

Digital Editions

The *Country Living Guide to Rural England - Northumberland* published by Travel Publishing in conjunction with *Country Living Magazine*, is one of a series of county-based digital travel guides covering England which will be made available to readers free of charge through the *All About You* website and through Travel Publishing's own websites.

The guides are based on the popular series of Country Living Guides to Rural England published in printed form which can be purchased through the *All About You* bookshop, *Country Living Magazine*, high street bookshops, internet retailers and Travel Publishing.

This digital guide to Northumberland is published in PDF format which means that you can browse the guide page by page or simply search for specific villages or towns (see pages 4 and 5). You can also print off individual pages of your choice if you are planning a visit to a particular area of Northumberland or, alternatively, the whole of the digital guide.

If you want more information on the places to see, stay, eat, drink or shop advertised in this guide all you need to do is click on the relevant website or e-mail address contained in the advertisement.

We do hope you like using this version of the *Country Living* rural guide and that it helps you enjoy exploring the wonderful county of Northumberland. We are always interested in receiving comments on places covered (or not covered) in our guides so please do not hesitate to give us your considered comments by e-mailing us on info@travelpublishing.co.uk.

For more information on other titles in the Country Living Rural Guide series or any other Travel Publishing titles (printed or digital) or to buy a printed guide please visit the *All About You* website on www.allaboutyou.com/countryliving or one of the Travel Publishing websites - www.travelpublishing.co.uk and www.findsomewhere.co.uk.

Travel Publishing

© Travel Publishing Ltd

All content within this edition is protected by the UK copyright of Travel Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved. This material may be used only for internal, informational, noncommercial purposes. You may not modify or alter the content in any way. You may not, without obtaining Travel Publishing's written permission, republish, redistribute, or otherwise make any copies except for personal use. You may not use the material in a manner that suggests an association with any of our publications or services.

Guide to Rural England

NORTHUMBERLAND



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY
Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

LOCATOR MAP



Northumberland

Stretching from the edge of the Cheviots to the east coast, and from Berwick-upon-Tweed in the north to the River Blyth in the south, east Northumberland is an area of quiet villages and small market towns, majestic castles and what many people consider to be the finest coastline in England. Designated as the North Northumberland Heritage Coast, the area boasts a wealth of historical attractions such as Bamburgh Castle, Lindisfarne and the Farne Islands.

For all its beauty, it's a quiet coastline, and you can walk for miles along the dunes and

beaches without meeting another soul. No deck chairs or noisy ice cream vans here – just a quietness broken occasionally by the screeching of gulls. Coquet Island is a renowned bird sanctuary where the visitor can see puffins, roseate terns, razorbills, cormorants and eiders.

Lindisfarne, a small island lying between Bamburgh and Berwick, is perhaps the most evocative place of all on the coast. It was to here that St Aidan and a small community of Irish monks came from Iona in AD635 to found a monastery from which missionaries

Towns and Villages

Please click on any of the towns and villages listed below for information on that location.

Allendale	pg 42	Druridge Bay	pg 23	Lindisfarne	pg 11
Allenheads	pg 42	Duddo	pg 11	Longframlington	pg 26
Alnmouth	pg 20	Edlingham	pg 25	Longhorsley	pg 28
Alnwick	pg 17	Eglingham	pg 25	Lowick	pg 11
Amble	pg 21	Ellingham	pg 24	Mickley Square	pg 31
Ashington	pg 27	Elsdon	pg 44	Morpeth	pg 26
Aydon	pg 38	Embleton	pg 23	Newbiggin by the Sea	pg 28
Bamburgh	pg 13	Etal	pg 16	Norham	pg 10
Bardon Mill	pg 39	Fallodon	pg 25	Otterburn	pg 43
Barrasford	pg 38	Farne Islands	pg 15	Ponteland	pg 30
Beadnell	pg 24	Ford	pg 16	Prudhoe	pg 30
Bedlington	pg 29	Hadrian's Wall	pg 31	Rothbury	pg 45
Belford	pg 15	Hadrian's Wall Path	pg 32	Seahouses	pg 24
Bellingham	pg 47	Haltwhistle	pg 40	Slaley	pg 42
Belsay	pg 29	Heatherslaw	pg 17	Tillmouth	pg 11
Berwick-upon-Tweed	pg 7	Hepple	pg 45	Tweedmouth	pg 10
Blanchland	pg 42	Hexham	pg 32	Waren Mill	pg 15
Blyth	pg 30	Holy Island	pg 11	Wark	pg 47
Branxton	pg 51	Horncliffe	pg 10	Warkworth	pg 20
Chathill	pg 24	Kielder	pg 48	Weldon Bridge	pg 47
Chillingham	pg 25	Kirkharle	pg 28	Woodhorn	pg 27
Chollerford	pg 38	Kirknewton	pg 50	Wooler	pg 49
Chollerton	pg 38	Langley	pg 39	Wooperton	pg 50
Corbridge	pg 35	Lesbury	pg 19	Yeavinger	pg 51
Craster	pg 23				

set out to convert northern England to Christianity.

The region has withstood a tempestuous past and has been the focus of fierce fighting, nowhere more so than the border town of Berwick, whose strategic location made it a prime target in the endless skirmishes between the English and the Scots. The Border Reivers, or mosstroopers, rustled, pillaged and fought among themselves, incurring the wrath of both English and Scottish kings. All along the coastline can be seen superb castles such as those of Norham, Etal, Chillingham and Edlingham. Some have been converted into grand mansions for the great families of the area, while others are now no more than ruins.

Inland from the coast the land is heavily farmed, and there is a pleasant landscape of fields, woodland, country lanes and farms. The villages, with their ancient parish churches and village greens, are especially fine. When the Scots constantly harried this area the village green was essential as it was here the villagers guarded their cattle after bringing them in from the surrounding land.

The area to the south east around Ashington was once coalmining country, though the scars are gradually being swept away. The industry is remembered in a museum of mining at Woodhorn. Even here, however, an earlier history is evident, as the former Woodhorn church is one of the most interesting in Northumberland.

Legacies of the past can be explored at Segedunum Roman fort, Wallsend - so called because this was where Hadrian's Wall ended. It is now the beginning - or end - of the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail.



Bamburgh Castle

West Northumberland, where the North Pennines blend into the Cheviots, is an exhilarating mixture of bleak grandeur, beauty and history. Stretching north towards the Scottish border, are the 398 square miles of the Northumbrian National Park and the Kielder Forest Park. The forest covers 200 square miles and contains Europe's largest man-made lake, Kielder Water, opened by the Queen in 1982. To the south is Hadrian's Wall, that monumental feat of Roman civil engineering built on the orders of Emperor Hadrian in AD122. The best known Roman monument in Britain and the best known Roman frontier in Europe, it stretches for some 70 miles from Wallsend in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west, and in 1987 was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To see the Wall twisting across the moorland is an awe-inspiring sight, and no visitor to Northumberland should miss it. Towards the east of the area, the hills slope down towards a stretch of fertile land with little towns like Rothbury and Wooler, which in themselves deserve exploration. But up on the high ground a person could walk for miles without meeting another soul. The highest point, at 2,650 feet, is The Cheviot itself, a few miles from the Scottish border.

Berwick-upon-Tweed

Barracks Bridges Town Hall
 Holy Trinity Church Museums
 Lifeboat Station Berwick Castle

Berwick-upon-Tweed is one of England's most beguiling towns. It is unique in being completely encircled by an Elizabethan town wall, which can still be walked along, the 1.5 mile circuit providing fine views of the town and the Northumberland coastline. The River Tweed serves as the border between Scotland and Northumberland along much of its length, but a few miles to the west of Berwick, the border takes a curious lurch north, and curls up and over the town to the east before reaching the coast. So, while Berwick is on the north bank of the Tweed, it's well and truly within Northumberland.

For centuries, this former Royal burgh of Scotland was fought over by the Scots and the English, and changed hands no less than 14 times until it finally became part of England in 1482. But even now, Scotland exerts a great influence. The local football team, Berwick Rangers, plays in the Scottish League, and in 1958 the Lord Lyon, who decides on all matters armorial in Scotland, granted the town a coat-of-arms – the only instance of armorial bearings being granted in Scotland for use in England.

But for many years after becoming English, the town was a curious anomaly. In the 16th century Berwick was declared a “free burgh”, neither in Scotland nor in England, a situation that lasted right up until 1885. Its ambiguous status was such that when war was declared on Russia in 1853, it was done in the name of “Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, Ireland, Berwick-upon-Tweed

and all the British Dominions”. When peace was announced in 1856, no mention was made of Berwick. So technically, the town remained at war with Russia.

The situation was rectified in 1966, when a Soviet official made a goodwill visit to the town and a peace treaty was signed. During the ceremony, the Berwick mayor told the Soviet official that the people of Russia could at last sleep easy in their beds.

Berwick's original medieval walls were built in the 13th century by Edward I. They were subsequently strengthened by Robert the Bruce when he recaptured the town in 1318, and finally rebuilt by Italian engineers at the bequest of Elizabeth I between 1558 and 1569, though the work was never completed. They are regarded as being the finest preserved fortifications of their time in Europe.

Berwick's strategic location led it to become an important military town. For many years the garrison soldiers were billeted in local taverns and private houses, but this placed a heavy financial burden on the townspeople. Complaints to the government led to the building of **Berwick Barracks** between 1717 and 1721. Designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, they were the first purpose-built barracks in Britain, and within them you'll find the **King's Own Scottish Borderers Museum**. Here visitors will learn about a Scottish regiment that was raised in 1689 by the Earl of Leven in a crisis measure for the defence of Edinburgh against the Jacobites. Recruitment took place “by beat of drum” along the Royal Mile and in just two hours sufficient men were recruited to join the Earl to protect the city. In 2006 the Regiment became part of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Housed in the clock tower of the barracks

CELTIC CRAFTS

*Marygate, Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed,
Northumberland TD15 2SJ*

Tel: 01289 389033

e-mail: info@celticcrafts.uk.com

website: www.celticcrafts.uk.com

For anyone who appreciates the intricate, beautiful and unique designs of the Celtic tradition they will find **Celtic Crafts** on Holy Island an undiluted delight. Housed in one of the oldest buildings on the island (dating from 1606), it is an attractive outlet for items of Celtic inspiration, including jewellery, goblets and chalices, glassware and china, designer knitwear and other goods sourced from small workshops throughout the British Isles. The jewellery range includes a superb collection of engagement and wedding rings in gold, silver or platinum, some set with precious or semi-precious stones. Many of the pieces are inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels, dating from the 7th century. Some are exclusive to Celtic Crafts, notably the St Cuthbert Cross in silver or gold, with a garnet in the middle. More familiar items include books, postcards, CDs, T-shirts....and the famous and very moreish creamy fudge. Above the retail outlets are two floors of comfortable, stylish holiday accommodation, with two bedrooms directly above and a modern kitchen and living area on the top floor.

PILGRIM'S COFFEE HOUSE

*Falkland House, Marygate, Holy Island,
Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2SJ*

Tel: 01289 389109

website: www.pilgrimscoffee.com

The pilgrimage ends here folks

Set on the idyllic island of Lindisfarne, **Pilgrims Coffee House** offers a unique coffee experience. Highly trained baristas will create some of the best coffee you will ever taste; complimented by scrumptious homemade cakes and scones. Try a Gingerbread Latte and a giant slice of Carrot cake. Indulge in gifts for all the family with our Pilgrims range. Enjoy our warm friendly atmosphere inside, or relax in the tranquillity of our walled garden outside.

Pilgrims has recently finished a mobile coffee van that will refresh tourists where other places cannot. The van will be in the Pilgrims colours so keep an eye out if you are walking on the island.

Believe us; Pilgrims is **worth** missing the tide for!

Visitors to the craft shop and coffee house should remember that Holy Island is tidal!



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

is the **Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Museum and Art Gallery**, which explores the history of the town and of infantry men and regiments down the centuries in the By Beat of Drum exhibition. The museum also contains a remarkable collection given to the town by Sir William Burrell, who lived in nearby Hutton Castle. Famous for collecting the works of art that can now be seen in the Burrell Art Gallery in Glasgow, Burrell also donated 300 works of art, sculpture and pottery to Berwick. In the same location, the **Gymnasium Gallery**, opened in 1993, is a leading venue for contemporary art and artists of the region.

Berwick's Bridge Street is being promoted as the best shopping street in North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders. It is home to a number of specialist shops – basically a collection of businesses whose owners have a real passion for what they do and a real interest in their customers. A visitor from London described it as the Covent Garden of the North and decided to stay another day in the town after discovering the street.

Three distinctive bridges linking the town centre with the communities of Tweedmouth and Spittal span the Tweed estuary. The oldest of these is the 17th-century **Berwick Bridge**, a handsome stone bridge with 15 arches, completed in 1626. The **Royal Tweed Bridge** is the most modern, having been completed in 1928 with a concrete structure built to an iron bridge design. The enormous 126 feet high, 28-arch **Royal Border Bridge**, carrying the East Coast mainline railway, was built between 1847 and 1850 by Robert Stephenson.

The Berwick skyline is dominated by the imposing **Town Hall** with its clock

tower and steeple that rise to 150 feet, and which is often mistaken for a church. Built between 1754 and 1761, this fine building has a façade as elaborate as its well-documented history. From the lofty steeple's bell chamber a curfew still rings out each evening at 8pm. On the ground floor, markets were held in the Exchange and shops and cells existed where now a gift shop and coffee house stand. Guided tours in the summer enable visitors to explore the upper storeys, where there are civic rooms and the former town gaol. A small **Cell Block Museum** is also located there.

Facing Berwick Barracks is **Holy Trinity Church** – one of the few Commonwealth churches in England. It was built between 1650 and 1652, during the Commonwealth of Oliver Cromwell, to replace a dilapidated medieval church that stood on the same site.

On the northwest side of the town you will find all that remains of **Berwick Castle**. Built in the 13th century, it was demolished in 1850 to make way for the railway station, and the platform now occupies the site of the former Great Hall. The ruins are in the care of English Heritage.

The **Lifboat Station** at Berwick is open for visits every day from 9am to 5pm.



Royal Border Bridge, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Around Berwick-upon-Tweed

TWEEDMOUTH

1 mile S of Berwick off the A1

Tweedmouth and Spittal, on the English side of the Tweed estuary, are largely suburbs of Berwick. In mid-July a ceremony is held, dating back to 1292, to celebrate the fact that the River Tweed, one of the best salmon rivers in Britain, reaches the sea here. The local schools hold a ballot to elect a Salmon Queen, and her crowning marks the beginning of Feast Week, which centres round a church service and involves lots of festivities, including a traditional salmon supper.

