

CIRCULAR CYCLE RIDES FROM BERWICK

5. Exploring the Berwickshire Coast

The Rides (shown as red lines on the map)

The main route (35.0 miles). Berwick - East Ord - Chain Bridge - Bluestone Ford (footbridge) - top of Chirnside - Reston - Cairncross - Alemill - Eyemouth. Return to Berwick through Ayton, Foulden and Paxton.

- (1) **Chain Bridge Honey Farm** visitor centre was established to allow the public to discover first hand the extraordinary tale of bees and honey. **Café/bus** serving honey based treats and hot drinks. (01289 382362). **Union (Chain) Bridge** opened for traffic on 26 July 1820 as the longest iron suspension bridge in the world.
- (2) **Winfield** is a modern potato farm.
- (3) **Reston** railway station and junction for Duns branch - both now gone. Once thriving livestock market became a victim of foot and mouth in 2001.
- (4) **Ale Mill** former water mill now a goose farm - look out for flock in fields.
- (5) **Eyemouth** fishing port since 13th century. still one of the busiest in Scotland with several wet fish merchants and smokehouses. **Gungreen House** built in 1750s for local smuggler/merchant John Nisbet. Visit the **Museum** to find out about the 1881 disaster in which 189 fishermen lost their lives. The **World of Boats** is also worth a visit. Cafes and pubs including **Oblo Bar & Bistro** (01890 752527). Ice cream parlours and a fish and chip shop. Bakers and other shops for picnics.
- (6) **Foulden Tithe Barn** not open to public (off route along A6105).
- (7) **Paxton** stop for refreshment at **Cross Inn** (01289 386267) or **Stables Café** Paxton House (01289 386291) before returning to Berwick.

To visit Coldingham - at Cairncross continue on B6438. Return via Alemill and then either directly on to Ayton (**35.0 miles**), or down to Eyemouth (**38.1 miles**).

- (8) **Coldingham Priory** founded 1098 by Edgar, King of Scots, was northern-most house of monks of St Cuthbert from Durham. **New Inn** (01890 771315) for meals prepared from local produce and real ales.

From Coldingham you can visit these three places:

- (9) **Coldingham Sands (extra 2.0 miles)** is the best bathing beach on the Berwickshire coast with its rows of colourfully painted beach huts.
- (10) **St Abbs (extra 3.3 miles)** pretty village facing its harbour and sea (a centre for diving). **Memorial** to 1881 disaster. **Ebb Carrs Café**, in converted smoke house on harbour. **The Old Smiddy** (on road into St Abbs) for refreshments, adjoining craft shops and information centre.
- (11) **St Abbs Head (extra 5.8 miles)** There is a tarmac road from The Old Smiddy to the lighthouse which is well worth following for the spectacular scenery. The cliffs and stacks north-west of the lighthouse are noted for their concentration of seabirds - about 50,000 in total.

