



Stage 7: Hawick - Edinburgh

Tour of Britain Scottish Borders

11 September 2021



Scotland
The Perfect Stage

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Scottish Borders is proud to be hosting the Tour of Britain once again, following hosting a full stage in 2019, stage finishes in 2015 and 2017 and stage starts in 2012 and 2013.

The 195km Stage 7 route will take the riders through the region's incredible countryside, along some of the most popular cycle routes and through historic towns.

Hawick, the 'home of tweed', is host to the stage start and is one of the largest Border towns. It is internationally famous for fine quality knitwear and producing rugby union legends such as Jim Renwick and Stuart Hogg.

The town has a long and colourful history which can be traced back to the 12th century, when King David I granted land to a Norman family, the Lovels. Today, Hawick's rich manufacturing heritage and industrial heart continues to beat strongly, with the continued production of the highest quality knitwear, cashmere and tweed, and a range of associated visitor experiences and shops available.

Other attractions include the **Borders Textile Towerhouse** in which the heritage of Scotland's premier textile manufacturing region is presented within a restored 16th-century tower house. **Wilton Lodge Park**, on the wooded banks of the River Teviot, has 107 acres of riverside and tree-lined walks, and a walled garden. The **Hawick Museum and Scott Gallery** detail the town's history and provide a venue for visiting exhibitions.

Hawick is also home to the recently opened **Borders Distillery**. Housed in a restored Victorian industrial building, it's the first Scotch whisky distillery in the Scottish Borders since 1837. This special collection of weavers, knitters and distillers are all located between the four bridges of Hawick.

'The Horse' at the end of the High Street commemorates the victory of local youths over English invaders at nearby Hornshole in 1514. During the skirmish, the Abbot's banner was taken and triumphantly carried back to Hawick. One of the oldest Border festivals, the Common Riding, held in early summer, honours this event. Led by a Hawick born and bred young man, he is supported by hundreds of horse riders from the town and across the Borders to ride the boundaries of the town's traditional lands.

Other attractions on or close to the Stage 7 route include St Mary's Loch, the Scottish Borders' biggest natural loch, which attracts visitors not only for the stunning scenery but also the recreation, including sailing, watersports and swimming. The winding roads in this area are hugely popular with cyclists and motorcyclists.



As the route heads north towards Innerleithen it will pass **Traquair**, Scotland's oldest inhabited house. It has been lived in for over 900 years and was originally a hunting lodge for the kings and queens of Scotland. Home to Catherine Maxwell Stuart, 21st Lady of Traquair, and her family, the house is open to the public and also hosts the Beyond Borders International Festival and is home to a brewery.

In Lauder, the history of the ground upon which **Thirlestane Castle** now stands dates back to at least the 12th Century, and later a large Border fort was built on the site to defend the approach to Edinburgh from the south. The central part of the present castle was completed in 1590, remodelled in the 1670s and then enlarged in the 1840s. Throughout its long history, Thirlestane has belonged to the Maitland family, who continue to live there

Duns is home to the **Jim Clark Motorsport Museum**, which celebrates the life of the Borders farmer and two-time Formula One World Champion. The museum includes displays of Clark's cars, trophies and tells the story of one of the greatest racing drivers of all time.



SPECTATOR INFORMATION

Full race timings can be found at the [Tour of Britain website](#).