HORNCLIFFE

4 miles W of Berwick off the A698

 Union Suspension Bridge

The village of Horncliffe, five miles upstream of Berwick, can only be reached by one road that leads into and out of the village, making it feel rather remote. Many visitors are unaware of the existence of the river, but there is nothing more pleasant than wandering down on a summer's evening one of the paths leading to the banks to watch the salmon fishermen.

Not far from the village the River Tweed is spanned by the **Union Suspension Bridge** linking Scotland and England. It was built in 1820 by Sir Samuel Browne who also invented the wrought-iron chain links used in its construction. The graceful structure, 480 feet long, was Britain's first major suspension bridge to carry vehicular traffic, and although not

carrying a major road, it is still possible to drive over it.

NORHAM

6 miles SW of Berwick on the B6470

 Station Museum  Norham Castle

 Blessing of the Nets

Norham is a neat, historical village that sits on the banks of the Tweed. Up until 1836, the town was an enclave of the County Palatine of Durham, surrounded by Northumberland on the south, east and west, and Scotland on the north. **Norham Castle** (English Heritage) was built in the 12th century by the Bishop of Durham and stands on a site of great natural strength, guarding a natural ford over the river. It withstood repeated attacks in the 13th and 14th centuries and was thought to be impregnable. However, in 1513 it was stormed by the forces of James IV on his way to Flodden and partially destroyed.

Although it was later rebuilt, the castle was again destroyed by the Scots in 1530, and had lost its importance as a defensive stronghold by the end of the 16th century.

Norham's **Station Museum** is located on the former Tweedmouth to Kelso branch line. The museum features the station site, original signal



Norham Castle

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

box, booking office, porters' room, coal cells, lime cells and a model railway.

Each year in Norham an unusual ceremony takes place. The **Blessing of the Nets** is held at midnight on 13 February to mark the beginning of the salmon fishing season. The service is held by lantern light on Pedham Beach, with the clergyman standing in a boat in the middle of the river.

DUDDO

7 miles SW of Berwick on the B6354

 Duddo Stones

Close to the village are the **Duddo Stones**, one of Northumberland's most important ancient monuments. This ancient stone circle, which now consists of five upright stones more than seven feet high, dates back to around 2000BC. The stones stand on private ground and can only be reached from the village by foot.

TILLMOUTH

9 miles SW of Berwick on the A698

 Twizel Castle  St Cuthbert's Chapel

The village of Tillmouth lies along the banks of the River Till, a tributary of the Tweed, which is crossed by the 15th-century Twizel Bridge, although a more modern structure now carries the A698 over the river. Up until the building of the 1727 Causey Arch in County Durham, the old Twizel Bridge, with a span of 90 feet, had the largest span of any bridge in Britain. There are some lovely walks here and a well-signed footpath leads to the ruins of **Twizel Castle** and the remains of **St Cuthbert's Chapel** on the opposite bank,



Duddo Stone Circle

dating from the 18th or 19th century, but incorporating some medieval stonework.

LOWICK

8 miles S of Berwick on the B6353

Lowick is a quiet farming community that contains only a few shops and a couple of pubs. About a mile east of the village are the earthworks of a former castle. The Norman church was replaced by the present St John the Baptist Church.

LINDISFARNE OR HOLY ISLAND

10 miles SE of Berwick off the A1

 Priory and Castle  Lindisfarne Gospels

 Pilgrims' Way  St Cuthbert's Way

Northumberland's northern coastline is dominated by Holy Island, also known by its Celtic name of Lindisfarne. The island is accessible only at low tide, via a three-mile long causeway linking it with the mainland at Beal. Tide tables are published locally and are displayed at each end of the road. There are refuges part way along for those who fail to time it correctly.

As you cross, note the 11th-century **Pilgrims' Way**, marked by stakes, still visible

about 200 metres south of the modern causeway. This route was in use until comparatively recent times.

The island was given to St Aidan in AD635 by Oswald, King of Northumbria. St Aidan and his small community of Irish monks came from Iona to found a base from which to convert northern England to Christianity – hence the island being called one of the cradles of English Christianity. St Cuthbert came here to teach and the island became a magnet for pilgrims. When he died in AD687 he was buried in the church. St Cuthbert's island can be reached at low tide from the island and was used by the saint during times of solitude. A cross marks the site of his tiny chapel.

These early monks are also remembered for producing some of the finest surviving examples of Celtic art – the richly decorated **Lindisfarne Gospels**, dating from the 7th century. When the island was invaded by Vikings in the 9th century, the monks fled taking their precious gospels with them. These have, miraculously, survived and are now in the safety of the British Museum. Facsimiles are kept on Lindisfarne and can be seen in the 12th-century parish church on the island. The monks also took with them St Cuthbert's bones, and wandered around for over 100 years before eventually finding a safe resting place for them in Durham.

During the 11th century a group of Benedictine monks settled here. The ruins of their great sandstone **Lindisfarne Priory** with its Romanesque-style great pillars can still be explored. The Priory is one of the holiest Anglo-Saxon sights in England; crossing the dramatic causeway to Holy Island, you journey into a significant site of Britain's spiritual heritage. Few places are as beautiful or have

such special significance. When St Cuthbert's corpse was found undecayed in AD698, the Priory became one of the most sacred shrines in Christendom. For over 1,300 years it has been a place of pilgrimage, and remains so today. Here you can learn about the monastery's fantastic wealth, and walk in the grounds where Viking raiders plundered the Priory, forcing the monks to find refuge on the mainland. One recent addition is a sculpture entitled Cuthbert of Farne, created by local artist Fenwick Lawson and depicting a contemplative Cuthbert, hands folded in prayer. The Museum displays are lively and atmospheric, and explain what life was like more than a millennium ago. The Priory is open daily except for Christmas and New Year. **Lindisfarne Castle** (National Trust) was established in Tudor times as yet another fortification to protect the exposed flank of Northumbria from invasion by the Scots. In 1902 it was bought by Edward Hudson, a magazine publisher, who employed the great Edwardian architect Sir Edward Lutyens to rebuild and restore it as a private house. The house and its small walled garden are open to the public during the summer months.

Holy Island village is a community of around 170 people who work mainly in farming and the tourist trade. Some are also employed in the island's distillery, noted for excellent traditional mead, which can be purchased locally. Much of the island is also a nature reserve, with wildflowers and a wide variety of seabirds. St Mary's Church in the village has some fine Saxon stonework above the chancel arch.

The island is the finishing point for the 62-mile **St Cuthbert's Way**, a long-distance footpath that opened in 1996. The trail begins at Melrose, across the Scottish border, and

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

along the way passes through the Northumberland National Park and the Cheviot Hills.

BAMBURGH

16 miles SE of Berwick on the B1340

Castle Grace Darling Museum

Farne Islands Longstone Lighthouse

"King Ida's Castle huge and square" was Sir Walter Scott's description of **Bamburgh Castle**, a magnificent structure aggressively perched on a rocky outcrop 150 feet above the North Sea strand, dominating the Northumbrian landscape. Sir Walter was thinking of the Saxon king, Ida the Flame-Bearer, who built the first fortress here in AD547. Ida's grandson, Ethelfrith the Destroyer, gave the settlement to his wife, Bebb, from whom the castle derives its

name – Bebban-burgh. King Ida's castle was built of wood. It was the Normans who erected the mighty red sandstone keep that still dominates the battlemented courtyards today. Bamburgh is epic in scale, even by the standards of this coastline and its abundance of spectacular castles.

The present stone castle sprawls across eight acres and its 10-foot thick walls were crucial in repulsing many attacks in the lawless days of medieval Northumbria. But, by the time of the Wars of the Roses, even those sturdy walls could not withstand Edward IV's new-fangled cannon. Bamburgh became the first English castle to succumb to artillery fire.

By the late 1500s, much of the castle stood in ruins. Various attempts were made over succeeding centuries to rehabilitate the vast building – most notably in the early 1700s

BLACKETTS OF BAMBURGH

1 Lucker Road, Bamburgh,
Northumberland, NE69 7BS

Tel: 01668 214252

e-mail: swearmanblackett@aol.com

Blacketts of Bamburgh is a veritable treasure trove of gifts with a difference.

Owner Sue Swearman searches far and wide for her stock, always looking for interesting items that you probably won't find anywhere else. Behind the small-paned shop window shoppers will enter a browser's delight, whether they're looking for a personal treat, a gift for any occasion – Sue offers a wedding list service – or a souvenir of a visit to this beautiful and fascinating part of the world.

Many of the gifts take their theme from the town and region, notably models in wood and pottery of boats and lighthouses (Grace Darling was born in Bamburgh and there's a museum recalling her heroic deeds), also encompassing a variety of home accessories for living and giving on a nautical theme. Wildlife features also, including puffins and seals hand carved from sustainable woods, stone garden animals and more. Top brands to be found include home and lifestyle china by Emma Bridgewater and Susie Watson designs, Jellycat toys and Seagems Celtic-inspired contemporary jewellery.

Customers say that at Blacketts you will find the best selection of greetings cards in the area, featuring a diverse cross-section of artists. There are prints and postcards, fridge magnets, scented candles, baskets and trugs. Edible souvenirs include own-label jakes and chutneys, fudge and rapeseed oil made from the harvest of local fields. Blacketts is open daily between Easter and October and at weekends out of season.



when the philanthropist Dr John Sharp “repaired and rendered habitable the gret Norman square tower”, set up a Charity School where “20 poor maidens were lodged, clothed and educated till they be fit for service”, opened a free surgery and dispensary for local people, and provided free accommodation in the castle’s many gloomy chambers for sailors who had been shipwrecked off this notoriously dangerous stretch of coast.

The castle’s most significant benefactor was William George, 1st Lord Armstrong, the very model of a Victorian self-made millionaire. A solicitor-turned-engineer, he amassed a huge fortune from his inventive improvements of hydraulic engines, armaments and shipbuilding. He devoted a large part of his immense wealth to building a spectacular mansion, Cragside, near Rothbury; then spent another considerable fortune on restoring Bamburgh Castle. The castle became his passion and, in the 1890s, he began an ambitious programme of renovation and refurbishment. Lord



Lindisfarne Priory

Armstrong commissioned the fashionable London architect Charles Ferguson to re-create a medieval castle that also incorporated all the latest Victorian state-of-the-art amenities. At the time, Ferguson’s lavish restoration offended medieval purists – they preferred Norman ruins. Today, you can’t help but be impressed by the impeccable craftsmanship. Bamburgh Castle is still home to the Armstrong family, and visitors are able to enjoy what has been described as the finest castle in all England. The public tour includes the magnificent King’s Hall, the Cross Hall, reception rooms, the Bakehouse and Victorian Scullery, as well as the Armoury and Dungeon. The rooms contain a wide range of fine china, porcelain and glassware, together with paintings, furniture, tapestries, arms and armour. The castle is open daily from mid-March to the end of October between 11am and 5pm; teas and light refreshments are available in the Clock Tower.

The town, the first capital of Northumberland, was the birthplace of Grace Darling, the celebrated Victorian heroine, who, in 1838, rowed out with her father in the tiny lighthouse coble from the **Longstone Lighthouse** in a ferocious storm to rescue the survivors of the steam ship *Forfarshire*, which had foundered on Harcar Rock. At the first attempt they rescued five crew members, taking them to safety in the lighthouse, then rowed back for the remaining four.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks



Longstone Lighthouse - Bamburgh

The islands have important Christian links, as it was on Inner Farne that St Cuthbert died in AD687. A little chapel was built here in his memory and restored in Victorian times. According to legend, the nearby Tower House was built in medieval times by Prior Castell on the site of Cuthbert’s cell. Boat trips to the Farne Islands leave from the harbour in Seahouses. Landings are permitted on Inner Farne and Staple Island, times are restricted for conservation reasons and advance booking is necessary at busy times of the year.

WAREN MILL

15 miles SE of Berwick on the B1342

Waren Mill is a small village situated on Budle Bay, a large inlet of flats and sand where vast numbers of wading birds and wildfowl come to feed. Caution should be taken when walking on the flats, as sections quickly become cut off at high tide.

BELFORD

14 miles S of Berwick off the A1

Greenshean Hill St Cuthbert’s Cave

Belford is an attractive village of stone houses whose broad main street contains some interesting old shops and a fine old coaching inn, reflecting the fact that this was once an important town on the Great North Road. Today, it is an ideal holiday base, standing on the edge of the Kyloe Hills, where there are some fine walks, and close to the long golden beaches and rocky outcrops of the coast.

St Cuthbert’s Cave, to the north of the town, is only accessible by foot. It is completely natural, and concealed by a great overhanging rock surrounded by woodland. It is believed that the saint’s body lay here on its much interrupted journey across Northumbria. From the summit of nearby

Grace became an instant celebrity, with hundreds of admirers asking for locks of her hair, and though she made several trips away from home she always returned to Bamburgh. She died of tuberculosis four years later, still only in her twenties, and is buried under a handsome monument in the churchyard of St Aidan’s. Mourners attended in their thousands and Queen Victoria sent personal condolences. The **Grace Darling Museum**, in Radcliffe Road, contains memorabilia of the famous rescue.

Just offshore are the **Farne Islands**. This small group of 28 uninhabited islands of volcanic Whin Sill rock provides a major breeding sanctuary for migratory seabirds including puffins, guillemots, razorbills, arctic and sandwich terns and kittiwakes. They are the home to a large colony of Atlantic Grey seals, which can often be seen from the beach on the mainland.

Greensheen Hill there are superb views of the coast and of the Cheviots to the west.

FORD AND ETAL

12 miles SW of Berwick off the B6354

Etal and Ford Castles Maelmin Heritage Trail

Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Heatherslaw Corn Mill Lady Waterford Gallery

The twin estate villages of Ford and Etal were built in the late 1800s. Set beside the River Till, Etal is a picturesque village of attractive white-painted cottages and a pub, the Black Bull, which is the only hostelry in Northumberland with a thatched roof. Another singularity here is the green for quoits, a Northumbrian game traditionally played with horseshoes.

At one end of the single street is **Etal Castle** (English Heritage), which was fortified in the early 1300s by the Manners family, sending a clear message to their bitter enemies, the Herons, who had built their castle at nearby Ford a few years earlier. Etal Castle was captured and partially destroyed in 1497 by King James IV of Scotland on his way to Flodden. The ruins, which occupy a lovely position on a steep bank above the river, now



Etal Castle

contain a visitor centre and exhibition telling the story of the castle, border warfare and the Battle of Flodden. Etal's **Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary** was built in 1858 by Lady Augusta Fitz-Clarence in memory of her husband and daughter.

