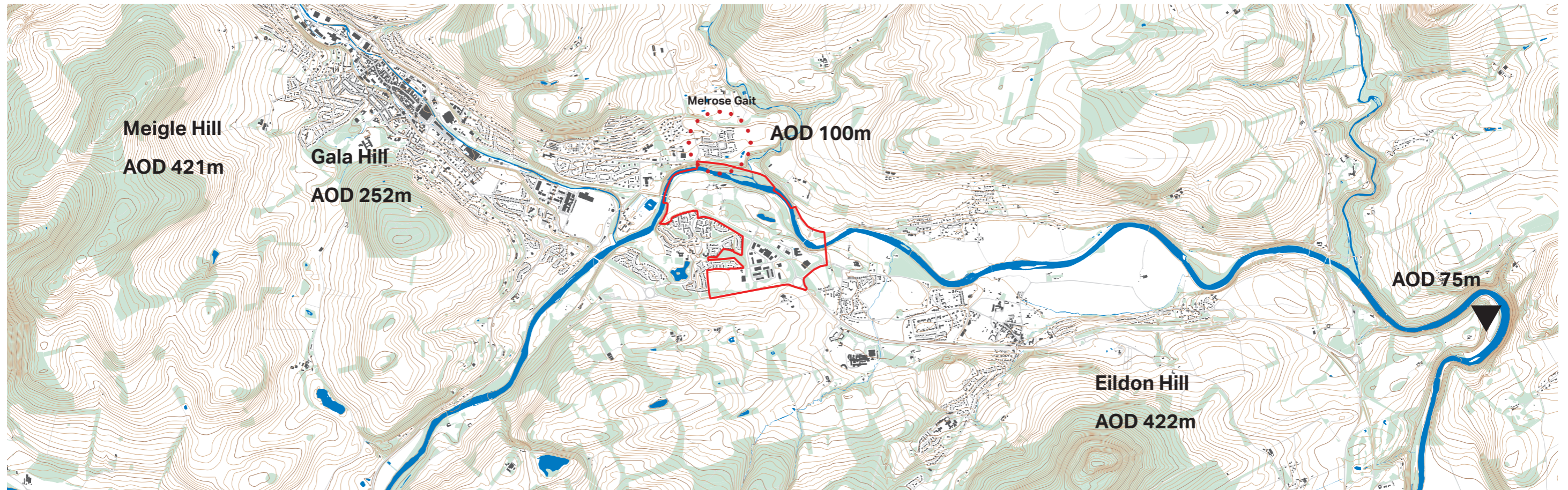
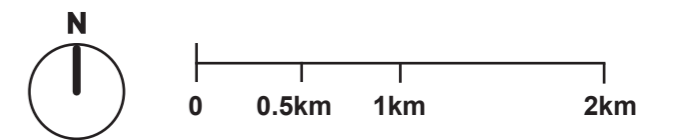


Chapter 2: Site Analysis Topography (L)



