Stage 11 - JEDBURGH ABBEY TO NEWTON St BOSWELLS

Distance - 21km / 13 miles
Explorer maps - The Cheviot Hills OL16 Galashiels, Selkirk & Melrose OS 338
Time - 5.5 - 6 hours average time based on Naismith's rule
Total ascent - 212m
Total descent - 201m

Description - This is an pleasant route that retraces the previous stage to Dere Street and then onto the St Cuthbert's way. Cross over the river Teviot using an interesting suspension bridge as the Roman bridge no longer exists. Pass or visit Monteviot House, home to the Marquess of Lothian to once again walk on Dere Street which is a wide grassy corridor on this section. Pass through Maxton and the parish church where worship is said to have taken place for over 1000 years, to reach the river Tweed. After an interesting section along the bank of the river join the Border Abbeys Way to walk through Newton St Boswells and onto the old main road to Melrose, past the Rhymer's Stone to end the stage at Melrose Abbey.

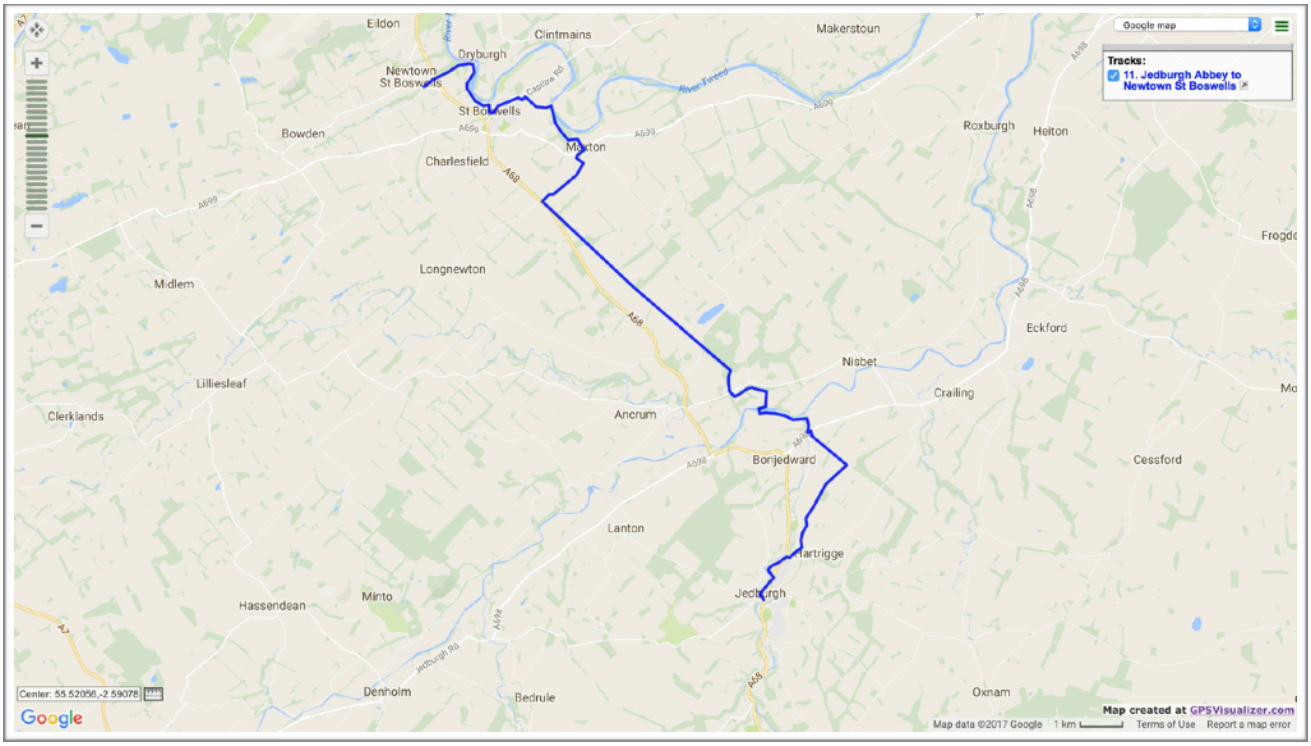
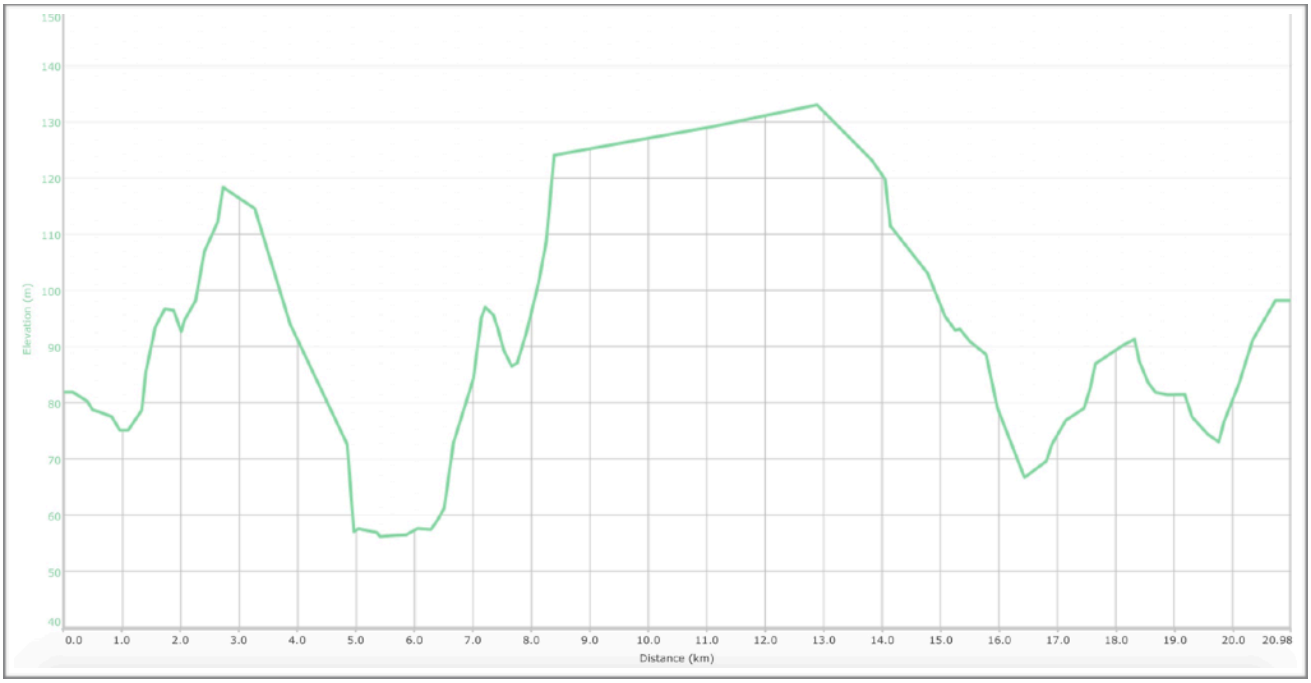
1 - With the abbey behind you, turn left and pass through the arch under the clock tower. Cross the market place ahead and continue along the High Street. Just before reaching the main road turn left, Queen Street and then Bridge Street to eventually cross the old bridge, bearing left to reach the riverside path - The St Cuthbert's Way.

2 - At the end of the riverside path arrive at a gate and the main road. Cross over and continue ahead ascending the hill, ignore the right turn but at where the road forks, keep right. Just before the house and the end of the tarmac lane, bear left to continue on the path to a T-junction, Dere Street.

3 - Turn left and continue on Dere Street to the road. Turn right to the main road and then left to cross over Jed Water and then immediately right down the steps. Follow the river Teviot and cross over it using the suspension bridge. Turn right after crossing and then left between two fields passing Monteviot House on the left.

4 - After crossing a wooden bridge over Marble Burn, turn right to reach a road. Cross over and continue ahead through the wood to reach Dere Street in Divet Ha wood. At the road cross over and continue on Dere Street, now a wide grass corridor. Pass the site of the Battle of Ancrum Moor (1545) and Lilliard's Stone to reach a road.

5 - Turn right to a T-junction, turn right to Maxton and then left signed Maxton church. Small shelter opposite the turning and worthy of a wee stop. Pass the church and continue through the woods

above the stream. Turn left at the brick wall to leave the St Cuthbert's Way and then right, Kirk road to the T-junction.

6 - Turn left into Newton St Boswells on Capilaw road and along Main street to reach the end of the stage.