Ford is also a 'model' village, created in the 1860s by the estimable Louisa Ann, Marchioness of Waterford, who had been a bridesmaid to Queen Victoria. She was a noted beauty and an accomplished artist who had studied with the Pre-Raphaelite artist John Ruskin. After the death of her husband, she devoted her time to decorating the village school (which she had built) with some quite remarkable murals depicting Old Testament scenes. She used local families and the school children as models, thus creating a pictorial gallery of life and work in the area at that time. No longer used as a school, the building is open to the public as the **Lady Waterford Gallery**. The exhibits include watercolours by Lady Waterford herself, along with some unique 19th-century murals and scenes from the Bible.

Other elements of Lady Waterford's legacy include the Horseshoe Forge, built as a blacksmith's shop, a fountain surmounted by a marble angel, and the Jubilee Cottage, built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

The Marchioness lived at **Ford Castle**, which was originally built in 1282 and greatly extended in the following century. Like Etal Castle, it was badly damaged by the Scots on their way to Flodden. It was converted into a comfortable mansion in the 1760s, and again altered by the Marchioness in the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

1860s. The castle itself is not open to the public, but its old walled garden is now a nursery selling a wide range of plants.

At **Heatherslaw**, between the two villages, is the Heatherslaw Railway, a 15 inch gauge steam railway that runs between Etal Castle and **Heatherslaw Corn Mill**, a water-powered working watermill dating back to 1830, which still uses its original machinery to produce flour. About two-and-a-half miles southwest is the small village of Milfield, where there is a 16th-century tower house known as Coupland Castle. Scattered around this area are standing stones and mysterious examples of rock art, all of which can be explored following the **Maelmin Heritage Trail** from Milfield. The trail includes a full scale replica henge, and a Mesolithic hut built for the BBC programme *Meet the Ancestors*.

Alnwick

Castle St Michael's Church

Hotspur Tower Museums Alnwick Fair

Hulne Priory Abbey Gardens

Alnwick (pronounced Annick) is one of Northumberland's most impressive towns. It still retains the feel and appearance of a great medieval military and commercial centre, being an important market town since the granting of its charter in 1291. The town is dominated by the huge fortress of **Alnwick Castle**, set in beautiful parklands designed and landscaped in the 18th century by Capability Brown and Thomas Call. Alnwick Castle began, like most of Northumberland's castles, as a Norman motte and bailey. In the 12th century this was replaced by a stone castle, which was greatly added to over the centuries.

REDFOOT LEA B&B

Greensfield Moor Farm, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2HH

Tel: 01665 603891

e-mail: info@redfootlea.co.uk website: www.redfootlea.co.uk

Redfoot Lea B&B is part of a recently converted farm steading. The property is conveniently close to the A1 but the setting is quiet and rural, with attractive views of arable farmland worked by Northumberland Estates. The ground-floor guest accommodation – an en suite double and an en suite twin – has been tastefully and stylishly decorated by owner, Philippa Bell, successfully combining traditional and modern elements to create a particularly pleasant and comfortable base for a break. The rooms have underfloor heating, hospitality tray, TV with freeview and DVD, radio alarm, hairdryer and quality towels, bathrobes and toiletries. The day starts with an excellent breakfast served in the splendid dining hall. A wide choice featuring prime local ingredients includes a 'full English', Craster kippers, scrambled eggs with smoked salmon and home-made bread. Guests can relax or plan their days in the south facing sitting room, where a log fire keeps things cosy in the cooler months.

Philippa also has a lovely cottage for a go-as-you-please self-catering holiday for two. Redfoot Lea (no children under 12, no pets) is located less than two miles south of Alnwick off the Shilbottle road. The A1 provides easy access to all the attractions of the Northeast, and the stunning Northumberland coast is just a few minutes away.



BELL & SONS

15-17 Bondgate Within, Alnwick,
Northumberland NE66 1SX
Tel: 01665 602584
e-mail: bellsofalmwick@googlemail.com
website: www.bellsofalmwick.co.uk

Bell & Sons is a long-established high-class gentleman's outfitters with a reputation that extends throughout the region and beyond. Founded in 1897, it has always been family-run, and the current owner-director is Stephen Bell, the fourth generation of his family to run the business. The shop, in Bondgate Within (B6346), is stocked with an impressive selection of high-quality traditional menswear and accessories for all ages and all sizes, from small to XXXXXL. The range runs from suits and formal wear to sports jackets, trousers, shirts, nightwear, knitwear, socks, underwear, ties, belts, braces, hats, caps, novelty cufflinks and wallets.

Think of a famous brand and the chances are that you'll find it in Bell & Sons, along with some less familiar names, but all chosen for quality, style and wearability. A few examples: Brook Taverner suits, tweed jackets and waistcoats; Peter England non-iron shirts; Gurteen cavalry twill trousers and cord jackets; Rocola evening wear; Viyella cotton shirts, Wolsey, Wrangler denims, Hawick knitwear 100% lambswool, V-neck and crew neck sweaters; H J Hall soft top socks. The current stock can be viewed on the shop's comprehensive website and ordered online. The shop also offers an evening, morning and highland wear service.



In 1309, the castle came into the possession of Henry de Percy, who strengthened the fortifications. Henry's great grandson was made an earl, and the castle was then passed down through 11 generations of Earls. When the male Percy line died out, it passed through the female line to Sir Hugh Smithson, who took the Percy name and was created Duke of Northumberland. When the Duke inherited the castle in 1750 it was falling into disrepair and he commissioned the renowned Robert Adam to restore it into a residence fit for a Duke. The superb ceilings and fireplaces can still be seen today. Further sweeping changes were made in the 1850s and 1860s, when the 4th Duke commissioned the Victorian architect Anthony Salvin to transform the castle into a great country house with all modern comforts while recapturing its former medieval glory. Visitors can admire the Italian

Renaissance-style State Rooms and treasures that include paintings by Titian, Tintoretto, Canaletto and Van Dyck, collections of Meissen china and exquisite furniture. The castle is open daily from 1 April to 31 October.

There is also an impressive archaeological museum and extensive archive collections, as well as the **Northumberland Fusiliers Museum** housed in The Abbot's Tower.

The castle is still the home of the Percys, and is a favourite location for making films, including *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*, *Elizabeth* (with Cate Blanchett), episodes of *Blackadder* and the *Harry Potter* films, in which it doubles as Hogwarts School.

Bailiffgate Museum brings the people and places of North Northumberland to life using six specially-themed areas to showcase the unique heritage of this historic region.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Housed in the former St Mary's church, dating back to 1836, the museum features interactive exhibits and specially-commissioned film and archive footage, paintings, drawings and events throughout the year. (01665 605847).

The present Duke and Duchess of Northumberland have transformed the 12 acres of castle grounds with a £14 million restoration and **Alnwick Garden** attracted more than 300,000 visitors in its first year of opening. There are flowerbeds brimming with some 15,000 plants, a scented Rose Garden containing over 2,000 shrub roses, and the European-inspired Ornamental Garden. The breathtaking centrepiece is the Grand Cascade, a wonderful tumbling mass of water culminating in a series of fountains that spray 350 litres of water six metres into the air every second. Other delights include the bamboo Labyrinth, Woodland Walk and The Treehouse, high in the trees outside the walls of the main garden. Continuing developments are underway to create a state-of-the-art Pavilion and Visitor Centre, more gardens, an orchard and a grotto. The garden shop sells a wonderful array of gifts, gardening goods and plants. The garden is accessible throughout to visitors with disabilities.

Hulne Park landscaped by the great Northumbrian-born Capability Brown, encompasses the ruins of Hulne Priory, the earliest Carmelite Foundation in England, dating from 1242.

Alnwick town itself is worthy of an afternoon's exploration around its evocatively-named ancient narrow streets of Pottergate, Fenkle Street, Green Batt, Bondgate Without and Bondgate Within. A road leads through the narrow arch of **Hotspur Tower**, the one



surviving part of the town's fortifications, built by the second Duke of Northumberland in the 15th century. All that's left of the once mighty **Alnwick Abbey** is its 15th-century gatehouse, situated just beyond Canongate Bridge.

Each year on Shrove Tuesday the town is host to an annual tradition that begins with the Duke throwing a ball over the castle wall into the town and ends when the ball is retrieved from the river. Traditionally the head of a Scotsman was used, but today the game is played using a more conventional football.

St Michael's Church overlooks the River Aln and dates from the 1400s. It was unusual in a place as lawless as Northumberland at that time to build a church as large and as splendid as St Michael's.

The popular and colourful **Alnwick Fair**, dating back to the 13th century, takes place each June.

Around Alnwick

LESBURY

3 miles E of Alnwick on the A1068

Lesbury is a long straggling village on the River Aln, which is tidal up to this point. There's an old stone bridge over the river and

a small Norman church with a square tower topped by a pyramidal roof. The church was restored by Anthony Salvin in 1846 when some fine stained glass windows from the AK Nicholson studios were installed. The vicar here in the mid-1600s was Patrick Mackilwyan who is featured in Fuller's Worthies. During the Plague of 1665, he visited the afflicted in their tents outside the village despite being 97 years old at the time. Mackilwyan died at the age of 101 and left an epitaph declaring that "Of friends and books, good and few are best."

ALNMOUTH

3 miles E of Alnwick off the A1068

Alnmouth is a small, unspoilt seaside resort at the mouth of the River Aln, with fine sandy beaches and two golf courses. The village's origins go back to the 8th century and it was the main seaport for the town of Alnwick in the Middle Ages. John Paul Jones, the Scot who founded the American navy, bombarded the port during the American War of Independence.

Alnmouth's great days as a port ended on Christmas Day 1806 when a mighty storm deposited so much water that the River Aln broke its banks and formed a new channel. The new channel however was much shallower and ships exporting coal and wool were unable to navigate the new course. The port went into decline, but some measure of relief came about 40 years later when the East Coast railway was built. This opened up a new role for the town as a seaside resort for those wishing to escape smoky Newcastle in order to enjoy the wonderful beaches that stretch for several miles down the

coast. A current venture, the Aln Valley Railway, aims to join the coast to Alnwick Castle, running from Alnmouth Station to a new station in the Lionheart Business Park in Alnwick.

The village is the starting point for many excellent walks along superb stretches of coastline both southwards, past extensive dunes to Warkworth, and north to the former fishing village of Boulmer.

WARKWORTH

6 miles SE of Alnwick on the A1068

🏰 Castle 🏰 The Hermitage

🏰 St Lawrence's Church

At the southern end of Alnmouth Bay, on the River Coquet, lies **Warkworth Castle** (English Heritage). The site has been fortified since the Iron Age, though the first stone castle was probably built by one Roger, son of Richard, who had been granted the castle by Henry II in the 12th century.

What can be seen now is mainly late 12th and 13th century, including the great Carrickfergus Tower and the West Postern Towers, built by Roger's son, Robert. The castle came into the ownership of the Percys in 1332 and the family lived here up until the 1500s. The family crest can be seen on the



Warkworth Castle

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomenewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Lion Tower. The castle is a delightful sight in spring when the grass mound on which it stands is covered with thousands of daffodils.

The most famous of all the Percys, Harry (known as Hotspur) was brought up here. In 1399 the family played an important role in placing Henry Bolingbroke on the throne as Henry IV.

An unusual and interesting walk is signposted to **The Hermitage**, along the riverside footpath below the castle, where a ferry takes you across the river to visit the tiny chapel hewn out of solid rock. It dates from medieval times and was in use until late in the 16th century.

Warkworth is an interesting and beautiful village in its own right. An imposing fortified gatehouse on the 14th-century bridge, now only used by pedestrians, would enable an invading army to be kept at bay north of the Coquet. **St**

Lawrence's Church is almost entirely Norman, though its spire – an unusual feature on medieval churches in Northumberland – dates from the 14th century.

AMBLE

7 miles SE of Alnwick on the A1068

📍 Coquet Island 🚢 Lifeboat Station

Amble is a small port situated at the mouth of the River Coquet, once important for the export of coal, but now enjoying new prosperity as a marina and sea-fishing centre, with a carefully restored harbour. It is a lively place, particularly when the daily catches of fish are being unloaded.

A mile offshore lies **Coquet Island**. It was here that St Cuthbert landed in AD684. The island's square-towered lighthouse was built in 1841 on the ruins of a 15th-century monastery known as Cocwadae. Parts of the

ZECCA

47-49 High Street, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0LE

Tel: 01665 713575

e-mail: info@eatzecca.co.uk website: www.eatzzecca.co.uk

A buzz of excitement went through the food-lovers of Amble in the summer of 2009 when the news spread that a new restaurant was about to open on the High Street. That restaurant was **Zecca**, and it immediately became clear what the buzz was all about. The owner-chef is Richard Sim, recent North East Chef of the Year, whose CV includes a spell with Marco Pierre White at London's Berkeley Hotel. His cooking here is traditional Italian with a modern twist, combining quality with excellent value for money and making fine use of the best seasonal local produce.

As well as pizzas from the wood-fired oven and a variety of pasta dishes a typical menu could include garlic mushrooms, braised Lindisfarne mussels with prosecco, cream and parsley, wild mushroom and chicken risotto, chargrilled steaks and dishes based on superb Northumberland lamb. Desserts like tiramisu, lemon tart with candied raspberries and home-made ices round off a meal in style, and the food is accompanied by a good choice of wines. Zecca is relaxed and contemporary, a great place to take the kids, and equally suitable for a pizza with friends after work, parties, family get-togethers and romantic dinners for two. Zecca is open for lunch (12 to 2) Thursday to Sunday and for dinner (4 to 11) every day.



THE FLOWER CENTRE

42-48 Queen Street, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0BZ

Tel: 01665 710279 Fax: 01665 710982

e-mail: enquiries@flower-centre.co.uk

website: www.flower-centre.co.uk

Amble is a popular little port at the mouth of the River Coquet. There's lots for visitors, including a trip to the bird sanctuary on Coquet Island, but no visit to this pleasant town is complete without taking time to browse and buy at **The Flower Centre**.

When the shop was founded in the 1970s it was a specialist florist, but in 2001 it moved premises and expanded to include cards, gifts and nice things for the home. The wide range of gifts and treats includes glassware and ceramics, Colony scented candles, Teddy bears and cuddly toys, balloons and other party things, potted plants, local jams and confectionery, chocolates, gift wrap and cards by Carte Blanche and Caspari. Flowers are still very much at the heart of the business, and in the extensive department the finest arrangements from the freshest flowers can be seen.

