

paths


around Eyemouth and the
Berwickshire Coastal Path



Our Scottish Borders
Your destination

£2.00






Contents

Cockburnspath, Cove and Pease Bay			6-7
Route	Distance	Location	Page
Route 1	5miles/8km	Cockburnspath and Pease circular	8
Route 2	3miles/5km	Cove and Dunglass circular	9
Route 3	3miles/5km	Pease Dean Nature Reserve	10
Route 4	3miles/5km	St Helen's Church and Hutton's Unconformity at Siccar Point.	12
Coldingham and St Abbs			14-15
Route 5	2miles/3km	Coldingham Priory Walk/ Coludi Urbs Walk	16
Route 6	3.5miles/6km	St Abbs and Coldingham Bay on the Creel Path	18
Route 7	4.5miles/7km	The National Trust's St Abbs Head circular walk	20
Berwickshire Coastal Path - Cockburnspath to Berwick			
	 28.5miles/45km	Birdlife, Butterflies, Plants and Coastal Geology	22
		East Coast Fishing Disaster, October 14th 1881	23
		Berwickshire Coastal Path Map	24-25
		Route description	26-31
Eyemouth			32-33
Route 8	2miles/3km	Eyemouth Fort	34
Route 9	3miles/5km	Gungreen House	36
Route 10	7miles/11km	Eyemouth and Coldingham circular	38
Ayton, Burnmouth and Lamberton			40-41
Route 11	2.5miles/4km	Burnmouth circular and Chester Hill Fort	42
Route 12	6.5miles/10km	Ayton and Eyemouth inc. Eddie's Trail	44
		Further Interest, Accomodation and Travel, Contacts	46-47

Front Cover Photo: St Abbs Head Lighthouse



Key to Maps

-  VisitScotland Information Centre
-  Car parking
-  Bus stop
-  Refreshment/cafe
-  Public toilets



St Abbs Harbour



Coldingham Bay

Introduction

The twelve routes described in this booklet provide a variety of distances, terrains and choice of locations throughout east Berwickshire. These routes are primarily directed at walkers; however, where possible, attempts have been made to accommodate all users.

Berwickshire Coastal Path

The Berwickshire Coastal Path, described in the centre pages of this brochure, follows the coast between Cockburnspath, at the boundary with East Lothian, where it links with the Southern Upland Way and the John Muir Way, and Berwick upon Tweed where it merges with the Northumberland Coast Path.

With the second highest cliffs on the east coast of Britain, the Borders has some of the most spectacular coastal landscape in Britain. Much of the coast is a designated European Special Protection Area for its amazing seabird colony and St Abbs Head is a National Nature Reserve.

Inland, fertile soils are heavily cultivated, but near the coast poorer soils support

improved grassland for grazing by both sheep and cattle. The coastal waters are recognised internationally as a Special Area of Conservation and are managed by the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve for the impressive diversity of sea life which they contain – a fact reflected in the area’s popularity for diving.

General Safety Advice

Some of these routes are long and strenuous. Before setting off:

- Check the weather forecast – do not risk bad weather
- Prepare yourself accordingly
- Remember water and sunscreen
- Remember a map and compass and know how to use them, fog comes ashore rapidly off the North Sea.

Livestock

Most routes pass through livestock farming areas. The farmer’s livelihood depends on the rearing and sale of livestock. Please respect their wishes by:

Dogs

- Avoid taking into enclosed fields with lambs, calves or foals.

Or in open countryside:

- Keep under close control or on a short lead (let go if you feel threatened by cows!).

Cows may perceive dogs as a threat and, in limited cases, have been known to attack. Without a dog, if you walk quietly through livestock areas, keeping a safe distance from stock and watching them carefully, you should experience little or no difficulty.

walkit

Walk it is the Paths to Health Project in the Scottish Borders and aims to encourage people to take up walking as part of a healthier lifestyle. Our walks are usually short and easy, though the routes can sometimes involve rough paths and low level gradients.



Health Warning!

Infections from animals can cause serious human illness. Stay safe from diseases when out in the countryside by:

- a. Washing hands with soap & water (or use wet wipes) after visiting the toilet, after activities, touching animals and before handling, cooking and eating food;
- b. Taking care to avoid spreading animal faeces on footwear;
- c. Avoiding camping or having a picnic on land which has recently been used for grazing animals;
- d. Not drinking untreated water from rivers, streams and lochs;
- e. Avoiding tick bites; cover legs when walking through long vegetation.

Seasons

Wild bird breeding (April – June)
 Lambing time (March – mid May)
 Calving (Spring & Autumn).

Disturbance by walkers may separate young from mothers leading to exposure, hunger and predation.

Please leave gates as you find them and ensure that if you have to open a gate, you close it securely behind you. Remember the maxim – Take only photos, leave only footprints. Thank you for your cooperation.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **take responsibility for your own actions**
- **respect the interests of other people**
- **care for the environment.**

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**

SCOTTISH
OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

outdooraccess-scotland.com

Take great care when walking on country roads.

- **Pavements or paths** should be used if provided
- **If there is no pavement or path**, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light, keep close to the side of the road.
 It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend
- **Help other road users to see you.** Wear or carry something light coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions.



Pease Bay, ©Keith Robeson

Cockburnspath, Cove and Pease Bay

Cockburnspath

Cockburnspath was known as Kolbrand's Path in the 12th Century and is now known locally as Co'path.

Steep sided and densely wooded ravines crossed by the Great North Road gave this area considerable military significance. The holder of Cockburnspath Tower was reputed to hold the key to the East March and therefore to the Kingdom of Scotland. It dates back to the 16th Century and is in the design of a typical Borders stronghold - Peel Tower.

The area has historically been a scene of turmoil, with frequent shifting and changing of boundaries as a result of fighting between families, tribes, factions and countries. At one time, the lands of the parish were gifted

to Margaret Tudor as a wedding gift upon her marriage to James IV of Scotland, a fact commemorated by the thistle and rose on the Mercat Cross in the village square.

Many armies, including those of King Robert I (The Bruce), and the Roundhead forces of Oliver Cromwell, negotiated the treacherous deans, while they acted as havens for bands of reivers and brigands during the middle ages.

Many have attempted to bridge these deans over the centuries. The most impressive is Pease Dean bridge which was built (1783-86) to a design by David Henderson. It was for many years the highest in Europe, pre-dating similar designs used by his contemporary, Thomas Telford.

Today the area is peppered with archaeological remains including prehistoric burials, farmsteads and fortifications. Cockburnspath is the terminus of the Southern Upland Way which leads walkers to, or from, Portpatrick, 212 miles (340 km) away in Dumfries and Galloway. Recently the village has been connected to the John Muir Way which leads walkers through East Lothian to Musselburgh, on the fringes of Edinburgh.

Cove

Famously Cove was home to "The Glasgow Boys" artists' colony between 1883-1888 due to its unique beauty. This informal group comprised several influential painters of the time including Sir James Guthrie.

Cove harbour is entered by a 180ft/55m tunnel, not seen from the village. It dates from the 1750's and once contained cellars which were used to store fresh salmon and herring, as well as cured and barrelled white fish. Cove village and harbour has a long fishing history and due to its hidden nature, and tunnels ideally suited to storing contraband, it has often been associated with smuggling.

Used as a landing place since at least the 17th century, the present harbour dates from 1831 and was built by the Hall family of Dunglass to facilitate the transport of coal mined inland.

Pease Bay

Originally the site of a mill, utilising the head of water from the burn, this whole area is now given over to holiday homes. This Site of Special Scientific Interest has been notified for well over half a century because of its important biodiversity and since 1988 it has been managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust as a Nature Reserve.

This woodland provides a perspective of local historic land character which includes remnants of ancient northern oakwood with more recent additions of ash and elm. Look out for woodpeckers, tree creepers, dippers and various tits and finches. Roe deer and red squirrels have also been known to make this reserve their home.

St Helens Church, Old Cambus

Dedicated to the mother Emperor Constantine, this church served the former parish of Aldcambus which was united with Cockburnspath after the Reformation of 1560. The church is built in a Romanesque style, in a mixture of old red sandstone and of the greywacke rock also used in the drystone dyke forming the field boundaries.

Siccar Point

A revolutionary moment in the history of geology came in 1788, when James Hutton, James Hall and John Playfair took a boat to Siccar Point where they found horizontal layers of red sandstone overlying older, steeply pitched sedimentary rocks known as greywacke.

The site confirmed Hutton's theory that the Earth was much older than six thousand years, the age computed from the Bible by Bishop Usher in 1654. The view that the world was created at one time, unchanged from the beginning of time had been directly challenged and disproved by Hutton's "unconformity". We now know that the Devonian red sandstones were laid down some 345 million years ago in desert conditions and overlay the eroded surface of highly folded Silurian sediments which had formed 80 million years earlier on the bottom of a long-vanished ocean.

Route 1

Cockburnspath and Pease circular

Start and finish: Parking readily available at Cockburnspath; Cove and Pease Bay

Follow the waymarked route in part or in its entirety.

Distance: Cove to Pease Dean return
2¹/₂ miles/4.5km

Co'path to Pease Dean to Cove
5 miles/8km

Walking Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Terrain: Road and rough grassy paths. Unguarded steep drops between Cove and Pease. Boots recommended for Pease Dean in all seasons but Summer.

- ① From Co'path Square, walk south along the old A1 road. After half a mile turn right onto a minor road heading for the caravan site. Just past Neuk Farm, look out for a grassy lane leading through a gate to your left onto Chesterfield Road. The track bends left and slopes downhill to the old A1 road.
- ② At the end, turn right along the minor road. When the road bends to meet the New A1, leave the road and continue straight ahead on a track passing under the new A1 road bridge. Turn right for a

short distance along the fence, cross a stile and walk down to the edge of the field to reach the Tower Bridge.

- ③ Looming above is the imposing ruin of **Cockburnspath Tower**, see page 6. Cross the 18th century Tower Bridge heading up to the A1107 and follow this downhill to Pease bridge, see page 6, where you will find a lovely view of the Dean to the sea. Follow Southern Upland Way signs downhill through the Dean. Turn left at the road and follow it up the steep brae or pay a visit to the beach and Pease facilities.
- ④ At the top of the hill, follow the path right at Old Linhead, through the gate and down over the burn. The path leads out onto the cliff top and round the fields. The views of the bay and cliffs south from here are stunning.
- ⑤ The path winds along the cliff top here so watch your footing. The path rises to give views of Torness Power Station, The Bass Rock and across the Forth Estuary to Fife. As you follow the signs Cove Harbour will emerge in the bay below, hidden from the village by the sea braes.
- ⑥ Follow the SUW markers to Cove farm and on to Cockburnspath or drop by the car park in Cove village.

Route 2

Cove and Dunglass circular

Start and finish: Parking at Cockburnspath or Cove

Distance: 3 miles/5km

Walking Time: 1 hour

Toilets and Shop at Cockburnspath

Terrain: Gentle terrain on grassy paths and pavements. Strong shoes or trainers adequate.



Pease Bay from Dowlaw

The Southern Upland Way leads walkers between Co'path village square and Cove. Turn right at the market cross onto Callander Place. After you pass the school on your right, leave the road, following an unmade path straight ahead of you, signposted; "John Muir Way".

Follow the path, passing through a gate into the woodland, and continue until another pedestrian gate. Enter the field and contour round the hill making for another gate opposite which leads into the woodland. Follow the path to a track, turn right and follow it downhill to the public right. Turn left passing over Dunglass Bridge, and then turn right, (or left for **Dunglass Collegiate church**) making your way under the railway viaduct.

