

CIRCULAR CYCLE RIDES FROM BERWICK

2. In the tracks of the monks to Holy Island

The Ride (shown as a red line on the map)

The ride down the coast from Berwick to Holy Island is a scenic delight of the highest order. Unfortunately the standard of the cycle paths is far from acceptable so use a sturdy tourer, hybrid or mountain bike. Before planning this ride check the safe crossing times by phoning Berwick TIC on 01289 330733 or at www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3309.

The Main Route (35.4 miles) From Berwick follow NCN1 down the coast through Cheswick (o.e. cheese village) and Goswick (o.e. goose village) all the way to Holy Island. Return to Berwick via Beal, Ancroft and West Allerdean.

- (1) **Hallowstall** At the end of Dock Road on the left hand side is the "holy man's fishery" where the monks from Holy Island fished for salmon in the Tweed.
- (2) **Pot-a-Doodle-Do** at the end of the cliff path consider going up the hill to Borewell Farm where you can find out how the land is managed for the benefit of the environment whilst enjoying coffee and cakes in the café. (01289 307107)
- (3) **Cocklawburn** has a sandy beach with lots of rock pools to explore and is a good place for fossil hunting. There is now very little trace of the fishing shiels that were situated all down the coast. This was quite an industrial site with, among other businesses, the lime kilns of the Scremerston Lime Co.
- (4) **Goswick Sands.** From a gap in the dunes you can see across the sands to Holy Island, there was an old causeway to Holy Island here.
- (5) **Holy Island** Norman Priory built on site of an Anglo Saxon monastery founded by St Aidan in AD 635. Castle built as a defence in Tudor times, transformed into a home by Edward Lutyens. Gertrude Jekyll's garden. Upturned fishing cobbles used as shelters around the harbour. Sample the famous Lindisfarne Mead at St Aidan's Winery. Plenty of refreshment opportunities.
- (6) **Barn at Beal** Coffee shop and restaurant serving the best of local produce. From coffee & cake to a three course meal with wine. (01289 540044) Bird of prey centre. **Beal Farm** has Countryside Stewardship Agreement.
- (7) **Church of St Anne, Ancroft** was originally a Norman chapel of ease, with a 12th century nave. In the late 13th century, a three storey defensible pele tower, with a tunnel vaulted ground floor, was built into the west end to provide secure accommodation for the priest and villagers.
- (8) **West Allerdean** The summit of the ride with views over the Tweed Valley. **Plough Inn** pub and restaurant serving quality meals with affordable prices. (01289 387206)

Shorter Route (26.0 miles). If you wish to do a shorter ride or the tides are wrong then miss out the ride across the causeway to Holy Island and back.

