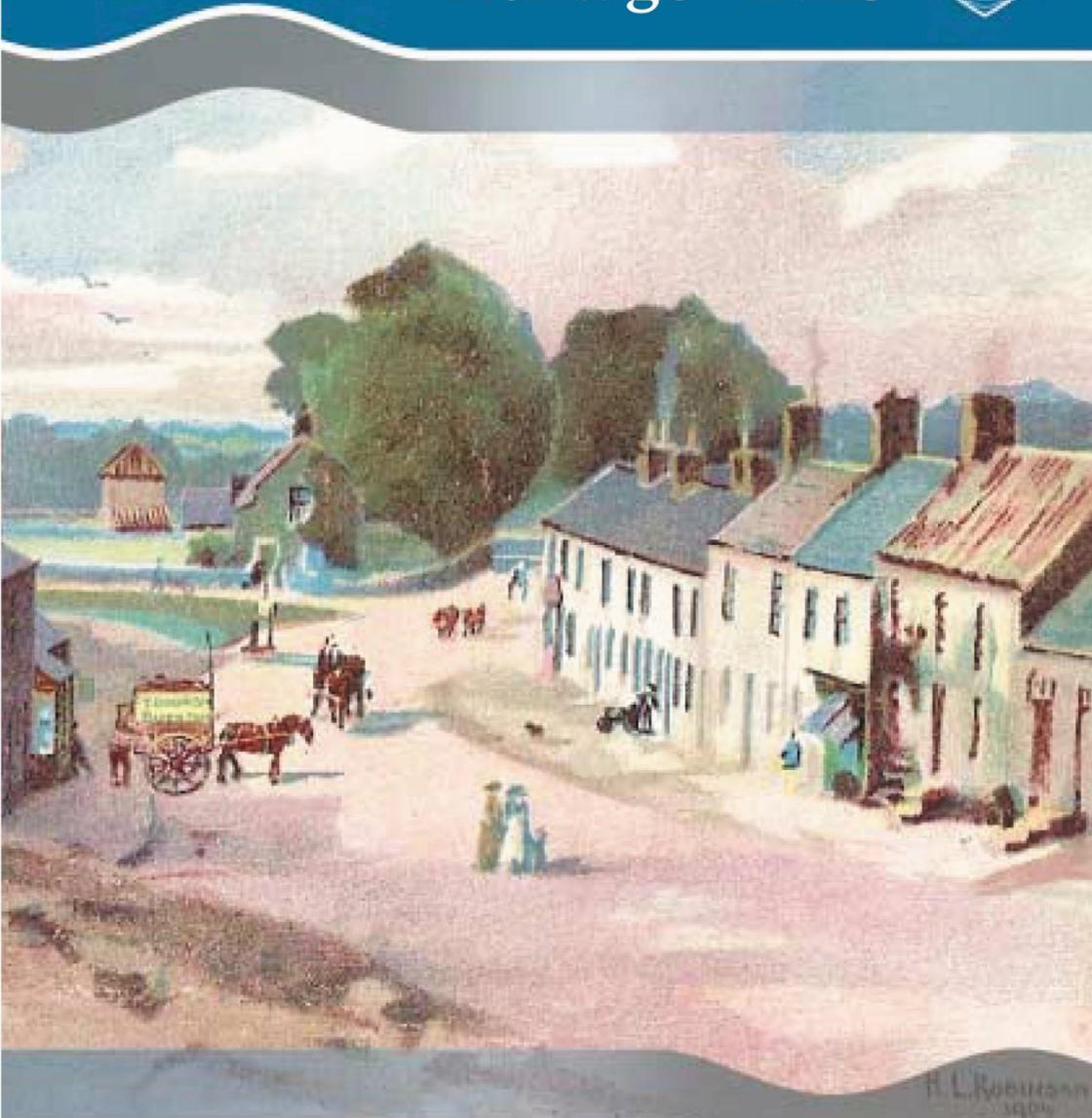


Embleton Parish Heritage Trails



Explore the history of this
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Countryside Code

Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.

