Valley from the A7 to Craik, including an extension along the B711 to Buccleuch. This area incorporates the settlements of Roberton, Highchesters, Deanburnhaugh, and Craik.

²³ <https://www.vrbo.com/en-gb/p1625915>

²⁴ https://www.facebook.com/borthwickbraeshepherdsretreat/?locale=en_GB

²⁵ <https://www.chisholme.org/>

²⁶ <https://wispretreat.co.uk/>

²⁷ <https://www.branxholmecastle.co.uk/>

²⁸ <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/accommodation/stables-cottage-at-borthwickshiels-p3048581>

³² Taken from the Borthwick Water Community Welcome Pack

³³ <https://www.borthwickwater.co.uk/>

“The valley is about fifteen miles long and about five miles wide. About a hundred households lie in its territory and about 180 voters on the electoral roll. The main occupation is farming, with farms and smallholdings along the whole length of the valley. However, in terms of population, farmers are now in the minority, with many people working outwith the valley and in a variety of occupations”³⁴.

Other community groups include:

- Newmill & Teviothead Scottish Women's Institute
- Borthwick Water Newsletter
- Gardener's Forum
- Borthwick Red Squirrel Network

Community events

There are regular events at the two Village halls within this Community council area. These include: musical evenings, quizzes, carpet bowls, summer fun days, cream teas, yoga, and weaving.

Additionally, the area has two annual agricultural shows that are usually held in September each year.

- Teviothead Show³⁵

- Robertson Show³⁶

It has been suggested that attendance at these shows has been declining, and local discussions highlight a potential opportunity to reshape these agricultural shows to attract more local people and tourists. Other suggestions include combining these shows into one, larger attraction.

Village Halls

The area has two main community halls:

- **Forman Memorial Hall in Robertson:** [Forman Memorial Hall and Facebook](#)
- **Teviothead Village Hall:** [Teviothead Village Hall website](#)

Additionally, local residents benefit from the use of Cogsmill Hall³⁷ in neighbouring Hobkirk Community Council.

Churches

There are two Church of Scotland churches in the area, in Robertson and Teviothead. Robertson Church is linked with St Mary's & Old Parish Church in Hawick³⁸ and Teviothead Church is linked to Wilton Church in Hawick³⁹. Due to parish amalgamations, the two church properties in the UTBW area have been earmarked for disposal by the Church of Scotland.

3.5 National and Local Planning Policy Context

This Local Place Plan has been drafted in line with the following:

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
- Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan (LDP)
- Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan 2020
- Scottish Borders Community Plan 2023/33

The details of how this Plan aligns with those policies are set out at Appendix 8.5.



Photo credit: Dave Cawthorn

³⁴ Taken from the Borthwick Water Community Welcome Pack

³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/Teviotheadshow/>

³⁶ https://www.facebook.com/robertonshow/?locale=en_GB

³⁷ https://www.facebook.com/cogsmill/?locale=en_GB

³⁸ <http://www.smop-tero.org.uk/tero.html>

³⁹ <https://powis.scot/sites/wilton-church-of-scotland-hawick-borders-4906/>

Community Engagement

04

4.1 Overview

Our Local Place Plan has been developed using a variety of different community engagement mechanisms, aimed at giving as many people as possible the opportunity to share their views. These were:

- A community survey
- 1:1 semi structured interviews with a range of local residents, businesses and organisations
- Open drop in events in February 2025 at Teviothead Village Hall and Forman Hall, Robertson
- Children and Families event in March 2025 to engage local families in LPP
- A visit to Cogsmill Hall in April 2025 to engage with committee (Hall located in Hobkirk Community Council but used by residents of Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water)

- An external review of the available minutes from Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water Community Council undertaken by Community Enterprise
- Feedback events on draft LPP in June 2025 at Teviothead Village Hall and Forman Hall, Robertson

We are satisfied that there has been a good level of engagement with the process, given the small population in our area.

The views and insights gathered from across these sessions have been anonymised and form the basis of section 5 and 6 of this plan.

4.2 Community Survey

The survey was available online between early Feb – early April 25. Posters were distributed across the area, and it was promoted via local social media pages. Paper copies were available at Teviothead Village Hall and Forman Memorial Hall in Robertson.

80 people responded directly to the survey, and respondents also indicated that it also represented the household views of an additional 60 adults, 12 young people aged 13-17, and 14 children aged 12 and under.

Overall views about the area were explored via the Place Standard tool. This highlighted the following:

- Natural space in the area was rated most positively
- This was followed by a sense of feeling safe locally
- The lowest scoring categories were public transport; work opportunities and local economy; followed by streets / roads and influence / control.

Using the Place Standard visual tool, this can be represented in the graph below (the bigger the shaded area, the more positive the response).

A full survey analysis can be found in Appendix 8.2.





Photo credit: Dave Cawthorn

4.3 Children and Families Engagement

In March 2025, a facilitated discussion was hosted with young adults and families with young children in the local area. This group were identified as critical for the future and their views fed into the creation of this Local Place Plan. In total 17 adults and 6 children attended. This session was facilitated by 5 representatives from local organisations including the UTBW Community Council, Borthwick Water CDT.

A record of this session is presented in Appendix 8.3.

Assets	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and space Beautiful environment and nature Close knit community Local community halls and shows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of public transport Logging lorries on roads Speeding and safety on roads Lack of children's facilities Poor connectivity (mobile / broadband) Lack of groups / activities
Small Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased signage on roads and paths More community activities and groups Better sharing of local info – community website etc. 	
Big Projects (with funding available): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More children's facilities and groups Local pub / restaurant Reduced electricity cost for locals Community land purchase – for affordable housing and/or biodiversity projects Paid staff to facilitate more activities / events / workshops locally 	

4.4 Stakeholder Conversations

1:1 conversations were undertaken by Community Enterprise with people from the following groups and organisations. The views of these stakeholders have been anonymised and included within section 5 of this Plan.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craikhope Outdoor Centre• Teviothead Village Hall• Upper Teviotdale Pastoral Society (who run the Teviothead show)• Teviothead Church• Newmill & Teviothead WI• Teviothead Weavers• Forman Memorial Hall• Roberton Show• Cogsmill Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teviot and Borthwick Red Squirrel Network (TBRSN)• Gardeners Forum• Roberton Church• Hawick Cycling Club (whose members regularly cycle through the area)• Will H Ogilvie Memorial Trust• The Celtic Goldsmith / The Johnnie Armstrong Gallery and Borderlands Museum• The Chisholme Institute
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4.5 Community Drop-in Events

Additional drop-in community events were held in Teviothead Hall and Roberton Hall in June 2025. These offered local people an opportunity to find out the draft findings and key projects within the Local Place Plan. A summary of these events can be found in Appendix 8.4.



Photo credit: Pat Douglas

Assets, Opportunities, Needs and Challenges

05

5.1 Overview

The 2017 Feasibility study for a proposed Scottish Borders National Park⁴⁰ found that the area (covering Cheviot, Teviot and Liddesdale) has:

- Beautiful, historically authentic and geologically significant Borderland landscape that is nationally outstanding and admired.
- A continuing vibrant and distinct identity with a strong coherent pride of place treasured across all age-groups arising from a unique cultural heritage.
- Land based businesses and communities entering a new era of policy and support mechanisms.
- Social and economic special needs like incomes, jobs and digital connectivity that, for many residents, are well below the national average.

Some of the key facts and numbers included:⁴¹

- Centralisation of education, caring, community and retail services in Teviot.
- High residential desirability but ageing demographic and

outmigration of young.

- GVA below average growth, low average visitor stays and low national and international area profile.
- Maturing forestry – low added value and high impact on roads.
- Wildlife habitats - Rare but accessible and species-rich e.g., golden eagles and red squirrels.
- Landscape - Outstanding quality, beauty and variety, no major roads or large settlements. Moorland mosaic with wide horizons and distant unobstructed views – grand and intimate scales – wildland qualities.
- Historic sites - Greatest density of scheduled monuments in Borders.
- Economy - Dependence on primary industries and small business. Lack of professional jobs. GVA per head below Scottish average. Poor broadband and mobile coverage.

The campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park was ultimately unsuccessful but the challenges identified remain, and new ways will need to be found to address them.

