Boats lost

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 co ordinates on map.
2. 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 lasses; the bating of lines; fishes under sail; the gear and the craft of it all.

You don’t have to walk the Coastal Path to collect these gifts. Undertake this challenge by car, by foot or by bike. To promote a sense of unexpected gift we have left the location deliberately weak. Good luck and remember to take care near the cliffs!

The 125 Memorial Association
Are seeking to raise further funds to complete the sculptures 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: SCO07175 at the banks or the Post Office in Eyemouth by quoting: Sort Code: 852036 Account Number: 00189997
www.eastcoastfishingdisaster.com

Berwickshire Coastal Path
Cockburnspath to Berwick
28½ mls (45km)

With the second highest cliffs on the east coast of Britain the Borders has one of the most spectacular coastlines in Britain. This area is nationally and internationally important for seabirds, coastal flora and marine life.
St Abb’s and Eyemouth voluntary Marine Reserve.
www.marine-reserve.co.uk
National Trust for Scotland
St Abb’s Head National Nature Reserve
nts.org.uk/stabb

WAYMARKED ROUTE

It may seem unnecessary to provide directions other than saying – walk north or south keeping the sea on your right or left! You will find interesting facts about the history of the landscape inside this leaflet. scottishbordersheritage.co.uk

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

You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats, by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below 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.

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COUNTRYSIDE AND HERITAGE

Our Scottish Borders
Your Adventure

Berwickshire COASTAL PATH
Cockburnspath to Berwick
28½ mls/45km

St Abb’s Lighthouse - Jason Barter
THE TRIP
Can I undertake the route in one trip? Do I walk north or south? Depending on your home location either may be preferable. You may wish to plan your trip around your accommodation location and undertake the walk on individual days. A frequent bus service allows flexibility for planning a day out. Dowlaw has no bus service but a taxi may be an option.

Two days
Strong walkers might manage the route in two days, but there is so much to see we recommend three relaxing days.

Three days
Take time to enjoy all that the towns and villages along the way have to offer. This option entails tackling the longest day, between Cockburnspath and St Abbs in one go, to avoid leaving transport at Dowlaw.

Four days
Four-day trips will require leaving transport at Dowlaw – this is not permitted overnight. This option allows plenty of time to explore Cove, Cockburnspath, Fast Castle at Dowlaw (entry not recommended; unguarded cliffs); St Abbs, Coldstream and Eyemouth.

Facilities and refreshments
Burnmouth
The Gulls Nest. The First & Last pub.
Eyemouth
Choice of many shops, restaurants, cafes and bars.
Ayr of Eyemouth
Shop, bank, Post Office and pub.
Coldstream
Shops, toilets, Post Office, garage, pubs
St Abbs Harbour
Shop, cafes, visitor’s centre, toilets.

Birdlife and Butterflies
From spring to summer thousands of birds will be nesting and rearing young. Look out for, kittiwake, guillemot, razorbill, fulmar, shag, puffin and peregrine, waders include heron, bustard, oystercatcher, sandpiper and curlew.
The area is good for butterflies, especially at St Abbs Head. The rare Northern Brown Argus can often be seen near rock rose. Other butterflies you may see include: common blue, wall brown, greyling and the painted lady. The six-spot burnet moth is present in July.

Plants
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: 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.

Coastal Geology
The oldest rocks here are Silurian greywacke which formed on the sea bed some 440 million years ago. Through plate movement these have become intensely folded and faulted, visible no more so than on Gunsgreen in Eyemouth.
The Devonian Old Red Sandstone (365 million years old) can be seen around Linkism Shore, Eyemouth Fort and Siccar Point. The whole of the Berwickshire coast is noted for its geological interest, especially Siccar point where these two rock forms visibly meet.

EAST COAST FISHING DISASTER
Black Friday, October 16th 1981 commemorates the worst fishing disaster in Scotland’s history. A ferocious hurricane devastated the fishing fleet off the east coast taking 181 lives.