Keep dogs under close control.

Consider other people.

Although the walks included are simple, the weather in North Northumberland can be changeable so suitable clothing should be worn.

The text mentions several buildings which are now private homes. Please respect the privacy of the owners of these properties.

All the walks are suitable for taking your dog along but please ensure it is kept under control and on a leash when necessary, especially during lambing time.

The information in this book is included in good faith and is believed to be correct at the time of publication. No responsibility is accepted by the author of the Parish Council for errors or any loss or injury however caused.

Walk No. 5

Embleton – Lime kilns – Christon Bank – Embleton

This 2 mile, 3km walk takes you across fields from Embleton to the disused lime kilns set in woodland. After passing through Christon Bank the walk crosses more fields to return to Embleton.



- ① Leave the village green next to the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel and proceed down Station Road opposite. After passing the eighteenth century dovecote in the field on the left the road swings sharply right and passes a direction sign to a public footpath. DO NOT take this but continue until you reach a small grass triangle almost opposite the entrance to Greyfield Estate.
- ② A public footpath sign points across the field. Pass through the gate and follow the path diagonally across the fields (about 11 o'clock) to the ungated gateway. Pass through and turn left.
- ③ Follow the edge of the field until you reach a gate. Pass through this gate and another to enter the wood. The lime kilns are directly ahead. A These are in quite a romantic setting although it is doubtful if the people who worked here saw it as such. The exact use of the lime is unclear, but general opinion has it that it was used in the building industry and to improve the quality of the farmland. Pass to the right of the kilns and almost immediately turn right onto the path through the woods. Follow the path to the lake, climb up the steps and continue, keeping the lake on your right. The lake (once a limestone quarry) was used in earlier times by Lord Grey of Fallodon for fishing parties.
- ④ On reaching the gate turn left towards Christon Bank. Pass through a gate, cross the field to another gate, go through this and then two other gates to reach the road.
- ⑤ Turn right into Christon Bank B and at the T junction turn right continuing until you meet a road coming in from your left. Almost opposite this junction is a footpath signposted Embleton.
- ⑥ Follow the path across the field to the hedge and turn left. Follow the hedge straight across a field junction and continue until you see a post with a waymark pointing through a gap in the hedge. Pass through the hedge and walk straight across the field to a stile.
- ⑦ Climb over the stile, cross the track and through the gate opposite. Cross the field diagonally (about 10 o'clock) to a gate in the corner of the field. Turn right into Embleton.

A Lime Kilns

A bank of 19th century lime kilns stands as a reminder of the former commercial limeworks at Christon Bank. The earliest part of the site probably dates to the early 19th century with a second kiln added later that century. The two kilns are made of brick. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows a limeworks on the site and the remains of a quarry lie to the north and is now flooded and planted with trees. This is a Grade II Listed building protected by law.



B Christon Bank

In 1598 there is mention of a freeholder called Thomas Cryston in Embleton Parish who owned one fourth of a freehold farm. The village was named after the family who in time had changed the spelling of their name to Christon. Before 1850 Christon Bank consisted of only fourteen houses with The Rising Sun public house at the northern end of thirteen houses on the right side (looking west) of the main street.

The railway was built in 1847 and by 1850 there was a station house, warehouse and the Blink Bonny Hotel. By 1899 three more cottages and two of the West End villas had been added. The left side of the village didn't develop until the early 1900s. The 1850 map shows a colliery situated east of the railway and the coal may have been used for lime burning in the kilns at the other end of the field to the east.



The Old Well, opposite the Methodist Church (built 1891), was erected by public subscription in 1861.

The laundry, which also carried out dyeing and cleaning, was built about 1900 by the Grey families of Howick and Falldon to provide employment for local women. The building is now the village shop. Until 1939 the shop and post office were housed in the east end of the Blink Bonny. The narrow gauge railway line from Embleton quarry was built on what is now the wide grass verge to the left of the Embleton-Christon Bank road and terminated almost outside the Blink Bonny.