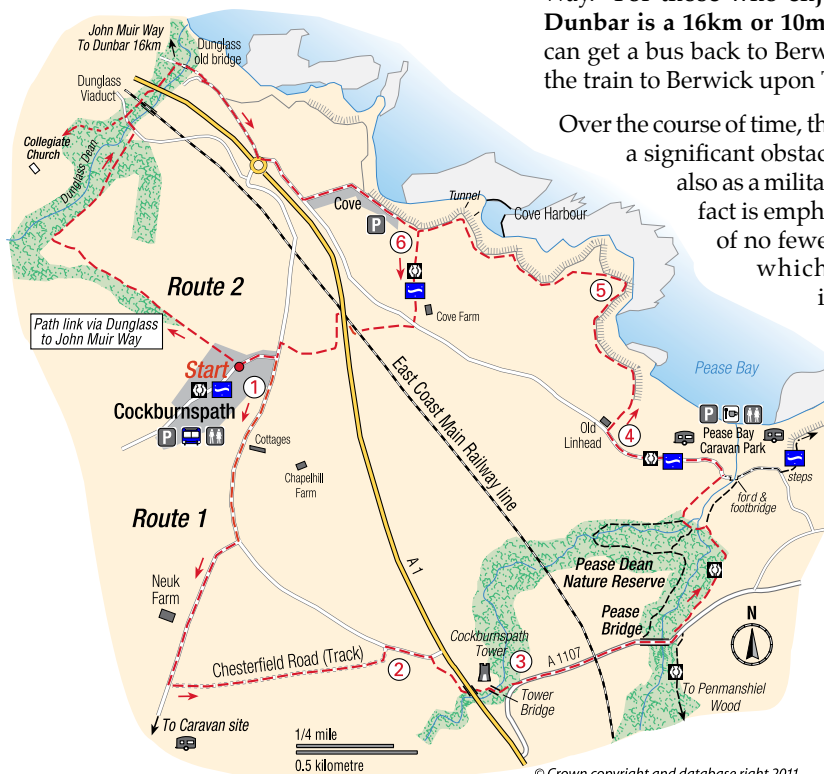
Under the viaduct a sign points you right onto the John Muir Way. The path meanders down **Dunglass Dean** passing under two road bridges before coming to a track junction at Dunglass Old Bridge, where you should turn right. Pass over the Bridge, following the path uphill and continue on the metalled road to the A1 roundabout. A pavement leads back to the minor road entering Cove village.

Dunglass Collegiate church was founded in 1450 for a college of canons by Sir Alexander Hume. The handsome cross-shaped building contains a vaulted nave, choir and transepts, all with stone slab roofs. This impressive structure is open to the public and is interpreted on site by Historic Scotland.

Dunglass Dean is the end of the John Muir Way. **For those who enjoy a longer walk, Dunbar is a 16km or 10ml walk**, where you can get a bus back to Berwickshire or hop on the train to Berwick upon Tweed.

Over the course of time, the Dean has acted as a significant obstacle to transport and also as a military stronghold. This fact is emphasised by the siting of no fewer than five bridges which have gradually improved transport links over time.

During the period of Scottish enlightenment, it was from Dunglass shore where James Hutton famously set sail for Siccar Point to seek conclusive proof of his theory, page 7.



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Route 3

Pease Dean Nature Reserve

Start and finish: Pease Bay car park

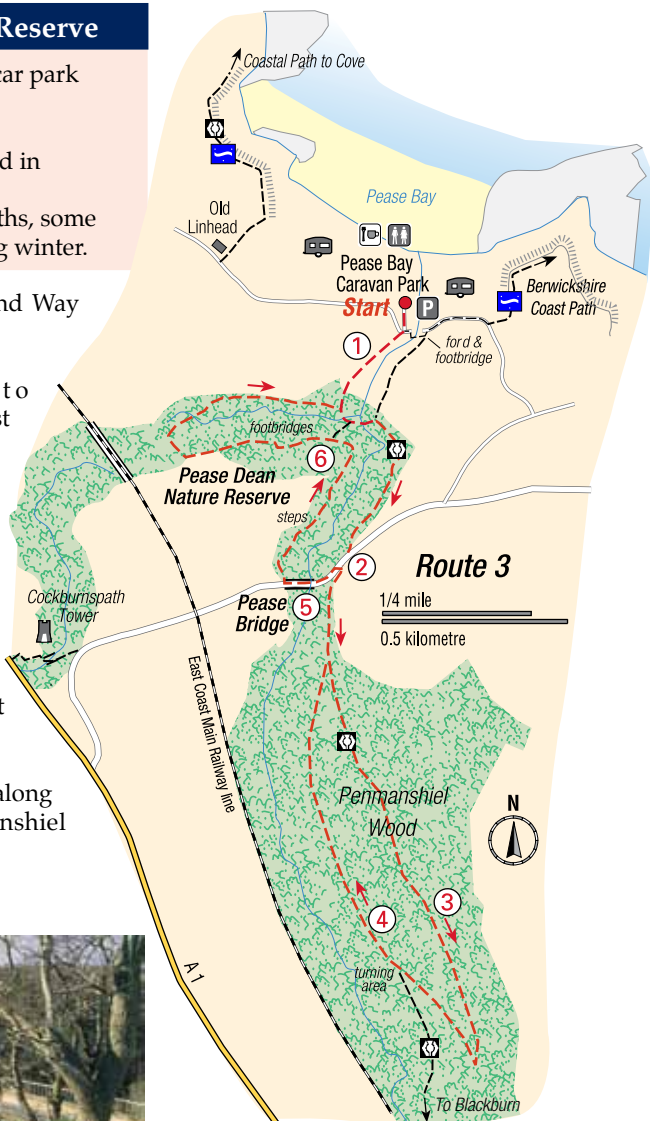
Distance: 3 miles / 5 km

Walking Time: 2 hours

Toilets and Shop at Pease and in Cockburnspath

Terrain: Muddy unmade paths, some steep. Boots essential during winter.

- ① Follow the Southern Upland Way over the footbridge uphill.
- ② Cross the road into Penmanshiel Wood. Almost at the top of the hill you'll be met with a bench which commands a great view of the coastline.
- ③ Continue on the SUW by descending down through Penmanshiel and at the track junction, do not turn left following the Way, but carry straight on.
- ④ Following the track back along the lower edge of Penmanshiel Wood.



Pease Bridge

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Pease Bay

- ⑤ Exit the wood back on to the A1107, cross over the Pease bridge (Page 6) with care.
- ⑥ Turn right into the reserve and follow the path downhill to rejoin the Southern Upland Way back to the Bay.



Ramsons carpeting Pease Dean

Pease Dean

Pease Dean is managed by the **Scottish Wildlife Trust** who were formed in 1964. They are a membership-based registered charity with the objective to *“advance the conservation of Scotland’s biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations.”* Scottish Wildlife Trust has over 120 wildlife reserves totalling 20,000 hectares. The network represents many of our Scottish wildlife habitats. Reserves are managed to conserve and re-build biodiversity, improve public access to Scotland’s natural heritage and for education and demonstration use.

The area beside Pease Burn is an open valley with a noticeable field and shrub layer that includes wild flowers like crosswort and red campion and shrubs including gorse. Upstream from where the two burns merge, the valleys become steeper and more wooded. There is an extensive area of mixed woodland which supports attractive ground flora. Part of the reserve is SSSI designated for its native oak woodland, mosses and liverworts.

Route 4

St Helen's Church and Hutton's Unconformity at Siccar Point

Start and finish: Pease Bay

Distance: 3 miles / 5 km

Walking Time: 2 hours

Toilets and Shop facilities in Co'path

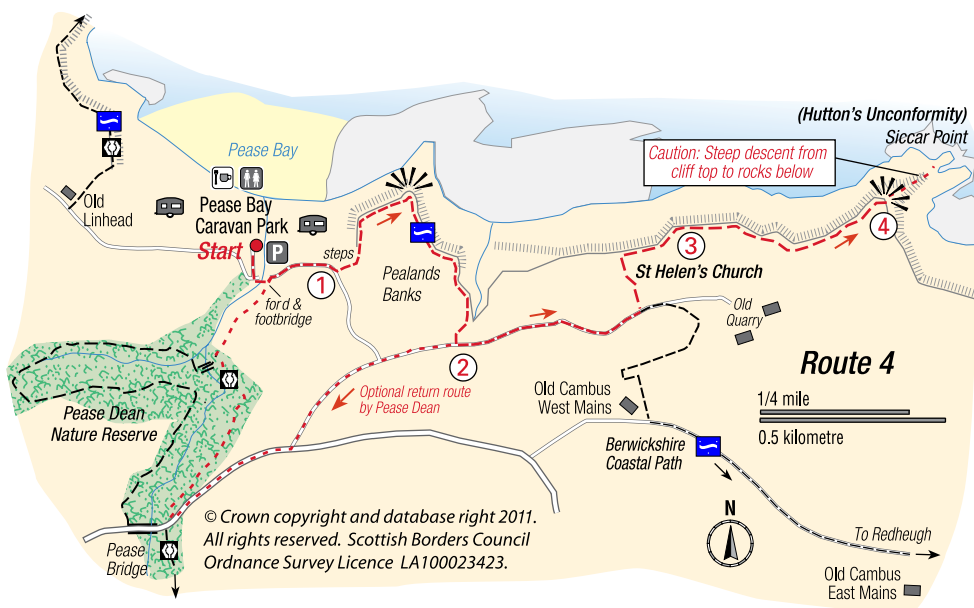
Terrain: Uneven grassy path with some steep inclines.

We do not recommend scrambling down the steep hill to reach the rock formations, but if you are tempted, please take a note of the tides. The formations will be more visible at low tide.

- ① Follow the Berwickshire Coastal Path across the pedestrian bridge adjacent to the ford and proceed uphill to the first bend in the road. Follow the signposted



St Helen's Church



path off the road, climbing steps up the sea braes and round the path on Pealands Bank. This sea brae offers exceptional views of the Bay and East Lothian and at low tide the bay south of Pease has impressive rock strata formations.

- ② In the distance you will see the ruins of the 12th Century St Helen's Church. Turn left on emerging to the tar road and follow it for a few hundred yards, until met with a sign post for St Helen's and Siccar Point.
- ③ Follow the stone dyke from St Helen's Kirk along the cliff top. You pass through two fields, the dyke discontinues and a fence line leads you to an information board and kissing gate. you have reached Siccar Point; Hutton's unconformity is below (page 7).



Rock strata at Hutton's unconformity

- ④ You are not recommended to proceed down to investigate the geology of the rocks. Retrace your steps back to Pease Bay. Or, for some variety, follow the road to Pease bridge and follow either route down through the Dean. Be mindful that these roads carry fast moving and often heavy farm traffic - Keep to the oncoming verge to be seen by traffic.



Looking down on Siccar Point



Coldingham and Coldingham Priory

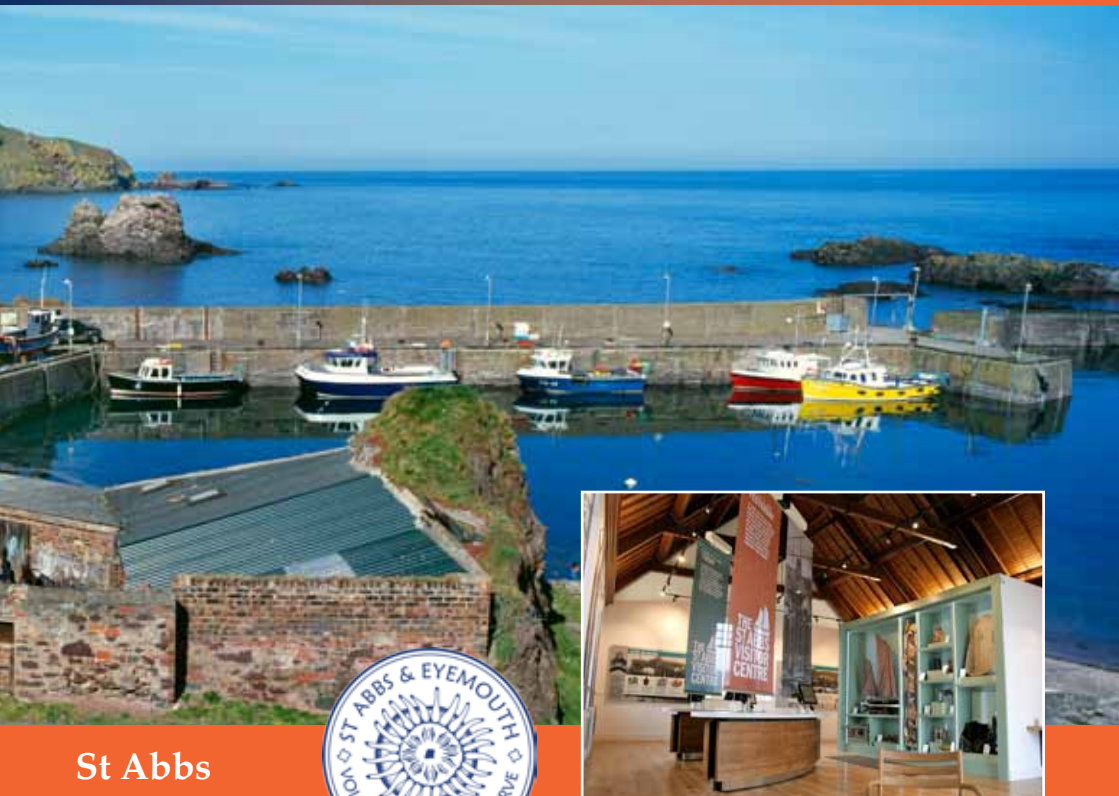
In the early 700s the first English historian Bede referred to, a place now identified as Kirk Hill on St Abbs Head nature reserve as, Urbs Coludi meaning Colud's fort, the village of the descendents of Colud. Within Colud fort, a royal princess Æbba, sister of King Oswiu of Northumbria, set up a monastery which subsequently burnt down. It is thought that at around this time the religious foundation moved to its present location and took on the name "Coldingham".