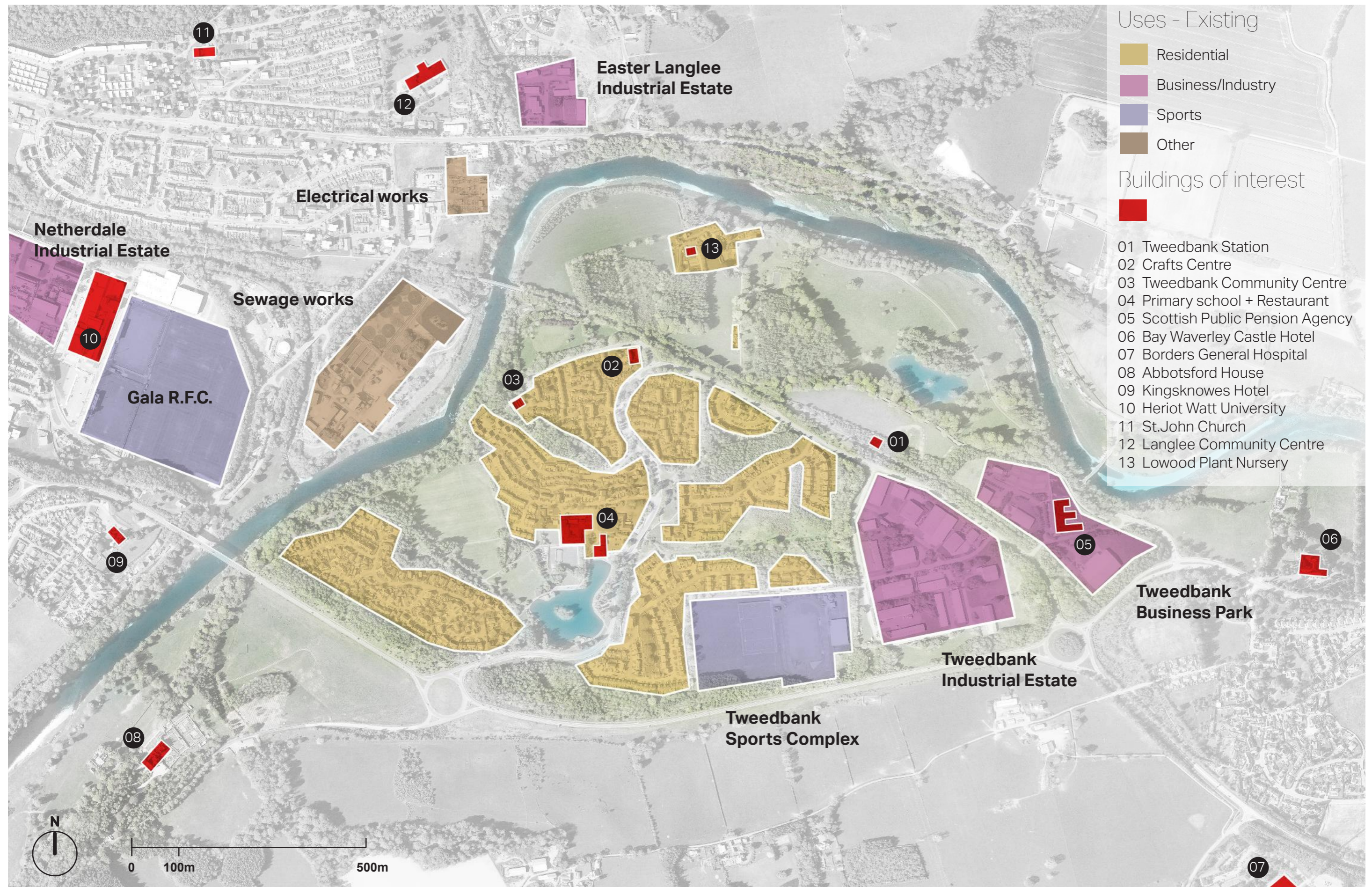
Tweedbank is part of a valley conurbation of distinct villages and towns rich in natural and historic attractions, all within walkable or cyclable distance. Coalescence of the villages is an emerging problem following the successful opening of the Borders Railway and related growth. This is evident in the recent development of Melrose Gait to the north of the river.



Chapter 2: Site Analysis Settlements (M)



Chapter 2: Site Analysis Existing land uses (M)

