

***A REVIEW OF NATURE-BASED TOURISM  
SITES IN THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND***

**Phase One**

**Dunira Strategy and  
The Borders Foundation for  
Rural Sustainability**

**With the collation and analysis of the Dumfries and  
Galloway sites undertaken by Iain Wilson ('Making  
Tracks' Project Officer)**

**For**

**The South of Scotland  
Nature-based Tourism Steering Group**

**May 2003**



## *Table of Contents*

1. Introduction
2. Methodology for Phase One
  - 2.1 Methodology Development
  - 2.2 Site Selection
  - 2.3 Clusters
  - 2.4 Anchor Sites
  - 2.5 Audit / Questionnaire
  - 2.6 Maps
3. Broad Results
  - 3.1 General
  - 3.2 Promotion
  - 3.3 Admission Times / Charges
  - 3.4 Facilities
  - 3.5 Public Transport
  - 3.6 Footpaths
  - 3.7 Designations
  - 3.8 Employment
  - 3.9 Site Classification
4. Broad Discussion and Conclusion
  - 4.1 Site Selection
  - 4.2 Cluster Analysis
  - 4.3 Auditing Methodology
  - 4.4 Developing the NBT Concept

Table 1. Dumfries and Galloway: Analysis of Results for Individual Sites

2. Scottish Borders: Analysis of Results for Individual Sites

Maps 1a . Nature-based tourism clusters Scottish Borders

1b. Nature-based tourism sites in relation to designate areas – Scottish Borders

2. Nature-based Tourism clusters – Dumfries and Galloway

- Appendices:
1. SNH Site audit questionnaire
  2. NBT cluster check-list
  3. List of clustered Borders NBT Sites
  4. Scottish Borders ground-truthing data-sheets

NB The extensive individual site data-bases for the Scottish Borders and for Dumfries and Galloway are not included in this hard-copy report but are available on disk

*Front Cover: St Mary's Loch. Photo Jim Hume*

## 1. Introduction

Nature-based Tourism is primarily and generically-speaking a 'product' linked to sites or locations which have features likely to attract tourists and therefore generate 'tourist spend' in local or regional areas. These features will have either aesthetic, sporting or specialist qualities relating to their landscape or wildlife characteristics. Sustainable tourism, green tourism and eco-tourism are areas with which NBT overlaps and is sometimes considered to be synonymous.

The South of Scotland Nature-based Tourism Steering Group commissioned this review of natural heritage sites which could currently or potentially offer tourists to the South of Scotland a "natural heritage experience". The project is in two phases; this report relates to the first phase of the project which focuses on the sites and their 'clustering'. Phase two focuses on the appropriate 'packaging' and marketing of these clusters.

## 2. Methodology

### *2.1 Methodology Development*

The project brief included the requirement for methodology development. While for the Scottish Borders the brief also requested a review of the 'basic audit' of 'wildlife tourism sites' undertaken in 2000, it was agreed that a change of emphasis from the sites review to focus on an examination of the NBT resource as clusters would provide a more useable end-product. An inevitable consequence of this agreed change is a curtailed review of the wildlife tourism sites data-base.

This change in emphasis came-about following the testing of the SNH site audit questionnaire template (See Appendix 1), on a number of 'test-sites' as the basis for developing the methodology, revealing an essential weakness in the site-focussed approach. While the development of the questionnaire and modification to suite the objectives of the project had been pre-empted by the work undertaken by the Crichton Campus students (who took the initiative to rationalise the SNH questionnaire from 78 categories to 36), its use was relatively limited in capturing information on the Scottish Borders sites. This is essentially due to the undeveloped nature of these individual sites to accommodate tourists. This does not imply a weakness in the quality or character of the product but simply its accessibility by visitors. Many of these sites are small and relatively isolated when considered on their own. Considered as part of a cluster results in a product of a different nature.