The present priory of Coldingham dates back nine centuries to 1098 when it was established by King Edgar for Benedictine monks from Durham. English attacks have resulted in it being rebuilt twice since. Perhaps its most notable visitor has been St Cuthbert, who is recorded as visiting the Priory whilst on his missionary journeys over 1300 years ago.

The Priory has recently benefited from the addition of a community garden, conservation of the remains and interpretation of the site. This is well worth a visit.

The interpretation centre at the Priory entrance and the many information panels throughout the site bring this "Cinderella" of the Border abbeys to life. The carved stone inscriptions suggested by local school children give a unique atmosphere to the restful garden. The interior of the church contains surviving 14th century stone carving of the original Priory.

Coldingham Bay lies about a mile from the village which, due to its wide sweep of sand, attracts holidaymakers and surfers throughout the year.



St Abbs



Historically, men worked their boats from this beach whilst living at Fisher's Brae in Coldingham. They carried their fishing gear down the Creel Path (creel being the local name for a lobster pot).

Today the village is popular with holidaymakers, walkers and divers who explore the coastal land and clear offshore waters which are designated as a Voluntary Marine Reserve. North of the village is St Abbs Head National Nature Reserve which is owned by the National Trust for Scotland. It is famous for its many thousands of seabirds including Fulmars, Guillemots and Kittiwakes. A few Puffins breed and nest on the high cliffs also.

The St Abbs Visitor Centre

Situated in the centre of the village overlooking the harbour, the St Abbs Visitor Centre offers interactive exhibits, telescope, library area, web access, stunning photographs and historical artefacts. There is information on the history of the village, local geology and also the local flora and fauna visitors are likely to encounter. The position of the building offers a stunning 180° panorama of St Abbs Head all the way to the harbour and beyond.

More information:

www.stabbsvisitorcentre.co.uk



Route 5

Coldingham Priory Walk/
Urbs Coludi Walk

Start and finish: Coldingham Priory.
Distance: 2 miles / 3km for full route, various options for a shorter walk.
Walking Time: up to 2 hours
 Car park, facilities, pub and shop.
Terrain: Steps; boardwalks; stiles and rough trodden path in places.

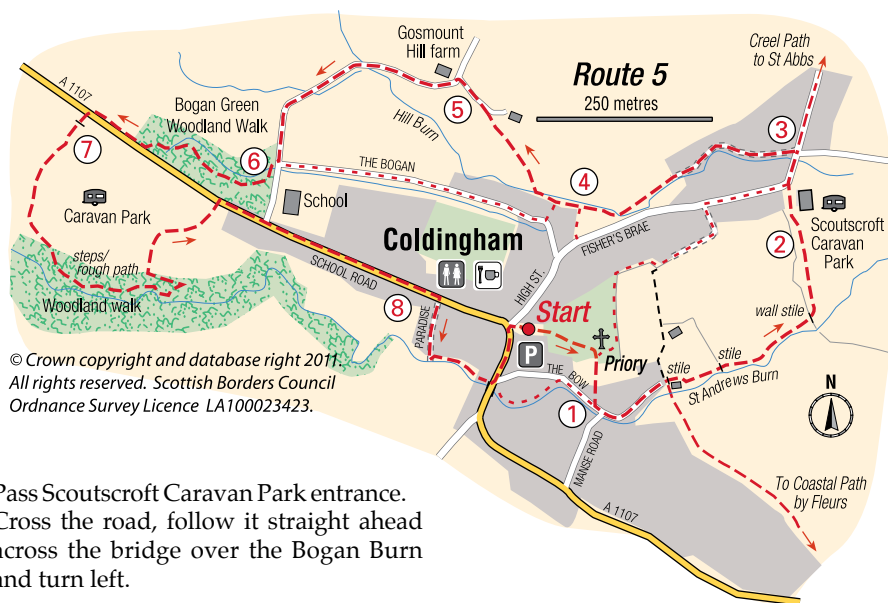


Coldingham Priory

From the car park go into the Priory grounds and turn right at the Priory doors. Follow the road downhill and turn left onto The Bow.

① Follow The Bow to the end of the surfaced road. Pass through the Manse's white gates, turn immediately right, follow the burn downstream, over a couple of stiles, to reach the caravan park. Turn left proceeding for the entrance.

- ③ Follow the rough track to its end and continue making your way upstream on Hill Burn.
- ④ Choose to follow either the path uphill into the village just beyond the ford crossing; or walk up The Bogan; or continue over the burn and up Hill Path.



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② Pass Scoutscroft Caravan Park entrance. Cross the road, follow it straight ahead across the bridge over the Bogan Burn and turn left.



Coldingham village

Bogan

The Bogan was once called Weavers Row – more than 50 handloom weavers worked in the Parish in the mid 19th century, working a 13-hour day for 6 shillings (30p) per week. The local specialty was gingham, a checked cloth used for both clothing and furnishings.

- ⑤ Turn left at Westloch Road.
- ⑥ Enter the woodland walk by the local school.
- ⑦ Pass through the caravan park and follow the signs for its woodland walkway.
- ⑧ Leaving the Caravan Park on School Road, turn right into the small lane called

Paradise. Paradise is an medieval name for a garden and the fertile south facing gardens along the burn bank were part of the Priory gardens.

New: A free booklet outlining other short and medium walks around Coldingham is published by the Coldingham Society and is available in the village at the Post Office, general store and bookshop. Look out for distinctive blue trail markers of The St Aebba Trail which is being developed by the Society at present.



Route 6

**St Abbs and Coldingham Bay
on the Creel Path**

Start and finish: Coldingham Priory.

Distance: 3½ miles St Abbs and Coldingham Bay circular

Walking Time: up to 2 hours plus time to enjoy the sights en route.

Car Park, facilities, pub and shop in Coldingham. Cafés and shop in St Abbs. St Vedas Hotel and Beach Café at Coldingham Bay

Terrain: Stiles on St Andrews Burn.

Creel Path is only passable by foot.

The National Trust Visitor Centre, Coldingham Bay and St Abbs are all well connected by paths as shown on the map. The Creel Path connects; Coldingham, St Abbs and the Bay and can be reached from the Priory by following a pavement, adjacent to the St Abbs road. A pavement leads between St Abbs and the Visitor Centre and likewise leads most of the way between Coldingham village and the Bay.

① Leave Coldingham Priory by Chariot Road, turning right to pick up the pavement next to St Abbs Road.

② At the top of the hill, turn right off the pavement following the hedge lined Creel Path downhill. To get directly to the Bay, turn right onto the Kinnecker path as signposted.

③ The Creel Path makes its way uphill where the option exists to turn right onto the Haven Path, which leads out to the Coastal Path, past what was the Haven Hotel. Continuing ahead, the rooftops of St Abbs will come into view.

④ Following Creel Road, past Murrayfield Road, will bring you out above the harbour where you may wish to continue on to visit St Abbs Visitor Centre and the NTS Visitors Centre. Alternatively, turning right to follow Murrayfield Road, past the shop to its end you will pick up a made path, as signposted, leading to Coldingham Bay.

⑤ A flight of steps leads down to the beach whilst continuing to follow the wall around to the Haven will bring you back to the Creel Path.

⑥ A pavement leads most of the way between the St Vedas Hotel at the carpark and Coldingham village.

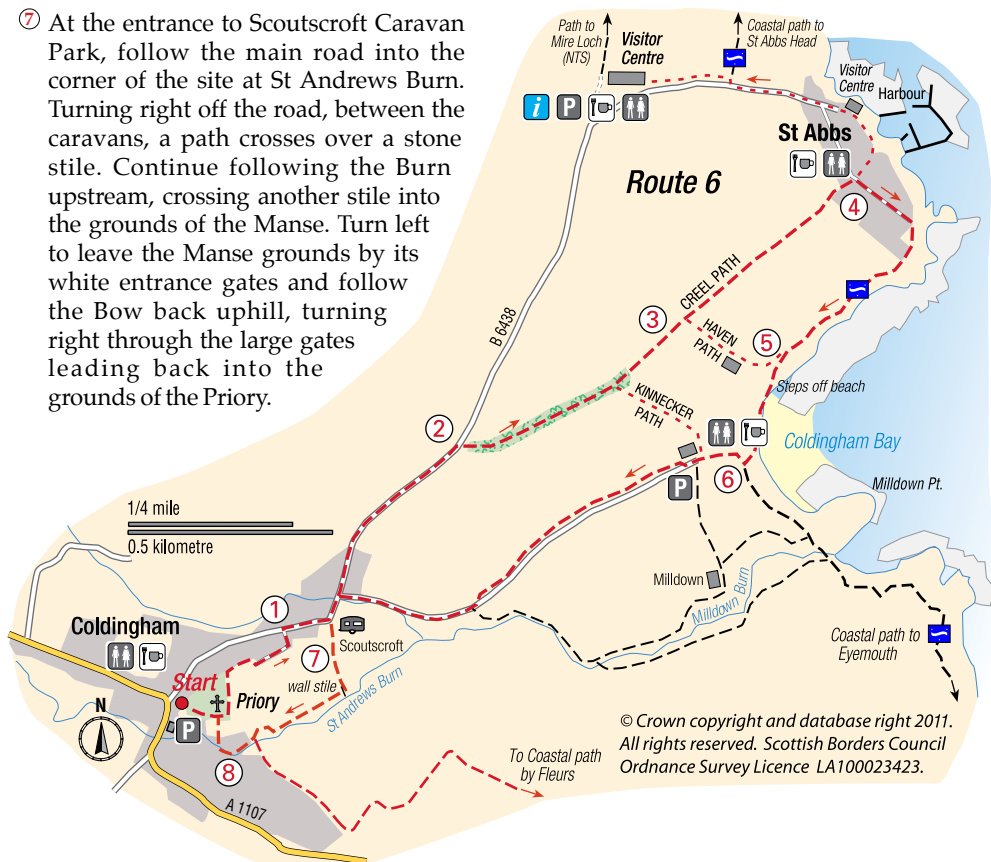


Starfish



Sea anemone

⑦ At the entrance to Scoutscroft Caravan Park, follow the main road into the corner of the site at St Andrews Burn. Turning right off the road, between the caravans, a path crosses over a stone stile. Continue following the Burn upstream, crossing another stile into the grounds of the Manse. Turn left to leave the Manse grounds by its white entrance gates and follow the Bow back uphill, turning right through the large gates leading back into the grounds of the Priory.



Wolf Fish



Beach Guards at the Beach Hut

Route 7

The National Trust for Scotland's St Abbs Head National Nature Reserve

Start and finish: St Abbs village or The National Trust for Scotland's visitor Centre.

Distance: 4 1/2 miles / 7km

Walking Time: 2 hours

Toilets, Car park, visitor centre and café in St Abbs or at St Abbs Head visitors centre.