The owners and staff are real experts in the art of wedding floristry, providing everything from wonderful arrangements for the venue and centrepieces for the table to bridal bouquets, corsages, buttonholes and floral gifts. They can provide a similar service for a whole range of special occasions, from birthdays and christenings to Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Valentines Day, Easter and Christmas.



HARBOUR GUEST HOUSE

24 Leazes Street, Amble,
Northumberland NE65 0AA

Tel: 01665 710381

e-mail: info@ambleharbourguesthouse.co.uk

website: www.ambleharbourguesthouse.co.uk

Right on the seafront in a small port at the mouth of the River Coquet, **Harbour Guest House** is an ideal base for exploring the Northumberland coast and countryside. The Wilding family offer excellent B&B accommodation in six neat en suite rooms with TV and hot drinks facilities. The whole place has an old-world appeal and the maritime connection is very evident: the patio has a strong fishing theme, with lobster pots, nets and lifebelts, and every morning the local fishermen bring their catch to a site at the back of the house. A full English breakfast makes a good start to the day, and the guest house has a pleasant wooden-floored bistro/tea room serving hot and cold food prepared to order.

Amble, once a coal exporting point, now thrives as a base for leisure boating and a centre for sea fishing. Anglers are frequent guests at Harbour Guest House, and the owners are happy to freeze their catch – there are two chest freezers in a log cabin in the garden, along with space for bikes and fishing and scuba gear. A favourite boat trip from Amble is to Coquet Island, a mile offshore, once the site of a monastery, now a renowned sanctuary for colonies of terns, puffins, eider ducks and other seabirds. Welcomes walkers, cyclists, pets and families.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

monastic building have survived, including a Benedictine cell dating from the 14th century.

Coquet Island had a reputation in former times for causing shipwrecks, but is now a celebrated bird sanctuary, noted for colonies of terns, puffins and eider ducks. Managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the island can be visited by boat trips departing from Amble quayside throughout the summer. Amble's **Lifeboat Station** is open daily from 10am to 4pm.



Howick Hall, Craster

DRURIDGE BAY

12 miles SE of Alnwick off the A1068

Country Park Chibburn Preceptory

Druridge Bay Country Park is set just behind the sand dunes and grasslands of Druridge Bay. The park includes Ladyburn Lake, where there is sailing and windsurfing, plus walking trails, a visitors centre and picnic area. The whole area was once a huge open-cast coal mine before it was landscaped and opened as a park in 1989. Nearby are the ruins of medieval **Chibburn Preceptory** – a small medieval house and chapel that belonged to the Knights Hospitaller.

CRASTER

5 miles NE of Alnwick off the B1339

Howick Hall Arnold Memorial Site

Craster is a small, unpretentious fishing village with a reputation for the best oak-smoked kippers in the country. At one time, herring were caught around this coast in vast quantities, but a combination of over-fishing and pollution resulted in a decline in numbers, so the fish now have to be imported. During

the kipper curing season, visitors can peer into the smoking sheds where the herring are hung over smouldering piles of oak chips.

South of Craster is **Howick Hall**, built in 1782, and having long associations with the Grey family whose family lineage includes many famous public figures – most notably the 2nd Earl Grey, the great social reformer and tea enthusiast. The gardens are open to the public in spring and summer and are noted for their beauty, particularly in the rhododendron season.

Craster Quarry was closed in 1939, and is now a small nature reserve called the **Arnold Memorial Site**. It was this quarry that supplied London and other large cities with its kerbstones. The quarry is the starting point for a pleasant walk along the coastal footpath to Dunstanburgh castle.

EMBLETON

6 miles NE of Alnwick on the B1339

Dunstanburgh Castle

The dramatic ruins of **Dunstanburgh Castle** stand on a cliff top east of the village, on a site that was originally an Iron Age fort. The fabric

of the castle as seen today was built in 1313 by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and in the Wars of the Roses it withstood a siege from troops led by Margaret of Anjou, Henry VI's Queen. The damage caused by the siege was never repaired, and the castle remains ruinous to this day.

The castle can't be reached by road, but a path from the village passing through Dunstan Steads, a mile southeast of Embleton, will bring you to it. The castle, plus the whole coastline to the north as far as Brunton Burn, is owned by the National Trust.

To the north of Embleton is the village of **Newton-by-the-Sea**, where there are some attractive 18th-century fisherman's cottages built around three sides of a square.

BEADNELL

10 miles NE of Alnwick on the B1340

 St Ebba's Chapel  St Aidan's Dunes

Beadnell is a small fishing village with a harbour and some important 18th-century lime kilns that are now owned by the National Trust. Running eastwards from the harbour into the sea is Ebb's Nook, a narrow strip of land on which stands the scant remains of 13th-century **St Ebba's Chapel**, dedicated to the sister of King Oswald, King of Northumbria. This is a delightful stretch of coast, and keen walkers can follow the coastline either by shore path or along the B1340 past **St Aidan's Dunes** (owned by the National Trust) to Seahouses.

SEAHOUSES

13 miles NE of Alnwick on the B1340

 Lifeboat Station

Seahouses is a lively fishing port and small resort with an interesting harbour, magnificent



Dunstanburgh Castle

beaches and sand dunes stretching for miles on either side of the town. It is conveniently situated for viewing the Farne Islands, which lie between two and five miles off the coast, and visitors can take a boat trip departing from the harbour to see them at close hand. The **Lifeboat Station**, which has an all-weather boat and an inshore craft, can be visited from 9am to dusk daily.

CHATHILL

8 miles N of Alnwick off the A1

 Preston Tower

Close to Chathill is **Preston Tower**, built by Sir Robert Harbottle, Sheriff of Northumberland, in 1392. The outside walls are seven feet thick, while inside are fine tunnel-vaulted rooms, which have changed little over the centuries. Two turret rooms have been simply furnished in the style of the period and there are displays depicting the Battle of Flodden and life in the Borders at the start of the 15th century.

ELLINGHAM

7 miles N of Alnwick off the A1

 St Maurice's Church  Hall

Ellingham (pronounced Ellin-jam) is a small agricultural village centred around **St**

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Maurice's Church, whose Norman details were all but swept away in a restoration of 1862. It features a central tower instead of the more usual west one. **Ellingham Hall** stands at the end of a quiet lane beyond the village. South of Ellingham is the village of Fallodon, remembered in the name of Charles, 2nd Earl Grey of Fallodon. He was Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834 and introduced Earl Grey tea into England. A subtle mix of India and Ceylon teas flavoured with bergamot, the recipe was given to him by a Chinese mandarin whose life his staff had saved.

EGLINGHAM

6 miles NW of Alnwick on the B6346

 St Maurice's Church  The Ringses

St Maurice's Church dates from about 1200, and was built on a site granted to the monks of Lindisfarne in AD738 by King Ceowulf of Northumbria. In 1596 it was attacked by the Scots, and part of the chancel had to be rebuilt in the early 17th century.

A few bumps in a field not far away indicate where the village once stood, and a mile to the southwest is a small hill fort with the quaint name of **The Ringses**.

CHILLINGHAM

11 miles NW of Alnwick off the B6348

 Castle  Ros Castle

Chillingham is a pleasant estate village best known for the herd of wild, horned white cattle that roam parkland close to Chillingham Castle. Descendants of the cattle that once roamed Britain's forests, they are the only herd of wild white cattle in the country. Chillingham village was built by the Earls of Tankerville and contains many Tudor-style houses.

Chillingham Castle is beautifully sited within a 365-acre park. Begun in 1245, the castle belonged for many years to the Grey family who fought many battles with the Scots and the Percys of Alnwick. Sadly, the castle fell into ruin in the 1930s, but was bought in the 1980s by Sir Humphrey Wakefield, a descendant of the Grey family, and has been splendidly restored. Attractions include the impressive Grand Hall, a jousting course, dungeon and torture chamber. The castle and surrounding gardens are open to the public from May to September. Two signposted walks have been laid out through Chillingham Woods, giving superb views over the surrounding countryside.

The nearby church is worth visiting to see the ornate 15th-century tomb of Sir Ralph Grey and his wife, Elizabeth. This splendid monument is regarded as the finest surviving example of its kind in England.

Just outside the village is the National Trust-owned hill fort **Ros Castle**, once a vital beacon site visible as far afield as the Scottish hills and Holy Island. The whole area was thrown into chaos in 1804 when an over-enthusiastic warden lit the beacon by mistake.

EDLINGHAM

5 miles SW of Alnwick on the B6341

 Castle  Corby's Crag

Edlingham mustn't be confused with the villages of Eglingham and Ellingham, both a few miles to the north. Here at Edlingham the moorland road crosses **Corby's Crag** affording visitors one of the finest views in Northumberland. The panorama encompasses the Cheviot Hills in the north, while to the south a rolling landscape of heather moors and crags stretches as far as Hadrian's Wall. On a clear day it's possible to catch a glimpse

of the high peaks of the Pennines.

Edlingham Castle was built in the 12th century, but abandoned in 1650 when parts of it collapsed. The ruins were originally thought to be of a simple Northumbrian tower house, but excavations in the late 1970s and early 1980s showed it to have been much more substantial than that.

LONGFRAMLINGTON

9 miles SW of Alnwick on the A697

Devil's Causeway

Longframlington derives its name from its principal family, the de Framlingtons, who are recorded as the 12th-century benefactors of Brinkburn Priory. The route of the **Devil's Causeway**, a Roman road between Hadrian's Wall and the Scottish border, can easily be traced west of the village, along what is now a farm lane past Framlington Villa.

There are few shops here, but the village retains the traditional craftsmanship of a Northumbrian pipe maker. The workshop, where you can see the production of these unique and beautiful musical instruments, is open to the public.

Morpeth

 Clock Tower  Town Hall  Chantry

 St Mary's Church  Newminster Abbey

 Emily Davison

The county town of Morpeth seems far removed, both in spirit and appearance, from the mining areas further down the Wansbeck valley. An attractive market town, Morpeth was once a stopping point on the A1 from Newcastle and Edinburgh, before the days of bypasses, and some fine inns were established to serve the weary travellers.

GEBHARDS DELI-FARM SHOP

7 Newgate Street, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1AL
Tel: 01670 512106
e-mail: deli-farm@hotmail.com

Tony and Sandra Shaw took over Gebhards Pork Butchers and turned it into **Gebhards Deli-Farm Shop**, where they sell a wide variety of top-quality produce, locally sourced as far as possible. Based in Morpeth, the deli attracts a wide and growing band of loyal customers with its quality, reliability and value for money.

Tony and Sandra used to raise pigs on their farm, but now Tony has developed a close working relationship with local farmers, ensuring consistently high quality in the meat they supply. Organically raised, the meat is butchered in the deli and sold as cuts and joints to meet the customer's individual requirements. There's always a good choice of beef, lamb and pork, along with bacon, sausages and poultry. Gebhards specialises in hog roasts, catering for weddings and other get-togethers and supplying a number of local outlets. Shoppers will also find superb pies and quiches (salmon & broccoli, bacon & leek), samosas, cheese, salads, soups, sandwiches and ready-to-go snacks and meals that are ideal for walkers and cyclists to take a break to buy their lunch. There are oils plain and flavoured, vinegars, pickles, teas and coffees. Bread is baked daily with no chemical additives, along with buns, cakes and pastries.

Gebhards is open from 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 7 to 4.30 Saturday.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

The Normans built a castle here that stood in what is now Carlisle Park. It was destroyed by William Rufus in 1095. A second castle was built close by, but was demolished by King John in 1215. It was subsequently rebuilt, but was mostly destroyed yet again by Montrose in 1644, though substantial ruins remain. Known as Morpeth Castle, it is now a restored gatehouse, managed by the Landmark Trust and is open once a year.

The third – which isn't really a castle but has the appearance of one – was built by John Dobson in 1828 as the county gaol and courthouse. Still standing, it is now private apartments and self-catering accommodation.

The **Clock Tower** in the middle of Oldgate has been raised in height several times. It probably dates from the early 1600s, although medieval stone was used in its construction. In its time it has served as a gaol and a place from where the nightly curfew was sounded. Its bells were a gift from a Major Main, who was elected MP for the town in 1707. He had intended them for Berwick, but they didn't elect him, so, as a local saying goes, "the bells of Berwick still ring at Morpeth". The Clock Tower is one of only a handful of such buildings in England. The **Town Hall** was built in 1714 to designs by Vanbrugh, and the handsome bridge over the Wansbeck was designed by Telford.

Not to be missed is the 13th-century **Morpeth Chantry** on Bridge Street. Originally the Chapel of All Saints, over the years it has served as a cholera hospital, a mineral water factory and a school where the famous Tudor botanist William Turner was educated. Since 1987 it has housed the Chantry Bagpipe Museum. An ingenious sound system brings the pipes to life and are set in the context of bagpipes around the world – from India to Inverness. The founder

of the collection was William Alfred Cocks, a clockmaker from Ryton near Newcastle. The town's tourist information centre is also located here, as are a craft centre, a silversmith's and a mountain sports shop.

St Mary's Church, lying to the south of the river, dates from the 14th century. It has some of the finest stained glass in Northumberland. In the churchyard is the grave of suffragette **Emily Davison**, who ran among galloping horses and was killed under the hooves of Anmer, the King's horse, during the 1913 Derby meeting. Her funeral attracted thousands of people to Morpeth. About a mile west of the town are the remains of **Newminster Abbey**, a Cistercian foundation dating from the 12th century. It was founded by monks from Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire.

Around Morpeth

ASHINGTON

5 miles E of Morpeth on the A197

Wansbeck Riverside Park

Ashington is a sprawling town around the River Wansbeck, built to serve the mining industry. The two-mile-long **Wansbeck Riverside Park**, which has been developed along the embankment, offers sailing and angling facilities, plus a four-mile walk along the mouth of the River Wansbeck. The famous footballing brothers Bobby and Jackie Charlton were born in Ashington in the 1930s.

WOODHORN

6 miles E of Morpeth on the A197

 St Mary's Church  Colliery Museum

 Queen Elizabeth Country Park

At Woodhorn, close to Ashington, stands the fascinating late Anglo-Saxon **St Mary's**



Woodhorn Colliery Museum

Church, said to be the oldest church building in Northumberland. The outside was heavily restored in 1843, though the inside is almost wholly pre-Norman. Notable among its treasures is a 13th-century effigy of Agnes de Velence, wife of Hugh de Baliol, brother of the Scottish king, John Baliol. The **Woodhorn Colliery Museum**, which is linked to the **Queen Elizabeth Country Park** by a short light railway, offers interesting displays of mining life and the social history of the area. Turning the Pages is an award-winning interactive exhibition on the Lindisfarne Gospels.