The need to change the emphasis of the project from sites to clusters revolved around the question of the benefit to the development of the NBT resource of applying a standard 'facility-focused' questionnaire to individual sites which in reality will never acquire those facilities and in any event may not need them to attract and interest tourists. The initial examination of the resource as a cluster with the identification of an anchor site or location which currently or potentially can/could provide the facilities necessary was agreed as the most appropriate way forward.

This is arguably a more discerning approach to assessing the resource, and involves a two-tiered assessment rather than the singular approach of examining every individual site for product characteristics and facilities. Having clustered the sites, this two-tier assessment involved an initial identification of anchor sites within clusters as those with the greatest 'pulling power' and providing the necessary facilities, followed-up by an assessment of the nature-base product in the remaining sites. In-terms of the ongoing development it was also felt important that a 'facilitation capacity' was identified in each cluster as an individual or organisation who could stimulate development at the grass roots level. This approach is borne-out by the experience of BFRS with Farm Venture Groups and is more practical, do-

able and useful in developing the NBT resource and is recommended as the basis for further developing the methodology.

The NBT review of the Borders therefore involved an initial on-site testing of the SNH questionnaire template confirming the need to rationalise it; a further modification (in consultation with the management group) to include more natural history categories; the manual transposition of the original Borders data-set onto the SNH questionnaire spreadsheet and then onto the modified questionnaire spreadsheet; the clustering of sites; the ground-truthing of the clusters (29) using a standardised check list developed specifically for the project; the analysis of the transposed data-set (results in Table 2). The sites have also been mapped using GIS (ARCVIEW), producing two maps, one of the clusters in the context of access routes and a second of the sites in the context of natural heritage designations.

## *2.2 Site selection*

In Dumfries and Galloway this was undertaken by Crichton Campus students who sifted just about every site in the region which has significant environmental interest (including all SSSIs) or involves outdoor activities (including golf courses and fishing lochs/rivers) or simply sits in a natural context (including many cultural and archaeological sites) and/or interprets the same (eg. Museums). The Scottish Borders sites were based on an earlier desk-top review of wildlife tourism sites by Jacquie Hottinger in 2000. While the Hottinger review does not include a definition of 'wildlife tourism' it includes 'natural heritage features of interest to visitors', 'wildlife watching initiatives', 'views', countryside events and activities. While the change in emphasis of the project superseded the further development of this original data-set as originally intended, the list was modified ie the exclusion of countryside 'events' (eg the agricultural shows and other festivals) undefined routes (eg Duns to Grantshouse) plus a small number which could not be identified. As with the Dumfries and Galloway sites, these have been left 'in the background'.

Sites have been further filtered to exclude those where access specifically for NBT / related education/interpretation or simply general recreation was not recognised or promoted or where it might be environmentally detrimental to include them in such a list. The sites filtered out as a result of this process have nonetheless been left in the background of the database spreadsheets in order to inform the phase 2 marketing analysis. Altogether, some 342 sites were identified in Dumfries and Galloway and 242 in the Borders.

Due to the involvement of so many different people in the initial sifting (each of the five Crichton Campus students involved looked at a separate part of Dumfries and Galloway while consultants looked at the Borders), there was a certain disparity in the definitions employed as well as in the relative scale of what constitutes a 'site' – eg. the Borders database places more emphasis on purely environmental sites and excludes archaeological sites although it includes the policies of historic houses. In the Dumfries and Galloway database, the southern Lowther Hills are included alongside several smaller sites and walks which form part of that range. As much as possible, such discrepancies and the potential for double-counting and overlap have also been filtered out of the database but time pressures inevitably mean that more work needs to be done on the database to make it internally more consistent.

The Borders data-set is noticeable for the number of sites which do not include SSSIs (See Map 1b). It is evident from the report accompanying the initial review (Hottinger 2000), that a significant number of potential sites were excluded particularly for reasons such as ecological sensitivity, protected species presence, health and safety on farms, client-confidentiality eg with organisations such as FWAG.