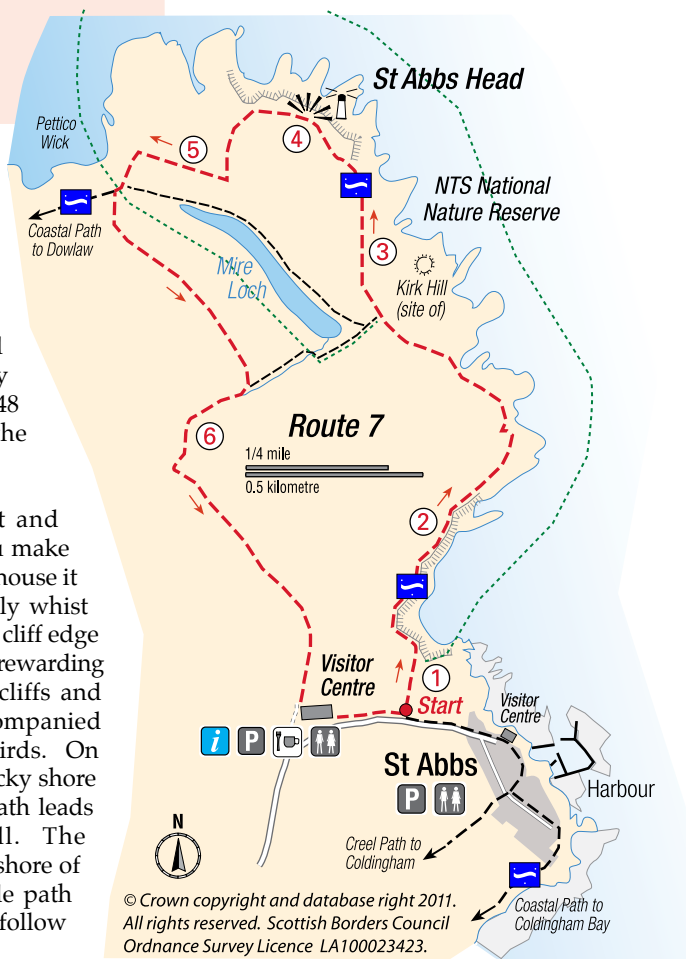
Terrain: Steps and rough trodden path, boots recommended.



St Abbs Lighthouse



- ① Depending on where you start, you need to make your way to the Coastal Path which is clearly signposted from the B6348 (the road leading into the village.)
- ② The path starts out flat and surfaced although as you make your way out to the lighthouse it becomes increasingly hilly whilst skirting quite close to the cliff edge at times. The walk is very rewarding with different vistas of cliffs and coast at every turn accompanied by the constant cry of birds. On reaching the sheltered rocky shore of Horsecastle Bay the path leads inland round Kirk Hill. The option exists to skirt the shore of Mire Loch on an unmade path to reach Pettico Wick, or, follow



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the track out past the Dam to the metalled road leading back to the visitors centre. This Loch attracts its own variety of birds such as Little Grebe, Reed Bunting, Heron, Mute Swan, Moorhen and Sedge Warbler, quite different from those on the cliffs.

- ③ Pass Kirk Hill following the worn path to the lighthouse. You may wish to nip over the headland to see the remains of St Abbs Kirk (monastery of St Ebba) (see page 16 for a full explanation).
- ④ The now fully automated lighthouse was built in 1862 by the esteemed engineers David and Thomas Stevenson, responsible for many of the lighthouses in Scotland. Thomas's son was Robert Louis Stevenson, the famous author. At the car park, walk towards the towering 90 metre cliffs to reveal a cacophony of noise and incessant motion with birds flying out to sea, returning, wheeling, diving and calling. It's amazing how the parent birds can return every time to their own tiny scrap of cliff and their young.
- ⑤ Following the metalled road down to the cattle grid there are magnificent views to be had of the towering cliffs stretching to Fast Castle. A favourite venue for divers of the human kind, the cove of Pettico



Fulmars, © Keith Robeson

Wick has the remains of a jetty built to land supplies for the lighthouse prior to the road and this was also the location of an early salmon fishing station.

- ⑥ Follow the metalled road to lead you back through Northfield Farm steading (Take care of machinery movements) to the Visitors Centre and from here, on the footpath back into the village.



St Abbs



Birdlife and Butterflies

Many different types of seabirds can be seen along this stretch of coast, especially from spring to summer when they are nesting and rearing young. Species to be found here include kittiwake, guillemot, razorbill, fulmar, shag and puffin. Waders include heron, turnstone, oystercatcher, sandpiper and curlew. Commoner birds include herring gulls, which largely feed inland. In the St Abbs Head area you will also see woodland birds, and in spring and autumn many types of migrant birds make landfall along the coast. The area is also good for butterflies, especially at St Abbs Head where the grazing regime followed encourages the growth of food sources for them. The rare northern brown argus can often be seen near the rock rose. Other butterflies you may see include common blue, grayling and the painted lady. The six-spot burnet moth is present in July.

Plants

The area is rich in plantlife. Thrift is particularly noticeable in May and June, growing in dense mats and giving a wonderful blaze of pink. Gorse adds its bright yellow in the early spring period. The rich variety of flora includes the following: spring – primrose, cowslip, meadow saxifrage, scurvy grass, early purple orchid; early summer – thrift, purple milk vetch, birdsfoot trefoil, and northern marsh orchids in wetter areas; summer – ragged robin, meadowsweet, willow herb. Diligent study of field guides will yield many more species.

Coastal Geology

The whole area of the Berwickshire coast is noted for its geological interest. Further north, at Siccar Point, the geologist James Hutton made pioneering discoveries about rock ageing and stratification (see page 7). Much of the rock in the area is sedimentary (laid down in water). The oldest rocks of this type are Silurian grey mudstones and siltstones which formed on the sea bed some 440 million years ago. They can be seen as intensely folded, faulted and banded rocks between Coldingham Bay and Linkim Shore. Some of the rock has become harder and therefore erodes more slowly, leading to the jagged appearance of much of the shoreline.

The red sandstones in the area can be seen around Eyemouth Fort. Between the deposition of these two rock types, volcanoes erupted producing lava and ash deposits. These tough igneous rocks form sheer cliffs as at St Abbs Head which are ideal for nesting seabirds.





Bronze sculptures by Jill Watson

East Coast Fishing disaster

October 14th 1881 was the date of the worst fishing disaster in Scotland's history. Known as Black Friday, a ferocious hurricane devastated the fishing fleet off the east coast taking 189 lives.

Names of Boats Lost

Radiant	Stormy Petrel	James & Alice
Fiery Cross	Renown	Two Sisters
Good Intent	Florida	Perserverance
Pearl	Invincible	Blossom
Press Home	Christina	Sunshine
Alice	Transcendent	Velox
Myrtle	Forget-Me-Not	Robinas
Economy	Lass O'Gowrie	Beautiful
Snowden	Margaret & Mary	Industry
Guiding Star	Margaret & Catherine	Harmony
Janet	Lily of the Valley	Concord
Enterprise	Wave	Fisher Lassies
Excellent	Six Brothers	

"...a fierce wind arose which was as wild in its fury as the calm was quiet; the sea began to heave...the shrieking of the hurricane as it drove at the creaking masts and ripping sails, and the thunderous roar of a boiling ocean. Boats were lifted clean out of the water, ...masts torn out of their sockets...sails utterly blown away...all were helpless."
 Reverend Daniel McIver 1906

Poignant bronze sculptures (shown above) have been placed in Eyemouth, Burnmouth, St Abbs and Cove to depict the exact numbers of women widowed, and their children, looking out to sea for their loved ones that never returned.

The deadly storm left 93 women as widows and 267 children without their fathers. Of 45 boats that had gone to sea, only 26 returned.

In 1881 Eyemouth was a successful fishing port with a population of 2,935, 1000 of which were

employed in the fishing industry. The disaster cut the fishing fleet almost in half. The initial loss of so many husbands, fathers and sons led to many survivors leaving the town and the population level did not recover to until 1971.

The 125 Memorial Association

Are seeking to raise further funds to complete the sculpture in Eyemouth. If you are moved by the event, donations to help complete the memorials may be made to the "125 Memorial Association" Registered Charity number: SC007176 at the banks or the Post Office in Eyemouth.

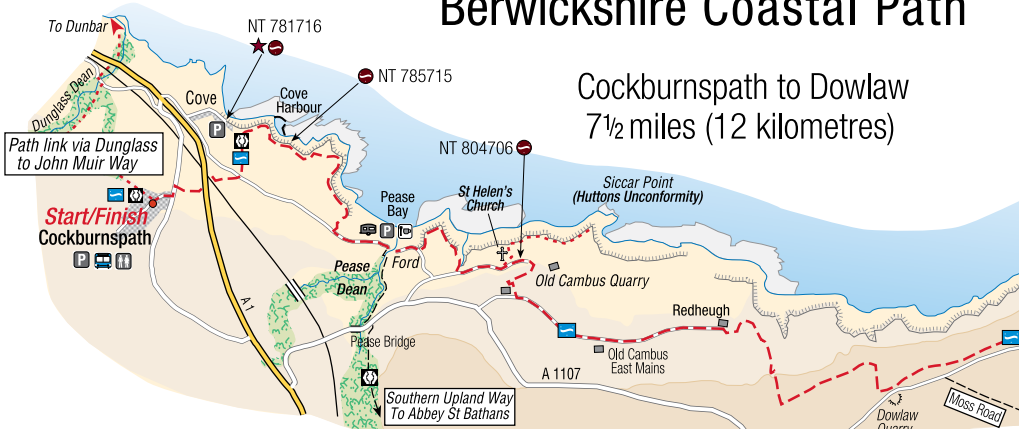
Bronze Trail Markers

Twelve Bronze Trail Markers, by artist John Behm, link the four memorial sculptures along the route.

1. Find these markers using your navigation skills or a GPS (coordinates over page).
2. With a crayon, take rubbings on good stout loose paper with crayons or coloured pencils. The main (Eyemouth) rubbing needs a piece of paper of roughly A3 size, the others are smaller.
3. Together they form a patchwork picture or collage, within the framework found on Eyemouth Harbour entrance wall. The collage illustrates aspects of fishing life in 1881. "hard-working fisher lads and fisher lassies; the baiting of lines; fifies under sail; the gear and the craft of it all."

Of course, you don't have to walk the Coastal Path to collect these gifts. Undertake this challenge by car, by foot or by bike but please only use your vehicle on public roads and walk the remaining distance.

Berwickshire Coastal Path

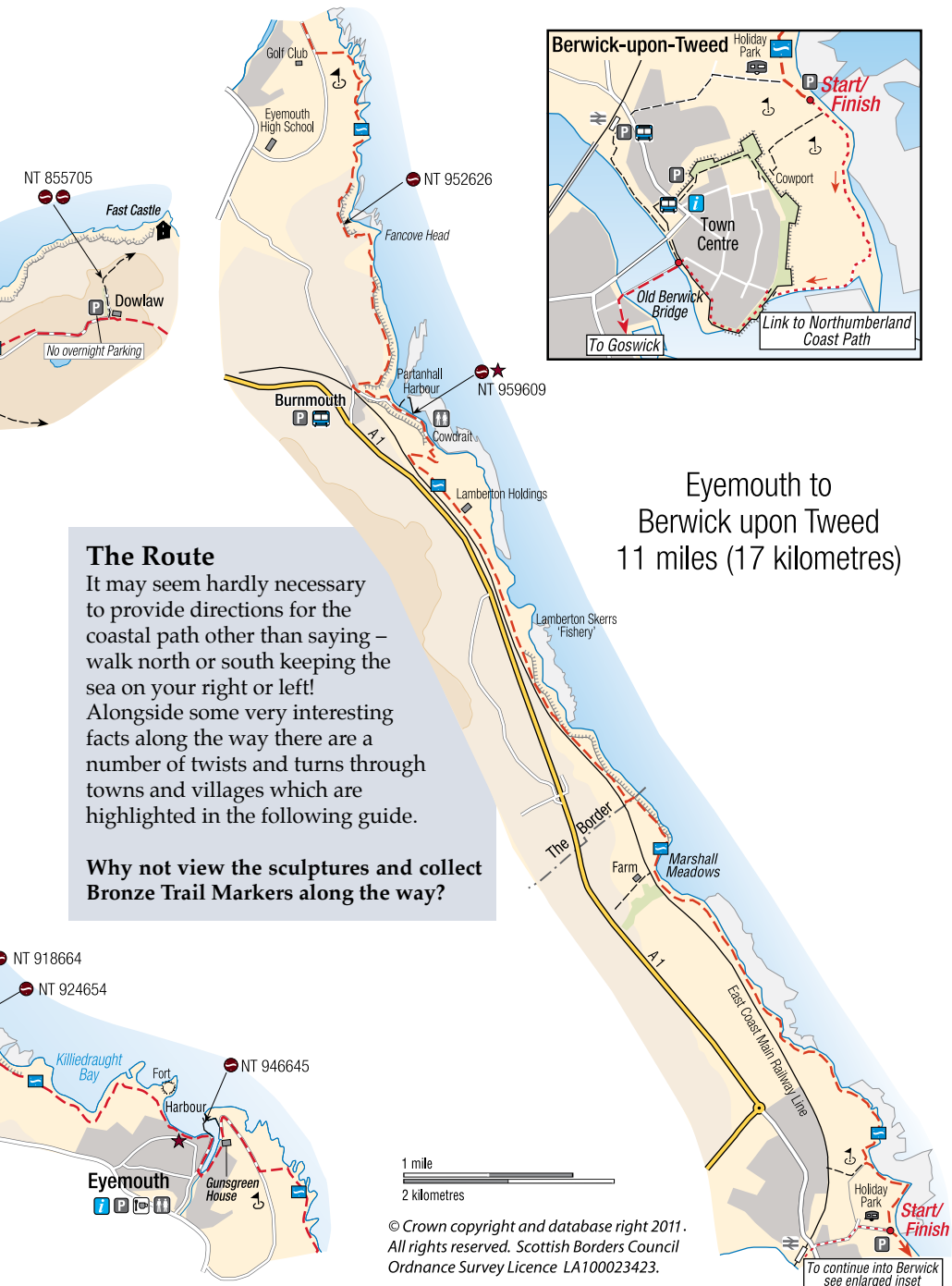


Cockburnspath to Dowlaw
7½ miles (12 kilometres)



Dowlaw to Eyemouth
10 miles (16 kilometres)

- - - Berwickshire Coastal Path
- Southern Upland Way
- - - - Other link routes
- - - - Other paths
- ★ 125 Eyemouth Memorial Association Sculptures
- Bronze rubbings along coastal path



The Route

It may seem hardly necessary to provide directions for the coastal path other than saying – walk north or south keeping the sea on your right or left! Alongside some very interesting facts along the way there are a number of twists and turns through towns and villages which are highlighted in the following guide.