5.2 Landscape

The area has immense natural beauty which is appealing to both residents and visitors. Additionally, it is praised for being peaceful and quiet.

The local landscape is a key local asset although more could be done to increase accessibility into the countryside.

Beautiful walking and cycling routes in the area were highlighted but issues such as path closures in Craik Forest and traffic on roads impacts on the ability to access the local landscape safely and easily.

5.3 Community

The community itself is an asset, with many people highlighting the community spirit across the area. Additionally, residents describe the community as resilient, although largely through informal connections.

Long-term sustainability of social infrastructure needs to be assessed; there is concern that committees and events which are put on by volunteers are not being well attended. Additionally, informal gatherings, e.g., sewing bee, book club – take place in peoples' homes, rather than the halls.

Over half of survey respondents (51%) expressed support for expanding the remit of the Borthwick Water Community

Development Trust to cover the whole community council area. However, there was a considerable portion of the community who were uncertain about how this would work in practice with volunteering levels a concern (38%). It was noted that it was challenging for the Teviothead area to apply for funding without a development trust-type organisation in place. The potential to explore one development trust for the area – with two local subcommittees was proposed.

Despite the strong community spirit, there is still concern about the isolation and loneliness experienced by members of the community.

⁴⁰ Page 7: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/645920f54a2dc2492e2f0b55/t/6500556bef1d9355d5f7b066/1694520691947/Borders-National-Park-Feasibility-Study.pdf>

⁴¹ At pages 11-12

5.4 Housing

There are a total of 288 households in the defined area⁴².

A large proportion of homes are 'couples with no children' (30.6%) and 'one person households' (22.6%). These numbers vary widely from the national averages for the same category (17.4% and 37.1% respectively).

5.5% of the local housing stock is classified as second homes⁴³. Empty homes account for 8.9% of local housing stock (the third highest in the Scottish Borders region) including 4.2% categorised as long-term empty (6 months+).

Housing in the area is of mixed affordability with fewer dwellings in Council Tax Band A and H locally, and relatively higher levels in the midrange Bands B-E.

The current Local Development Plan for the Scottish Borders has identified two sites for housing in the Borthwick Water region of this district. These sites are located in the settlement of Roberton and have a capacity of 10 homes. These sites have conditions linked to future development i.e., maintaining the character of the settlement and implementing drainage measures. Neither of these sites are required to provide affordable housing (as per the 17 unit minimum within the Scottish Borders Council Affordable Housing Policy)⁴⁴.

A Housing Needs survey of Borthwick Water was published by Rural Housing Scotland in July 2023.

Key findings:

- Seven households from Borthwick Water indicated that they have a current or future housing need (25% of all respondents).
- Twelve responses highlighted households who had moved away from Borthwick Water because of lack of suitable housing. Those households comprised young adults and working age households.
- Young and working age households predominate amongst those needing to access alternative affordable housing - 5 of the seven households in need fit these categories.

Recommendations:

Vacant and empty properties represent a considerable proportion of local housing stock:

- Continue negotiations with empty property owners.
- Establish contact with Scottish Land Fund, Scottish Borders Council and South of Scotland Enterprise for support and financial assistance for purchase.

Land for new build options locally is limited to the two sites in Roberton (let for grazing). Recommendation to explore options for affordable housing through local housing association.

Other:

The Community Council may also wish to explore linking any new housing options to 'Rural Burden' legislation which enables a % discount on open market value and the right of pre-emption for property buy back⁴⁵.

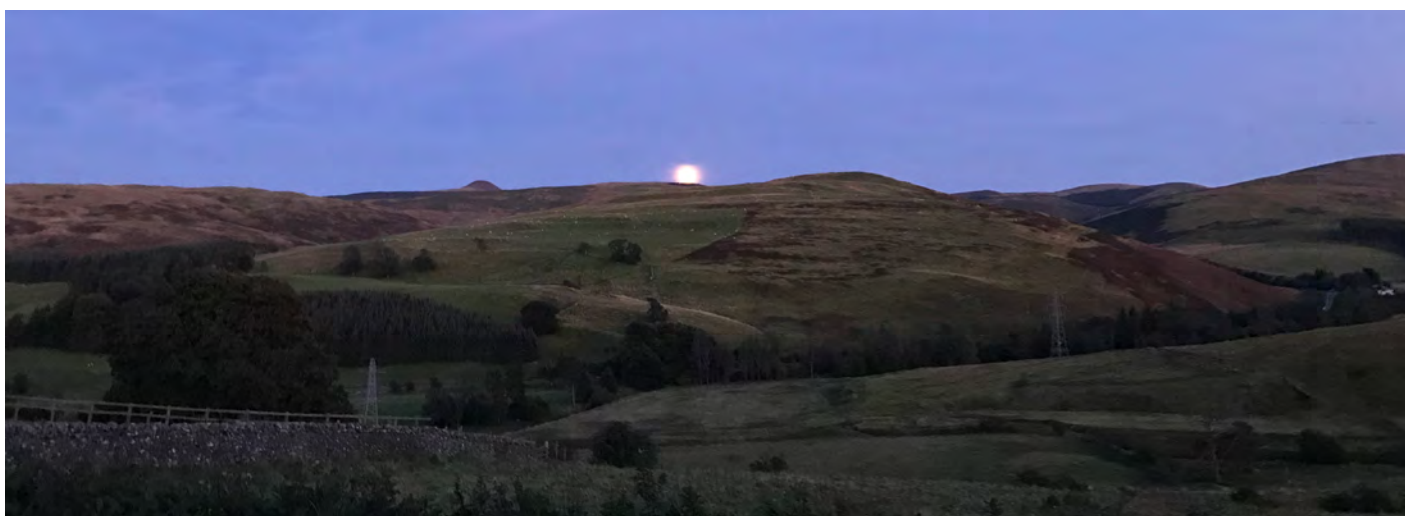


Photo credit: Pat Douglas

⁴² See Appendix 8.1 for full Demographic report and definition of area.

⁴³ 2021 Census data using Data Zone S01012355 - Teviothead and Hermitage. <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/nrs-small-area-household-estimates/>

⁴⁴ See Appendix 8.5

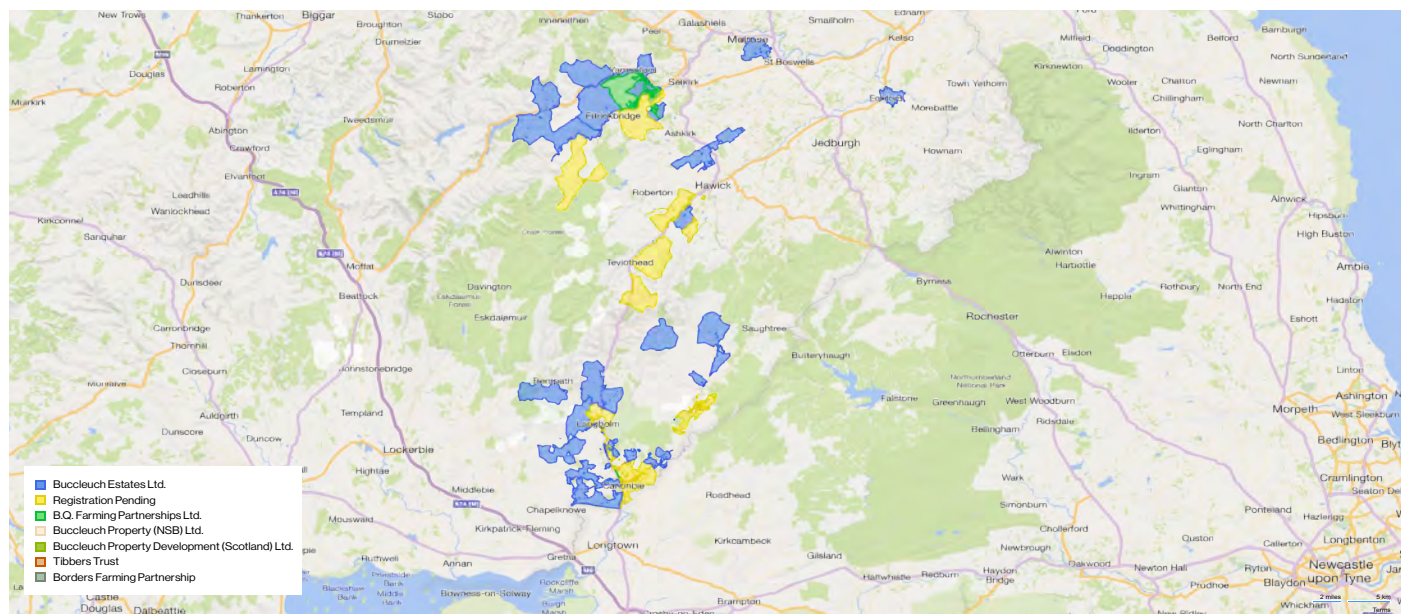
⁴⁵ <https://www.chtrust.co.uk/rural-housing-burden1.html>

5.5 Connectivity

Digital connectivity is poor, which has implications for people studying or working from home in particular. Mobile phone coverage has improved in the Borthwick Water area with the recent installation of a mast, and BT have installed fibre broadband. Scottish Borders is part of a Project Gigabit which is currently underway⁴⁶.