NEWBIGGIN BY THE SEA

7 miles E of Morpeth on the A197

St Bartholomew's Church

Newbiggin by the Sea is a fishing village and small resort enjoying an attractive stretch of coastline with rocky inlets and sandy beaches, now much improved after the ravages of the coal industry. **St Bartholomew's Church** has a particularly interesting 13th-century interior. The village has the oldest operational lifeboat house in Britain, built in 1851.

LONGHORSLEY

6 miles N of Morpeth off the A697

Longhorsley is noted for being the home of

Thomas Bell, inventor of self-raising flour. He called it Bell's Royal, but the name was later changed to Bero.

Born at Blackheath in London, Emily Davison spent a lot of time in the village. A plaque on the wall of the post office, her former home, commemorates her death under the feet of the king's horse at Epsom in 1913. Her suffragette activities are remembered by the local Women's Institute each year when flowers are placed on her grave in Morpeth.

KIRKHARLE

11 miles W of Morpeth off the B6342

Hall **Kirkharle**

The village of **Kirkharle** was where Lancelot Brown, later known as Capability Brown, was born in 1716. England's greatest landscape gardener earned the sobriquet Capability from his habit of telling clients that their grounds had excellent "capabilities" of improvement. He made the most of those capabilities in the superb landscapes he created at Blenheim, Kew, Stowe, Chatsworth, Warwick Castle and, it is believed, at Wallington Hall. Despite his pre-eminence there is no national exhibit celebrating his life and work, but at the Laundry Court Coffee House in Kirkharle, there's an interesting exhibit commemorating the local boy who made good.

Just to the north of Kirkharle is **Wallington Hall**, lying deep in the heart of the Northumbrian countryside. It is a National Trust property dating from 1688. The two great families associated with the place – the Blacketts and the Trevellyans – have each made their own mark on what must be one of the most elegant houses in Northumberland. In the Great Hall is a famous collection of paintings about Northumbrian history, and

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

one of the rooms has an unusual collection of dolls' houses.

BELSAY

7 miles SW of Morpeth on the A696

Hall **Bolam Lake Country Park**

Belsay Hall (see panel on page 28) was built for Sir Charles Monck on an estate that already had a castle and a Jacobean mansion. Set in 30 acres of landscaped gardens, Belsay Hall is Greek in style and contains the architecturally splendid Great Hall. Two miles west is the **Bolam Lake Country Park**, with a 25-acre lake, trails and picnic areas.

BEDLINGTON

5 miles SE of Morpeth off the A189

Bedlington, formerly known as the county town of Bedlingtonshire, was a district of the County Palatinate of Durham until 1844,

when it was incorporated into Northumberland. The town became the centre of a prosperous mining and iron-founding community and has two important links with railway history. The rolled iron rails for the Stockton and Darlington Railway were manufactured here, and it is also the birthplace of the great locomotive engineer, Sir Daniel Gooch. One of the greatest engineers of his day, Sir Daniel was the locomotive superintendent on the Great Western Railway, and the man who first linked up North America and Europe via a telegraph line.

There is an attractive country park at Humford Mill, with an information centre and nature trails. At Plessey Woods, southwest of the town, another country park extends along the wooded banks of the River Blyth, around Plessey Mill, with trails and a visitor centre.

STANNINGTON NURSERIES

58 Station Road, Stannington, nr Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 6NH

Tel/Fax: 01670 789377

e-mail: enquiries@stanningtonnurseries.co.uk

website: www.stanningtonnurseries.co.uk

Gardeners and plant-lovers will find just about everything they need at **Stannington Nurseries**, which enjoys a rural setting halfway up Station Road, between the A1 and A192. The nurseries are owned and run by Steve and Ann Tait, who have expanded the business year by year since taking over in 2007. They stock a wide selection of bedding plants, shrubs and perennials, along with plant and lawn feeds and garden tools and ornaments. Steve, Ann and their staff have a friendly welcome for all their visitors and are always ready with advice for the owners of everything from the largest garden to the smallest window box. On the same site, Steve runs J.T.Pine, where he designs and makes furniture that is durable, practical and attractive. Behind the nurseries is a delightful Tea Room located in a Swedish pine log cabin. With seats for 40 or more, it offers a wide range of hot and cold food and drink. Work by talented local artists is displayed for sale on the walls, and parents can keep an eye on their children as they romp in the safe play area.

Stannington Nurseries and the Tea Room are open seven days a week.



BLYTH

12 miles NE of Newcastle on the A193

High Light Lighthouse Plessey Wagonway

Blyth is a small industrial town at the mouth of the River Blyth. Much of the town's industrial heritage is linked to the Northumberland coalfields – their rapid decline in recent years is a loss from which the area is only slowly recovering. The oldest part of the town is set around an 18th-century lighthouse called the **High Light**. Blyth claims its own piece of railway history with one of the country's earliest wagonways, the **Plessey Wagonway**, dating from the 17th century and built to carry coal from the pits to the riverside.

As well as coal mining and shipbuilding, the town was once a centre of salt production, and in 1605 it is recorded that there were eight salt pans in Blyth. The town's industrial landscape and coastline was the inspiration for several paintings by JS Lowry. The building that is now the headquarters of the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club was a submarine base during World War Two.

Belsay Hall Castle and Gardens

*Belsay, near Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 0DX
Tel: 01661 881297 Fax: 01661 881043*

Belsay Hall Castle and Gardens is one of the best English Heritage properties in the area. The Grade I listed hall was built for Sir Charles Monck on an estate that already had a castle and Jacobean mansion, and they all stand in 30 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens. There is a magnolia garden, terraces, rhododendrons, a winter garden and croquet lawn, and a quarry garden. In addition, there's free parking, a tea room (summer only) and various small exhibitions. Opening Times: Daily 24 March–30 September 10–6; 1–31 October 10–4; 1 November–31 March 10–4 (except Tue and Wed); closed 24–26 December and 1 January.

**PONTELAND**

7 miles NW of Newcastle on the A696

St Mary's Church Kirkley Hall Gardens

Though this small town has largely become a dormitory town for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, resulting in a lot of recent development, it still retains a character of its own. **St Mary's Church** – much altered, but essentially 12th century – stands opposite the attractive Blackbird Inn, housed in a 13th and 14th-century fortified house. Within the gardens of the Old Vicarage is a 16th-century vicar's pele.

A few miles north of Ponteland are **Kirkley Hall Gardens**, which are open to the public. Home to the national collections of beech, dwarf willow and ivy, there are 35,000 different species of labelled plants here.

PRUDHOE

9 miles W of Newcastle on the A695

Castle

The romantic ruins of **Prudhoe Castle** are in the care of English Heritage. King William the Lion of Scotland unsuccessfully attacked the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

NORTH ACOMB FARM SHOP

Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7UF

Tel: 01661 843181

website: www.northacombfarmshop.co.uk

For some 30 years, Robin and Caroline have sold produce from their family-run working farm in beautiful Tyne valley near Stocksfield. Listed by Les Routiers, their **North Acomb Farm Shop** is everything a farm shop should be. Robin and Caroline pride themselves on offering the finest meat, freshest dairy products and vegetables. The shop has gained a great reputation for its certified Aberdeen Angus Beef, home-bred succulent lamb and traditional outdoor pork (a lot of which is reared here at North Acomb). Free range geese, ducks and guinea fowl are available at Christmas, along with a choice of local game in season.

Then there are the farm fresh and free range chickens and traditional turkeys, home-made sausages and blackpudding to our own recipes, home-cured bacon and gammon. Farm-made cheeses, free range eggs, home-churned butter, cream, milk and ice cream are also available along with farm fresh vegetables, chutneys and accompaniments. Home-made meals, cakes, pies and desserts made to Caroline's and Robin's own recipes are ready for the freezer. You will also find a range of carefully selected items in the delicatessen and a few well-chosen gift items and greetings cards, all with a rural flavour.



castle in 1173 and 1174, and the threat of further attacks led Henry II to agree to the building of a new stone castle. Completed in the 12th century, it was one of the finest in Northumberland, and was later provided with a moat and drawbridge, a new gatehouse and a chapel. There is an impressive oriel window above the altar of the chapel. A Georgian manor house in the courtyard houses an exhibition that tells the history of the castle.

MICKLEY SQUARE

10 miles W of Newcastle on the A695

Cherryburn

A signpost at Mickley Square points the visitor to **Cherryburn** (National Trust). The house is noted as the birthplace of Thomas Bewick (1753–1828), the well-known illustrator and wood-engraver, famous for his portrayal of birds, animals and country life. He illustrated

Aesop's Fables and *The Book of British Birds* and carved The Chillingham Bull. The Bewick swan is named after him. The house contains an exhibition of his woodcuts and there are frequent demonstrations of the printing techniques used in his time. Bewick is buried in the churchyard at nearby Ovingham.

Hadrian's Wall and the National Park

Hadrian's Wall Path

This is the land of the Border Reivers, or mostroopers, bands of marauding men from both sides of the Border who rustled, pillaged and fought among themselves, incurring the wrath of both the English and Scottish kings. A testament to their activities is the fact they gave the word blackmail to the English



Hadrian's Wall

language. The Pennine Way passes over the moorland here, dipping occasionally into surprisingly green and wooded valleys. There are also less strenuous walks, circular routes and cycle tracks laid out, with maps and leaflets available from the park visitor centres at Rothbury, the quaintly-named Once Brewed, and Ingram. Here you can also learn about the history of the area as well as what to see.

Three main valleys penetrate the National Park from the east – Harthope Valley, Breamish Valley and Coquetdale. Harthope Valley is accessed from Wooler, along the Harthope Burn. Part of it is called Happy Valley and is a popular beauty spot. There are a number of circular walks from the valley floor up into the hills and back again.

Breamish Valley is the most popular of the valleys, and it's here that the Ingram Visitor Centre is located. Again, there are trails and walkways laid out.

Coquetdale is the gentlest of the three, and is popular with anglers. It winds up past Harbottle towards Alwinton and Barrowburn, but in so doing passes through the Otterburn Training Area, where up to 30,000 soldiers a year come to practise their artillery skills. This has preserved the upper part of Coquetdale

from modern development, and farming here has changed little over the years. The valley is rich in wildlife, and heron, sandpiper and grey wagtail are common. The exposed crags support rock-rose and thyme, and there are patches of ancient woodland.

The Kielder Forest covers 200 square miles and is situated to the west of the National Park. It contains Europe's largest man-made lake, Kielder Water, opened by the Queen in 1982.

In the south of the National Park is by far the greater part of Hadrian's Wall, the best known Roman monument in Britain, and the best known Roman frontier in Europe. It stretches for 80 Roman miles (73 modern miles) across the country from Bowness-on-Solway in the west, to Wallsend in the east, and in 1987 was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A national trail, the **Hadrian's Wall Path**, runs for 84 miles following the rolling, northern terrain along the entire length of the Wall, and from May to September the Hadrian's Wall Bus Service runs from Carlisle to Hexham (and Newcastle and Gateshead Metro Centre on a Sunday), stopping at the main attractions along the route. To see the Wall twisting across the moorland is an awe-inspiring site, and no visitor to Northumberland should miss it.

Hexham

- Abbey Moot Hall St Mungo's Church
- Border History Library and Museum
- Queen's Hall Arts Centre
- Racecourse Tyne Green Country Park

The picturesque market town of Hexham sits

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

in the heart of Tynedale, and is its capital and administrative centre. It's rich in history and character and an ideal base from which to explore the Tyne Valley and Hadrian's Wall.

Hexham Abbey, one of the most important churches in the north of England, was at one time known as "the largest and most magnificent church this side of the Alps". It was founded by St Wilfrid in AD674 after Queen Etheldreda of Northumbria granted him some land. The crypt of this early church remains almost intact, access to it is via a stairway from the nave. The crypt was built using Roman stones, and on some of them you can still see inscriptions and carvings. Frith Stool, also known as St Wilfrid's chair, is a 1,300-year-old stone chair that is believed to have been used as a coronation throne for the ancient kings of Northumbria.

In 1130 a group of Augustinian canons set up an abbey on the site. The present church dates from the 13th century and contains some wonderful late-medieval architecture,

which later restoration has not diminished. It has a rich heritage of carved stonework, and the early 16th-century rood screen has been described as the best in any monastic church in Britain.

The abbey was ransacked many times by the Scots armies, who at one time poured over the border into England. However, this was a two-way traffic, and the English did likewise to the abbeys at Melrose and Kelso.

The Abbey overlooks the Market Place, where a lively and colourful market is held each Tuesday. Nearby is the early 14th-century **Moot Hall**, built of Roman stone. It once served as the courtroom of the Archbishop of York, who held the grand title of Lord of the Liberty and Regality of Hexham. Today, the hall houses the **Border History Library**, which contains material on Border life, in particular the music and poetry of the region.

Nearby, the Manor Office was England's first purpose-built prison erected by the Archbishop in 1332 as a jail for his courthouse.

Queen's Hall Art Centre

Baumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3LS
 Tel: 01434 652477 Fax: 01434 652478
 e-mail: boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk
 website: www.queenshall.co.uk

Found in the heart of Hexham, very close to the abbey, is the **Queen's Hall Art Centre**. This elegant 1860s building was originally used as Hexham's Town Hall and Corn Exchange, but now offers great opportunities for entertainment in its reincarnation as a lively arts centre. Hexham Library can also be found here.

The café bar at the Queen's Hall is a light and airy space with a great atmosphere. It was recently refurbished and renamed Exchange, and here visitors can sample everything from cake and coffee to a substantial meal.



EDGE LIFEWEAR & EDGE COUNTRY

Edge Lifewear: 20-22 St. Mary's Chare, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1NQ

Edge Country: 31 Market Place, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3PB

Tel: 01434 600070

e-mail: sales@edgelifewear.com website: www.edgelifewear.com

Two outlets in the attractive market town of Hexham offer a wide range of branded clothing, footwear and accessories for all types of outdoor and leisure activities. **Edge Lifewear** was opened in St Mary's Chare in 2005 providing clothing, footwear and accessories for outdoor activities. **Edge Country** opened in 2009, bringing country lifestyle clothing to Hexham's Market Place. The shops are owned and run by Ian and Fiona Lloyd, who strive to source the highest quality of outdoor clothing and accessories for men, women and children, including jackets, fleeces, boots, shoes, knitwear, shirts, shorts, T-shirts, hats, gloves, hoodies, bags and backpacks. Customer service is a top priority, and the owners are always looking to extend the range of their stock of iconic brands that combine good looks with durability and practicality. Featured brands at Edge Lifewear include: Paramo, Berghaus, The North Face, Merrell, Animal and Oakley. Featured brands at Edge Country include: Barbour, Joules, Musto, Hunter, Aigle and Puffa. The shops are open from 9.30 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday. Customers can also browse and buy on line.