Why not view the sculptures and collect Bronze Trail Markers along the way?

Eyemouth to
Berwick upon Tweed
11 miles (17 kilometres)



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To continue into Berwick see enlarged inset

Cockburnspath to St Abbs

Distance: 14miles/22km

Time: 8 hours

Terrain: Steps and rough trodden path, boots recommended.

Cockburnspath and Cove information is found on pages 6 and 7.

Follow the Southern Upland Way between **Cockburnspath and Pease Bay** via **Cove**. Follow this grassy path, as it meanders around the sea braes above **Cove Harbour**. Look out for "Hollow Rock" which frames the harbour. At Pease Bay Holiday Park, cross the footbridge at the ford and follow the road uphill before turning left onto a footpath. Climb the flight of steps and follow the grassy path around sea braes. At the road, turn left following it into the quarry. (Beware of heavy vehicles using this road – a vegetable processing plant now resides in the disused quarry.) The option exists to continue out to **Siccar Point**, by turning left, but this may be best left for another visit. At the fingerpost, follow the track right, uphill, leading around **Old Cambus West Mains** steading, before emerging onto another road. Turn left and follow this road for one mile leading to **Redheugh**. Carefully make your way through the farm, following the track leading to the right of the sandstone steading facing you. A field gate on your left, adjacent to the steading, leads to a track along the headwall of the pond. Follow this track around the hill and, after a short distance, turn right, off the track, passing through a kissing gate heading uphill, away from the coast, on the margin of the grass field. Pass through the next kissing gate and turn right following the fence line up the side of Mucklecleugh Burn. On meeting a track, turn left and proceed through the Cleugh, across the burn, to another kissing gate in a dyke. Turn sharp right, keeping to the fence line, to continue your ascent of the hill to the kissing gate and stone dyke in the

distance. Passing through the kissing gate, turn immediately left and follow the stone dyke, as it contours round the hill, passing through another three kissing gates. Truly stunning views of the River Forth, Fife and East Lothian, are plentiful. Remember to keep a watch for the signposts!

At the third gate turn immediately right and follow the stone dyke uphill to complete the ascent. Just before reaching Dowlaw quarry, pass through the kissing gate, turn immediately left, and follow the path through this rough ground to emerge on open heather moorland along the crest of the hill before joining the road leading to **Dowlaw carpark**. Here you will see signposts for **Fast Castle**.



Fast Castle

A detour (1½ miles/2km) from the Coastal Path leads to **Fast Castle** which occupies a dramatic, sheer-sided rock jutting out into the sea. Stumps of masonry represent the final stage of a castle which was visited by Mary Queen of Scots in 1566 and captured by an English force in 1570. The site is best viewed from the higher ground on the landward side. Sir Walter Scott later set part of his novel, *Bride of Lammermuir* here, calling it 'Wolfs' Crag'.

Follow the Coastal Path *through Dowlaw farm* *not* by Fast Castle, being careful of farm machinery and activities, and downhill on

the **Old Post Road**. Follow this grassy track as it makes its way across a small bridge, on a stream at the head of **Dowlaw Dean**, then on over a stile, leading to another field gate at **Dowlaw Burn**. Cross the burn and follow the farm track uphill through arable fields. It veers right at first and after a short while a fingerpost directs you sharp left, where you leave this track for a grassy field margin leading to the cliffs once more. Heading seaward, you skirt this arable field before passing through a pair of kissing gates and trace a fence line that skirts the cliff tops of three grass fields. Follow the fence above the cliff making your way through a further two kissing gates. The ground is rough and steeply angled in places making for difficult walking so take your time and enjoy the views. You pass patches of gorse which glow bright yellow in spring and summer. A kissing gate allows you to pass through the fence line that you have been tracing. Follow the path as it descends steeply downhill into **Westerside Dean** to cross a pedestrian bridge over the burn. In late spring the Dean will reveal a beautiful carpet of bluebells. The path passes through a further kissing gate into an improved grass field. Turn left and climb the steep hill, keeping to the edge of the field as much as possible. At the top of the hill turn left, through yet another kissing gate in the fence, giving access to the cliff tops and the highest point on the Berwickshire coast.



View from Pettico Wick



RMS Mauretania

Four Admiralty distance poles (two each perpendicular to the coast) mark a measured nautical mile on this section of cliff. Ships on set bearings would time the distance by lining up the two sets of alight poles. Used by shipping companies for over a century these were used to test speeds of ocean going vessels. RMS Mauretania was an ocean liner built by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson at Tyne and Wear for the British Cunard Line, and launched on 20 September 1906. At the time, she was the largest and fastest ship in the world. Mauretania became a favourite among her passengers. After capturing the Blue Riband for the fastest transatlantic crossing during her 1907 inaugural season, Mauretania held the speed record for twenty-two years. During many runs on the St. Abbs Head Mile the best speed attained was 25.73 knots. This test was essential at that time to secure the mail subsidy contract with America.

Photographs of the Mauretania undergoing her sea trials off St Abbs Head can be seen as part of the interesting **John Wood collection**, a series of photographs taken around the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century in Coldingham village.

The National Trust for Scotland now owns these coastal braes which are managed for the vast bird colonies.

Warning! Remote land, unguarded cliffs and steep inclines are aplenty here so take care.



Tun Law fort

Tun Law (500ft/150m) is marked on the ground by the remains of two iron age hill forts, reached by skirting the fence line as signed. These D shaped forts would originally have been oval and overtime the seaward side has been eroded.

Follow the fence line and do not be tempted to stray to the cliff edge (keep dogs leashed to protect sheep). The path is clearly waymarked to another kissing gate, leading to a boardwalk and a stile, which lead you away from the dangers of the cliff edge. Turning left at this stile, climb over the short rise to reveal another stile on your left, which takes you back to the seaward side of the fence again. Turn right and follow the fence over a final short hill, before descending past an Admiralty Distance Post to the end of the fence. The views on a clear day do not disappoint. From here the path crosses a stile and then almost immediately, across a ladder stile, which crosses a stone dyke into a grass field. Continue downhill through the field to the gates at the bottom. The metalled road gives way to **Pettico Wick** and **St Abbs Head**.

Pettico Wick

A favourite venue for divers, this cove has magnificent views of the coastline. The jetty was built to land supplies for the lighthouse prior to the road and this was also the location of an early salmon fishing station.

The signs direct you between Pettico Wick and St Abbs via the lighthouse. Now automated, it was built in 1862 by the esteemed engineers David and Thomas Stevenson who were responsible for many of the light houses around the coast of Britain.

Passing **Kirk Hill on St Abbs Head**, take a moment to look for the remains of a 7th century AD monastery where Abbess Aebbe governed a house of monks and nuns within the earthworks of an earlier fort. (Remains are just visible on the seaward side of the hill).

Shortly after Aebbe's death the monastery was accidentally burnt down in 683 and not rebuilt. At some period between this fire and the start of Normanisation the name Colud and the local people moved from the Head to the nearby and now fertile hollow called Coldingham - the final syllable 'ham' is supposed to have been added by the Saxons.

Believe it or not, St Abbs head was once used as a golf course and you may still be able to spot the putting greens on the way through the Nature Reserve. The signs direct you to **St Abbs village** where you should take a moment to visit the harbour and cafes. You can continue between **St Abbs and Coldingham via the Creel Path**, an extension of Creel Road. Follow this ancient path, now almost a tunnel through trees, up to the road. Turn left and walk along the roadside path into the **village of Coldingham**. Alternatively continue to Coldingham Bay along the coast.

For Coldingham and St Abbs information please refer to page 14 and 15.

St Abbs to Burnmouth

Distance: 7miles / 11km
or Eyemouth 3¹/₂miles / 6km

Time: 4 or 2 hours

Terrain: Steps and rough trodden path,
boots recommended.

At the end of **Murrayfield Road** in **St Abbs**, a metalled path leads to **Coldingham Bay**. This path commands great views of the Bay. On a clear day you will see the pyramidal roof of Eyemouth Golf Club – a design which many say does not live up to its neighbour’s grandeur; **Gungreen House**. This attraction, is well worth a visit on route to Burnmouth.



Looking down onto Coldingham Bay

Pass through the picturesque bay, with its classic beach huts and café, and climb over **Homeli Knoll**, dropping into pebbly **Milldown shore**. Pass over the bridge and follow the steps up to the cliff top. The next bay en route is **Linkim Shore**. Follow the trodden path as it makes its way up Hallydown Dean, crossing two pedestrian bridges, to an arable field margin and stone wall. Follow the path around the four arable fields to **Eyemouth**. The path leads you around the edge of **Eyemouth Caravan Park**, past the broad ditch and grassy ramparts of the **16th century French fort**. The path then leads down a flight of steps across the beach to the **Bantry** and along to the car park. Follow **Eyemouth High Street** or the **Bantry** to the quayside.

Eyemouth High Street has shops, cafes and inns. Both the **Eyemouth Museum** and **VisitScotland’s Information Centre** may be found at **Manse Road**. **Manse Road** leads to the Quayside where you will see **Gungreen House**, dominating the harbour, above the opposing quay.



Gungreenhouse.org

Coastal Path signs direct you around the harbour to a small pedestrian bridge, opposite the Lifeboat Station, to the opposing quayside. Be careful – this is a working port and can be very busy with landing and fish processing.



Guillemots, © Keith Robeson

Eyemouth to Berwick upon Tweed

Distance: 11 miles / 17 km

Time: 5½ hours

Terrain: Steps and rough trodden path, boots recommended.

Signs direct you from **Gunsgreen House**, past the **fish market/ ice plant**, uphill on a pavement which swings round to the right. Leaving the pavement, the Coastal Path crosses the golf course fairway by a stone path. Pass through the metal kissing gate, turn right and follow the coastline. The path meanders alongside the stonedyke and a fence line, through four arable fields to **Burnmouth**. The path is easy to follow, and provides splendid views in both directions. Take some time to enjoy the secluded **Fancove Bay** at **Blaikie Heugh** which is the highest point on this section and is reached by climbing over a stone stile in the dyke. The grassy path leads into **Burnmouth** by a metalled drive to White Crag house. If coming from Berwick look out for the signs on the lampposts for the Coastal Path.



Eyemouth

From the railway bridge in Burnmouth follow the steep road downhill, turning left for the single track road to Partonhall. Halfway down this hill, a path emerges on your right. This leads to the church on the opposite side of the burn.

Here you should follow the steep road downhill leading to the harbour. On the harbour wall is a memorial to the 1881 East Coast Fishing Disaster. Follow the road all the way along to the group of houses named **Cowdrait**, at the end of the road. After the first row of terraced housing, turn sharp right and between the two terraces a path is signposted up a flight of steps.