### *2.3 Clusters*

The 342 sites in the Dumfries & Galloway database have been grouped within 38 clusters which have so far been defined by geography only. The 242 Borders sites were grouped in 29 clusters (subsequently rationalised to 28 – see Appendix 3), which have benefited from a more in-depth assessment including the identification of anchor sites and locations (See Appendix 4 the Scottish Borders Ground-truthing data sheets). Clusters were selected on the basis of close geographical proximity within landscape types and access. As their selection was primarily influenced by geography and landscape as opposed to the existence of an attraction or anchor site, a number of clusters did not have anchor sites which fell within the criteria. In which case it was possible to identify anchor 'locations' ie settlements which had the three anchor site criteria. In some cases eg the town of Duns, this provided the anchor location for more than one cluster. All the clusters have facilities for eating and sleeping.

Of the 28 clusters, 21 were visited and ground-truthed using a ten-point checklist (See Appendix 2). This exercise confirmed that they 'made sense' in landscape, location and access terms. It also confirmed the value of the anchor sites and those clusters with insufficiently developed sites and which needed anchor locations.

The phase 2 analysis will further refine these according to logical themes, route corridors, anchor sites and towns, as appropriate. However, an initial assessment of these clusters suggests that the majority are self-defining or already present logical activity themes. Nonetheless, while no site currently sits within more than one geographical cluster, from a marketing point of view, there will be great scope for overlapping clusters according to the intended audience involving and integrating themes or 'cross-selling' the diversity of NBT products. Some of the Borders clusters already for example link to the same anchor site.

### *2.4 Anchor Sites*

Anchor sites were identified as those sites within each cluster which had:

- Tourist pulling-power (an established NBT site usually with some infra-structure or attraction in place to encourage visitors)
- Facilities (parking, lavatories, cafes, B&B etc)
- Capacity to facilitate the tourism development of the wider cluster (this can include a 'honeypot' factor, eg. attracting sufficient foot-fall which could be used as the justification for developing / promoting the other sites in the cluster; it needs also to include individuals or organisations who could champion a wider local development).

The 'ground-truthing' exercise demonstrated the need for flexibility in identifying anchor sites for clusters which did not for example fulfil these criteria particularly in-terms of providing essential facilities. In this case it was felt appropriate to identify the closest settlement or 'anchor location' which provided this function.

### *2.5 Audit / Questionnaire*

While it commenced sometime before that in the Borders, the compilation of the Dumfries and Galloway database took longer as the process had to be started from scratch in the former region whereas an audit of sites of wildlife and geological importance had already been compiled for the latter in 2000 and had mainly to be proofed and updated. The work of the Crichton Campus students has been invaluable in this respect. In Dumfries and Galloway the resulting list had still to be rationalised, proofed and filtered and the sites themselves grouped into clusters. This was done by Iain Wilson, the 'Making Tracks' Project Officer.

The audit of the sites was undertaken according to the questionnaire template provided by SNH (See Appendix 1) . This had some 78 categories of information which were required of each site but the Crichton Campus students took a decision to use only about 36 categories as many were considered to be redundant for the purposes of this exercise and in view of the very small and remote nature of many of the sites to be audited. This template was adopted for the Borders dataset as well. Several other columns could have been deleted from the template that was eventually used without detracting from the totality or quality of the information gleaned. These included, for example, 'credit cards' and 'baby changing' which were rarely applicable, and 'facilities' which was not defined and appeared to duplicate the columns for specific facilities such as toilets, car parking, wheelchair access, etc. Other types of information only applied to small numbers of sites although, on balance, it has been useful to go through the process in order to extract this finding.

Added to the template were several columns intended to classify each site according to habitat and landscape types and to capture information concerning their significance from the point of view of, respectively, woodland, botanic interest, water features, animal/wildlife, birdlife, archaeology and geology. With hindsight, it would have been useful to have included another column to record those sites where interpretation or orientation has been provided. Instead, this type of information has been captured in the final, 'other/specific information' column.