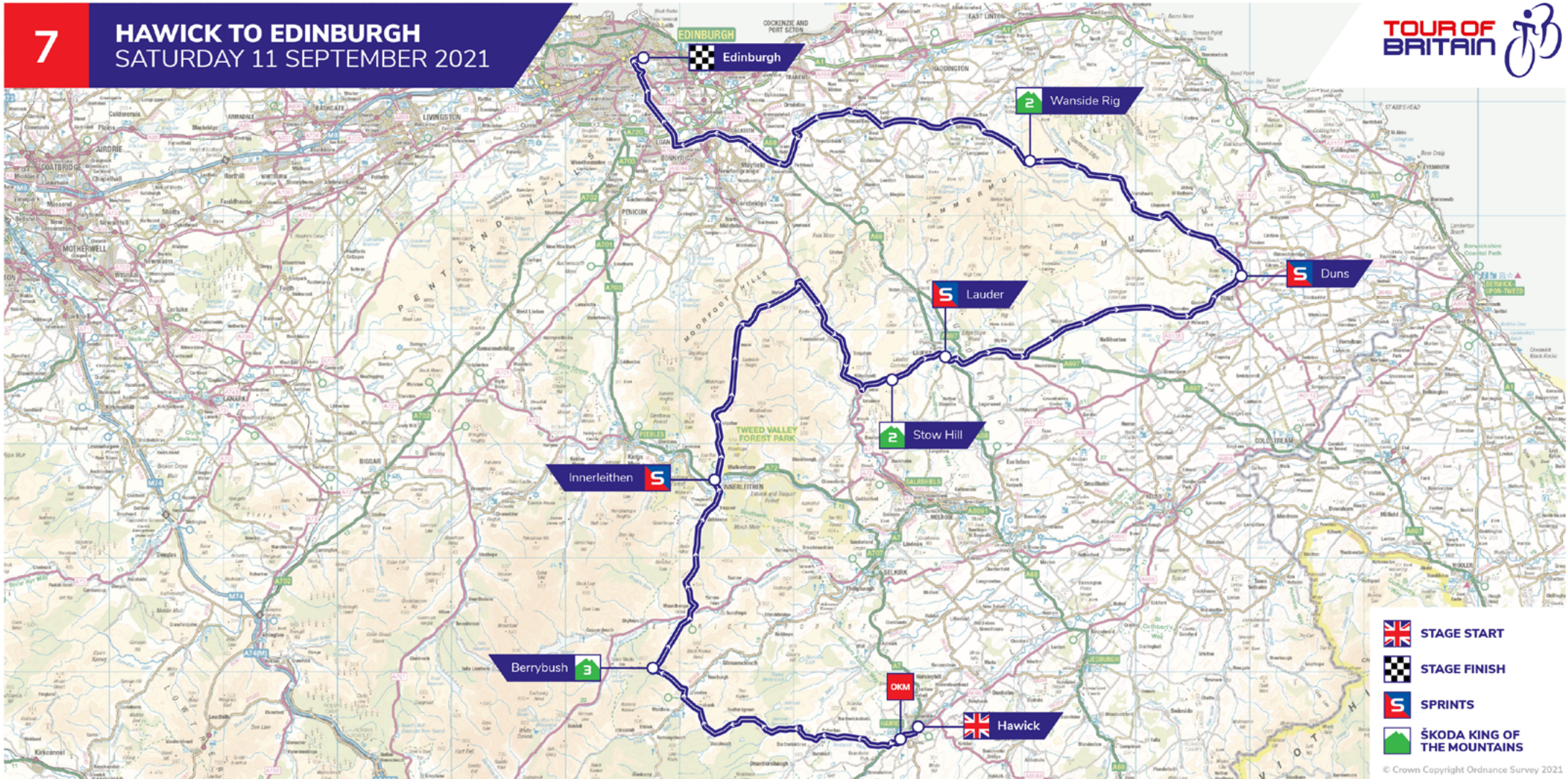
There are a number of categorised Sprints and ŠKODA King of the Mountains climbs along the stage.

If you plan to watch the race along any part of the route there are things you will need to remember:

- **Have a plan B** – if you arrive at any point on the route and find it busy, please be prepared to move on to another location.
- **Personal responsibility** – only stay at a location if you have space. Consider wearing a mask if it makes you feel safer.
- **Give people space** – avoid crowded areas, and remember face coverings are advised as they often help others to feel safe too.
- **Parking is limited** – particularly on rural stretches, parking will be limited. Please only park where parking is available, stick to local parking restrictions and never park on the route. Can you cycle or walk safely to the location where you want to watch the cyclists pass? Consider public transport where possible.
- **Respect the safety of the riders** – please give them space as they pass along the routes. Please note that you will not be able to access the team parking areas at the start and finishes.

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HAWICK TO EDINBURGH SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2021