This charming grassy path leads to a stile into a grass field. From here, head for the gate in the corner of the field where the road goes under the railway. Cross the stile and turn immediately left, continuing downhill on this metalled road to Lamberton holding. Just before the holding, cross the stile to your right and follow the grass path which eventually leads uphill on a disused lane that once ran under the railway. Cross the stile and follow the path which now leads across the **disused railway** solumn (the east coast mainline was moved inland at this point a few years back).

Pass through the kissing gate and along the path which follows the dyke in the railway cutting, before emerging in an open field with steep cliff drops. Looking north you will be able to see the remains of a now abandoned fishing station, **Lamberton Skerrs**. Partway along this section, the path runs between two fences to avoid a particularly narrow stretch of cliff edge.

Lamberton Tollhouse, now demolished, was sited on the hill above the railway. Once rivalling Gretna as a place for eloping couples, mostly from England, in the 19th Century there were in excess of 300 marriages performed annually by "Ministers" who were often tailors or such like who were supplementing their income.

In the distance you will see a fence line - follow the signposts along the edge of the stone wall adjacent to the railway. This route avoids disturbing the sheep and allows you to see the border sign on the railway line - Welcome to England! The grass path is now fenced either side and emerges at the **caravan park at Marshall Meadows**.

Leaving the caravan park by a ladder stile, follow the coastline south, where there are some great views of the cliffs below. Proceed round the golf course greens, round the well trodden path at the holiday park, to emerge at a road, car park and toilets on the fringes of Berwick. There are three options to continue through the town;

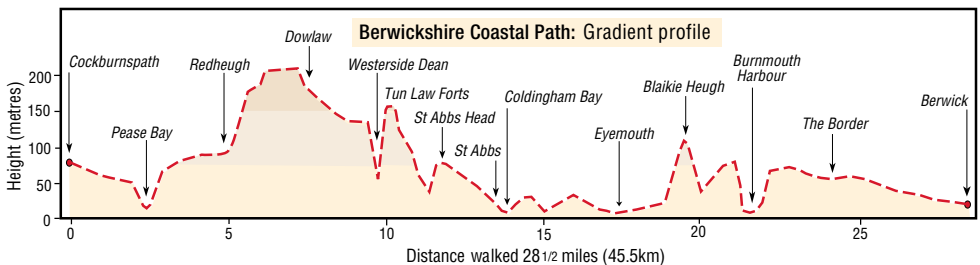
1. Follow the road leading right to the train station;
2. Follow the road left to Cow Port, to the town's famous Ramparts, and the town centre or;
3. Follow the coastline path left and skirt the golf course fairways which lead to the mouth of the River Tweed and the quayside. Follow the Quayside road passing through the ramparts and then climb on to the ramparts themselves. Walking up the Tweed estuary past the merchant houses of old you get impressive views of both **Berwick Old Bridge** and the railway viaduct. The path leads to the newer Royal Tweed

Bridge where you are minutes from the train station, the town centre for buses or, for the more adventurous, you could continue on south on the Northumberland Coast Path.....

Berwick upon Tweed has changed hands no fewer than fourteen times and although English since 1482, its football team still plays in the Scottish League! The ramparts provide a popular promenade around the town and were built in their present form in the 16th century in response to the construction of a French fort at Eyemouth. The Barracks were designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor (more famous for his London churches) and built in 1711-21, making them the oldest in Britain. The Tweed is crossed by Old Berwick Bridge (1611) with its fifteen sandstone arches, the Royal Tweed Bridge (1925) and Robert Stephenson's Royal Border Bridge (1847-50), which carries the main East Coast railway line.



Lamberton Skerres





Eyemouth Harbour



Eyemouth

Eyemouth has been Scotland's largest south-eastern port since 1482 when Berwick upon Tweed was lost to England. In the wars of the mid-16th century Fort Point was fortified twice; by the English in the 1540s and by the French several years later. Created a Burgh of Barony in 1597, Eyemouth is the largest town in Berwickshire and the river Eye's deep water is still ideal for landing boats.

The sights, sounds and smells of one of the busiest ports in Scotland show how important fishing still is to the town. Recent times see increasing use of the harbour for pleasure craft and diving interests. Eyemouth has many interesting buildings that chart a fascinating history including stories of smuggling, shipwrecks and witch-burning. One of the most poignant

historical events is the disaster of October 1881, when a great storm wrecked many East Coast vessels and 129 Berwickshire men lost their lives. Eyemouth museum includes a display and tapestry depicting the events (see page 23).

The area's seafaring heritage is celebrated in its culture. Sea shanties and other traditional music can often be heard in harbour side hostelries. Work by local artists is on display to admire and buy. Each summer in July, the town's people crown a local lass the "Herring Queen" which is accompanied by a week of events.



Points of Interest Gunsgreen House

Built by local smuggler and merchant John Nisbet in the 1750s. At this time, smuggling was called Free Trade and this coast was a centre for business.

Famously a speaker in Parliament once stated; “....smuggling is carried out to such an alarming extent on the east coast of Scotland, that one man had been enabled, from its gains, to erect a splendid palace (Gunsgreen House).” Don't miss out on this visitor attraction which has recently undergone a major refurbishment.



Gunsgreenhouse.org

Eyemouth Fort

This English fort was built in 1547 to designs by Sir Richard Lee and enlarged by the French in 1557. Like Lee's work on Berwick upon Tweed's fortifications, the forts were designed for artillery, with guns concealed in Italian-type pointed bastions.

Route 8

**Eyemouth Fort,
harbour and sea braes**

Start and finish: VisitScotland Information Centre.

Distance: 2miles /3km.

Walking Time: 1-2 hours

Toilets, Harbour and Bantry Car Park.
Car Parking throughout town.

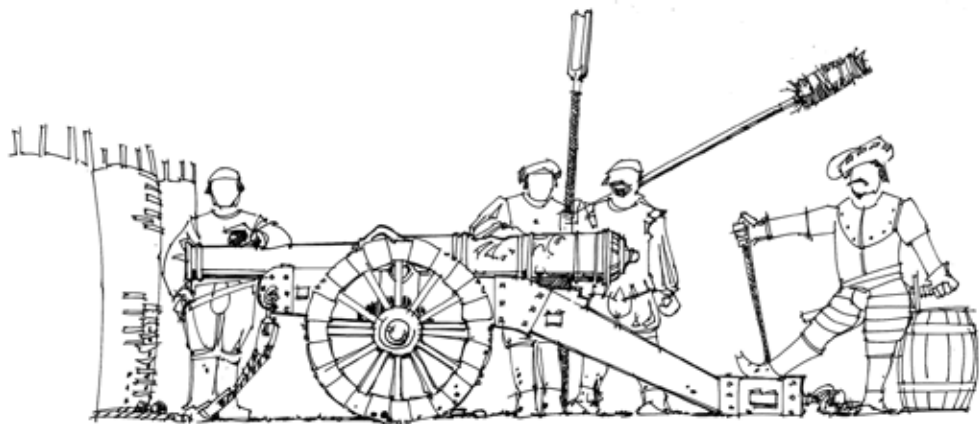
Terrain: Steps as indicated, loose stone paths.



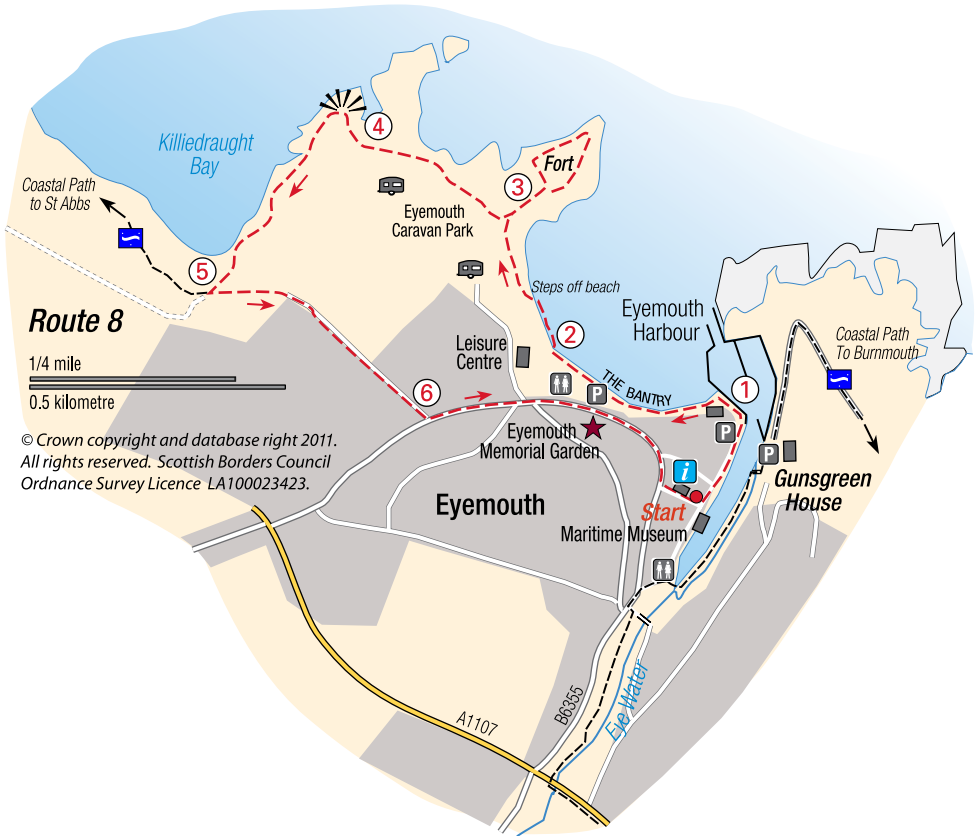
Eyemouth Fort

walkit

- ① Follow the quayside left at the Fishermen's Mission heading for the promenade (Bantry)
- ② Follow the Bantry, not quite as far as the swimming pool, and turn right across a short section of beach following the sign pointing up a flight of steps to the caravan park in the distance.
- ③ Explore the earthworks of the fort and see the 19th century cannons on the head.
- ④ Follow the path round to Killiedraught Bay enjoying views of St Abbs Head in the distance.
- ⑤ Turn left at the fingerpost following a track through the park to a pavement, or take a walk down the grassy path to Killiedraught Bay.
- ⑥ On the pavement, turn left at the road junction making your way back to the High Street.



Gunners Defending the 16th Century Fort.



Eyemouth Harbour entrance

Route 9

Gungreen House and sea braes

Start and finish: Gungreen House.

Distance: 2miles/3km, 3miles/5km.

Walking Time: 1 hour

Toilets – Harbour and Bantry

Car Parking at Gungreen House

Terrain: Steps, path rough, unsurfaced and narrow in places.



Gungreenhouse.org

walkit

① From Gungreen House, follow the pavement past the fish market and ice plant. Follow the pavement round to the right and uphill, where you should cross the road making for the path leading to the car park at the top of the hill.

② Pass through the gate and round the sea braes to the golf course. Carefully follow the waymarkers around the fairways.

③ Follow the path and dyke (wall) as it winds round the sea braes and through the golf course fairways.

(Shorter route) Turn right at the fingerpost, to pass through an iron gate and cross the golf course on a path. Turn left at the road and then turn right making your way to the Clubhouse on the hill.

④a Cross the Eye Water bridge. From here follow the road from the Clubhouse car park as it leads round to the left.

⑤a Leave the road, turning right onto a pavement leading downhill past the farm buildings until emerging on the pavement by the main road. Turn right heading back into the town.