## 2.6 Maps

GIS maps of all the identified sites were produced with the help of Harestanes Visitor Centre (for the Borders sites) and Solway Heritage (for Dumfries and Galloway sites). See Maps 1a, 1b and 2. In addition to providing a graphic illustration of site locations and clusters, this has allowed some analysis of the sites to be undertaken according to, for example, their location in relation to designated sites and according to landscape types. With the change of emphasis from sites to clusters, simple changes to the GIS mapping exercise were necessary. This included the overlaying of referenced 5km grid squares together with main roads, rivers and principle settlements to aid the identification and clustering of sites, and the appropriate representation of the clusters in the GIS format. The GIS facility is particularly essential to the ongoing development of the NBT product. It is possible to access site information directly from the GIS maps.

## 3. Broad results

### 3.1 General

Selective syntheses of the data gathered for NBT sites in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders are set out in the attached results tables. Some highlights / points of interest which arise are set out below. In view of the discussion of site selection and methodology, it is worth emphasising that the numerical data should be treated with *extreme caution* and that it is safer to look at the relative proportions when drawing conclusions about NBT sites overall. For this reason, the databases probably should not be disseminated too widely without further filtering. The development of NBT is still in its infancy in Southern Scotland and will continue to be an iterative process of adding and refining sites and clusters. The analysed results will consequently change with time.

### 3.2 Promotion

Despite the fact that many sites in Dumfries and Galloway are little-known and/or quite remote and little-visited, it was interesting to note that a majority (53%) already feature in some form of promotional literature/websites. With more time and local knowledge, it is likely that an even higher proportion of sites would be found to be thus covered. By comparison

only some 23% feature in promotional literature in the Borders. This is more a reflection of the respective data-bases than a comparison of the levels of promotion in each region.

### 3.3 Admission times / charges

Not surprisingly, less than 20% of NBT sites (even considering the fairly broad definition employed for this audit) and only about 15% in the Borders are subject to opening/closing times or some form of restriction on hours or seasonality of access. It follows that more than 80% have open and unrestricted access. Even fewer sites (14% in Dumfries and Galloway / 8% in Borders) make a charge of some sort for access and this includes those where the charge is for car parking. As explained in the table, many of these sites are museums, formal gardens, houses or exhibitions where the NBT interest is not necessarily that for which the admission charge is being made.

### 3.4 Facilities

Very few sites have their own facilities, a point reinforced by analysis of the figures relating to toilet and café facilities. A surprisingly high number of sites in Dumfries and Galloway (34% and 22% respectively) had toilet and/or café facilities *or were near* such facilities but much smaller proportions (18% and 11% respectively) of such facilities were *dedicated* to the sites in question. In the Borders, only figures for dedicated facilities have been provided and these suggest that 12% of sites had toilet facilities while 5% boasted café facilities. This illustrates the relatively undeveloped state of most NBT sites but also the importance of considering sites and the facilities available to them within clusters.

### 3.5 Public transport

An interesting revelation to come out of the analysis is that of the relatively high level of public transport to the sites. However, this does not account for the regularity or timing of the individual modes of public transport and nor do buses and trains necessarily provide convenient access to the entrance/exit or starting/finishing point for a site. But what it does demonstrate is that while the sites are not 'developed', there is the potential to raise their profile through the high degree of public access. This is really only meaningful where the transport is regular and convenient in terms of the actual sites. However this is not so relevant where marketing is going to be on a cluster basis as opposed to a single sites. What is important is regular public transport to the anchor sites and than relatively easy local transport (eg bicycle hire) to the sites within the cluster. In the Borders for example analysis of the 28 clusters reveals some 12 (43%) have regular public transport to anchor sites / locations.