LOUGHBROW HOUSE B&B

Loughbrow, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1RS

Tel: 01434 603351

e-mail: patrickclark235@btinternet.com

website: www.loughbrowhouse.co.uk

Loughbrow House is a beautiful and comfortably furnished 18th century house with five tastefully decorated and welcoming guest bedrooms, situated in nine acres of magnificent gardens. Surrounded by beautiful farmland it stands 600ft above the River Tyne looking over the market town of Hexham to the North Tyne Valley. Loughbrow House is just a mile from the centre of town and was built in 1780. It is in an ideal location for visitors to the area to stay. It is close to the town, but far enough away to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside and the magnificent views. Adjacent to Hadrian's Wall, in the heart of the Northumberland National Park, guests can access the recently opened Hadrian's Wall Trail and enjoy the wonderful countryside and breathtaking views, the three adjacent golf courses and the many sights and attractions of the region.

Loughbrow House offers a total of five rooms on a B&B basis. All of the rooms are en-suite or have private bathrooms. Decorated lovely throughout the guest house serves a fantastic English breakfast and evening meals can be had, by prior arrangement, for a minimum of four people. There is plenty of car parking space for guests.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

The **Border History Museum** is located within the jail and tells, in a vivid way, the story of the border struggles between Scotland and England. For centuries the borderlands were virtually without rule of law, ravaged by bands of men known as reivers – cattle rustlers and thieves who took advantage of the disputed border lands. Powerful wardens, or Lords of the Marches, themselves warlords of pitiless ferocity, were given almost complete authority by the king to control the reivers and anyone else who crossed their path. However, for all their power and savagery they were singularly unsuccessful in controlling the bloodshed. This was the period of the great border ballads, violent and colourful tales of love, death, heroism and betrayal, which have found an enduring place in literature.

The award-winning **Queen's Hall Arts Centre** (see panel on page 31), with theatre, café, library and exhibitions, presents a full and varied programme throughout the year. The Centre, built in the 1860s, was originally used as Hexham's Town Hall and Corn Exchange, and now offers great opportunities for entertainment. Hexham Library can also be found here. A packed schedule of arts events is on offer throughout the year, including drama, opera, dance, films, comedy and live music. Much of the ground floor is given over to a spacious art gallery, with a second gallery on the first floor. At the Exchange café bar visitors can enjoy everything from cake and coffee to a substantial and tasty meal.

Hexham has retained much of its character, with winding lanes and passageways, attractive 18th and 19th-century houses, handsome terraces and some delightful shops and a market. There are some fine gardens around the abbey, and several attractive areas of open space. **Tyne Green Country Park** features

lovely walks along the riverside and a picnic and barbecue site. Hexham National Hunt **Racecourse** is one of the most picturesque courses in the country. Call 01434 606881 for details of fixtures. At Simonburn, just north of Hadrian's Wall, **St Mungo's Church** is the Mother Church of the North Tyne Valley.

Around Hexham

CORBRIDGE

3 miles E of Hexham on the A69

St Andrew's Church Parson's Pele
 Corstorphitum

Corbridge is one of Northumberland's most attractive towns, a compact little place with venerable stone buildings at every turn. One of these is a good place to start exploring this lively market town. It was built around 1300, stands behind St Andrew's Church in the Market Place, and is considered one of the most authentic and least altered in the county. It's known as the **Parson's Pele**, or Vicar's Pele, a place of refuge for the priest on the many occasions when Corbridge was attacked by the Scots – they burnt the town to the ground three times in the 14th century.

The finest building in Corbridge is undoubtedly **St Andrew's Church**. It still retains many Saxon features, and the base of the tower was once the west porch of the Saxon nave. Within the tower wall is a complete Roman arch, no doubt removed from the Roman settlement of Corstorphitum at some time.

The original Roman town, **Corstorphitum**, lay half a mile to the northwest and was an important military installation guarding the river crossing. Visitors to the site can see the substantial remains of this strategic fort,

KATIE KERR

22 Hill Street, Corbridge,
Northumberland NE45 5AA
Tel: 01434 632220
e-mail: christine@katiekerr.co.uk
website: www.katiekerr.co.uk

Stylish, eclectic clothes for women are the main business of **Katie Kerr**, a partnership between Katie Oliver and Christine Kerr that opened in October 2007. They bring varied skills to the business: Christine has more than 30 years' experience in the fashion industry, while Katie, who was a nurse before having five children, brings a fresh, quirky approach to the technique of buying. With their deep knowledge of their stock and a real understanding and fit and style for all ages, figures and complexions, they have built a fine reputation for offering an honest, straightforward and helpful approach to dressing without pressure selling.

Around 60% of the brands they sell come from Scandinavia, so inspired design, close attention to detail and quality fabrics and yarns are what counts most. Their shop is situated on the ground floor of a converted terraced cottage in traditional stone, entered through a traditional vestibule with a decorative Victorian stained-glass inner door that inspired the firm's logo.

Colour is all-important, so the clothes are displayed in colour stories enhanced by wonderful accessories and jewellery, some of them on a round pedestal table accompanied by a vase of bright seasonal flowers. With its high ceilings, good lighting and large decorative mirrors, the whole place has a welcoming atmosphere enhanced by the staff and the rich colours of the clothes.

The shop has two fitting rooms with rich red velvet curtains, one of them accessible to wheelchair users. Parking is available on Hill Street and there's a large free car park on the edge of the village, a short walk from the shop.

Many leading brands from the UK and overseas are usually in stock, including Masai, Part Two, Jackpot, Not Your Daughters Jeans, Ochre Cashmere, Great Plains, Bohemia, Noa Noa, Avoca Anthology, Saltwater, Seasalt, Sahara, Mint Jewellery & Accessories and Out of Xile.

In 2010 Katie Kerr will create an interactive website selling a selection of the merchandise available in the shop.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

JOYCE ANDERSON

42 Hill Street, Corbridge,
Northumberland NE45 5AA
Tel: 01434 632742
e-mail: sales@joyceanderson.co.uk
website: www.joyceanderson.co.uk

Joyce Anderson's shop in Corbridge is an Alladin's cave where you will find a fabulous collection of jewellery, ladies' clothing and accessories. Quality, choice and value are the three things that set this shop apart and make your visit a must.

There is something for every taste, outfit and budget in the wide choice of jewellery, which comprises: PANDORA, Troll beads and Spinning rings; pearls, silver and semi-precious stones and a great selection of antique and second hand jewellery. The clothes include beautifully cut French separates from Antonelle and Weill, knitted denim from Original Blues, knitted cotton separates from Claire which can be made to measure and silk from Thailand, all very stylish, a little bit different and very wearable.

The majority of pearl and semi-precious jewellery is made to Joyce's specifications in Asia. Buying direct from the Far East means that Joyce's prices are very competitive and very tempting. The same is true for the accessories, pashminas for all year round, evening bags, and for the winter fur tippets, scarves, halos and cuffs. All great value as well as being beautiful.

**BROCKSBUSHES FARM SHOP & TEA ROOM**

Corbridge, Northumberland NE43 7UB
Tel: 01434 633100 Fax: 01434 632965
e-mail: acd@brocksbushes.co.uk
website: www.brocksbushes.co.uk

Conveniently located alongside the main A69 Newcastle to Carlisle road, **Brocksbushes Farm Shop & Tea Room** opened some 20 years ago and just goes from strength to strength. To begin with, it was just a small shop that opened for the fruit season, selling produce from the surrounding farmland. Today, it is open every day of the year, including Bank Holidays, selling a huge variety of fresh fruit, vegetables and a range of ready dishes prepared in the farm's kitchen. Amongst these you will find cakes, pastries, cooked hams and a selection of frozen meals.

The shop also stocks jams, chutneys, sauces, cheeses, freshly baked bread and much, much more: ducks, seasonal game, smoked mussels, Italian Parma ham and salamis, chocolate Tiffin and drizzle cakes. During the season you can pick your own soft fruit or the asparagus for which the farm has become famous. Also on site is a coffee shop selling a wide range of delicious cakes, scones, quiches and savoury pies. All of these are made using fresh ingredients from the farm or from local suppliers. Light meals, sandwiches, jacket potatoes, afternoon teas and daily specials all add to the choice. In summer, you can enjoy your refreshments outside. Keep your eyes open for our amazing special events throughout the year including The Strawberry Fayre and The Christmas Fayre.



which include a fine example of military granaries and two fortified medieval towers that provide evidence of more troubled times.

Running through the centre of the town is Dere Street, the Roman road built to link the important garrisons of York and Edinburgh. In medieval times the bridge was still bringing money into the town – tax returns of 1296 show that this little community was the second wealthiest town in Northumberland after Newcastle. The present bridge, with its seven graceful arches, was built back in 1674 and very well built, too. It was the only Tyne bridge to survive the terrible floods of 1771 when the water was running so high that people could lean over the parapet and wash their hands.

In spring, Corbridge is the site of the Northumberland County Show, held each year on the late May Bank Holiday Monday.

AYDON

4 miles E of Hexham off the B6321

 Castle

Aydon Castle is a superb example of a fortified manor house, such protection being necessary in this region in times past to keep the reivers at bay. Built by Robert de Reymes in the late 13th century, it remains remarkably intact, and is often described as one of the best-preserved fortified manor houses in Britain, thanks to its early owners and now to English Heritage.

CHOLLERFORD

3 miles N of Hexham on the B6318

 Chesters  Clayton Museum

The Roman cavalry fort of **Chesters**, or Cilurnum, to give it its Roman name, is situated in the parkland created by Nathaniel Clayton around the mansion he had built in



Chesters Roman Fort

1771. The fort covers nearly six acres and was large enough to accommodate a full cavalry regiment. The **Clayton Museum** houses a remarkable collection of altars, sculptures and other Roman antiquities. Remains of the Roman fort include a well-preserved bathhouse and barracks. Near the bathhouse can be seen the foundations of a Roman bridge that carried a road across the Tyne.

CHOLLERTON

6 miles N of Hexham on the A6079

 Chipchase Castle  Battle of Heavenfield

Chollerton, six miles north of Hexham, enjoys an exceptionally fine setting. Nearby is the site of the **Battle of Heavenfield**, where King (later St) Oswald defeated the army of Cadwalla, a Welsh king. Four miles northwest of the village is **Chipchase Castle**, a combination of 14th-century tower, Jacobean mansion and Georgian interior. A walled nursery garden is open to the public throughout the summer months, but the castle itself is only open on June afternoons.

BARRASFORD

7 miles N of Hexham off the A6079

 Houghton Castle

Barrasford sits on the North Tyne, across

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

from **Houghton Castle**, of which there are fine views. The castle is one of the finest great houses in Northumberland, and dates originally from the 13th century. Over the succeeding years, additions and alterations have been made, with the west wing being designed by Anthony Salvin and built in 1876. The castle isn't open to the public.

LANGLEY

6 miles W of Hexham on the B6295

 Castle

Langley Castle, now a hotel and restaurant, was built around 1350. In 1450, Henry IV had it destroyed, but it was restored in the 1890s by a local historian, Cadwallader Bates. In the 17th and early 18th centuries, the castle was

owned by the Earls of Derwentwater. In 1716, the third earl, James, was beheaded in London for his part in the 1715 Jacobite rebellion; his brother Charles was later beheaded for his part in the 1745 uprising. A memorial to them both sits beside the A686 not far from the castle.

BARDON MILL

10 miles W of Hexham on the A69

 Hadrian's Wall  Roman Forts  Once Brewed

Bardon Mill, a former mining village, stands on the north bank of the South Tyne. An important drovers' road crossed the river here and cattle were fitted with iron shoes at Bardon Mill to help them on their way to southern markets. The village is a convenient starting point for walks along **Hadrian's Wall**

TWICE BREWED - A variety of accommodation close to Hadrian's Wall in one of the most beautiful parts of the UK. Bardon Mill stands on the A69 between Hexham/Corbridge and Haltwhistle

TWICE BREWED INN

Military Road (B6318) Bardon Mill, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 7AN
Tel: 01434 344534 e-mail: info@twicebrewedinn.co.uk
website: www.twicebrewedinn.co.uk

A comfortable inn set in breathtaking scenery in the shadow of Steel Rigg, one of the most dramatic parts of the Wall.

VALLUM LODGE GUEST HOUSE

Twice Brewed, Bardon Mill, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 7AN
Tel: 01434 344248 e-mail: stay@vallum-lodge.co.uk website: www.vallum-lodge.co.uk
Comfortable, quality cottage-style accommodation. A great place to relax after a day's sightseeing.

GIBBS HILL FARM

Once Brewed, Bardon Mill, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 7AP
Tel: 01434 344030 e-mail: val@gibbshillfarm.co.uk
website: www.gibbshillfarm.co.uk

B&B, self-catering and bunkhouse accommodation on a traditional working hill farm.

SAUGHY RIGG FARM

Twice Brewed, Haltwhistle, Northumberland NE49 9PT
Tel/Fax: 01424 344120 e-mail: info@saughyrigg.co.uk website: saughyrigg.co.uk
Half a mile north of the Wall. An ideal base for a walking holiday on the Hadrian's Wall National Trail. Bar and restaurant.



and the **Roman forts of Vindolanda** and **Housesteads** are nearby. At Vindolanda excavations reveal fascinating insights into Roman life. An open-air museum features a reconstructed temple, shop and house. Perched high on a ridge, with splendid views of the surrounding countryside, the remains of Housesteads Fort covers over five acres and is one of the finest sections of Hadrian's Wall. Nearby, **Once Brewed** is the main Visitor Centre for Hadrian's Wall and the Northumberland National Park.

Between Bardon Mill and Haydon Bridge lies the confluence of the South Tyne and the River Allen, which, like the Tyne, comes from two main tributaries – the East Allen and West Allen. The valleys of the East and West Allen really are hidden jewels. The 22,667 acres of Allen Banks, as the lower part of the valley near the Tyne is known, is a deep, wooded, limestone valley, rich in natural beauty, now owned by the National Trust.

HALTWHISTLE

15 miles W of Hexham on the A69

 Holy Cross Church  Walltown Quarry

The town lies close to the best preserved stretch of Hadrian's Wall, which here follows the dramatic line of the Whin Sill ridge and provides some breathtaking views across five counties.