5.6 Land Use

The area is an upland district that is largely rural in nature. Buccleuch Estate is a large local landowner with farmland across the area (see map below).



Buccleuch Estate owned land around Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water ⁴⁷

Forestry is also a key local land use. These include Craik Forest (part of the wider Eskdalemuir Forest), which is managed by Forestry and Land Scotland and offers around “4250 hectares of largely coniferous upland plantation forest”⁴⁸. A range of other forestry areas are owned and managed by private companies. As part of the wider Central Southern Uplands, woodland cover is around 22% of land area (higher than Borders average of 18%)⁴⁹.

This figure represents a broad area of the Scottish Borders and may underestimate the % of land in forestry use – or planned use - within the UTBW CC area.

⁴⁶ See second table in section 3: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-gigabit-progress-update-november-2024/project-gigabit-progress-update-november-2024#project-gigabit-contracts-and-procurement-pipeline>

⁴⁷ <https://www.buccleuch.com/land-registration/buccleuch-land-ownership/>

⁴⁸ <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/consultations/craik-land-management-plan>

⁴⁹ https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/962/technical_advice_note.pdf



SP Energy Network Cross Border Connection – proposed route through Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water district.

Land use relating to renewable energy projects is also an increasingly important consideration locally.

- **Langhope Rig Wind Farm** – located in the hills between Robertson and Ettrickbridge. Developed in 2017, it offers £5k p/mW generated to a community benefit fund - around £80,000 annually⁵⁰.

- **Teviot Wind Farm** – 52 turbine project proposed by Muirhall Energy. The site is located on the southern side of the A7, close to Teviothead. This project is offering £7k p/mW in community benefit funding and up to a 10% stake in ownership of the development to local communities. Currently rejected by SBC with a public inquiry currently in progress (as of June 25)⁵¹.
- **Mid Hill Wind Farm** – 27 turbine project in consultation and development phase by Invenery. This site is located in the middle of the Community Council district from the hills behind Teviothead into the Borthwick Water valley⁵². The project is offering £5k p/mW of community benefit funding⁵³.

Additionally, the area is being explored as part of the route for SP Energy Networks Cross Border Connection⁵⁴. This new double circuit 400kV overhead line is proposed to run from Galashiels to Newcastleton (and further connections) in the south.

The new developments proposed for the local area – from wind farms to the new energy connection - have been a source of tension within the community. The debate over these developments has been contentious amongst local residents.

“It has very much fragmented the local community – it has introduced ill feeling – it has divided the community very much, which is not something we’ve experienced before in the valley.”

5.7 Roads, Traffic and Public Transport

The main A7 trunk road provides the main road link in the area. Speeding on this route (and other country roads in the region) is a concern for local people. The impact of timber lorries on this road have also been highlighted as a growing concern. The route taken by timber lorries between Craik and Robertson has been identified as a particular issue, especially at school bus travel times (narrow roads, speeding and limited passing space). Alternative routes for timber haulage from Craik Forest have been recommended in the past e.g., via B709 or a new ‘in-forest’ route from Craik eastwards to the A7⁵⁵.

Due to the lack of regular public transport, it was also highlighted that people feel the need to move into Hawick, or further afield, as they get older or as their health fails.

Borders Wheels Community Transport⁵⁶ is a local asset in the area but awareness of this as a community resource was noted as limited. Peer learning from groups and organisations already exploring projects such as Community Transport is recommended. DTAS offers support for peer learning and other programmes such as Community Learning Exchanges can be explored⁵⁷.

⁵⁰ <https://wwwFOUNDATIONSscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/langhope-rig>

⁵¹ <https://www.muirhallenergy.co.uk/projects/34-teviot>

⁵² <https://midhillwind.invenery.com/news-and-resources>

⁵³ https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blt1b4c58e01961ab11/bltdc76976fdd8c8a82/682756b96555216497314d5e/MidHillWind_Boards_2nd_Exhibition.pdf?branch=production

⁵⁴ https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx

⁵⁵ <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/336-improving-timber-transport-case-study-craik-forest/viewdocument/336>

⁵⁶ <https://borderswheels.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Teviot-Wheels-Community-Transport-leaflet.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://www.scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/community-learning-exchange>

5.8 Employment

Employment in this area of the Borders is linked to the neighbouring town of Hawick as well as commuting opportunities to Carlisle (a closer commute than Edinburgh).

The area had a strong textiles manufacturing industry but this pattern of employment has been replaced with public and private sector roles including Wholesale and Retail trade and Health and Social Work. This area in particular is also strongly linked to the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector⁵⁸. It was highlighted that there is an ongoing concern about the insecurity faced by tenant farmers in the area.

57% of the population over the age of 16 are classed as economically active which is on par with the national average. The area is particularly high in self-employed people when compared to Scotland in general – likely reflecting the rural nature of the location. The number of retirees locally is slightly higher than national levels and around 5% of local people have additional caring responsibilities.

5.9 Visitor Provision

Better / more visitor infrastructure needs to be considered (e.g., public toilets). However, tourism needs to be balanced with the retention of the area's rurality.

Nature based tourism linked to the area's local wildlife (e.g., golden eagles), rural landscape and dark skies should be encouraged.

5.10 Demographics

Demographics have changed over time, due to the changing size and scale of the farms associated with the wool industry.

Due to this changing demographic, Borthwick Water lost its primary school 10-15 years ago. The site was converted into private housing. However, now there are 25 children under the age of 5 and the reinstatement of a primary school could potentially be revisited.

5.11 Access to services

Access to services like the GP, optician and dentist is limited locally - these are all based in Hawick and require transport. The nearest hospital is the Borders General Hospital, a 40min drive away.



Photo credit: Tracey Jackson

⁵⁸ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/54/teviot-and-liddesdale-learning-community-profile-feb-2015>

Proposals

06

6.1 Overview

Our vision is for a welcoming, sustainable community where people thrive. We create opportunities for young people and protect our landscapes and heritage. Through collaboration and care, we support diversity, connection, and future generations.

The responses and engagement with the community, groups and organisations in our area, have helped us to identify the challenges faced by the community, and the actions we should undertake to work towards achieving that vision.

They require combinations of actions by Scottish Borders Council and partnership working with other agencies, by local organisations, and the community itself. In many areas, funding will need to be secured to deliver these actions. Some of the focus is on consolidating and sustaining projects and plans that are already underway.

6.2 Fit with LDP

The Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 22 August 2024⁵⁹.

Alignment with the overarching policy themes is set out at Appendix 8.4.

Due to the small hamlets in our area, only one settlement, Robertson is featured in the LDP settlement profiles (see Appendix 8.5).

This Local Place Plan does not propose any changes to the existing Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan.