### 3.6 Footpaths / way-marked trails

A high proportion of the 'sites' were actually walks or paths (especially sections of the Southern Upland Way) and any future work on the database will need to treat this category more consistently (eg. Do we include the sites at the beginning and end of, as well as along, the walk? How do we categorise the various different types of habitat or landscape through which a long-distance path will inevitably pass? Do we simply record walks/paths separately within an 'activity' rather than site-based category?). If we extract formal walks and paths from the category of 'way-marked paths and nature trails', it is likely that there would be very few such facilities on or within actual NBT sites – in keeping with the largely informal nature of NBT in the region.

### 3.7 Designations

A relatively small proportion of sites in Dumfries and Galloway had specific designations attached to them (whether environmental, archaeological or architectural) although this may be because of the lack of readily available information relating to them or time to find this out. Many more sites are also covered by general or wider designations such as NNRs or NSAs. The Borders database, which included a more thorough assessment of designated sites, suggests that some 36% of sites fall into this category (See Map 1b).

However, and as highlighted in the discussion on site selection, very few if any sites were included in the database where access was not already recognised or promoted and, in the cases where some sensitivity should be observed, it would appear that rights of access are little used in any case. It is recognised that visitor numbers to the majority of environmental sites in Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders run below their ecological carrying capacity and the general impression is that – with some inevitable exceptions eg St Abbs Head NNR – NBT makes no significant impact upon the region’s environmental resource. NB. This conclusion relates to visitors as individuals and to the direct impact they make upon sites – it does not necessarily apply to the wider impact of tourist-related traffic, eg. in road widening / straightening or development, eg. for accommodation.

### *3.8 Employment*

Some 27% of sites in Dumfries and Galloway were thought to generate employment related to NBT, either directly or locally and as a consequence. An approximation of the employment attached to each suggests that some 148 jobs are reliant on NBT in this fashion (NB. This does not include more indirect employment resulting from, say, accommodation) and a breakdown is provided in the table. These figures must inevitably be treated with *extreme caution* and cannot even be expressed as full-time equivalent employment without further analysis. However, for what it is worth, it is interesting to note that – in view of the wider definition of NBT employed in this review – the figure of 148 jobs is remarkably close to the estimate of 115 jobs reliant on wildlife tourism in Dumfries and Galloway which was a finding of a Tourism & Environment Forum report in January 2002.

The Borders database only records employment where rangers are attached to specific sites and consequently notes only 6 jobs in total. The T&EF report quoted above estimated that there were 132 wildlife tourism jobs in the Scottish Borders. The issue of definition and implications for meaningful assessments of supported jobs (as opposed to FTEs) is discussed in the conclusion.

### *3.9 Site classification*

Finally, with regard to site classification, the only surprise (for some) may be the fact that archaeological features are considered to be of ‘major’ significance in such a large proportion (21%) of NBT sites in the DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY (archaeological sites were not included in the Borders database). This again begs the question of ‘definition’ and the importance of developing an understanding of NBT as discussed below. Otherwise, proportions are roughly as one would expect, eg.:

- sites of major significance for water features form the highest proportion of sites overall in Dumfries and Galloway (47%, mainly coastal sites) but also a significant proportion of sites in the Borders (37%);
- in Dumfries and Galloway, important bird sites (27%) feature more prominently than general animal / wildlife sites (11%) given that birds are usually easier to see, especially in numbers;
- Geologically important sites, from the tourism point of view, form a small proportion overall in both regions.

## **4. Broad Discussion / Conclusions**

### *4.1 Site selection*

The process of defining and listing NBT sites was a largely subjective exercise which has left several inconsistencies both within and between the resulting databases. Many sites might still be considered to be only marginally related to NBT but, conversely, many sites have been unearthed which sit entirely comfortably within the definitions of NBT and have hitherto been little promoted or not promoted at all.

This deficiency requires the development of a NBT 'taxonomy' or formally agreed definition of what tourism and recreational activities are directly dependent upon the natural heritage resource – ie. beyond the simple baseline of site-related information. Information gaps have been identified in information relating to sites which has restricted analysis, particularly on natural habitats requiring more detailed on-site survey.