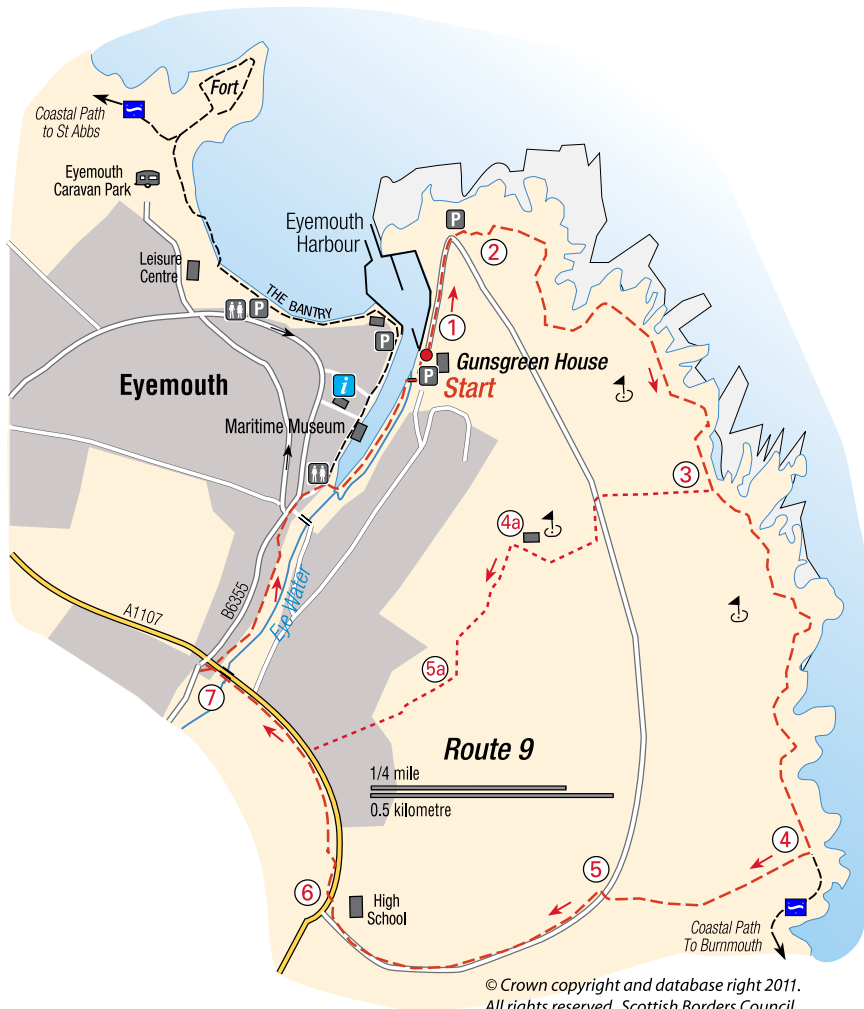
(Longer route) Follow the stone dyke to the end of the golf course.

④ Turn right down a gravel path, through some trees, to emerge on Gungreen Road.

⑤ Cross the road to the pavement and turn left downhill past the newly completed high school.

⑥ Turn right at the main road leading back into the town.

⑦ Cross the Eye Water bridge. From here follow the riverside path which leads to Harbour Road (A fingerpost reveals the start of this path on the Ayton road) Climb over the crash barrier to follow a path under the road bridge you just passed over. Turn right at Harbour Road, keeping right at the quayside, to cross the harbour by the red swing bridge which leads to the opposite quay and Gungreen House in the distance.



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Eyemouth Harbour and Lifeboat



Creels in St Abbs Harbour

Route 10

**Eyemouth and
Coldingham circular**

Start and finish: Eyemouth Bantry.
St Abbs or Coldingham for a shorter
circular

Distance: 7miles / 11km.
St Abbs or Coldingham circular
5miles / 7¹/₂ km

Walking Time: 4 hours
Toilets – Eyemouth Bantry, Coldingham
village and Bay, St Abbs Car Parking at
Eyemouth Bantry, St Abbs

Terrain: Steps, path rough, unsurfaced
and narrow in places.

- ① Follow the Coastal Path Bantry in Eyemouth, up a flight of steps, round the caravan park, by the remains of the fort, and on along the coastline.
- ② Pass through Linkim Shore on the Coastal Path. The path leads from Linkim Shore to Milldown bay on a grassy path. Cross the stone foreshore of Milldown bay and to the bridge across Milldown Burn. The path leads you up over Homeli Knoll to reveal Coldingham Bay. Pass through the Bay heading for the steps at the opposite end of the sand. These steps lead to a tar path which takes you to St Abbs village.



Thrift on St Abbs Head



Coldingham Bay

- ③ Take some time to enjoy the harbour and take in the character. From the harbour follow Creel Road, to the Creel Path which leads inland to Coldingham village. Follow the road through the village, turning left at Fisher's Brae "leading to Chariot Road" into the Priory grounds.
- ④ From the Priory doors, follow the path downhill leading to The Bow, (keeping the large wall, Edgars Walls, on your right). Turn left, following the St Andrews Burn for a short distance before turning right to cross a pedestrian bridge, following a woodland path uphill. At the end of this, turn left up the track leading to Law House. This track leads round the farm steading to another track that leads to the Scoutscroft right of way. Turn right and follow this track to Paddockmyre.
- ⑤ Follow the right of way to Fleurs, turning left at the track junction leading to a field entrance. Follow the signposts leading down a fenceline on a grassy margin to a field gate above Linkim Shore. A path leads down a steep hill into Linkim Shore at point 2 where you retrace your steps back to Eyemouth.



Coldingham Bay

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Eyemouth Harbour



Ayton, Burnmouth and Lamberton

Ayton

The name Ayton or “Eyetown” is derived from the River Eye which passes through and forms the port in Eyemouth. The red sandstone building of Ayton Castle was built in the Scots baronial style by architect James Graham. Much of the interior fittings and furnishings remain faithful to the original design commissioned by the Mitchell-Innes family. The previous fortified house or Peel Tower, was home to the Home family. Burnt down in 1834, William Mitchell acquired Ayton Estate, and is recorded as William Mitchell-Innes of Ayton Castle. William Mitchell-Innes was a Director with the Bank of Scotland and this strong link remains in the town with a local branch on the main street. The castle remains a family home for the second owner, Liddell-Graingers since 1895.

Ayton Castle is open to the public in the summer and is well worth a visit.



Ayton Castle



Burnmouth

The village is divided into Upper Burnmouth, Partanhall, Cowdrait and Ross. Partanhall (partan is Scots for crab) is a string of cottages at the foot of a high cliff; Cowdrait and Ross are a little further south, nearer the harbour, which was improved in 1879 and had an inner basin added in 1959.

Burnmouth has a small church sited halfway down the Brae (the road which ascends the cliff between Lower and Upper Burnmouth). Burnmouth hosts an annual bike race, known as the “**Brae Race**” which takes place every May. The course consists of the steep road which ascends the cliff from lower to upper Burnmouth.



Lamberton Skerrs

Route 11

**Chester Hill Fort,
Burnmouth circular**

Start and finish: Upper Burnmouth, The First and Last Pub

Distance: 2¹/₂ miles/4km.

Walking Time: 1-2 hours

Toilet at the Harbour in Eyemouth at the Bantry Car Park

Parking is available on the street, and if a customer, use the Pub car park.

Terrain: Minor roads, grass fields and muddy farm tracks.

- ① Follow the Coastal path as it makes its way uphill between the school and the community hall. Go up the lane, turning left and then right, along the field edge. Keep along this field. The path is easy to follow, and provides splendid views in both directions. Climbing over a stone stile in the dyke takes you into the secluded Fancove Bay at Blaikie Heugh which is the highest point between Eyemouth and Berwick. Intensely folded, faulted and banded rocks strata formations are very impressive in the sheer cliffs around this Bay.
- ② From here, turn inland, leaving the Coastal Path and follow the farm track leading downhill to the public road.
- ③ Turning left at the public road leads you back into the village of Burnmouth. Walk on the right to see any oncoming traffic.

Equally, you may choose to retrace your steps, back along the coastal path to Burnmouth.

Chester Hill Fort offers exceptional views across the Borders and Berwickshire. This Fort is within a livestock farm therefore always keep your dog under close control.



Brotherston's Hole with Scotland in the distance from Berwick

Do not take it through fields of calves or lambs and dispose of dog dirt. Cattle can act aggressively. Keep yourself and your dog at a safe distance and if necessary let your dog go so that you can both seek safety.

Chester Hill Fort

- ①a Leave Burnmouth and cross carefully across the A1 carriageway following the single-track road leading up hill until you come across a fingerpost at a farm gate on your left pointing to Chester Hill fort up a farm track.
- ②a Pass through the gate, following this track up the hill, ignore the first gate on your right and carry on traversing the slope on the track until you pass through another gate.
- ③a Forking left and proceeding across the hill to the edge of the slope you will see a great view of the coastline and on the ground grassy circular mounds which are the remains of the hill fort. Chester comes from Old English *ceastre*, meaning a fortified camp.



Chester Hill Fort looking to Eyemouth



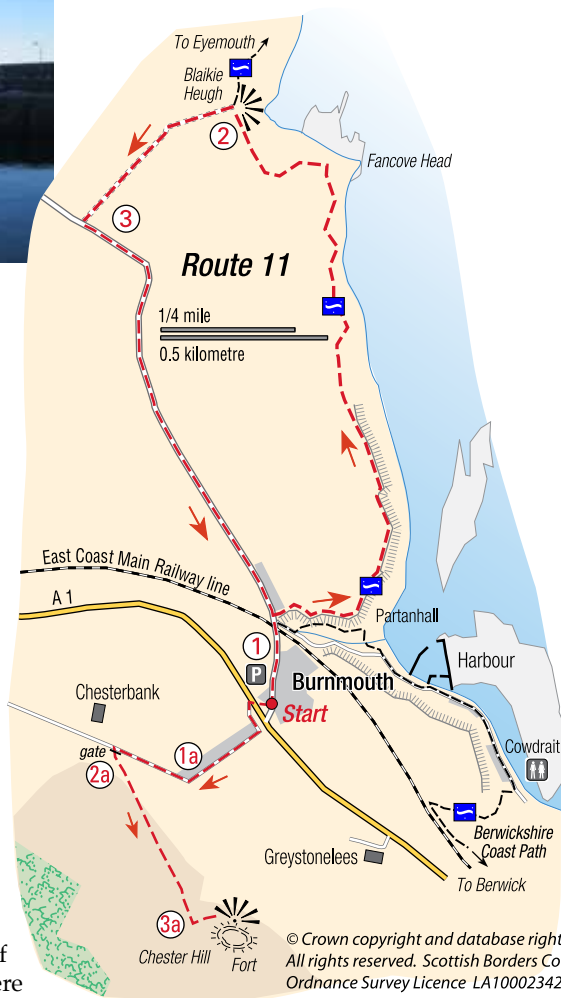
Burnmouth Harbour

Lamberton

Lamberton was once the estate of Laird Campbell-Renton before being split up by an Act of parliament into a community of smallholdings that was created to provide a living for soldiers returning from The Great War.

Lamberton Skerr (visible from the Coastal Path south of Burnmouth) is the remains of a Salmon Fishery which were once common place on the Berwickshire coastline. Fishing was undertaken using sweep or drag netting from the shore using a larch winch that still remains.

The now demolished Old Toll House at Lamberton, situated just across the border in Scotland, was notorious for its irregular marriages. From 1798 to 1858 keepers of the Toll used to marry couples in the same fashion as at the more familiar Gretna Green. The site of the house is marked by a plaque. There were in excess of 300 marriages performed annually by "Ministers" who were often tailors or such like who were supplementing their income. The now ruined Lamberton Kirk was the church where, in July 1503, Margaret Tudor the daughter of King Henry VII of England, met the representatives of King James IV of Scotland (and traditionally is said to have married him by proxy), thus leading to the eventual succession of James VI to the English throne. Only ruins of the nave and chancel remain, as the burial-place of the Rentons of Lamberton.