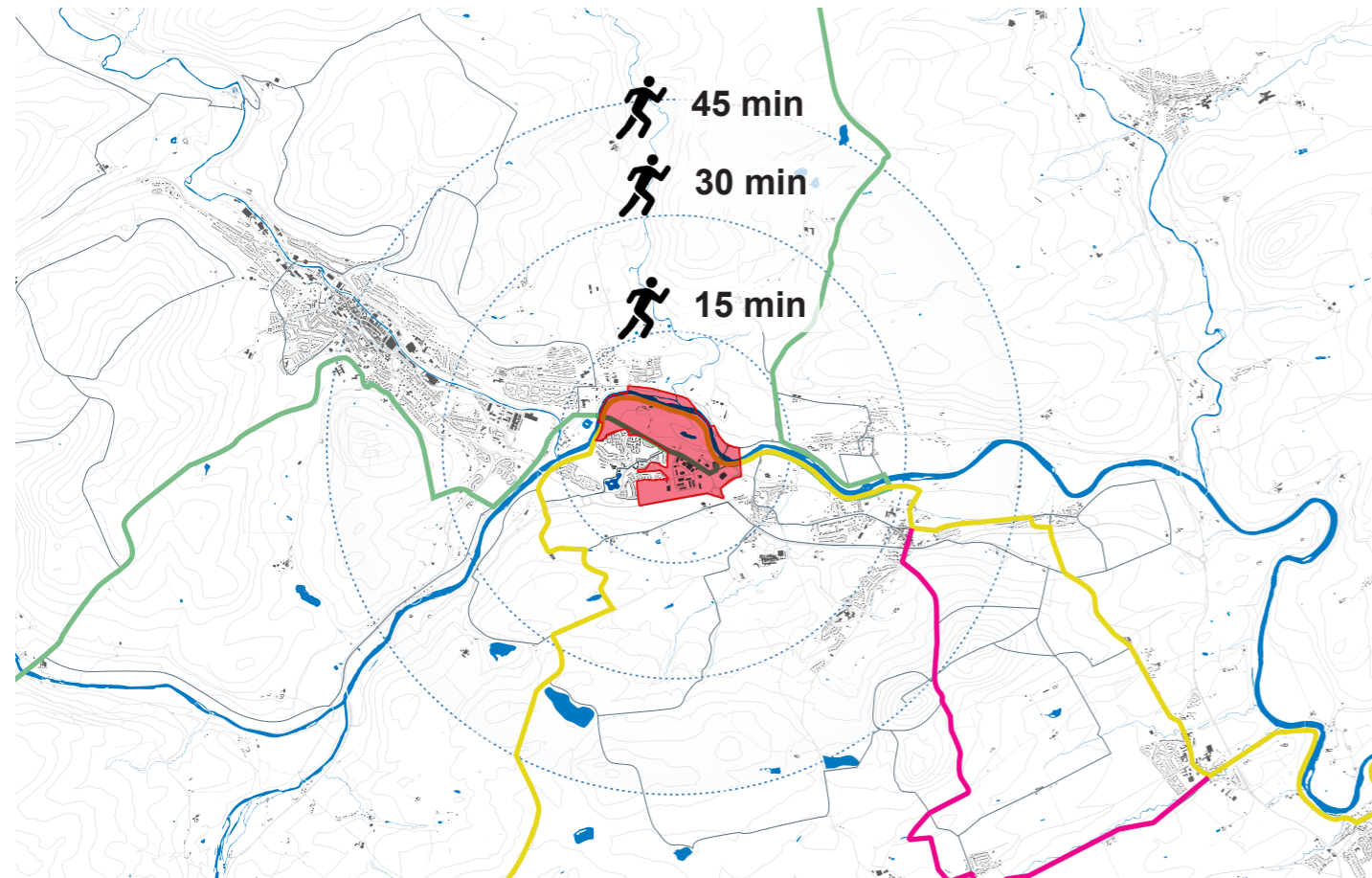


Chapter 2: Site Analysis Regional connectivity - walking and cycling networks (L)


A series of regional hiking routes cross or are at close proximity to Tweedbank:

- Borders Abbeys Way - the walk is themed as the ruined Borders abbeys (established by David I of Scotland and inhabited by monks in 12-16 C) and includes Kelso Abbey, Jedburgh Abbey, Melrose Abbey and Dryburgh Abbey as well as the towns of Hawick and Selkirk.
- Southern Upland Way - a coast to coast walk between Portpatrick in the west and Cockburnspath in the east.
- St Cuthbert's Way - a trail between Melrose and Lindisfarne of the coast of Northumberland.