The origins of the name Haltwhistle are unknown, but two suggestions are the watch, 'wessel', on the high, 'alt', mound, or the



Church of the Holy Cross, Haltwhistle

high, 'haut', fork of two streams, 'twysell'. It is difficult to imagine that this pleasant little market town with its grey terraces was once a mining area, but evidence of the local industries remain. An old pele tower is incorporated into the Centre of Britain Hotel in the town centre. **Holy Cross Church**, behind the Market Place, dates back to the 13th century and is said to be on the site of an earlier church founded by William the Lion, King of Scotland, in 1178, when this area formed part of Scotland. The name of the town sounds like a charming little old railway station, and indeed it does have a station, on the Coast to Coast Newcastle-Carlisle service. Between 1852 and 1976 it also ran a service south to Alston, and in 1983 a two-mile section of that line was reopened between Kirkhaugh and Alston. The South Tynedale Railway is the North of England's highest narrow-gauge railway.

Three miles northwest of Haltwhistle, off the B6318, is **Walltown Quarry**, a recreation area built on the site of an old quarry. Today part of the Northumberland National Park, there are laid-out trails and it is possible to

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

THE BLACK BULL

Market Square, Haltwhistle,
Northumberland NE49 0BL
Tel: 01434 320463

e-mail: kev.ellis@btinternet.com

As facilities and transport improve year by year, an ever-growing number of visitors come from near and far to explore the World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall. The little town of Haltwhistle is close to one of the best-preserved stretches of the Wall, and at the heart of the community, down a cobbled street off the Market Square, stands the **Black Bull**, the town's only cask ale pub. Visitors to this delightful old hostelry are ensured of a warm welcome from Kevin Ellis, who with his wife Barbara has restored and enhanced the traditional pub ambience. The bar is cosy, warm and inviting, with plenty of chairs and tables, an open fire, beams, brasses and old photographs and local memorabilia.

The pub is a magnet for lovers of cask ales, with six regularly changing brews kept in tip-top condition. A typical selection might include Wychwood's Hobgoblin, Marston's Sweet Chariot, Deuchars IPA, Caledonian Old Sea Dog, something from Jennings of Cockermouth and always a beer from one of the big southern breweries – perhaps London Pride or Old Speckled hen. The Black Bull is also a place to seek out for its food, satisfying the appetites of the regulars and of visitors from afar who discover just how good traditional home cooking can be. Among the popular dishes on the wide-ranging menu are starters like prawns Marie Rose and home-made chicken liver pâté, and mains dishes such as Cumberland sausage with onion gravy, chilli con carne, fish & chips, extra-meaty beef and pork burgers, succulent steaks and steak 'n' ale open pie with a rich beer gravy. The choice is supplemented by daily specials, some of which feature produce from the local fish and game merchant. Sweets are equally traditional and equally hard to resist. For lighter appetites, a selection of made-to-order sandwiches with hot and cold fillings is available. Attractions in and around Haltwhistle include the 13th century Holy Cross Church – literally right behind the pub, which also has 13th century foundations, suggesting that it might have been built to house the servants of the church or its builders; and Walltown Quarry, a recreation site with laid-out trails and a wealth of birdlife.

The name of Haltwhistle literally means 'a meeting of streams by the hill' but suggests an old-time railway station – though Haltwhistle does indeed have a station, serving the east-west Newcastle-Carlisle line and the narrow-gauge South Tynedale Railway running south to Alston.





Walltown Quarry, Haltwhistle

spot oystercatchers, curlews, sandpipers and lapwings.

ALLENDALE

10 miles SW of Hexham on the B6295

Allendale Town lies on the River East Allen, set against a backdrop of heather-clad moorland, and was once an important centre of the north Pennine lead-mining industry. It retains attractive houses from prosperous times and a surprisingly large number of existing or former inns around the Market Square. A sundial in the churchyard records the fact that the village lies exactly at the mid-point between Beachy Head in Sussex and Cape Wrath in Scotland, making it the very centre of Britain.

ALLENHEADS

12 miles SW of Hexham on the B6295

Allenheads also has lead-mining connections, with its scatter of stone miners' cottages and an irregular village square with pub and chapel in a lovely setting. The village is a centre for fine, upland rambles through the surrounding hills, which still retain many signs of the former industrial activity. From here the main road climbs over Burtree Fell into Weardale, with wild moorland roads

branching across to Rookhope to the east and Nenthead to the west.

BLANCHLAND

9 miles S of Hexham on the B6306

A small, serene estate village on the Northumberland and Durham border. This is another of the area's hidden places, and one well worth seeking out. The name Blanchland (white land)

comes from the white habits worn by the canons of the Premonstratensian Order who founded Blanchland Abbey in 1665. The abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537. In 1702, Lord Crewe, the Bishop of Durham, bought the Blanchland estate. On his death in 1721, the estates were left to the Lord Crewe Trustees who were responsible for building the picturesque village of Blanchland that you see today, using stone from the ruined Abbey buildings. Small cottages snuggle round a village square opposite the popular Lord Crewe Arms, housed in the west range of the priory next to the ancient abbey church of St Mary the Virgin.

SLALEY

4 miles SE of Hexham, off the B6306

Slaley is a quiet village consisting of one long street with some picturesque houses dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. One of the finest houses – Church View – stands opposite the 19th-century St Mary's Church. Two miles southwest, Slayley Hall has some interesting gardens and is now a first-class hotel with a famous 18-hole golf course, home to the De Vere Northumberland Seniors Classic, part of the PGA Seniors European

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

RYE HILL FARM

Slaley, nr Hexham,
Northumberland NE47 0AH
Tel: 01434 673259
e-mail: info@ryehillfarm.co.uk
website: www.ryehillfarm.co.uk

Rye Hill Farm B&B is a 300 year old Northumberland stone farm house set in 30 acres of rural farmland. It is in a great location for those wanting to explore the area. Located in rural Tynedale there are some great castles, coastline and moors to explore as well as Kielder Forest, Hadrian's Wall and the historic city of Durham all within an hour's drive of the farm. Visitors to Rye Hill Farm have the unique opportunity to see how life on a small farm works. There are some fantastic walks to be had, with a network of footpaths providing ready access to the countryside.

The child and pet friendly B&B has 3 double en-suite bedrooms and 1 family/twin ensuite bedroom, there is also a lounge, dining room and out door games barn for every one to use. All the centrally heated bed rooms have TVs and beverage making facilities. The B&B offers a full English breakfast and the option of a bookable evening meal which can be enjoyed in the dining room with its open log fire on chilly evenings. There is also a self catering cottage for 7 people with 3 bedrooms ensuite (1 of which has good wheelchair access) open living areas and a sunny patio.



Tour. Visitors welcome, with two-day golf breaks available.

Otterburn

Mill Battle Site Roman Sites

The village of Otterburn stands close to the centre of the National Park, in the broad valley of the River Rede. It makes an ideal base for exploring the surrounding countryside, an exhilarating area of open moorland and rounded hills. It was close to here, on a site marked by the 18th-century Percy Cross, that the **Battle of Otterburn** took place in 1388 between the English and the Scots. But it wasn't a full-scale battle as such and it might have remained relatively obscure if it were not for

the number of ballads it spawned – from the English *Cherry Chase* to the Scottish *Battle of Otterbourne*. By all accounts it was a ferocious encounter, even by the standards of the day, and one commentator said that it “was one of the sorest and best fought, without cowards or faint hearts”.

In 1388, under the command of Earl



Woolaw Fortified Farmstead, Otterburn

Douglas, a gathering of Scottish troops at Jedburgh had resolved to enter England in a two-pronged attack – one towards Carlisle and one down into Redesdale. In charge of the Redesdale contingent was the Earl of Douglas, who got as far as Durham before being forced back to the border by Henry Percy, better known as Hotspur, and his brother Ralph.

In August, the English caught up with the Scottish army at Otterburn and went straight into attack. The battle continued for many hours, gradually descending into a series of hand-to-hand fights between individual soldiers. Gradually the Scots got the upper hand and captured both Percys. But it was a hollow victory, as the Earl of Douglas was killed. A second force under the Bishop of Durham hurried north when it heard the news, but it wisely decided not to engage in battle. A series of markers known as Golden Pots are said to mark the journey of Douglas's body when it was taken back to Melrose.

Otterburn Mill dates from the 18th century, though a mill is thought to have stood on the site from at least the 15th century. Although production of woollens ceased in 1976, the mill is still open, and on display are Europe's only original working tenterhooks where newly woven cloth was stretched and dried – hence the expression, 'being on tenterhooks'.

There are some interesting walks round Otterburn, and some well preserved remains of an Iron Age fort can be seen on both Fawdon Hill and Camp Hill.

North of the village are the remains of **Bremenium Roman Fort**. It was first built by Julius Agricola in the 1st century, though what the visitor sees now is mainly from the 3rd century. In its day the fort could hold up to 1,000 men, and was one of the defenses

along the Roman road now known as Dere Street. Close by is the **Brigantium Archaeological Reconstruction Centre**, where you can see a stone circle of 4000BC, Iron Age defences, cup-and-ring carvings and a section of Roman road.

Around Otterburn

ELSDON

3 miles E of Otterburn on the B6341

 St Cuthbert's Church  Winter's Gibbet

 Elsdon Tower

The village of Elsdon is of great historical importance. Built around a wide green, with **St Cuthbert's Church** in the middle, it was the medieval capital of Redesdale – the most lawless place in Northumberland, and scene



Elsdon Tower

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Winter's Gibbet, nr Elsdon

of some of the worst border fighting. In later years it became an important stopping point on the drovers' road.

In the late 19th century, when the church was being restored, over 1,000 skulls were uncovered. They are thought to be those of soldiers killed at the Battle of Otterburn.

Elsdon Tower, which in 1415 was referred to as the "vicar's pele", dates from the 1300s, though it was largely rebuilt at a later date. Now a private residence, it remains one of the most important pele towers in the region.

Standing in the wild moorlands around Elsdon, above the tiny hamlet of Steng Cross, is the macabre sight of **Winter's Gibbet**, with a wooden replica of a severed head dangling from the gibbet arm. It provides a grisly reminder of the fate of William Winter who, in 1791, was tried and found guilty of the murder of a local shopkeeper, Margaret Crozier. After his execution in Newcastle, Winter was brought to this spot, where his rotting corpse was left hanging for several months.

HEPPLE

8 miles E of Otterburn on the B6341

 Hepple Tower

Hepple has a reminder of the difficulty of life near the borders in the form of **Hepple Tower**, a 14th-century pele tower built so

strongly that attempts to demolish it and use the stone for a new farmhouse had to be abandoned. West of the village, on the moors, are some fine examples of fortified houses and farms.

ROTHBURY

12 miles E of Otterburn on the B6341

 Cragside  Simonside

 Lordenshaws  Rothbury Terraces

The attractive town of Rothbury is a natural focal point from which to explore the valley of the River Coquet. It is an excellent starting point for some delightful walks, either along the valley or through the nearby woodland. The most famous perhaps being the trail to the **Rothbury Terraces**, a series of parallel tracks along the hillside above the town.

Simonside, a hill offering a fine viewpoint, is steeped in history and the subject of several legends. Flint arrowheads have been recovered here, as well as bronze swords, shards of pottery, axe heads and ornaments. Burial cairns abound, as do carved stones and ancient paths. The Northumberland National Park has prepared a leaflet, which guides you on a walk up and onto the hill.

To the north of Simonside is **Lordenshaws**, with a well-defined hill fort, Bronze Age burial mounds, rock carvings and cairns.

From the 18th century, the village developed into a natural marketplace for Upper Coquetdale, to which cattle and sheep were brought for sale, and the drovers were provided with numerous alehouses. Since the mid-1800s Rothbury has been a holiday resort for walkers and fishermen, and the railway, which opened in 1870, contributed further to its growth. The former Saxon parish church was almost entirely rebuilt in 1850 and it is worth visiting the interior to

ELM TREE COFFEE SHOP

High Street, Rothbury, Northumberland NE65 7TE
Tel: 01669 621337

Helen Renton and her family have built up a fine reputation for quality and value for money in their ten years at the **Elm Tree Coffee Shop**. In this Victorian town house looking down the main street from its elevated site, two rooms create a delightful, unfussy ambience in which to enjoy good honest home cooking. Counter service provides excellent teas, coffees and hot and cold drinks to accompany scones, cakes, filled rolls, toasted sandwiches, jacket potatoes and daily specials.

The Renton family and their staff are notably friendly, willing and helpful, ensuring that every visit here is a real pleasure. The Elm Tree is open from 10 o'clock to 5 (to 4 off season) seven days a week. The town of Rothbury needs plenty of time to explore, and one of the many attractions close to the Elm Tree is the National Trust's Cragside, a fine mock-Tudor Victorian mansion that was once the home of the industrialist Sir William Armstrong.



see the font that stands on part of the 9th-century Rothbury cross.

Just outside Rothbury is the house and estate of **Cragside** (see panel opposite), once the home of Sir William George Armstrong (1810-1900), arms manufacturer and industrialist. He bought 14,000 acres in the valley of the Debden Burn, and employed architect Norman Shaw to extend the existing house and make it suitable to entertain royalty and other wealthy guests. Work began in 1864, and what finally emerged in 1884 was a mock-Tudor Victorian mansion. A pioneer of the turbine, Armstrong designed various pieces of apparatus for the house, and devised his own hydroelectric systems, with man-made lakes, streams and miles of underground piping, making Cragside the first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity. Now owned by the National Trust, the house has been sympathetically restored to show how upper-

middle-class Victorians were beginning to combine comfort, opulence and all the latest technology in their homes.

WELDON BRIDGE

15 miles E of Otterburn on the A697

 Brinkburn Priory

Weldon Bridge is an exceptionally elegant bridge across the River Coquet, dating from 1744. Although it no longer carries the main



Brinkburn Priory, Weldon Bridge

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

road it remains an impressive feature.

Nearby is **Brinkburn Priory**, standing in secluded woodland on the banks of the river. It was established in about 1135 by William de Bertram, 1st Baron Mitford, and is thought to have been built by the same masons who constructed nearby Longframlington church. It is in a beautiful setting surrounded by ancient trees and rhododendrons, and was once painted by Turner as a romantic ruin. Its church was restored in 1859 by Thomas Austin on behalf of the Cadogan family, and has many fine architectural features. It is also the setting for famous annual summer concerts.

BELLINGHAM AND WARK

7 miles SW of Otterburn on the B6320

 St Cuthbert's Church

The North Tyne is fed by the Kielder Water which, on its way down to join the South Tyne above Hexham, passes by the interesting villages of Bellingham and Wark.

Bellingham (pronounced Bellin-jam) is a small market town in a moorland setting, with a broad main street, marketplace and the austere little **St Cuthbert's Church**, reflecting the constant troubles of the area in medieval times. To prevent marauding Scots from burning it down, a massive stone roof was added in the early 17th century.