"Widows and Children of the Disaster”
By Jill Watson
These poignant sculptures 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 24 returned. The loss of so many husbands, fathers and sons led to many survivors leaving Eyemouth.
The population level did not recover until 1991.
Berwickshire Coastal Path

Cockburnspath to Berwick upon Tweed
28½ miles (45.5 kilometres)

Cockburnspath to Dowlaw 7½ miles (12km)

Cockburnspath is the terminus of the Southern Upland Way which leads walkers to, or from, Portpatrick, 212 miles (340km) 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.

Pease Bay
This Site of Special Scientific Interest is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust as a Nature Reserve. Look out for weasels, creepers, pipits and various tits and finches. Roe deer and red squirrels have also been known to make this reserve their home.

Stickean Point and St Helen's Church
A revolutionary moment in the history of geology came in 1788, when James Hutton, James Hall and John Playfair took a boat to Stickean Point where they found horizontal layers of sandstone everywhere, 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 (4006 BC) computed from the Bible by Bishop Usher in 1654.

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.

Dedicated to the mother of Emperor Constantine, St Helen's Church served the former parish of Aldcambus which was united with Cockburnspath after the Reformation of 1568.

Dowlaw to St Abbs 6½ miles (10km)

Fast Castle
Fast Castle 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 1546 and captured by an English force in 1570. Entry is not recommended due to the unguarded cliffs and 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 Weir's Craig.

Admiralty Sounding Poles
Two sets of poles over a measured mile enabled shipping companies to test the speed of ocean going vessels. The Cumnard liner RMS Mauritania was launched in 1906 and reached 25.73 knots, making her the largest and fastest ship in the world and securing the mail contract with America for over twenty years.

Tun Law
At 500ft (150m) this is the highest cliff on the Berwickshire coast, also the site of two Iron Age forts, which are represented by defensive banks and ditches on the landward side.

Petico Wick and St Abb’s Head
A favourite venue for divers, the cave of Petico Wick 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. Beyond St Abb’s Lighthouse is Kirk Hill, site of the 7th century monastery of St Abb’s and a later chapel. St Abb’s Head National Nature Reserve is famous for its many thousands of seabirds and wild coastal plants.

St Abbs to Eyemouth 3½ miles (6km) (a short but popular section)

Coldingham
In the early 700s the first English historian, Bede, wrote about a place named urbs Colud or Colud’s fort and the village of Coldingham represents the settlement of the descendents of Colud. The fort is now identified as Kirk Hill on St Abbs Head, which is named after a royal princess, Abb of the royal house of Northumbria, who set up a monastery of monks and nuns there. The present priory of Coldingham dates back at least nine centuries to 1098 when it was established by King Edgar for Benedictine monks from Durham. Men from Fisher’s Brae in Coldingham worked their boats from St Abbs shore before the harbour was constructed. They carried their creels (lobster pots) down the Creel Path.

Coldingham Bay is an award-winning beach lying about a mile from the village and its sheltered sands are popular with holidaymakers in the summer months when the Beach Café is open and Beach Guards patrol.

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 town was once more popular than Gretna Green because of the marriage house on the Great North Road at Lamberton, where eloping English couples could cross into Scotland to wed.

Gumsgreen House was built by local smuggler and merchant, John Nisbet, in the 1750s from the profits of his trade and has recently undergone a major refurbishment.

Eyemouth to Berwick upon Tweed 11½ miles (17km)

The small harbour at Burnmouth 3½ miles (6km) was improved in 1879 and 1899 to serve the shoreline fishing communities of Partnall, Cocklaw and Ross who shipped out their catches through Upper Burnmouth, which is on the Great North Road and main line railway. Partan is the local name for a crab.

Berwick upon Tweed
Berwick 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 (1923) and Robert Stephenson’s Royal Border Bridge (1847-50), which carries the main East Coast railway line.

Berwickshire Coastal Path

- Berwickshire Coastal Path
- Other Link routes
- Other paths
- 125 Eyemouth Memorial Association Sculptures
- Bronze rubbings along coastal path

VisitScotland Information
- Bus Route
- Refreshment/Cafe
- Toilets
- Car Parking

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