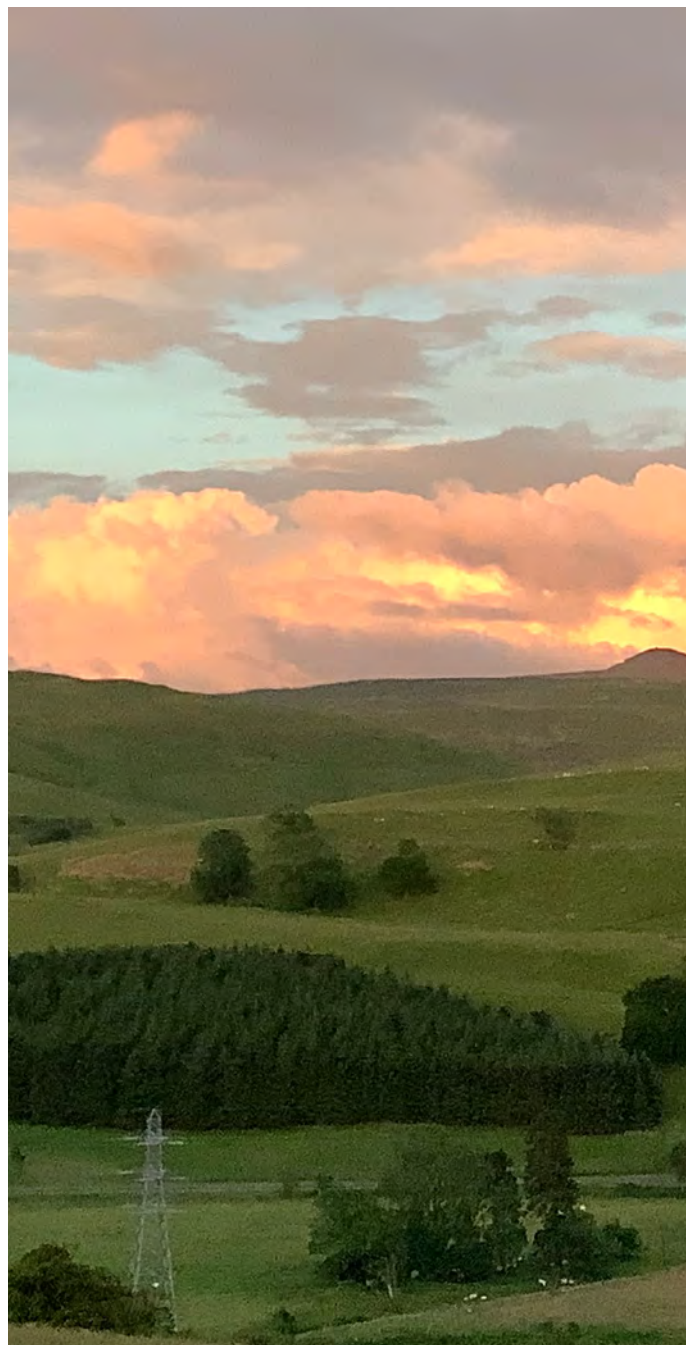


Photo credit: Pat Douglas

⁵⁹ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/plans-guidance/local-development-plan>

6.3 Themes, Priorities and Projects

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 1: A great place to live and work		
We will be a place with great facilities, where people of all ages enjoy a good standard of living and quality of life, and where local businesses can thrive.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Housing</i> • <i>Connectivity</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote access to affordable housing and consider community options to increase housing stock locally e.g., empty and vacant properties in area. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support identified Robertson housing area (in current LDP) – potential to explore community-owned housing b. Regularly engage with owners of vacant buildings 2. Work with partners to improve existing housing stock, including energy efficiency measures. 3. Promote and support initiatives which return families and young people to the area. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Affordable housing. b. Children and families activities/groups/facilities. c. Home working initiatives and connectivity. 4. Support improvements to necessary infrastructure, such as mobile phone coverage and fibre broadband. 	BWCDT Community Council (including consideration of planning applications)	SBC Sustainable Borders ⁶⁰ Communities Housing Trust Building Digital UK / Project Gigabit ⁶¹

⁶⁰ <https://sustainableseelkirk.org.uk/about/>

⁶¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-kickstarts-work-with-scottish-government-to-boost-broadband-in-rural-scotland-powering-prime-ministers-plan-for-change>

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 2: A sustainable, beautiful and accessible place		
We will be a place with great facilities, where people of all ages enjoy a good standard of living and quality of life, and where local businesses can thrive.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New safe, walking and cycling routes.</i> • <i>Road maintenance, traffic calming, and improved safety.</i> • <i>Public and community transport.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop safe and accessible active travel routes including walking and cycle paths: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Craik Forest b. Old Northouse 2. Lobby Scottish Borders Council for improved road safety including road improvements and traffic control measures. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A7 trunk road b. Robertson / B711 ~ alternative timber routes 3. Work with existing public transport providers to improve the service across our area. 4. Consider community owned transport options, in partnership with other Community Councils and existing local providers such as Borders Wheels⁶². 5. Promote active and lower-emission travel in area e.g., electric vehicle charging points. 6. Continue to engage with planned Borders Railway extension 	BWCDT Community Council	SBC A7 Action Group Sustrans ⁶³ Sustainable Borders ⁶⁴ Other Community Councils Forestry and Land Scotland Borders Wheels Borders Railway Campaign

⁶² <https://borderswheels.org.uk/community-transport/>

⁶³ <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-scotland/>

⁶⁴ <https://sustainableseil Kirk.org.uk/about/>

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 3: A resilient local community		
We will be a thriving community, where our assets can be of benefit to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community events.</i> • <i>Physical assets.</i> • <i>Children and young people.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and develop regular community events to bring community together and provide a sustainable income for the local hall(s). 2. Develop a playpark in the area – explore locations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teviothead Hall / Forman Hall. 3. Additional services to be explored at Teviothead/Forman Hall Hall(s) e.g., parcel collection/delivery. 4. Consider future use of Church properties in CC area e.g., Teviothead Parish Church / Roberton Church. 5. Explore potential of expanding BWCDT to cover whole CC region – with two subcommittees to oversee local projects. 	Teviothead Village Hall Forman Hall BWCDT Community Council DTAS	Cogsmill Hall (in Hobkirk CC) Church of Scotland

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 4: A place that celebrates, preserves and promotes its natural assets and historical heritage		
We will be proud of the assets in our area and preserve them for future generations to enjoy.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Natural assets.</i> • <i>Conservation and development.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance the natural environment, including working with local landowners, and scrutinising and commenting on planning proposals for land use, such as forestry, windfarms and infrastructure developments. 2. Consider and seek support to better understand community land purchase for key priorities in plan e.g., affordable housing, conservation, and biodiversity. 3. Advocate for increased maintenance of Craik Forest including path access, facilities, and windfall. 4. Promote and protect unique aspects of our area, e.g., Local heritage sites, Areas of Conservation, Dark Skies⁶⁵. 	Community Council BWCDT Cross-Border Action Group	Neighbouring Community Councils Landowners / Homeowners Forestry and Land Scotland SOSE COSS / Community Land Scotland The South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA)

⁶⁵ <https://www.ssdalliance.com/destination-development/dark-skies/>

	What we can do ourselves	Working with partners
Theme 5: A great place to visit		
Our area will have excellent amenities for locals and visitors and be a great base for visitors to explore the South of Scotland.		
Priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provision of tourist information.</i> • <i>Promotion of the area as a location for nature-based eco-tourism.</i> 		
Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review, develop and promote resources for local information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps, leaflets • Local noticeboards • Digital resources 2. Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, viewpoints and new signage e.g., Old Northouse, Craik Forest, heritage sites. 3. Explore provision of infrastructure for visitors (and locals) e.g., café provision, EV charging, public toilets, water re-fill points, and bike repair stations. 4. Work with local partners / wider region in collective marketing of area⁶⁶. 	BWCDT	South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) ⁶⁷ SOSE ⁶⁸ Visit Scotland ⁶⁹ Scottish Community Tourism ⁷⁰ Forestry and Land Scotland Other Community Councils