### *4.2 Cluster analysis*

The last point nonetheless reinforces the major lesson which has arisen from this phase of the project to date, ie. the need to analyse NBT activity as part of clusters. As the preceding analysis has shown, the great majority of so-called NBT sites, while they are often important for specific habitats or landscapes, offer pleasant walking and/or set cultural, historic and archaeological sites in a natural context, cannot be considered to be major tourist attractions in their own right and indeed have few if any facilities for visitors. In many cases, they only form 'attractions' when marketed as part of geographical or thematic clusters, or are presented as additional sights of interest around an 'anchor site' or town. This finding is also in-line with the NFO/Dunira research findings (2002), that visitors are attracted by the opportunity to visit several tourism products at a time.

The site cluster approach adds a cumulative value to each site with the emphasis for analysis and development focussing on the anchor site or location.

A very useful exercise was the ground-truthing of the Scottish Borders clusters, which demonstrated the value of this approach particularly in terms of placing the sites in their landscape, land-use and to some extent their cultural contexts. This approach is useful not just for marketing but also for cluster development, particularly as the concept includes local 'facilitation' provided by one of the anchor sites. This 'resource clustering' approach should encourage greater local autonomy particularly for the identification of locally sensitive solutions to local problems of NBT development. On a larger scale, it also makes a great deal of sense in terms of strategic planning and development. While the initial 'resource-clustering' or 'base-line' clustering is principally in geographical and landscape terms (as the inevitable starting-point), cross-selling based on an infinite variety of themes is possible ie from a marketing point of view, there will be great scope for overlapping clusters according to the intended market.

### *4.3 Auditing methodology*

Overall, the value of a questionnaire which requires detailed information of each and every NBT site is considered to have only limited value in a review of NBT activity. Of course, this is not to say that some form of audit of individual sites should not be conducted in order to form the bigger picture but, as has already been emphasised, the true pattern, significance and quality of NBT in the region can only be appreciated at the aggregated level of clusters. Phase 2 of this research is expected to illustrate this more forcefully but, for the moment, it is recommended that a methodology is developed in-terms of 'resource clustering' as the basis for developing NBT. The starting point needs to be a 'base-line clustering' on the primary geographical / landscape resource. This methodology should also include such comprehensive check lists as the SNH site-audit questionnaire, but only to capture data on the anchor sites and locations. A brief 'product' focussed questionnaire needs to be further

developed to more effectively reflect those features on each site within the clusters which will attract visitors. This needs to include a more comprehensive section on habitats particularly UK BAP. These questionnaires will provide critical information for the development of thematic clusters.

#### *4.4 Developing The NBT Concept*

Further development of the concept and the product must go hand-in-hand. What is NBT ? What makes it different to 'activity tourism', 'out-door recreation', 'eco-tourism', 'wildlife tourism' ? What dictates that geological sites should be excluded and archaeological sites included ? if it includes all tourism activities dependent on the natural resource than why should it not include game shooting, fishing, equestrian related activities as well as long-distance walking ? Should it be broad based in order to develop a diverse product or should it be more narrowly defined in order to manage it more specifically ? What in the widest sense could currently or potentially offer tourists to the South of Scotland a "natural heritage experience"? Is this NBT ? The 2000 Borders audit was of 'wildlife tourism' sites, events and views.

Which ever of these definitions is adopted, a common denominator to all of them is not just the tangible physical features. It is also those people who 'provide' those features (either through creation or management or both), and the local experts who 'provide' the stories and the human and personal interpretation. The development of the NBT resource needs to be a localised exercise of exploring the clusters and their sites, un-earthing the stories and nurturing the local providers and facilitators.

If 'Nature Based Tourism' in its broadest sense is to be used as the basis for statistical analysis most particularly in terms of economic and employment performance, than it is absolutely critical that a standard definition is developed to make such exercises meaningful.

