

THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

SCOTLAND'S COAST TO COAST TRAIL

by Alan Castle,
updated by Ronald Turnbull

CICERONE

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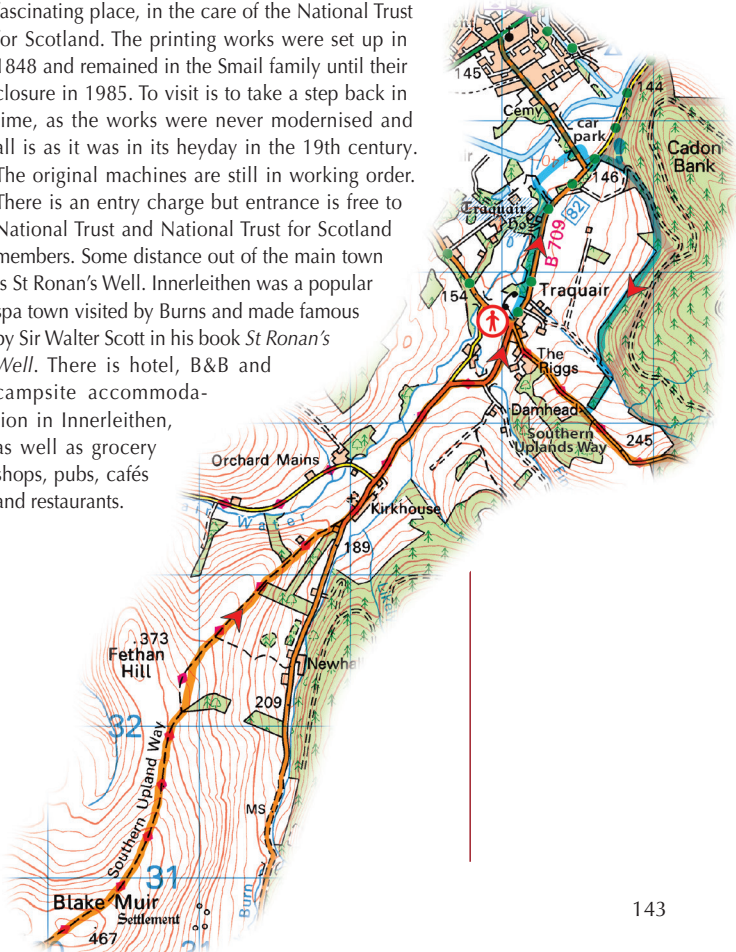
Ronald Turnbull (2018) thanks in particular Ross Gemmell, Dumfries & Galloway path ranger, for much helpful advice and information as well as for his continuing hard work maintaining the wetter and more fragile western part of the SUW.

Front cover: Rainbow over Innerleithen, from Fethan Hill (Stage 10)

STAGE 10 – ETTRICK TO TRAQUAIR (INNERLEITHEN)

is also a campsite located beside the River Tweed. At Traquair crossroads, take a well made path immediately to left of B709. This rejoins the road at a '7Stanes' car park. Turn left to cross the River Tweed and enter the town.

Two places of interest are worth a visit in the Victorian town of **Innerleithen**. In the high street, you will find Robert Smail's Printing Works, a most fascinating place, in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. The printing works were set up in 1848 and remained in the Smail family until their closure in 1985. To visit is to take a step back in time, as the works were never modernised and all is as it was in its heyday in the 19th century. The original machines are still in working order. There is an entry charge but entrance is free to National Trust and National Trust for Scotland members. Some distance out of the main town is St Ronan's Well. Innerleithen was a popular spa town visited by Burns and made famous by Sir Walter Scott in his book *St Ronan's Well*. There is hotel, B&B and campsite accommodation in Innerleithen, as well as grocery shops, pubs, cafés and restaurants.



From the crossroads in Traquair, take the lane heading uphill, south-eastwards. But if starting from Innerleithen, there's a more attractive return route. Return over the Tweed to the 7Stanes car park. From its corner, the well built path runs to left of the road, across a side road, then steeply uphill. It runs along the foot of plantations, with wide views across the Tweed valley. After 1.2km it crosses an uphill track, to a second one, which is the SUW 750m above Traquair. Keep ahead up the dirt track, so beginning the long ascent onto **Minch Moor**. A good grassy track climbs above the valley and into plantations (the former Minch Moor Bothy here has been removed). The SUW climbs quite steeply through plantations, in parts clear-felled and replaced with broadleaf woodland. On crossing the second of two forest tracks be sure to take the right-hand of two paths (the left-hand one is a 'Tweeds Trail' route only). As the wide path reaches the

north-western flank of Minch Moor, views open out of the Moorfoot Hills to the north and down to the village of Walkerburn in the Tweed Valley.

Here you should pass the '**Point of Resolution**' located at map reference NT 354 337. This is a

Map continues
on page 147