Fancove Head

Route 12

**Ayton and Eyemouth
(Eddie's) Trail**

Start and finish: Eyemouth Bantry Car Park

Distance: 6½ miles / 10km

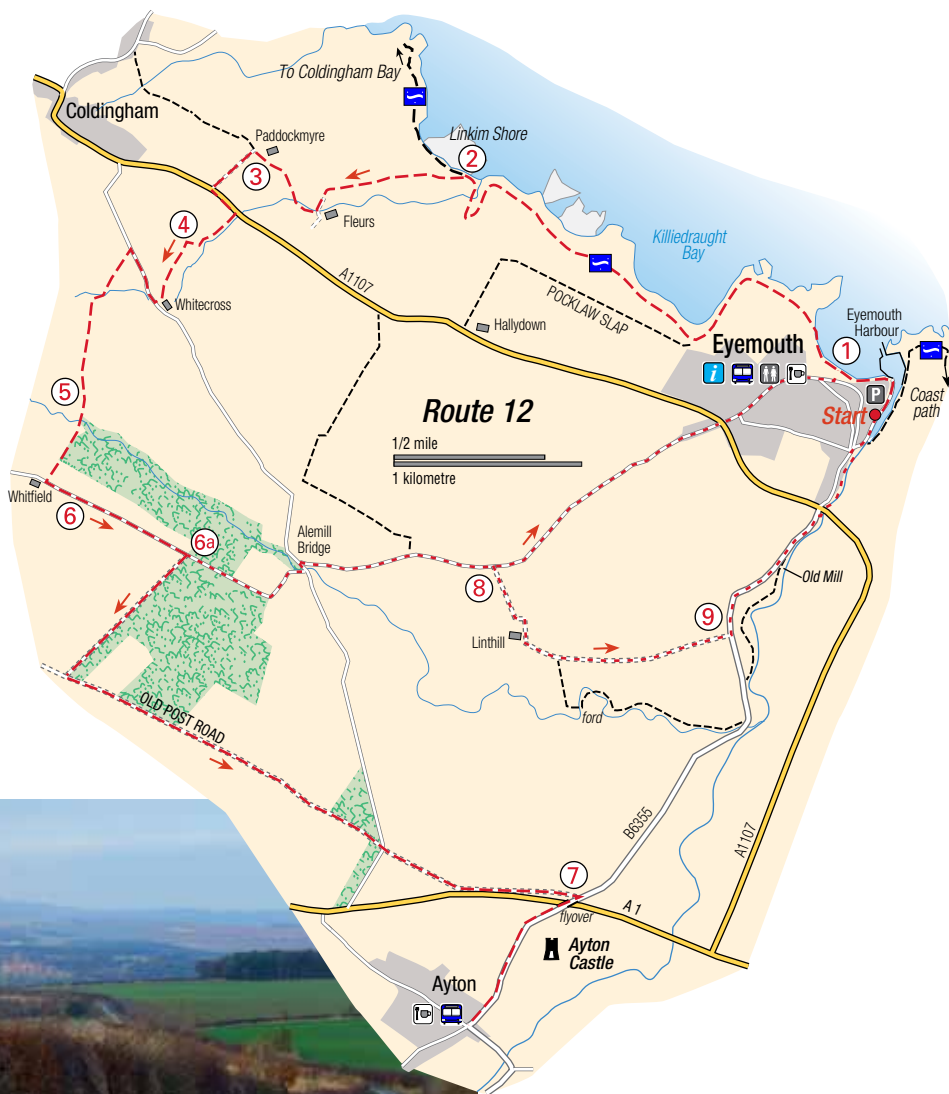
Walking Time: 5 hours

Toilet in Eyemouth at the Bantry Car Park

- ① The Coastal Path leads you from Eyemouth Bantry to Linkim shore.
- ② Here the route leaves the Coastal Path, traverses the hillside, through a field gate and along a field edge, inland, to Fleurs. Before reaching the steading, turn right, leaving the farm track on a footpath leading uphill to Paddockmyre, the house on the hill top in the distance.
- ③ Turn left at the house making your way along the farm track leading to the public road, A1107.
- ④ Crossing the road, turning left, and follow it for 100 yards before turning right on a signposted path leading through Whitcross steading. Turning right at the metalled road, follow it for 400yds until a signpost points you left down a wooded footpath for "Whitfield". Follow the wooded path for a good while before passing through two gates which enclose a grass field.
- ⑤ The path leads down a steep bank to a bridge where you cross the Ale Burn. Follow the path through the woodland, where it then picks up a grassy headland of an arable field.
- ⑥ On reaching the minor road at Whitfield, turn left and follow until reaching the woodland plantation on your right.
- ⑦ At this point you can either continue over the Alemill Bridge using the minor road to Eyemouth, or to continue to Ayton turn right where a track leads to the Old Post Road. This was the historic road between London and Edinburgh prior to the A1. Upon reaching this road turn left and continue until you meet the Ayton road (B6355).
- ⑧ Turn right onto the pavement leading to Ayton (shop and bank) where you could also visit Ayton Castle, while awaiting a bus to Eyemouth or Berwick. No pavement exists between here and Point 9. If returning to Eyemouth on foot, retrace your steps back along the Old Post Road and to the Alemill Bridge.
- ⑨ Turn right at the track leading downhill to Linthill. Follow the track round the houses to reach the pavement on the Eyemouth Road.
- ⑩ Pick up the pavement leading to Eyemouth town and join the riverside walk in Route 7 at the road junction, or, turning right you could pick up an old Right of Way leading down the cauld for the old Eyemouth Grain Mill.

Evidence of a mill at this site dates back to the 17th Century. Eyemouth was first and foremost a grain exporting port and only became a major fishing port (mackerel and herring) in the 18th Century.

Thirteen corn mills, two textile mills and one paper mill worked on the Eyewater until the mid 20th Century. The mill was powered by two 12 feet by 6 feet overshot wheels situated in parallel fuelled by a half-mile long mill lade. The wheels, sluices and lade are still extant today.



Ayton Castle

The other routes marked on this map are Rights of Way that the Rotary Club of Eyemouth and District would like to develop into a commemorative walk for one of their late members. Over time, this walk will be developed and improved, but until then, these paths demand the walker to be fit and able to navigate some tougher terrain than you would typically find in our promotional brochures.

Further interest

- Burnmouth
www.burnmouthcc.com
- Cockburnspath
www.cockburnspathandcove.co.uk
- Coldingham Priory
www.stebba-coldinghampriory.org.uk
- Coldingham
www.coldingham.info
- Eyemouth
www.eyemouth.com
- Hutton's unconformity
www.james-hutton.org.uk
- John Muir Birthplace, Dunbar
www.jmbt.org.uk
- St Abbs
www.stabbs.org
- St Abbs Head Nature Reserve
www.nts.org.uk
- St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve
www.marine-reserve.co.uk
- Pease Dean Nature Reserve
www.swt.org.uk

For all the family;

- Coldingham Bay
www.scotborders.gov.uk
- Eyemouth Museum
www.scotborders.gov.uk
- Gunsgreen House
www.gunsgreenhouse.org
- Pease Bay
www.peasebay.co.uk
- Eyemouth Boating Tours
www.glassbottomboat.org
- St Abbs Visitor Centre
www.stabbsvisitorcentre.co.uk

Road Cycling routes

A number of road routes are signed on quiet back roads: Search "Cycle" @ www.scotborders.gov.uk

Events

- Herring Queen Festival - July
- Scottish Borders Walking Festival - September www.borderswalking.com

Watersports

- Surfing, Surf Hire, Lessons, bodyboards
www.stvedas.co.uk
- Diving www.divestabbseyemouth.co.uk or www.aquastars.co.uk

Accommodation

Hotel, B and B, camping or caravanning options: www.visitscottishborders.com
Information Service: 01835 863170
Email enquiries:
bordersinfo@visitscotland.com

Travel

www.travelinescotland.com
0871 200 22 33
Or www.perrymansbuses.co.uk
01289 308 719
Bus numbers: 253, 235, 236

Facilities/ refreshments

- VisitScotland Information Centre in Eyemouth - High Street or Harbour Road.
- Cockburnspath - Main Street
- Ayton
- Coldingham - Village Hall Car Park
- St Abbs Harbour - Harbour Road
- Coldingham Bay - Beach
- Renton Barns - Picnic Site

All routes are waymarked however a map is advisable for navigation on longer routes: OS Explorer Map Sheet 346 Berwick Upon Tweed.

Further walking in the area

www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking



- **Southern Upland Way**
(212 miles from Cockburnspath to Portpatrick)



- **St Cuthberts Way**
(62 1/2 miles from Melrose to Lindisfarne)



- **Pennine Way**
(268 miles from Edale to Kirk Yetholm)



- **Northumberland Coast Path**
(64 miles from Cresswell to Berwick Upon Tweed)

- **John Muir Way**
(45 miles from Fisherrow to Dunglass)

Alternative format/language

You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats. In addition, contact the address opposite for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information and advice contained in this booklet is correct at the date of publication. However, it is always for you to assess whether completing a route is within your capability, using your common sense and your knowledge of your own state of health and fitness, competence and experience. No liability is accepted by the authors or publishers for any loss, injury or damage, arising out of, or in any way connected with, any person or persons undertaking or attempting to undertake any of the routes described in this booklet, howsoever caused.

Contact Information

VisitScotland Borders

Shepherd's Mill, Whinfield Road,
Selkirk, TD7 5DT.
Accommodation Bookings: 0845 22 55 121
Tel: 01835 863170
email: bordersinfo@visitscotland.com
www.visitscottishborders.com

Scottish Borders

Tourist Information Centres
Jedburgh, Peebles, Melrose, Kelso,
Eyemouth, Hawick and Selkirk.
Opening dates and times vary
For Information: Tel: 01835 863170

Scottish Borders Council

www.scotborders.gov.uk
Scottish Borders Countryside website:
www.scotborders.gov.uk/walking
Access & Countryside Team & Walk It
Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells,
Melrose, TD6 0SA
Tel: 01835 825060
email: outdooraccess@scotborders.gov.uk
email: rangers@scotborders.gov.uk
email: walkit@scotborders.gov.uk

For further information on walking in Scotland, visit: www.walkingwild.com

The Southern Upland Way

www.southernuplandway.gov.uk

Scottish Borders Walking Festival

www.borderswalking.com

Mountain Rescue Team - Scottish Borders

It is considered best practice to alert the MRT to all incidents where a casualty is located on a hill, moor, upland or other countryside, or missing on such ground even if the Ambulance Service has been requested.

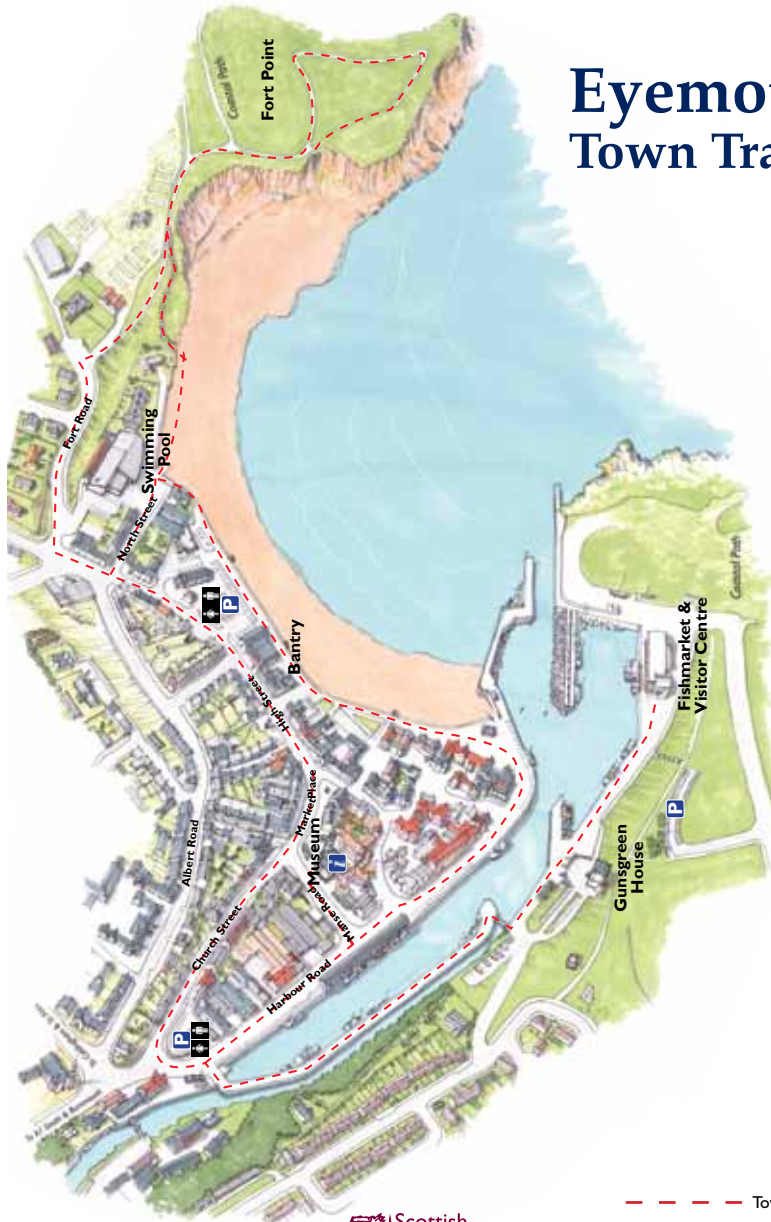
To call the MRT to such incidents the following procedure should be followed:

1. Dial 999
2. Ask for Police
3. Tell the Police that you require Mountain Rescue
Tell the Police why and where you require the MRT.

Coastguard

Dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Eyemouth Town Trail



Scottish
Borders
COUNCIL

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