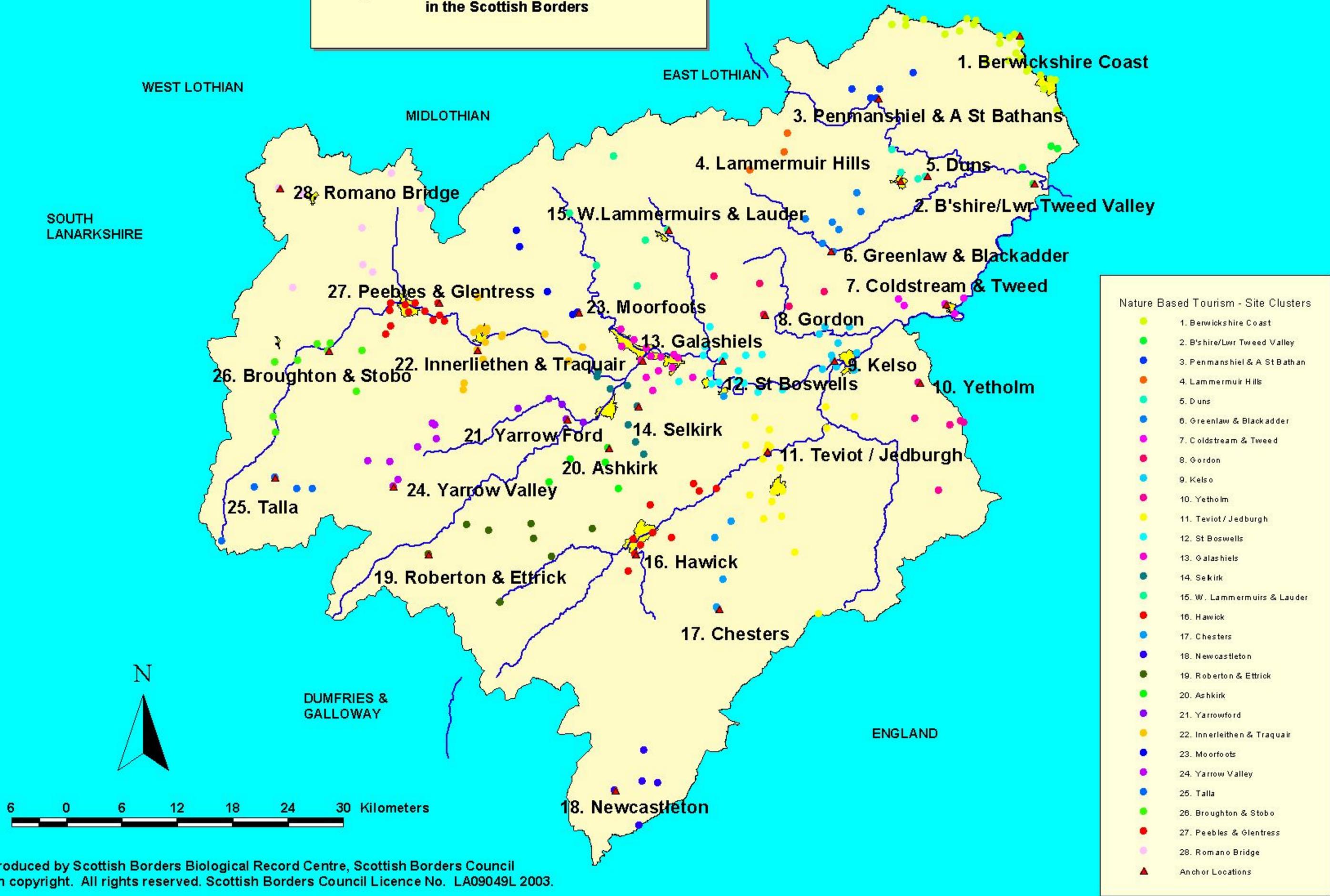
**Table 1 – NATURE-BASED TOURISM SITES REVIEW – OVERVIEW OF DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY SITES**

