

Original description of the NSA from the publication *Scotland's Scenic Heritage* published by the Countryside Commission for Scotland in 1978, and available on the Scottish Natural Heritage website at <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B464646.pdf> (6.52mb)

## **EILDON AND LEADERFOOT NATIONAL SCENIC AREA** *The Scottish Borders*

### **Description from *Scotland's Scenic Heritage* 1978**

Between its confluence with the Ettrick and that with the Teviot, the Tweed exhibits neither the youthful characteristics of an upland river, nor the mature nature of a lowland river that it assumes below Kelso, but its valley is wide and moderate, open and fertile, while still affording fine views of the surrounding hills. The scene comprises shapely uniform hills enclosing the valley, the winding, incised and wooded course of the river, mixed land use of arable, pasture, plantation and moorland, and a settlement pattern that still bears a scale and form closely related to the topography.

Adding drama to the landscape the trio of the volcanic Eildon Hills elegantly overhangs the valley, and dominates from this position a wide area of Border scenery. Across the Leader, Black Hill echoes their shape and character, the whole area being seen to best advantage from the famous Scott's View above Dryburgh. Abbeys, bridges and mansion houses add variety of incident to this very humanised and cultivated landscape.