⁶⁶ e.g. <http://www.rulewater.co.uk/> and <https://www.visitnewcastleton.com/>

⁶⁷ <https://scotlandstartshere.com/destinations/teviot-eskdale-and-liddesdale/>

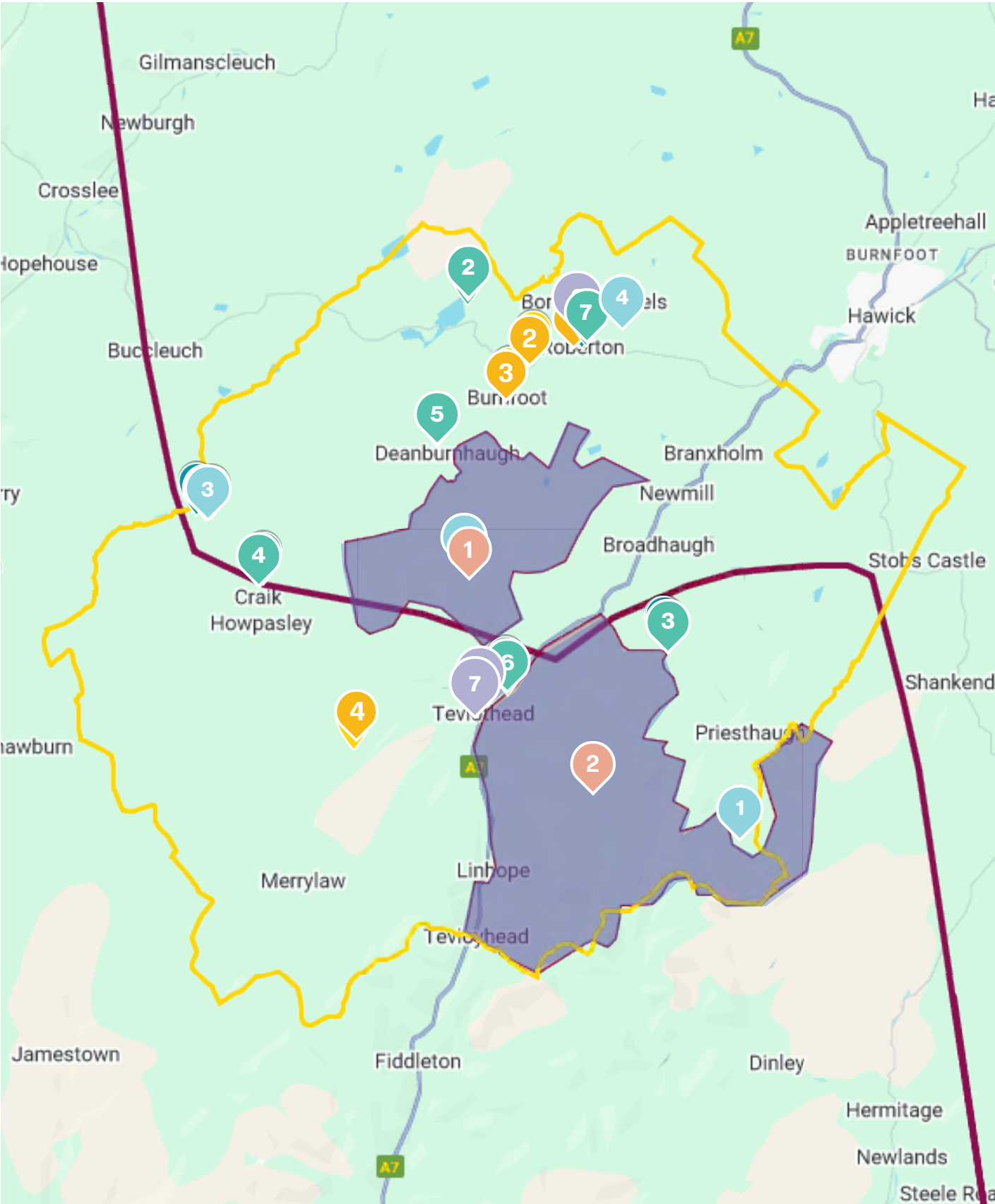
⁶⁸ <https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/services>

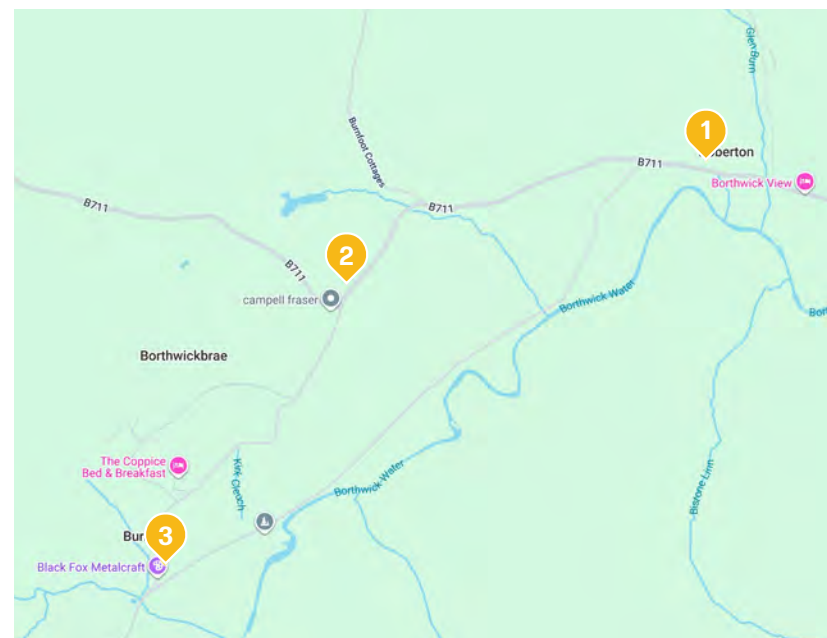
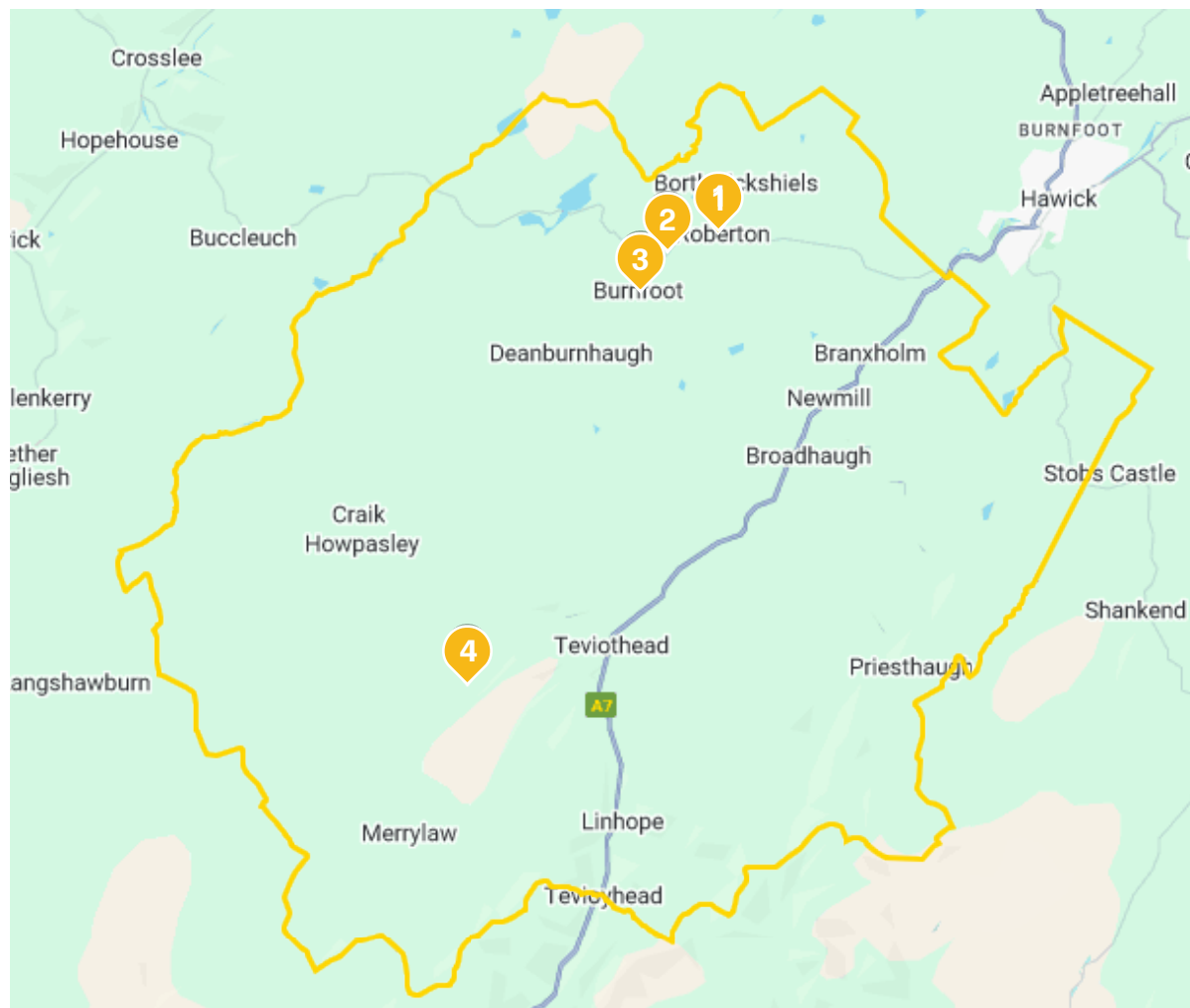
⁶⁹ <https://www.visitscotland.com/>