Cragside House, Gardens & Estate

Rothbury, Morpeth,
Northumberland NE65 7PX
Tel: 01669 620333/620150
e-mail: cragside@nationaltrust.org.uk
website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The revolutionary home of Lord Armstrong, Victorian inventor and landscape genius, was a wonder of its age. Built on a rocky crag high above the Debden Burn, **Cragside** is crammed with ingenious gadgets and was the first house in the world lit by hydroelectricity.

Even the variety and scale of Cragside's gardens are incredible. Surrounding the house on all sides is one of the largest 'hand-made' rock gardens in Europe. In the Pinetum below, England's tallest Douglas Fir soars above other woodland giants. Across the valley, the Orchard House still produces many varieties of fresh fruit. Today, Armstrong's amazing creation can be explored on foot or by car and provides one of the last shelters for the endangered red squirrel. The lakeside walks, adventure play area and labyrinth.



THE BAY HORSE INN

West Woodburn, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 2RX

Tel: 01434 270218

e-mail: enquiry@bayhorseinn.org

website: www.bayhorseinn.org

The Bay Horse Inn is a distinguished 18th century coaching inn of mellowed sandstone, standing next to an old stone bridge over the River Rede in the Cheviot Hills of Northumberland. On the main A68 Darlington-Edinburgh road, it's a perfect spot to take a break, to eat, drink and relax in warm, friendly surroundings. It's also very much a destination place, with a genuine welcome for all the family and a wide choice of range and drinking options.

The menus offer anything from a quick snack to a full meal to enjoy in the bar, in the smart restaurant or outside in the garden. Local produce features strongly, including Northumberland lamb and fish and shellfish from the nearby coastal waters. Children have their own menu, or small portions are available from the main menu. To accompany the food there's a good choice of real ales, beers, lagers, wines and soft drinks.

The inn can cater for barbecues, parties, weddings and other special occasions. It's also a great place to spend a few days and an excellent base for discovering the numerous scenic, historic and sporting attractions in the vicinity. Five of the seven individually designed bedrooms have en suite facilities, while the other two share a bathroom, making them an ideal choice for families. The inn can arrange a number of outdoor activities, or guests can just relax and unwind – the gardens running down to the river have a grassed play area and tables and chairs for enjoying sunny days.



In the churchyard an oddly-shaped tombstone, somewhat reminiscent of a peddler's pack, is associated with a foiled robbery attempt that took place in 1723. A peddler arrived at Lee Hall, a mansion once situated between Bellingham and Wark, and asked if he could be put up for the night. As her master was away at the time the maid refused, but said that he could leave his heavy pack at the Hall and collect it the next day.

Imagine her consternation when some time later the pack began to move. Hearing her screams for help, a servant rushed to the scene and fired his gun at the moving bundle. When blood poured out and the body of an armed man was discovered inside, the servants realised that this had been a clever attempt to burgle the Hall. They sounded a horn, which they found inside the pack next to the body, and when the robber's accomplices came

running in response to the prearranged signal, they were speedily dealt with.

Wark, to the south of Bellingham, is an attractive estate village, once part of the lordship of Wark. The Scottish kings are said to have held court here in the 12th century.

On the slopes overlooking the North Tyne, are a large number of unusually named prehistoric settlements, such as Male Knock Camp, Good Wife Camp, Nigh Folds Camp, Carryhouse Camp and Shieldence Camp.

KIELDER

16 miles W of Otterburn off the B6320

Castle Kielder Forest Kielder Water

Kielder village was built in the 1950s to house workers employed in the man-made **Kielder Forest**, which covers 200 square miles to the west of the Northumberland National Park.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Here at Kielder Forest you'll find one of the few areas in Britain that is home to more red squirrels than grey, thanks to careful forest planning that ensures a constant supply of conifer, which is preferred by red squirrels. Otters too are resident here, and the area abounds with deer and rare birds and plants.

There's some excellent walking to be had, with several marked trails and routes to suit all abilities, from a leisurely stroll to an energetic climb, with maps and leaflets to guide you round. There are also cycle routes, including the 17-mile Kielder Water Cycle Route, and bicycles can be hired from the local visitors centre.

Within the forest is **Kielder Water**. Opened by the Queen in 1982, it is the largest man-made lake in Northern Europe with over 27 miles of shoreline. The visitor can take a pleasure cruise aboard the *Osprey*, an 80-seat

passenger cruiser that stops at several points of interest along the lake.

Located at sites around the lake and within the forest is an art and sculpture trail – art and architecture inspired by the surroundings. Don't miss the Kielder Skyspace – a chamber through which artist James Turrell manipulates interior and exterior light to spectacular effect.

To the northwest is **Kielder Castle**, at one time a hunting lodge for the Duke of Northumberland, and later offices for the Forestry Commission. It is now a fascinating visitor centre with exhibits describing the development of the forest and the birdlife that is found in Kielder.

Wooler

Humbledon Hill Walks

Wooler stands on the A697 on the northern edge of the Cheviots, midway between Newcastle and Edinburgh, and is an excellent centre for exploring both the Cheviots and the border country. In the 18th and early 19th centuries it became an important halt on the main north-south coaching route and is now a small market town where cattle fairs continue to take place.

There are no outstanding buildings in Wooler, though the town itself makes a pleasing whole. There are superb walking opportunities in the surrounding area – the Iron Age hill fort immediately west of the town, **Earle Whin** and **Wooler Common**, or via Harthope on to The Cheviot itself. Alternatively, the visitor can take a vehicle into the Harthope Valley with a choice of walks, easy or strenuous, up and through the magnificent hillsides of this part of the Northumberland National Park.

At the top of **Humbledon Hill**, are the remains of a hill fort, built about 300BC. The



THE TANKERVILLE ARMS HOTEL

22 Cottage Road, Wooler,
Northumberland NE71 6AD
Tel: 01668 281581 Fax: 01668 281387
website: www.tankervillehotel.co.uk



The 3 star **Tankerville Arms Hotel** is a fine 17th century coaching inn situated in the little town of Wooler. For the last 30 years of its 400-year history, it has been owned and run by the Park family. Anne and her staff take great pride in providing the best in service, hospitality and comfort, making sure that guests go away with happy memories and the hope of a return visit. The 16 guest bedrooms are delightfully appointed and immaculately decorated (no two are exactly the same).

The food served here is second to none, a reputation maintained in fine style by chef Ashley and his wife. They use the very best local produce for their tempting menus, including beef from Glendale Livestock; lamb from the Till Valley; fish from Amble (or caught by Ashley!) and cheese and ice cream from the local Doddington Dairies. Meals are served in the elegant Cheviot Room overlooking the hotel's lovely gardens or in the Chillingham Room. And the Copper Bar is a favourite spot to relax and meet the locals and the other guests over a glass of real ale, local beer or wine.



Battle of Humbledon Hill was fought here in 1402 between the English and the Scots, who had been on a raiding mission as far south as Newcastle. Due to the firepower of Welsh bowmen in the English army, the Scottish army assembled within the fort was easily defeated. Human and horse bones have been uncovered while ploughing the hill's northern slopes, and there is an area still known to this day as Red Riggs, from the blood that stained the ground during and after the battle.

Around Wooler

WOOPERTON

8 miles S of Wooler off the A697

Battle of Hedgeley Moor

Wooperton is close to the site of the **Battle of Hedgeley Moor**, which took place in

1464. In truth this was more of a skirmish, in which the Yorkist Lord Montague defeated the Lancastrian Sir Ralph Percy, who was killed. The site is marked by a carved stone called the Percy Cross and can be reached along a short footpath leading from the A697.

KIRKNEWTON

6 miles W of Wooler on the B6351

St Gregory's Church

Yeaving and Yeaving Bell

Kirknewton is a typical border village made up of cottages, a school and village church. **St Gregory's Church** dates mainly from the 19th century, though there are medieval fragments such as an unusual sculpture, which shows the Magi wearing kilts – a fascinating example of medieval artists presenting the Christian story in ways their audience could understand.

Josephine Butler, the great Victorian social

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks



Yeaving Bell, Kirknewton

If such historical associations were not enough, on the summit of a nearby hill known as **Yeaving Bell**, there is a magnificent Iron Age hill fort, the largest in Northumberland, enclosed by the remains of a thick wall and covering 13 acres. Over 130 hut circles and similar buildings have been traced on the summit, which commands impressive views for miles around.

BRANXTON

8 miles NW of Wooler off the A697

St Paul's Church Battle of Flodden Field

reformer and fighter for women's rights, who retired to Northumberland and died here in 1906, is buried in the churchyard. Her father had been a wealthy landowner and a cousin of British Prime Minister Earl Grey of Howick Hall near Craster.

Half a mile east of the village, in what are now fields by the River Glen, lay the royal township of Gefrin or Ad-Gefrin, better known as **Yeaving**. Discovered in 1948 thanks to aerial photography, this was where, in the 7th century, King Edwin of Northumbria built a huge wooden palace that included a royal hall over 100 feet long, storehouses, stables, chapels and living quarters. A stone, and a board explaining the layout, now marks the place where this long-vanished royal establishment once stood.

The site of the famous **Battle of Flodden Field** can be found near Branxton, marked by a cross in a cornfield reached by a short path. It was here that the English army of some 20,000 men under the Earl of Surrey heavily defeated a much larger Scottish army under the command of King James IV on 9 September 1513. The king was killed, and his body lay in **St Paul's Church** in Branxton (now rebuilt). An information board explains the background to the battle and how it was fought. Written to commemorate the fallen of Flodden Field, *The Flowers of the Forest* is a traditional lament played by pipers at the annual Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph.

ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND DRINK

The Bay Horse Inn, West Woodburn, Hexham	pg 48
The Black Bull, Haltwhistle	pg 41
Brocksbushes Farm Shop & Tea Room, Corbridge	pg 37
Elm Tree Coffee Shop, Rothbury	pg 46
Gibbs Hill Farm, Once Brewed, Bardon Mill	pg 39
Harbour Guest House, Amble	pg 22
Loughbrow House B&B, Loughbrow, Hexham	pg 34
Pilgrim's Coffee House, Lindisfarne, Berwick upon Tweed	pg 8
Queen's Hall Art Centre, Hexham	pg 33
Redfoot Lea Bed & Breakfast, Alnwick	pg 17
Rye Hill Farm, Slaley, Hexham	pg 43
Saughy Rigg Farm, Twice Brewed, Haltwhistle	pg 39
Stannington Nurseries, Stannington, Morpeth	pg 29
The Tankerville Arm Hotel, Wooler	pg 50
Twice Brewed, Bardon Mill	pg 39
Vallum Lodge, Twice Brewed, Bardon Mill	pg 39
Zecca, Amble	pg 21

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Celtic Crafts, Lindisfarne, Berwick upon Tweed	pg 8
The Flower Centre, Amble	pg 22

FASHIONS

Bell & Sons, Alnwick	pg 18
----------------------	-------

Edge Lifewear & Edge Country, Hexham	pg 34
Joyce Anderson, Corbridge	pg 37
Katie Kerr, Corbridge	pg 36

GIFTWARE

Blacketts of Bamburgh, Bamburgh	pg 13
Celtic Crafts, Lindisfarne, Berwick upon Tweed	pg 8
The Flower Centre, Amble	pg 22

HOME AND GARDEN

Blacketts of Bamburgh, Bamburgh	pg 13
The Flower Centre, Amble	pg 22
Stannington Nurseries, Stannington, Morpeth	pg 29

JEWELLERY

Blacketts of Bamburgh, Bamburgh	pg 13
Celtic Crafts, Lindisfarne, Berwick upon Tweed	pg 8
Joyce Anderson, Corbridge	pg 37

PLACES OF INTEREST

Belsay Hall Castle and Gardens, Belsay, Ponteland	pg 30
Craggs House, Gardens & Estate, Rothbury	pg 47
Queen's Hall Art Centre, Hexham	pg 33

SPECIALIST FOOD AND DRINK SHOPS

Brocksbushes Farm Shop & Tea Room, Corbridge	pg 37
Gebhards Deli-Farm Shop, Morpeth	pg 26
North Acomb Farm Shop, Stocksfield	pg 31

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink
or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Travel Publishing Order Form

To order any of our publications just fill in the payment details below and complete the order form. For orders of less than 4 copies please add £1 per book for postage and packing. Orders over 4 copies are P & P free.

Please Complete Either:

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Travel Publishing Ltd

Or:

CARD NO: EXPIRY DATE:

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL NO:

Please either send, telephone, fax or e-mail your order to:

Travel Publishing Ltd, Airport Business Centre, 10 Thornbury Road, Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PP
Tel: 01752 697280 Fax: 01752 697299 e-mail: info@travelpublishing.co.uk

	PRICE	QUANTITY		PRICE	QUANTITY
HIDDEN PLACES REGIONAL TITLES			COUNTRY LIVING RURAL GUIDES		
<i>Cornwall</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>East Anglia</i>	£10.99	.....
<i>Devon</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>Heart of England</i>	£10.99	.....
<i>Dorset, Hants & Isle of Wight</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>Ireland</i>	£11.99	.....
<i>East Anglia</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>North East of England</i>	£10.99	.....
<i>Lake District & Cumbria</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>North West of England</i>	£10.99	.....
<i>Lancashire & Cheshire</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>Scotland</i>	£11.99	.....
<i>Northumberland & Durham</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>South of England</i>	£10.99	.....
<i>Peak District and Derbyshire</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>South East of England</i>	£10.99	.....
<i>Yorkshire</i>	£8.99	.....	<i>Wales</i>	£11.99	.....
			<i>West Country</i>	£10.99	.....
HIDDEN PLACES NATIONAL TITLES					
<i>England</i>	£11.99	.....			
<i>Ireland</i>	£11.99	.....			
<i>Scotland</i>	£11.99	.....			
<i>Wales</i>	£11.99	.....			
OTHER TITLES					
<i>Off The Motorway</i>	£11.99	.....			
<i>Garden Centres and Nurseries of Britain</i>	£11.99	.....			
			TOTAL QUANTITY		
			TOTAL VALUE		

Looking for:

- Places to Visit?
- Places to Eat & Drink?
- Places to Shop?
- Places to Stay?

Then why not visit Travel Publishing's fully searchable website?



You'll find it very easy-to-use with:

- Informative pages on places to visit, stay, eat, drink and shop throughout the United Kingdom.
- Information on tens of thousands of places of interest as well as interesting stories, amusing anecdotes and historical facts on over 5,000 villages, towns and cities.



www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK