

Embleton Parish Heritage Trails



R.L. Roemans
1904

Explore the history of this
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Embleton Parish Heritage Trails



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This booklet has been prepared by Dr T. J. Howells on behalf of Embleton Parish Council.

Information from the Embleton Local History Society, The Parish Council and Design Statement of the Parish of Newton by the Sea, the Christon Bank Heritage Calendar 2002, Fallodon by P.F. Ryder, Alnwick District Council and Lady Sutherland

Introduction

EMBLETON

Embleton had also been known as Elmesdune (the hill where a man known as the caterpillar lived), Emyldon and Emeldon (long, low, undulating ridge like a caterpillar). The Barony of Embleton has belonged to Simon de Montford, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, Henry Plantaganet and John of Gaunt, and the Embleton estate remained part of the Duchy of Lancaster until 1604 when it was sold by James I (VI) for almost £1,500.

The village and district suffered severely from Scottish raids and records show that in several instances rents had to be remitted due to damage caused to crops and property. During the reign of James II of Scotland (c 1450) the men of Embleton were instructed that 'in order to avoid conflagrations to take the roofs off their dwellings and to carry away to a place of safety'. During the War of the Roses the condition of the people and the village was worse than ever as Northumberland was the scene of violent struggles.

In 1642 the horses of 'Henry late king of England' entirely destroyed a nine acre field in Embleton, and again from year to year rents had to be remitted. Gradually, peace returned to the areas and the village grew with influxes of families from Scotland and the south of England such that, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the parish had some 1800 inhabitants. In 2006 the Electoral Roll was 560.

EMBLETON PARISH

The Parish of Embleton stretches from just south of the cemetery at Spittalford to just north of North Farm, and from the sea to slightly west of Christon Bank. It contains the villages of Embleton and Christon Bank.



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.

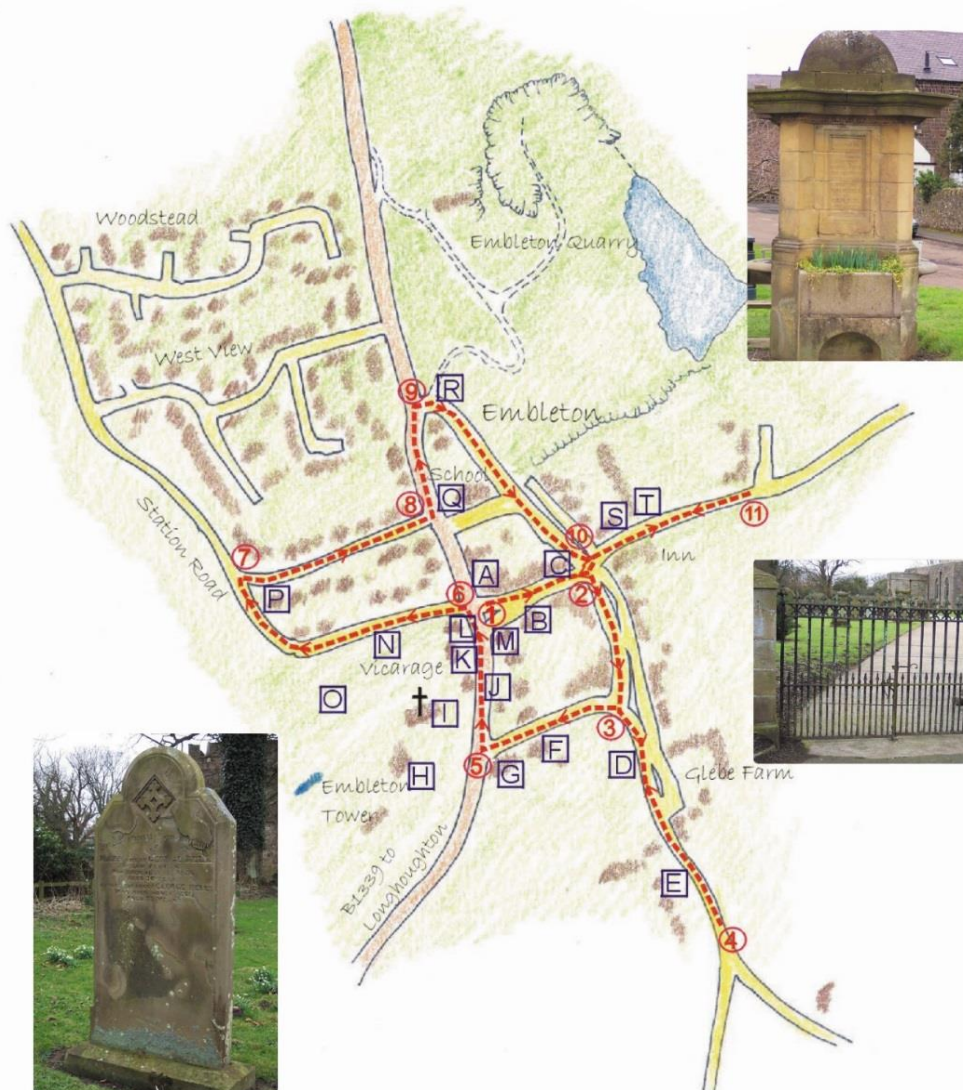
All the walks are suitable for taking your dog along but please ensure it is kept under control and on a leash when necessary, especially during lambing time.

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 or the Parish Council for errors or any loss or injury however caused.

Walk No. 1

The village and its history

This 1 hour walk takes you around Embleton village. On this walk you will pass most of the village's historic sites and buildings. Information relating to these is given on the following pages.





① Leave the green with its pump and set off up Front Street

A Until of late years the place was very deficient in regard to a water supply. There was only the pump in the middle of the street and a well in a field about a quarter of a mile (400m) away. Both were rather picturesque but quite inadequate for the wants of the people. Now an ample supply is got from a few miles distant and there is only wanting more buildings of a respectable and commodious description to make Embleton a splendid sea-side resort for those who seek health and change of scene during Summer (local newspaper circa 1900).

On the right hand side is the old Presbyterian Church which was sold for conversion to two dwellings in 2000.

B The United Reformed Church (formerly the Presbyterian Church)

In 1832 a group of Presbyterians in Embleton and District decided to establish a congregation in association with the Church of Scotland. The committee secured a site from the Earl of Tankerville and a new building was opened sometime in 1834. Ministerial oversight was secured and a Licentiate of the Church of Scotland was ordained in 1834.

Trouble came with the Disruption in Scotland in 1843 and the minister hurried across the border without even waiting for his resignation to be accepted. Now that no Church of Scotland minister could be found an Independent minister from Alnwick helped for a while until by chance a student from Airedale College was secured.



This was the Rev. William Stead whose ministry is remembered today through the son, William T. Stead, born to him in the old Embleton Manse. William became world-famous as a journalist and champion of distressed causes. By the 1880s the congregation had grown to some 200 and the church was enlarged. In the 1920s the interior of the church was reconstructed and modernised and an acetylene gas plant for Church and Manse use was installed. By the 1930s electric lighting had replaced gas. The congregation had remained steady at around 200 despite the local population falling.

Unfortunately, after the war the congregation steadily declined until the use of the church became impractical and it was sold in 2000 with the United Reformed Church members sharing the parish church in a positive ecumenical setting. Due to a further decline in the congregation the United Reformed Church in Embleton held its last service on October 23rd 2005.

The houses on the opposite side are now mainly holiday homes but in the early 1900s these were occupied by villagers. Some had wooden porches with roses and other plants growing in small front gardens. Evidence of their existence can still be seen in the pavement in front of some of these houses. Looking to the right the village general store (Moody's) is still going strong after more than 100 years, which is more than can be said of its competitors, the Co-op, Pitts Emporium Supply Stores, Thompsons Butchers etc. - but more of these later. Behind the shop lies Star Yard, once the site of The Star Inn. There is now no sign of the once thriving Co-op which was opposite the shop and closed in 1968.

C The Co-op

The Embleton Co-op was a branch of the Howick Co-op Society which was founded in 1895 by Lord Grey of Howick to provide a service to his estate workers. The newly opened Co-op also began to serve the communities and farmsteads in the surrounding area and in 1918 the Embleton branch was opened on Front Street in what was formerly the butcher's shop. A traveller covered the area from Spittalford to Seahouses and as far as Eglingham by bicycle on a fortnightly round. In most cases orders taken one day were delivered the next by horse and cart, until a van was introduced about 1930. The traveller worked five and a half days a week and was estimated to call on about 800 customers on his round. In addition to the normal grocery orders he also carried a catalogue for hardware, carpets and furniture, for which he took orders. The staffing of Embleton Co-op was more or less the same over the period it operated. For instance in the 1950s it was:

Groceries and Provisions -

1 Manager

Greengrocery, Bakery - 1

Traveller

Hardware and Furniture - 4

Shop Assistants

Drapery, Outfitting -

1 Manager

Boots and Shoes -

1 Traveller,

1 Shop Assistant

Butchery - 1 Manager, 4

Assistants (who also drove the vans)



It is worth recording that up until the mid to late 50s foodstuff was delivered in bulk, butter in 112lbs (50kg) barrels, lard in 28lbs (13kg) cartons, etc. By the 1960s the individual Co-op Societies like Howick were experiencing difficulties in competing with the newly emerging supermarkets, and the Howick Society, with its Embleton branch, were taken over by the North Eastern Co-op Society in 1964. The branch finally closed in 1968.

Finally, on the left, the single storey building was, until 1999, a shop selling vegetables, etc., and the house next to it is on the site of the former Three Tuns Inn.

2 Turn right, following the handrail, onto the road which passes in front of the now defunct village fish & chip shop and winds down past the Greys Inn. Looking to the left the low building opposite was once the quarry office, and later a tea room before becoming a private dwelling. To the left of this is 'Cheviot View', the site of the former Railway Inn. Continue along the road to the junction with W. T. Stead Road where another, later, village pump can be seen on the left next to the commemorative seat given in memory of William Pitt. The Pitt family ran the other general store and several other enterprises in the village for many years.

3 Cross the road and continue past the play park on the right.

D During WW II the army built an assault course starting at the church field, heading east across the cricket ground and children's park, over the wall, across the road and over the wall around what were then old farm buildings. The concrete overlays on the walls can still be seen today.

Continue onto the raised footpath along Sunny Brae and past what were reputedly quarrymen's cottages, built at a cost of £50 each, to the end of this path from where there is a striking view of Dunstanburgh Castle. Continue along the road to the Embleton village sign and look back towards the cottages where the remains of a medieval dovecote, **E** which belonged to the Lord of the Manor, can be seen. This is located in a private garden and cannot be visited

4 Return to the junction, cross over to the Blue Bell and walk along W.T. Stead



Road towards the church. On the left are a pair of revolutionary 1927 'prefabs' of reinforced concrete with cavity walls, shown in the North East Exhibition of that year. **F**

Beyond these bungalows lies the recently refurbished Creighton Hall, named after Mandell Creighton in whose memory it was built by his wife and friends.

G Creighton Hall

Of all the vicars of Embleton, none is as famous as Mandell Creighton who was Vicar from 1875 until 1884. He was born in Carlisle in 1843 and went to Merton College in 1862. He became a Fellow and Tutor of Merton in 1866 and was appointed Vicar of Embleton in 1875. He married Louise von Glehn in 1872 and they had two children whilst living in Embleton. In 1884 he was elected Dixie Professor at Cambridge and in 1885 Canon of Worcester. By 1890 he was Canon of Windsor and became Bishop of Peterborough in 1890. His career reached its climax with his appointment as Bishop of London in 1897, and he died in 1901. During his lifetime he published 'History of the Papacy' in five volumes and journeyed to America and to Russia. The Creighton Memorial Hall, one of the largest village halls in northern England, was opened by his widow in October 1903. When first built it included a reading room for the use of the working men and a billiards room, still in use. The Hall has been totally refurbished over the last three years with the aid of several grants and is still used nearly every day and/or evening.

At the end of the road there is a fine view down the drive towards the old vicarage

H Large additions were made to the vicarage in 1828 by the famous Newcastle architect, Dobson. The house also features a domed Victorian greenhouse and a pele tower. This is a typical Northumberland 'Vicar's Pele' and is mentioned in the list of 1415. This is private property but over recent years the owner has kindly allowed the Church Fete to be held in the gardens on the first Wednesday in August.



5 Turning right and crossing over the road brings one to the Holy Trinity Church

I The Church

The church may appear to be Victorian but there are some remains in the lower stage of the tower which show that there was a stone church built before the end of the eleventh or early twelfth century. Nothing exists of the Norman nave or chancel except the walls of the nave. Major alterations occurred in the fourteenth century when the aisles were rebuilt and the tower was joined to the church and the two upper stages of the tower rebuilt. The west tower is broad and unbuttressed and the bell openings have Y-tracery, typical of the thirteenth century. The south porch is also medieval. No more major changes were made until 1867 when the whole chancel was rebuilt at the expense of Merton College, whose warden and fellows still hold the patronage of the living. The first rector of whom we have record is called Adam and he lived at the end of the twelfth century. In 1274, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, son of Henry III and brother of Edward I, gave the advowson of Embleton Church to Merton College, Oxford, for the support of scholars.



In front of the church is the 'Parish Church Rooms', **J** which in the early 1800s was a school for girls, and is now used for meetings of the Brownies, Guides and Local History Society, etc. Next to this lies the new vicarage **K** and then, what was until recently, the village police house. **L** Opposite, on the corner, is the 'Old Manse' in which W.T. Stead was born. A plaque on the wall reads: WILLIAM THOMAS STEAD 1849 TO 1912 WORLD RENOWNED JOURNALIST AND APOSTLE OF PEACE WAS BORN HERE. In July 1987 the W.T. Stead International Memorial Society held a meeting and commemorative service in the United Reformed Church. A tree in the garden of the former church bears a plaque with the inscription "This Western Hemlock, planted by Mr William Kennedy Stead, marks the visit of the W.T. Stead Memorial Society to Embleton." In 1999 the Society met again in Embleton with visitors from all over the world attending.

M **W.T. Stead**

William Thomas Stead was a social reformer and campaigning journalist who revolutionised newspaper reporting. He was born in Embleton in 1849, the son of a congregational minister.

He began training as a minister himself but soon turned to writing for his living. At the age of 22 he was appointed editor of the newly established Northern Echo in Darlington.



He soon gained a reputation for forthright and campaigning journalism.

In 1880 he became assistant editor of the politically influential Pall Mall Gazette in London. Three years later he became editor and tackled a range of burning issues in Victorian society. He was also editor of the radical magazine 'Review of Reviews'.

He campaigned against female discrimination, the shortcomings of the Royal navy, militarism and against the Boer War. He had audiences with Pope, Cecil Rhodes, the Czar Nicholas II of Russia, Queen Victoria and Albert. One of his greatest and most controversial campaigns occurred in 1885 when he published a series of articles, 'The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon', which drew attention to the sale of child prostitutes in Victorian London and led to the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885. In 1912 Stead was invited to address a peace conference at the Carnegie Hall in New York, along with the then President, William Howard Taft, and sailed aboard the ill-fated Titanic. He gave his life jacket to a young mother and helped fellow passengers to the remaining lifeboats, but died when the ship sank

6 Turn left at this corner into Station Road and follow the footpath past 'Moot Hall' on the right.

N Moot Hall

The 'Kings Court' or manorial court met in a building set aside for the purpose, called the Moot Hall, which is mentioned in several ancient documents and dates back to 1290.



The courtroom was on the first floor of the building of which the ground floor was

used as a stable. In 1532 the sum of forty six shillings was spent on the repair of the hall and stable beneath it. On July 4th 1543, Thomas Burgoyne, William Denton and Robert Horsley were directed 'to view and survey the state of the Moothall In Emyldon, what decay it is in, the cost of repairing or rebuilding it, what timber, stone, etc. the King has there towards the repairs, and where such may be had near and best chepe'. Burgoyne reported to Henry VIII that as nearby Dunstanburgh Castle was falling into ruin there was enough timber and lead there to make 'a flatte roof unto the seyd Motehall and that done to cover the same with lead'.

The suggestion does not seem to have been adopted and the work of rebuilding was eventually undertaken by Ralph Grey of Horton. Grey, the Queen's Officer, lived in the Hall for about twelve years, having taken up residence to supervise resistance to Scottish raiders. Many disputes were tried in the Moot Hall and local tradition has it that the stocks were situated at the south west angle of the front wing. The history of the building during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is obscure. We are told that 'after the enclosure (of land) which followed the partition (1730), the townships of Embleton and Stamford assumed their modern aspect. Did Moot Hall thenceforth cease to be a semi-public building, a court and manor office, and first become a private residence? On the south front three large sash windows were inserted at some time during the eighteenth century, and the excessive thickness of the sash bars is characteristic of around 1730. The windows of the rooms below have thin sash-bars of the latter part of the eighteenth century. Inside the building there remains architectural evidence of the three periods - Elizabethan, Queen Ann and Georgian.

Continue down Station Road and looking across to the left the vicar's dovecote can be seen. **O** This forms part of the old vicarage property and, like the old vicarage wall, is built of Dutch bricks imported via Beadnell.



7 After the road bears round to the right, thurn right into Merton Cottages and pass the site of the old village smithy **P** on the right, eventually joining the main road opposite the Vincent Edward's Primary School.

Q Vincent Edward's Primary School

The Vincent Edwards School in Embleton, having been founded in 1688, is older than any English University with the exception of those of Oxford and Cambridge, older than the vast majority of English public schools, and pre-dates those schools set up by religious organisations. 1688, the year of the foundation of the school, was the year after the 'Glorious Revolution', the enforced flight of James II allowing the crown to pass to his daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange. England was still essentially a rural country and the government, nationally and locally, was in the hands of land-owning aristocracy, gentry and squirearchy. There were, however, members of the wealthier classes who could see that an impoverished and deprived population was a powder keg which could well explode at some future date. One of these was the Rev. Vincent Edwards, Vicar of Embleton from 1680 to 1714, who also founded schools at Newton by the Sea, Brunton, Rock and Rennington.



In his will he wrote "I do give and bequeath to the school at Embleton, for ever, the land and house which I purchased off Thomas Watson of Newton, together with the school and house built at my own expense, to pay for teaching poor children of this parish to read, say their catechism, write and cast accounts, and I do give £40 more, in interest whereof is to be paid as further encouragement to the said master for teaching poor children. I would not have the number of children to be taught gratis on my account restrained to fewer than ten, nor to exceed the number of fourteen. I do nominate, appoint and constitute the Vicar of Embleton overseer and visitor of the said school with full powers to nominate and appoint a master and to displace him upon neglect or failure in his duty". The school and house referred to were built on the site of the present schoolhouse and garden (at the very end of the left hand track leading from the junction of Sea Lane and Front Street). The school continued to exist in its original building until 1825, by which time the buildings were no longer fit for use. In 1825 the school was rebuilt on a new site some 50m to the north of its original site. The land and ground for the new school was given by the Earl of Tankerville and materials were donated by farmers. As the church made no offer to pay for the rebuilding this was entirely paid for by Shafto Craster of Craster Tower. After the rebuilding the original charity scheme came to an end. In the mid 1800s quarrying commenced on a large scale to the north of the school. By 1894 the face of the quarry was approaching the school building (which was some 5m above the present ground level in that part of the quarry) and it was necessary to build a new school. In 1872 the school had been placed under the control of the Education Department, though remaining a 'church' school, and in 1894 the Charity Commissioners sold the original Vincent Edwards gift of land. The new school, with three classrooms, opened in 1897. It was modernised in 1964 and continues to serve the community today.

8 Turn left passing the garage (Grieves & Co) and cross diagonally to the old quarry, entry to which is via a piece of missing fence next to the locked gate. The quarry is owned by Alnwick District Council which hopes eventually to build a few private houses on the top (west) side. The remainder, including the lake, will remain a natural wildlife area. The quarry is used by the villagers to exercise their dogs and as a playground by children, and at present access is not denied.





R *The Quarry*

Embleton whinstone quarry ceased production in 1961, having been a major source of employment for about 70 men in the area for almost 100 years. Generations of the Appleby family worked the quarry. Thomas moved to Embleton in 1840 as a married man of twenty and began business as a stone merchant. He subsequently brought his son Tom into the business and opened the quarry in 1864. Another son, Mark, joined the business and they traded as T and M Appleby until late in the century, also extracting stone from sites in Embleton in the field south of Sunny Brae cottages and opposite both Sunny Brae and the Greys Inn. The land on which the quarry stands was not owned by the Appleby family but was leased from the owners and a royalty paid on tonnage extracted. The land had been the property of the Tankerville Estates from enclosure in 1730 until it was purchased by Samuel Ayres of Leeds in 1868. It was subsequently sold to Sir Arthur Sutherland in 1919.

Embleton quarry was an early producer of tarmac in this country from just after the end of the First World War until the mid 1950s. By the late 1950s the quarry, having, until this time produced 20,000 to 30,000 tons per annum, became uneconomic to operate because of the increasing overburden (top soil, clay and sandstone) that needed to be removed before the whinstone could be quarried. After all quarrying had ceased and the machinery was disposed of the quarry was purchased by Alnwick District Council and used as a waste disposal site from 1974 to 1984. Since then, nature has reclaimed large areas but attempts to de-gas the waste to make the land suitable for building continue.

In the Nineteenth Century all stone was transported by horse and cart either to Craster Harbour or the main line station at Christon Bank. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century a 30 inch (70cm) gauge horse tramway was built, north of what is now the Greyfield Estate, to link the quarry to Christon Bank station but the horses

were soon replaced with steam locomotives. However, because of the considerable amount of handling involved in delivery by rail, this method became uneconomic with the advent of mechanised road transport, and the private rail link was closed in 1932. The company ran coal-fired Sentinel steam road wagons in the 1920s and 30s but petrol-driven 3 ton Bedford lorries were introduced in the mid 1930s.

9 Leaving the quarry at the point of entry, turn left and follow the track behind the school until you reach the top of Front Street again. In the 1700s a group of Quakers met in a house on the site of the current Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel, and Quakers Row commemorates a burial ground once used by the Friends. The garden on your right just before the road junction was the site of a lodging house for itinerant quarry workers.

10 Turn left down Sea Lane. On the right was once the village cinema.

S The Empire Cinema

Embleton had its own cinema for a short time. It opened on February 6th 1947. The entrance was at No.3 Mount Pleasant and the stalls were in a long room on the 1st floor. Balcony seats were 1/6d (7p) and the stalls 9d (4p). The balcony and projector room are now bedrooms at No.1, Mount Pleasant and the smell of the projector room stayed on for many years after the cinema closed in about 1952.

Continue down Sea Lane to 'The Sportsman' which has magnificent views across Embleton Bay to Dunstanburgh Castle. This hotel now encompasses Pitts House (later Dunstanburgh House) which was a boarding house open in the early 1920s with nine residents.

11 Retrace your steps up the hill and on the corner on your left, facing down Front Street, once stood Pitt's Emporium Supply Stores. If you carry on down Front Street you return to the pump. The Dunstanburgh Castle on the right used to be known as the Hare and Hounds.

Bolton Brothers Transport

John Bolton (b1882) was a self-employed shoemaker in Embleton. He used a horse and trap to visit surrounding villages and farms and combined this with passenger hire work e.g. taking people to and from Christon Bank station.

In 1924 he purchased a 30 seat solid tyre open charabanc for public hire and for regular trips to Alnwick hirings and markets, Holy Island etc. Initially he continued as a shoemaker and his brother Tom was the bus driver but soon a second charabanc was acquired together with two cars for hire. By 1926 John had given up shoemaking and the brothers began to operate a bus service between Bamburgh and Newcastle. They built a garage in Embleton (now a new terrace of houses next to the school). Demand was such that further buses were purchased and by 1930 they operated eight buses and had three cars for hire plus petrol and tyre sales from the garage. About 1928 a second garage (for car hire and petrol) was opened in Seahouses. The business continued until 1935 when the bus operation was sold to the United Bus Co. The car hire, petrol and tyre sales continued, even through the war, until it finally closed in 1950 when John retired.



Walk No. 2

Embleton – Low Newton – High Newton – Embleton

This 5.3 mile, 8.5km route follows public rights of way from Embleton, down to Embleton Bay and along the coast to picturesque Low Newton and on to High Newton returning through agricultural land to Embleton.



① Leave the village green next to the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel and proceed up the hill, past the village shop. Continue over the brow of the hill into Sea Lane. Keep to the footpath on the left hand side, pass the Sportsman Inn on your right and join the footpath enclosed by hedges. Follow the path down to the golf club.

② Cross the golf course using the track and just before you reach the bridge over Embleton Burn turn left towards the north and walk parallel to the coast. When the land rises steeply do not turn to the beach but climb up the slope towards the bungalows. The path, which is clearly marked, at first follows the edge of the golf course but then moves towards the coast, passing among the bungalows. A

③ The path emerges close to the Newton Pool Nature Reserve boundary (National Trust).

For those wanting a short walk turn left here and follow the path across the fields until it meets the path returning from High Newton. Turn left and walk to the road. For those continuing keep the Nature Reserve to your left and follow the path around the pool, past the hide, to meet a well-made track close to Risemoor House. Follow this track into Low Newton. B

④ Leave Low Newton by the main road up the hill.

For those wanting to reduce the length of the walk continue up the road until you see the Joiners Arms - in High Newton. Almost opposite this you will see a path signposted to Embleton. Go to 6) below.

For those completing the walk, leave the road out of Low Newton after about only 60m by turning right along the footpath that heads out to Newton Point (signposted for Beadnell). Follow this path over Newton Point and continue until you reach the car park at Newton Links House.

⑤ From the car park turn left along the road and follow this road into High Newton village

⑥ At the village green in High Newton bear right, pass the Joiners and cross the road to pick up a track that is signposted Embleton. Follow the track, which is well waymarked, to join a field-edge path past a ruined building and continue until you reach Kelso Hill.

⑦ The path leaves the field edge here and you need to follow the waymarker posts along the ridge of the hill until you meet a fence. Turn right at the fence and use the stone stile to cross over the wall. From the wall, at first follow the path along the field edge then cross the field towards the road on the horizon. Cross the wall at the stile and turn left on the road to return to Embleton.

A *The Bungalows*

In the 1920s several huts were erected among the dunes for the use of golfers who wished to stay overnight. These remained in place until WW II when they were boarded up and placed out of bounds as part of the coastal defences.