Item	Number / %	Comments
Total sites	342	See general comments
Number featuring in promotional literature	181 / 53%	ie. Featuring in regional or local guidebooks or leaflets (eg. Birds in Dumfries and Galloway / Archaeosights) or with own promotional literature or websites
Number subject to opening / closing times, seasonal restrictions on access, etc.	65 / 19%	See general comments
Number charging admission	48 / 14%	Majority of such sites included for their natural context rather than attraction for which charge is made, eg. Museums, abbeys.
Number with access to toilet facilities (no. dedicated)	117 (60) 34% (18%)	See general comments
Number with access to café facilities (no. dedicated)	75 (36) 22% (11%)	Majority of such sites included for their natural context rather than attraction for which charge is made, eg. Museums, abbeys.
Number with waymarked paths or nature trails	115 / 34%	This figure possibly skewed by number of actual walks included as NBT 'sites' as opposed to waymarking within a site
Number of sites with specific designations (SSSIs, SAMs, listed buildings, etc)	53 / 15%	This figure could be slightly higher as status of many sites was not known. Many more sites fall within wider designations, eg. NNRs applying to whole coastline or range of hills, NSAs, etc. But see also General comments
Sites which generate employment	93 / 27%	This figure refers to sites where staff are directly employed (eg. Caerlaverock WWT) or where employment is generated as a consequence of NBT, either on site (eg. Cream O'Galloway) or locally (eg. In Dalry or New Galloway)
Employment generated	56 full-time 68 part-time 24 casual 148 total jobs	Based on known direct employment or apportionment to estimate number reliant on NBT. Some overcounting as many jobs will rely on more than one type of tourism or other economic driver. Does not include employment generated through accommodation.
Site classifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland</li> <li>• Botanic</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Animals</li> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Archaeology</li> <li>• Geology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>67 / 20%</li> <li>38 / 11%</li> <li>161 / 47%</li> <li>39 / 11%</li> <li>92 / 27%</li> <li>71 / 21%</li> <li>24 / 7%</li> </ul>	ie. Number of sites considered to be of 'major' significance for NBT in the relevant classification.

**Table 2 – NATURE-BASED TOURISM SITES REVIEW – OVERVIEW OF SCOTTISH BORDERS SITES**

Item	Proportion (Sites)	Comments
Total sites	242	See general comments
Number featuring in promotional literature	23% (55)	
Number subject to opening / closing times, seasonal restrictions on access, etc.	15% (37)	These include sites restricted for physical reasons (eg inaccessibility) as well as time and seasonal restrictions.
Number charging admission	8% (19)	.
Number with access to toilet facilities (no. dedicated)	12% (29)	See general comments
Number with access to café facilities (no. dedicated)	5% (13)	
Disabled access	9% (23)	
Public transport to site	84% (203)	Though a high number this does not indicate the frequency
Sites which generate employment	2% (6)	This is based on the evidence provided and refers only to on-site rangers. It is not accurate and should not be quoted
Site classifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland</li> <li>• Botanic</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Animals</li> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Archaeology</li> <li>• Geology</li> </ul>	37% Not recorded 37% Not recorded 5% Not recorded 5%	le. Number of sites considered to be of 'major' significance for NBT in the relevant classification. This is more a reflection of extent as opposed to quality. These figures are indicative only and should not be quoted.
Number of sites with specific designations (SSSIs, SAMs, listed buildings, etc)	36% (87)	
Broad Landscape Classification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland</li> <li>• Lowland</li> <li>• Valley</li> <li>• Coast</li> </ul>	26% 49% 18% 7%	This percentage is based on site descriptions as opposed to those falling within the classified regional landscape types. The site descriptions did not include upland fringe. There is not expected to be much difference between the two

Map 1a. Clustered Nature Based Tourism Sites in the Scottish Borders



Map 1b. Nature Based Tourism Clusters and Designated Areas in the Scottish Borders