Walking Routes



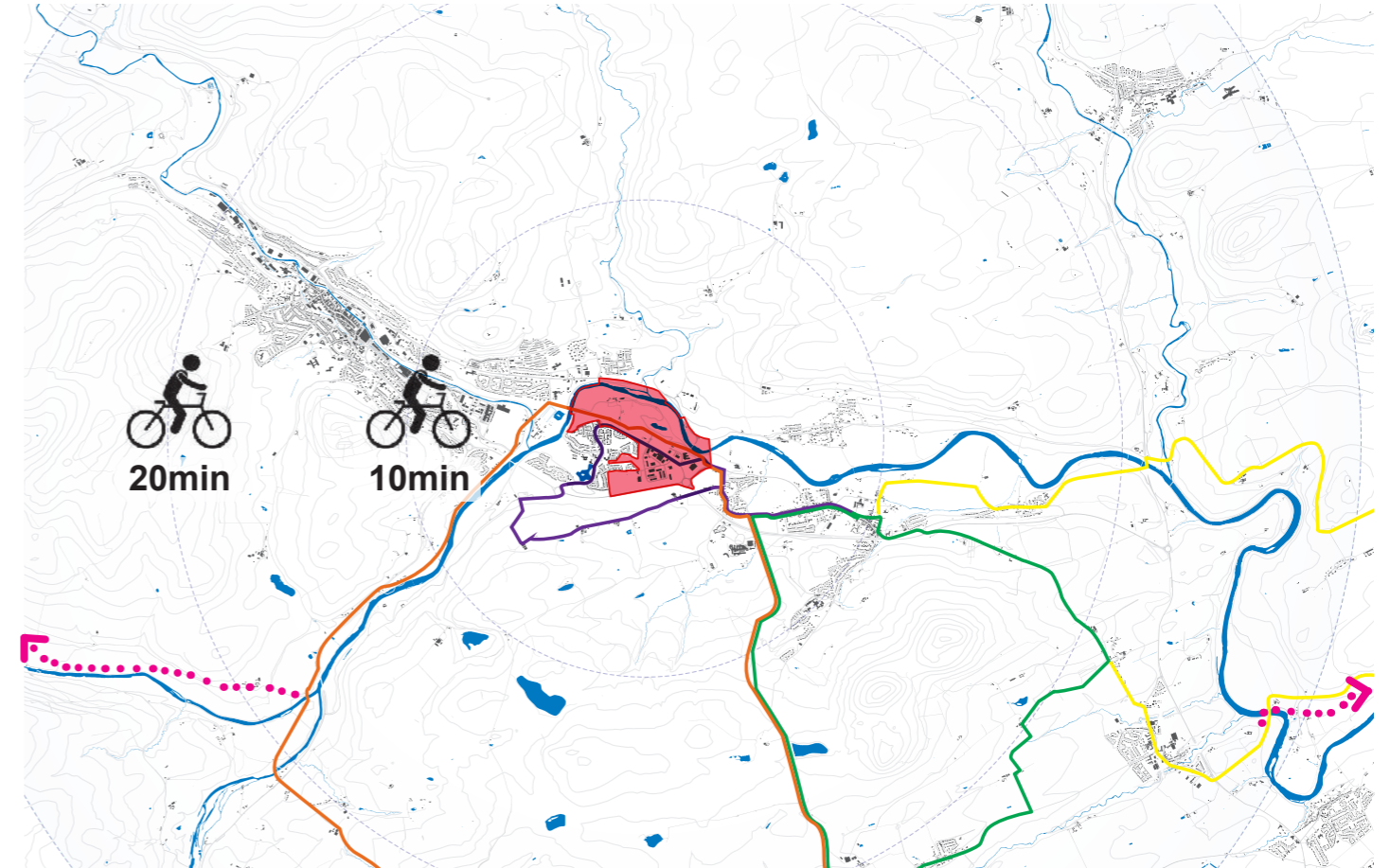
- Borders Abbeys Way (109km)
- Southern Upland Way (340km)
- St Cuthbert's Way (101km)
- Other local paths

 5km/h average walking speed


A series of regional & national cycling routes cross Tweedbank:

- Midlem & Lindean Circuit - the route heads east from Selkirk and climbs to the summit on Lindean Moor and then undulates passing Lindean Loch Nature Reserve.
- Eilden Hills Circuit - the route takes you in a loop passing the Rhymer's Stone which offers pleasant views of the Tweed Valley.
- Scotts View Dryburgh - the route from Melrose climbs up towards Scott's View providing wonderful view of the River Tweed before looping round by Dryburgh.
- Abbotsford Circuit - the route has a short climb out of Melrose before dropping steeply through woods to Abbotsford, former home of Sir Walter Scott. It returns to Melrose via Tweedbank and along the 'Black Path'.
- National Cycle Route 1 - the route runs from Dover to Shetland.