-  **STAGE START**
-  **STAGE FINISH**
-  **SPRINTS**
-  **ŠKODA KING OF THE MOUNTAINS**

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STAGE PARTNERS

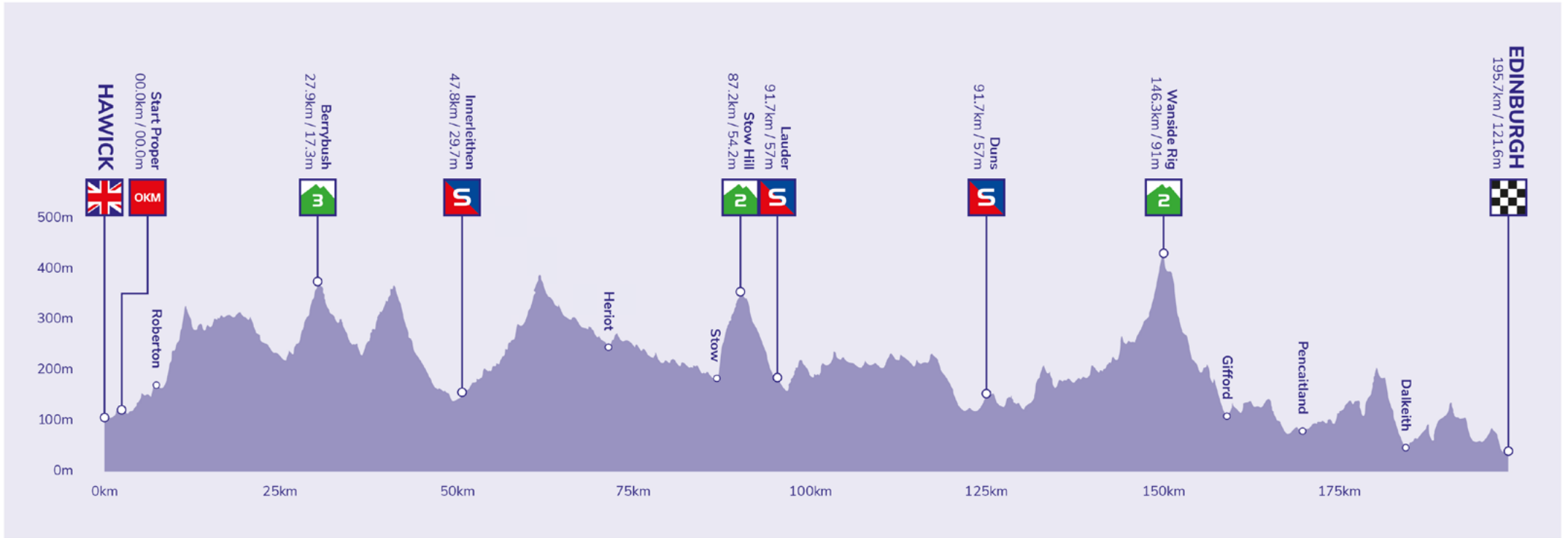


RACE PARTNERS



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HAWICK TO EDINBURGH
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STAGE PARTNERS



RACE PARTNERS



HAWICK FESTIVAL OF CYCLING



Led by the Hawick community, an events and activity programme around the Tour's visit has been developed. The aim of the Festival of Cycling programme is to encourage people of all ages to get on their bikes and come and try cycling, or get back into it.

The Festival got underway on Sunday 22 August with the popular Ken Laidlaw Sportive with a choice of three distances for participants to pick to suit their ability. The Festival continues offering a series of groups rides, exhibitions, fun activities for all ages, talks and also the Scottish National Olympic Time Trial Championship.

The Festival culminates with Hawick hosting the start of Stage 7 of the Tour of Britain on Saturday 11 September.

More details can be found via www.scotborders.gov.uk/tourofbritain or the [Festival of Cycling Facebook page](#).



SCOTTISH BORDERS SCOTLAND'S LEADING CYCLING DESTINATION

Start at the beginning....

You wouldn't read a book from the middle, and the first page of Scotland's great story starts in the south.

Discover the places that have shaped Scotland: walk where fierce battles once raged, where legendary kings and queens struck deals that forged a nation, and where great poets drew inspiration for the ballads we still sing. Our southern lands have always been central to Scotland's narrative, and you can follow the thread that connects us to a tapestry that has been woven over centuries.

But our story is still unfolding, and you can be part of that story too. Absorb the spirit of Scotland in our heather-clad moors, our enchanted forests, and our star-strewn skies. Explore our rising hillsides and narrow glens, and find peace along the banks of our mirrored lochs. Learn about Scotland's history through the incredible Great Tapestry of Scotland in its new permanent home. A unique project to stitch the entire story of Scotland from pre-history to modern times, its wonderful artistry and visual storytelling makes Scotland's history, heritage and culture accessible to all. Begin your next adventure right where Scotland starts. We are waiting for you. **Scotland Starts Here.**

The Scottish Borders is renowned for the quality of cycling available, whether that is the long distance waymarked on-road cycle routes or the world famous **7stanes** mountain biking destinations of Glentress, Innerleithen and Newcastleton.

There are over 50 road cycling route options alone available on scotlandstartshere.com and therefore a great destination for a cycling break, with lots of cycle-friendly accommodation providers, cafes and visitor attractions, awaits visitors.

For those who may want to make a day trip (or more) there are a number of great cycling routes, both short and long, that pass through Hawick and include the 250 mile Borderloop a multi-day route around the Borders or the 50 mile Southern Borders Loop taking in Newcastleton. Shorter routes from Hawick include the 14 mile Roberton route and the 7 mile Vertish Hill Loop. For more information on the south of Scotland and full details on the cycling routes in the Scottish Borders visit [Scotland Starts Here](http://ScotlandStartsHere.com).



**SOUTH OF
SCOTLAND**

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STARTS HERE**