⁷⁰ <https://www.scoto.co.uk/>

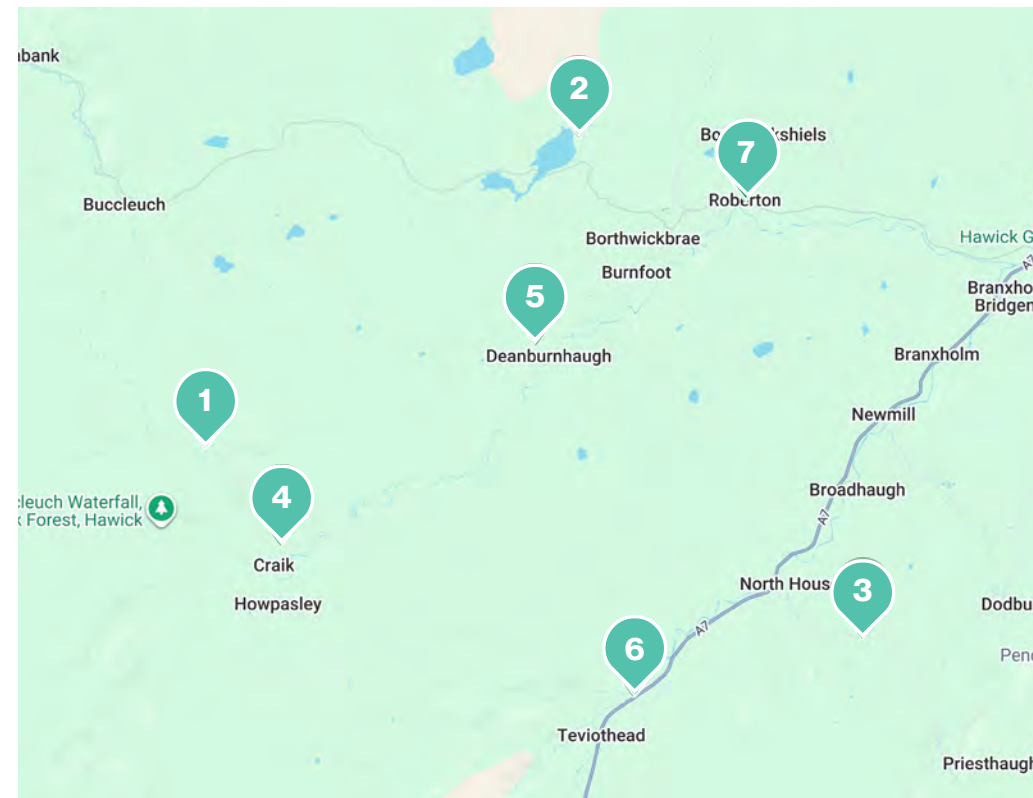
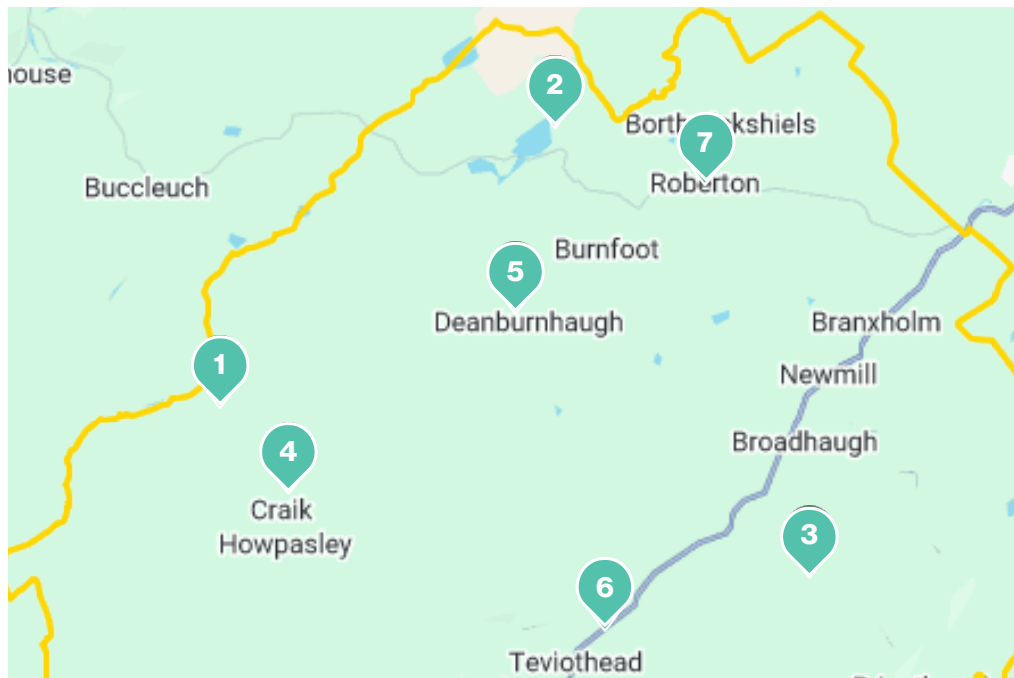
6.4 Map of Projects

This Local Place Plan has identified a range of priorities and projects that local people are important for the future of the area. However, for mapping purposes only some of these are relevant for the spatial planning aspect of the new Local Development Plan. As such, we have mapped those projects from section 6.3 that specifically relate to place-based development projects.





Theme 1 - A great place to live and work		
Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	1.1a	Site of future community-led housing
2	1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing
3	1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing
4	1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing

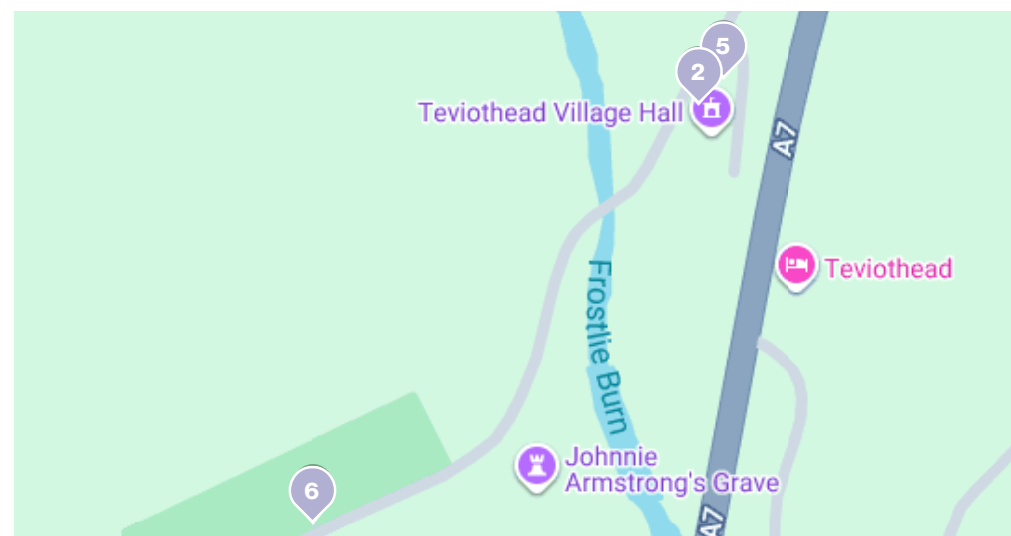
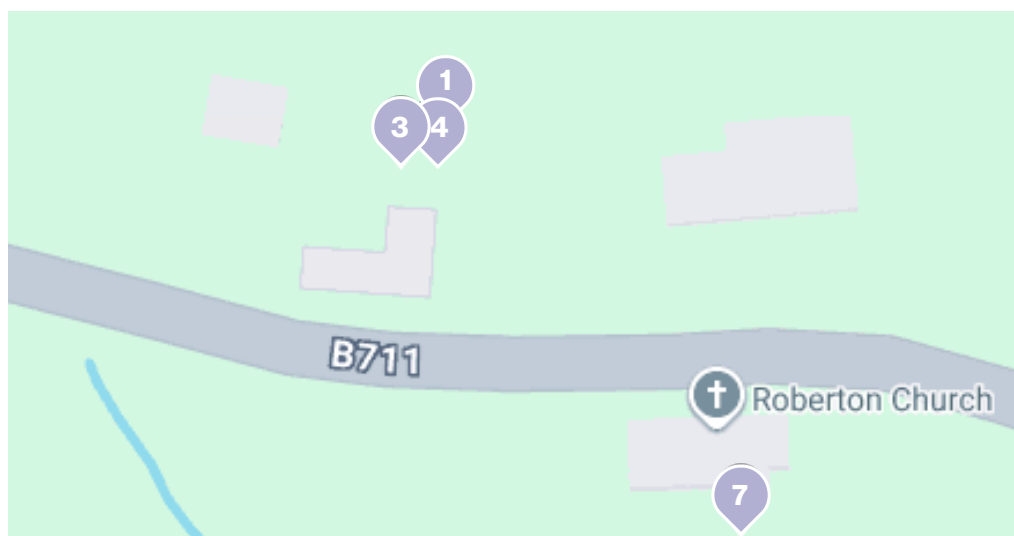


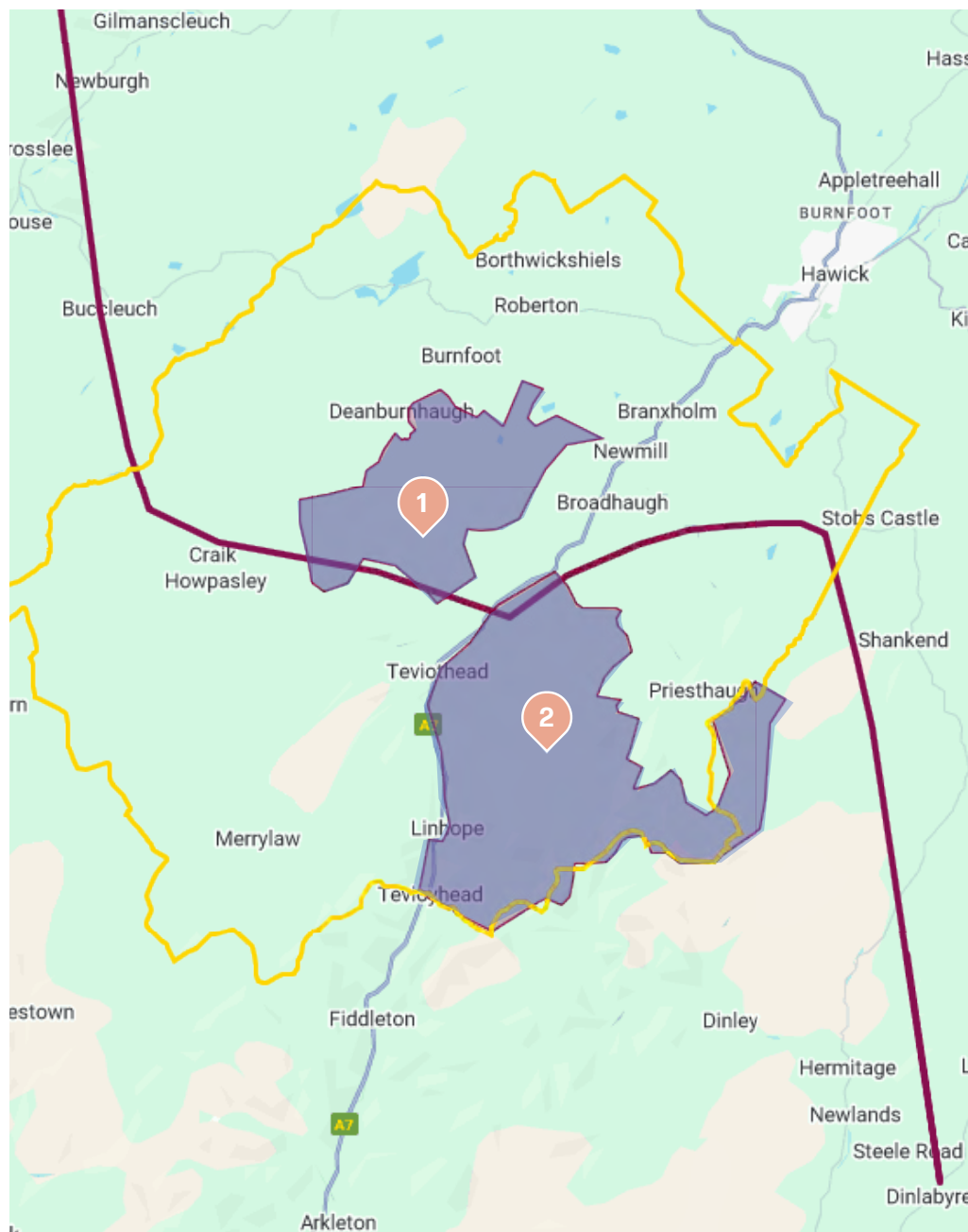
Theme 2 - A sustainable, beautiful and accessible place

Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	2.1	Improve access to Craik Forest walks
2	2.1	Potential for walk / bench at Alemoor Reservoir
3	2.1	New paths at Old Northhouse
4	2.2	Timber lorries using Craik to Roberton road posing risk locally (speed/use of convoys) – especially at school bus times. Advocate for use / development of other routes e.g. B709 or new 'in-forest route from Craik east to A7'.
5	2.2	Speeding measures and times for timber lorries
6	2.2	Speeding on A7 - traffic calming measures
7	2.5	Promote active and lower-emission travel in area e.g. electric vehicle charging points






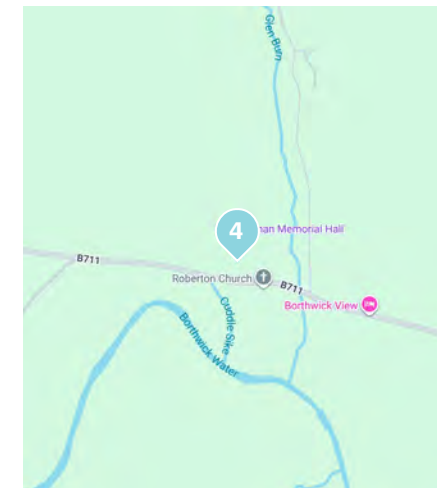
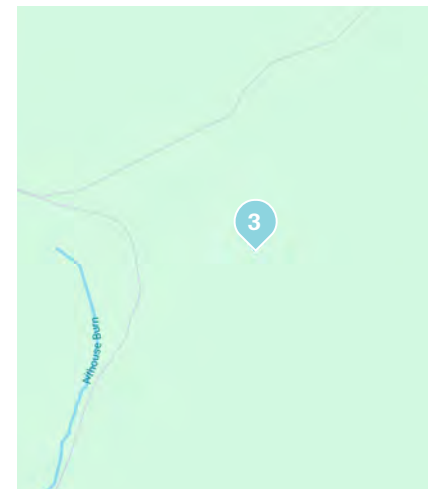
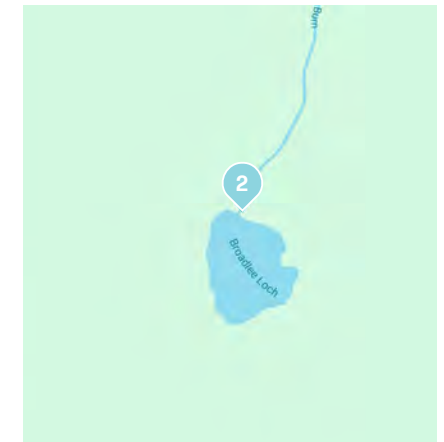
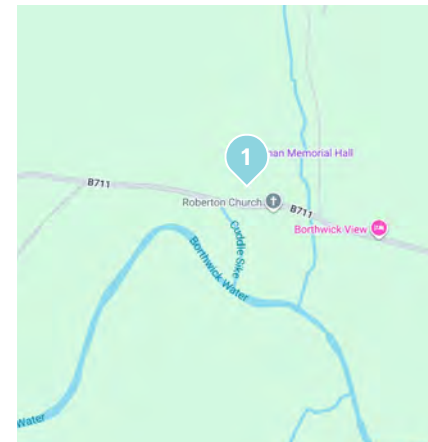
Theme 3 - A resilient local community		
Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	3.1	Events and activities at Forman Hall
2	3.1	Events and activities at Teviothead Village Hall
3	3.2	Playpark/facilities for children
4	3.3	Additional facilities and services at Forman Hall e.g. parcel delivery
5	3.3	Additional facilities and services at Teviothead Village Hall e.g. parcel delivery
6	3.4	Explore future community use of Parish church(es) in area
7	3.4	Explore future community use of Parish Church(es) in area





Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Local Place Plan

Theme 4 - A place that celebrates, preserves and promotes its natural assets and historical heritage		
Map Pin Number/ Key	Project Number	Project Description
1	Project 4.1 (Mid Hill Wind Farm proposed)	Events and activities at Forman Hall
2	Project 4.1 (Teviot Wind Farm proposed)	Protect and enhance the natural environment, including working with local landowners, and scrutinising and commenting on planning proposals for land use, such as forestry, windfarms and infrastructure developments
	Project 4.1 (Cross Border Pylon Route proposed)	SP Energy Networks developing high wire pylon route through area.
	Project 4.1 (Mid Hill Wind Farm - proposed)	Rough outline of proposed Mid Hill Wind Farm site
	Project 4.1 (Teviot Wind Farm Proposed)	Rough outline of proposed Wind Farm



Theme 5 - A great place to visit		
Map Pin Number	Project Number	Project Description
1	5.2	Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, signage and viewpoints
2	5.2	Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, signage and viewpoints
3	5.2	Viewpoints, signage and benches improved at Craik Forest
4	5.3	Explore provision of infrastructure for visitors (and locals) e.g. café provision, EV charging, public toilets, water re-fill points, and bike repair stations

Acronyms:

UTBW CC: Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council

BWCDT: Borthwick Water Community Development Trust

SBC: Scottish Borders Council

FLS: Forestry and Land Scotland

SOSE: South of Scotland Enterprise

SOSCT: South of Scotland Community Housing

DTAS/COSS: Development Trust Association / Community Ownership Support Service

	Land / Asset	Who?	What and when?
1.1 Promote access to affordable housing and consider community options to increase housing stock locally			
1.1a	Potential to explore community-owned affordable housing at Roberton.	BWCDT SOSCT	Site(s) identified in LDP2 for 10 houses to be developed next to Forman Hall in Roberton.
1.1b	Engage with owners of vacant properties for affordable housing.	BWCDT SOSCT	Identify vacant properties across area and work with local owners.
2.1 Develop safe and accessible active travel routes including walking and cycle paths			
	Old Northouse	BWCDT	New paths, signage and benches.
	Craik Forest	UTBW CC, BWCDT and FLS	3 core trails in Craik Forest have closure notices due to windfall and tree felling.
	Alemoor Loch	BWCDT	Suggested walk / benches at Alemoor Reservoir.
2.2 Lobby for improved road safety including road improvements, and traffic control measures			
	A7 trunk road	SBC Bear Scotland	Speeding / traffic such as timber lorries key safety concern.
	Lobby for alternative timber routes.		Near residential areas on A7 and B711.
	Roberton / B711		Timber lorries using Craik to Roberton road posing risk locally (speed/use of convoys) – especially at school bus times. Advocate for use / development of other routes e.g. B709 or new <i>'in-forest route from Craik east to A7'</i> ⁷¹ .
2.5 Promote active and lower-emission travel in area e.g. electric vehicle charging points			
	Forman Memorial Hall / Teviothead Hall.	BWCDT	Consider ways to encourage active travel and lower-emission travel locally e.g., EV charging points, water refill stations.
3.1 Support and develop regular community events and activities to bring community together and provide a sustainable income for the local hall(s)			
	Teviothead Hall	Teviothead/Forman Hall Committees UTBW CC BWCDT	More community events and activities in Halls to sustain vital community assets.
	Forman Memorial Hall		Reduce isolation and loneliness, improve community connections.

⁷¹ <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/336-improving-timber-transport-case-study-craik-forest/viewdocument/336>

3.2 Develop a playpark in the area			
	Potential locations: Forman Hall.	Teviothead/Forman Hall Committees UTBW CC BWCDT	Need identified for children's activities and facilities.
3.3 Additional services to be explored at Teviothead/Forman Hall(s) e.g. parcel collection/delivery			
	Potential locations: Teviothead Hall / Forman Hall.	Teviothead/Forman Hall Committees UTBW CC BWCDT	Additional services at local Halls to reduce travel to Hawick.
3.4 Consider future use of Church properties in CC area			
	Teviothead Parish Church / Robertson Church.	UTBW CC BWCDT Church of Scotland	Two churches in area earmarked for closure by Church of Scotland. Potential to consider asset transfer to community – would need community consultation/ sustainable business plan.
4.1 Protect and enhance the natural environment, including working with local landowners, and scrutinising and commenting on planning proposals for land use, such as forestry, windfarms and infrastructure developments			
	Mid Hill Wind Farm	UTBW CC	Invenergy ⁷² in midst of developing Mid Hill Wind Farm. Local engagement event in Feb and May 25. Planning submission aimed for Sep 25.
	Teviot Wind Farm	UTBW CC	Muirhall Energy – public inquiry in progress.
	Cross Border Network	UT&BW CC Cross Border Pylon Group	SP Energy Networks development high wire pylon routes through area.
5.2 Identify and develop suitable sites for benches, improved signage and viewpoints e.g. linked to recreation areas, active travel routes and heritage sites			
	Craik Forest	BWCDT	Improve accessibility and tourism offerings locally.
	Broadlee Loch		
	Old Northouse		
		FLS	
5.3 Explore provision of infrastructure for visitors (and locals) e.g., café provision, EV charging, public toilets, water re-fill points, and bike repair stations			
	Forman Hall Craik Forest	UTBW CC BWCDT	Improve facilities locally for local people and tourists.

⁷² Invenergy (2025) Mid Hill Wind Farm – Resources https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blt1b4c58e01961ab11/blt3f8992f08b0a656d/67c6232353fc5eab7bb1bb64/INV_MidHillWind_Boards_A1_020625_DigitalVersion.pdf?branch=production

6.5 Management and Governance

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council will act as the lead body to monitor progression and implementation of this LPP. They will support the delivery of projects by community groups and relevant statutory bodies and will ensure continued engagement with Scottish Borders Council.

Borthwick Water Community Development Trust will use relevant sections to inform and determine priorities for its Community Action Plan.

The Community Council will oversee the success of the Local Place Plan but will also be responsible for reviewing it periodically to respond to changes in the local environment, many of which we will not be able to envisage just now.

We want the plan to be clear and agreed but there may be opportunities that emerge that will require the leadership of local community groups, encouraging on-going community involvement, volunteering and activism.

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council will:

- Stimulate / support organisations to take on the actions identified in the Local Place Plan
- Promote the Local Place Plan
- Review progress
- Monitor the impact of the Local Place Plan



Photo credit: D. Cawthorn

Afterword

07

We are proud that we have developed this Local Place Plan, alongside our nearby Community Councils. We want to thank the residents, businesses and organisations of our community who gave their time and ideas.

Keep an eye on our Facebook pages and website for more developments:

- [Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Community Council](https://www.facebook.com/p/Upper-Teviotdale-and-Borthwick-Water-Community-Council-100069455281546/)⁷³
- [Borthwick Water Community Development Trust](https://borthwickwater.co.uk/)⁷⁴

If you want to contact us directly, you can email us at:

Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council:
Contact CC Chair walterdouglas@tiscali.co.uk



⁷³ <https://www.facebook.com/p/Upper-Teviotdale-and-Borthwick-Water-Community-Council-100069455281546/>

⁷⁴ <https://borthwickwater.co.uk/>

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