



Northumberland - Coast & Countryside

ROUTE 1



A loop taking in some of the best of Northumberland's coast and countryside, offering some excellent opportunities to enjoy great pub food and a welcoming pint, and also to pick up superb local produce.

Two of the real highlights of this ride are the views that you get at the top of the long climbs. The first, starting from Belford itself, takes you to a point just over halfway to Chatton where there are splendid views of the Cheviot Hills set out in a panorama to the south west. Chatton is an attractive stone-built village with a pub and a village shop. Chillingham is famous for its wild cattle and also for its majestic castle, poised on the hill above the rare herd's grazing grounds.

Next comes a tough climb up to Ros Castle, which is rewarded with some of the finest views in Northumberland. The road has a real 'roof-of-the-world' feel to it and the occasional gate means that traffic is absolutely minimal. The route then heads for the coast, coming close to the popular town of Seahouses before turning north up to Bamburgh and the imposing sight of the castle.



Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland

ROUTE INFORMATION

START: Blue Bell Hotel or Co-Op car park, Belford

DISTANCE: 31 miles/50 km (shorter routes available)

SHORTER ROUTE OPTION 1: Belford - Chatton - Chillingham - Ellingham - Lucker - Belford (25 miles/40 km)

SHORTER ROUTE OPTION 2: Seahouses - Bamburgh - Lucker - Seahouses (12 miles/19 km)

GRADE OF RIDE: Moderate/strenuous

TIME: Allow a full day

ROUTE SURFACE: On road

HEIGHT LOST AND GAINED: Moderate

SUITABLE FOR: Any bike

BIKE HIRE: Available from Seahouses (on route). See page 68 for cycle hire listings and contact details

TIC: Seahouses (seasonal) and Adderstone. See page 63 for listings and contact details

DETAILED MAPS & GUIDES FOR THIS ROUTE



CYCLE NORTHUMBERLAND GUIDE

128-page full-colour guide with detailed maps of this and other routes. £8.00 from Sustrans. Tel: 0845 113 0065 www.sustransshop.co.uk



OS LANDRANGER 75 Berwick-upon-Tweed, Holy Island & Wooler £6.49

OS EXPLORER 340 Holy Island & Bamburgh £7.49 from all good bookshops or call 0845 200 2712 www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

FREE MAP BELFORD DAY RIDES Map showing 3 cycle rides from Belford. Available from Berwick-upon-Tweed, Seahouses and Adderstone TICs (Summer 2006)



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ROUTE 1



MAP KEY

- 1 ROUTE START
- TOWN/VILLAGE
- P PARKING
- PH PUB
- WC WC
- i TIC
- ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

ATTRACTIONS ON ROUTE

- A** THE ARMSTRONG HOUSEHOLD AND FARMING MUSEUM
- B** BAMBURGH CASTLE
- C** CHILLINGHAM CASTLE
- D** CHILLINGHAM WILD CATTLE ASSOCIATION
- E** PRESTON TOWER

PLEASE SEE PAGES 56-61 FOR INFORMATION ON NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

HOW TO GET THERE

Belford is signed from the A1, 15 miles south of Berwick-upon-Tweed, 16 miles north of Alnwick. OS Map Grid Reference NU109339

TRANSPORT

To plan your route call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline-northeast.co.uk

There is a limited train service to Chathill (just off route). For details of cycle carriage and timetable see www.northernrail.org or www.nationalrail.co.uk

FACILITIES

Shops & accommodation in Beadnell, Belford, Chatton, Seahouses, Wooler & Bamburgh

Pubs at Belford, Chatton, North Charlton (just off route), Ellingham, Lucker, Seahouses & Bamburgh

Public car parks at Bamburgh & Seahouses (on-street parking at other locations)

- 1** Take the B6349 west out of Belford and then take the first left after 1 mile signed 'Chatton 5, Wooler 9'.
- 2** Continue for 3 miles to a T-junction, turn right signed 'Chatton, Wooler'. Follow this road into Chatton, passing over a small bridge.
- 3** Take the 3rd left after the bridge signed 'Chillingham'. Follow this road for 1.9 miles then turn left signed 'Hepburn', climb for 0.5 miles then left again also signed 'Hepburn'.
- 4** Follow this road as it bends left then right through a small group of buildings. The road climbs steeply, over a cattle grid and onto Hepburn Moor.
- 5** Follow this wonderful unfenced road for 7 miles. At the bottom of the final descent, immediately before the A1, turn left onto a lane parallel with the main road then bear right downhill after 20 metres, cross under the A1 via the subway at the end of which turn left.

- 6** At the crossroads turn right signed 'Ellingham', then bear left after 0.5 miles (also signed 'Ellingham').
- 7** At the T-junction turn left and then right almost immediately, passing a phone box and inn on your left. Continue out of Ellingham village and turn right after 0.5 miles.
- 8** At the T-junction turn left and then right after 100 metres. Continue along this farm access road for 1.1 miles passing through 2 gates.
- 9** At the crossroads turn right signed 'Seahouses' (unless you want to take the slightly shorter route indicated on the map which misses the coast but takes in the village of Lucker).

- 10** The road crosses the East Coast Rail line, keep following signs for Seahouses.
- 11** On the outskirts of Seahouses you will pick up blue 'National Cycle Network' (NCN) route signs with a red number patch '1' (The Coast & Castles Cycle Route). Turn left in the direction of Bamburgh (unless you want to stop off in Seahouses).
- 12** You can now follow the NCN1 signs into Bamburgh. To your right you will see Bamburgh Castle.
- 13** At the T-junction in Bamburgh turn hard left onto the B1341, continue for 1.5 miles then turn right, signed NCN1, then left after 0.5 miles.

- 14** Continue following NCN1 straight ahead.
- 15** Turn right at the T-junction then left straight away, the shorter route option rejoins the main route here.
- 16** Turn left and follow NCN1 signs up to the A1 junction. **CROSS THE A1 WITH CARE.**
- 17** At the T-junction NCN1 continues north (right) but you need to turn left to return to your start point in Belford.