Cycle Paths



- Midlem & Lindean Circuit (25km)
- Eilden Hills Circuit (13km)
- Scotts View Dryburgh C. (22km)
- Abbotsford Circuit (8km)
- National Cycle Route 1

 15km/h average cycling speed

Chapter 2: Site Analysis Regional connectivity - walking and cycling networks (L)

Eildon Hill lies south of Melrose and comprises of three hill tops. The north hilltop is surrounded by 5km of ramparts, enclosing an area of about 16ha in which at least 300 level platforms have been cut into the rock to provide bases for turf or timber-walled houses. In addition, the peaks were home for a hill fort occupied by 1000BC, in the Bronze Age. At its peak the hill fort population could have been 3000-6000 inhabitants, the largest known in Scotland from this period. In the 1st, 2nd and 4th Centuries the abandoned hill top fort hosted a Roman signal tower for the massive fort of Trimontium at the foot of the hill and a series of dwellings were constructed on the existing platforms. The mid hilltop is the highest and has a monument to Sir Walter Scott on it. The Eildon hills are surrounded by a large area of woodlands, home to wildlife such as roe deer, badgers, stoats and foxes.

There is evidence which suggests that prehistoric peoples regarded Eildon Hill as a holy place used for ceremonial gatherings. There are several holy springs around the base of the hills dedicated to Christian saints but most likely originally dedicated to Celtic deities.

Eildon Hill



>  20min

Abbotsford House is a Category A Listed historic country house near Melrose, on the south bank of the River Tweed. It was formerly the residence of historical novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott. He bought the house in 1811 and built a small villa named Abbotsford, a reference to a ford nearby where abbots of Melrose Abbey used to cross the river in the past. Over the time Sir Walter Scott built additions to the house and made it into a mansion, building into the walls many sculptured stones from ruined castles and abbeys of Scotland. He built up a rich library which included a collection of ancient furniture, arms and armour, and other relics and curiosities, especially connected with Scottish history, notably the Celtic Torrs Pony-cap and Horns and the Woodwrae Stone.

Scott had only enjoyed his residence one year when in 1825 he met with a reverse of fortune and the estate went into debt. In 1830, the library were presented to him as a free gift by the creditors. The property was wholly disencumbered in 1847 by Robert Cadell, the publisher, who cancelled the bond upon it in exchange for the family's share in the copyright of Sir Walter's works. The house was opened to the public in 1833 but continued to be occupied by Scott's descendants until 2004.

Abbotsford House



>  20min

St Mary's Abbey, Melrose is a partly ruined monastery of the Cistercian order in Melrose (maintained by Historic Environment Scotland as a scheduled monument). Founded in 1136 by Cistercian monks at the request of King David I of Scotland it was the principal house of the order in the country until the Reformation. The east end of the abbey was completed in 1146. Other buildings in the complex were added over the next 50 years. The abbey was built in the Gothic manner and in the form of a St. John's Cross. A considerable portion of the abbey is now in ruins. A structure dating from 1590 is maintained as a museum open to the public.

Alexander II and other Scottish kings and nobles are buried at the abbey. A lead container believed to hold the embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce was found in 1921 below the Chapter House site (later found again in 1998) (the rest of his body is buried in Dunfermline Abbey).

The abbey is known for its carved decorative details such as saints, dragons, gargoyles and plants.

Melrose Abbey



>  30min

The Leaderfoot Viaduct was opened on 16 November 1863 and carried the Berwickshire Railway connecting Reston with St Boswells via Duns and Greenlaw. The bridge was designed by Charles Jopp and Wylie & Peddie.

The railway was severely damaged by flooding during August 1948, with 7 bridges on the line failing and the line closed to passenger traffic on 13 August 1948. Freight trains continued to run across the viaduct as far as Greenlaw until 19 July 1965.

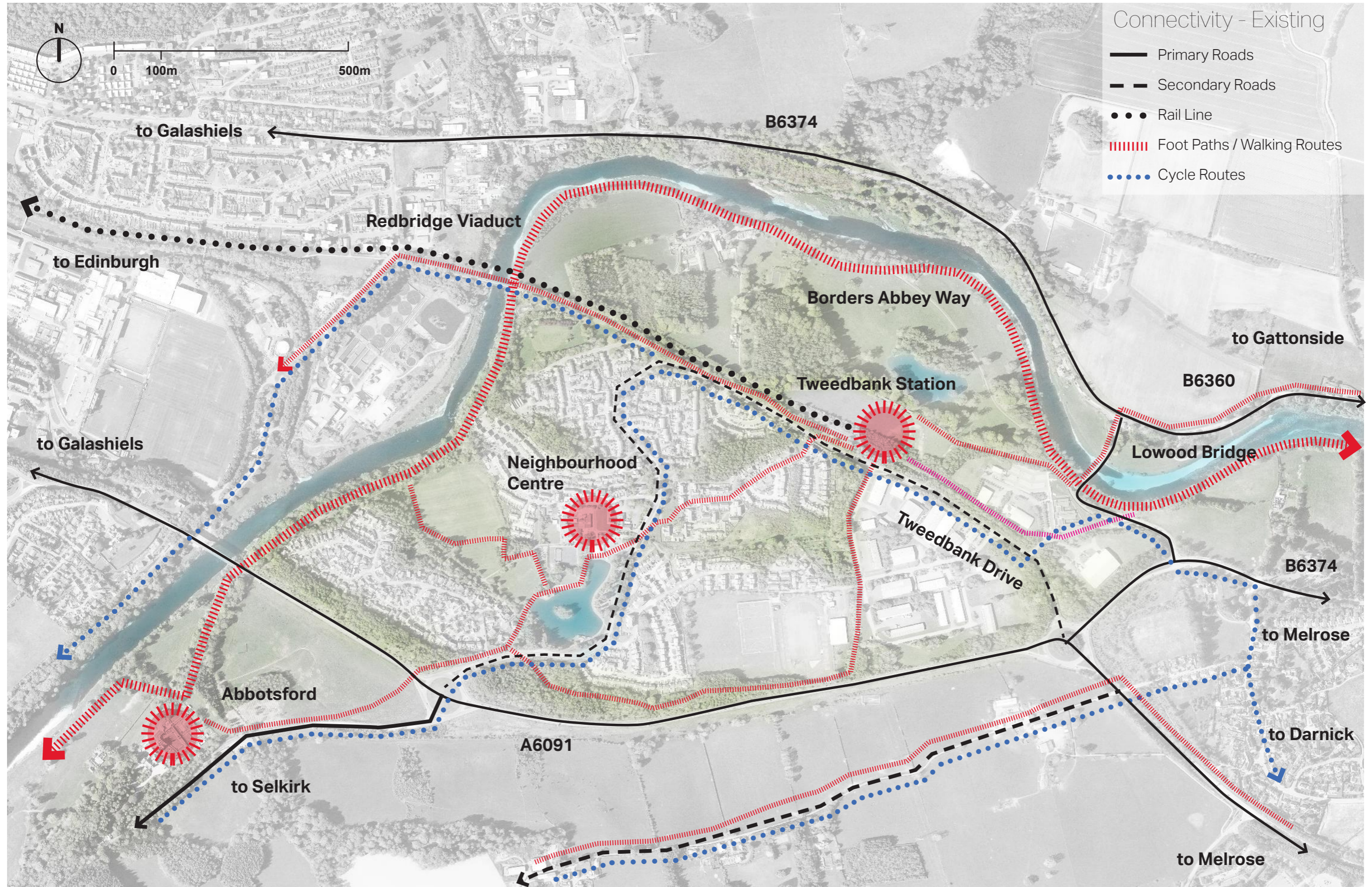
In 1981, the poor condition of the viaduct meant that it was due to be demolished. It was saved by Historic Scotland who upgraded it from Category B to A listing in 1986 and took over control of the viaduct from British Rail in 1996.

Leaderfoot Viaduct



>  20min

Chapter 2: Site Analysis Local connectivity - walking and cycling networks (M)



Chapter 2: Site Analysis

Connectivity between the train station and the town centre (M)

The new railway station has created a shift of gravity in Tweedbank. An existing neighbourhood street, Craw Wood, has now become the main pedestrian link for most residents from the station to their homes.

- ||||| Main route West-East
- ... Routes to residential clusters



Arrival at Station Turn into Craw Wood End of Craw Wood