In the early 1950s the owner of the land, Sir Ivan Sutherland, granted permission for the applicants to build bungalows or replace huts in the dunes, and most of the original huts disappeared. The detailed planning map of the time shows 34 sites.

In early 1961 Sir Ivan gifted the land to the National Trust who quickly expressed a wish that the properties be demolished. To date the owners, with a considerable amount of public support, have managed to convince the National Trust that the bungalows should stay as part of the coastline's history.





B High Newton and Low Newton

As early as the 13th century quarrying is recorded at Newton with Adam Cementarius (Quarryman) living there. This continued until before WW II.

Fishing was flourishing in the 14th century with the Lord of the Manor claiming the best fish from the catches as a 'profit of the Manor'. The value of the catch was some 100 shillings (over £10,000 today) an indication of the prosperity of the industry. Significant levels of fishing continued for over 600 years and ended in the 1960s. The terraces of The Square in Low Newton were constructed in the 18th century although there must have been housing for fishermen well before this. The Ship Inn may date from the 16th or 17th century. The Square is one of only two remaining sets of such 'Seahouses' left in Northumberland, a detached settlement originally inhabited by fishermen to live close to their boats.

Walk No. 3

Embleton – Christon Bank – Falloden – Embleton

This 3.5 mile, 5.5km walk goes across the fields from Embleton and after crossing the railway, reaches Christon Bank Farm before going through the woods to Falloden Hall. After returning to Christon Bank the route crosses more fields to return to Embleton.



- ① Leave the village green next to Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel and walk down Station Road opposite. After passing the Eighteenth century dovecote in the field on the left, the road swings right to meet Merton Cottages. Opposite this junction is a public footpath sign pointing across the field to 'Rock 2 miles'.
- ② Climb through the gap in the wall and cross the field to a gate in the fence (at about 1 o'clock). Go through the gate and walk up to the summit of the hill. In the corner of the field (at about 2 o'clock) is a gate. Walk down to this gate.
- ③ Go through the gate and keeping the fence on your right pass through three more gates to reach the road. Paddy's Mount is ahead to your left. A
- ④ Cross the road, go through the swinging gate, over the stile, turn left and down the steps to the railway line. CARE HERE AS TRAINS PASS AT MORE THAN 100mph. Cross the line, up the steps and over the stile. Keep the hedge on your right and continue to another stile. Over the stile and cross the stream via the bridge. Follow the waymarks through the copse. Continue, keeping the stream on your right, until you reach a second copse. Turn right along the track towards Christon Bank Farm.
- ⑤ On meeting the lane turn left and continue to main road. Turn right and walk about 200m to a lane leading off to the left with a grass triangle in the road. Enter the woodland walk here via the gate and follow the waymarks through the wood. After passing over a log bridge there is a glimpse of Fallodon Hall B on the left. Once you reach the wall of Fallodon Hall garden keep the wall on your left until you meet the drive leading to the Hall. Turn right down the drive to the main road (about 250m). Turn right towards the railway crossing. C
- ⑥ Immediately before the crossing is a gate signposted 'Christon Bank $\frac{1}{2}$ mile'. Go through the gate and keeping the railway on your left carry straight on to Christon Bank.
- ⑦ Cross the railway line and turn right opposite the Blink Bonny pub/restaurant.
- ⑧ Walk along the road until you reach the end of the cottages on your left and you will see a signpost to Embleton.
- ⑨ Follow the path through three gates. Keeping the hedge on your right cross to another gate, pass through this and follow the path with the wood on your right. Continue to the farmhouse, cross the yard and onto the track. After about 300m there is a gate on your right. Go through this and cross the field diagonally to a gate near the road. Turn right to return to the village green.

A Paddy's Mount

This is the burial mound of an Irish Labourer who was killed in a fall at Christon Bank. The mound is surmounted with a small clump of trees and fenced off and a memorial stone still marks his grave. It is said that he was refused burial in the churchyard because of his religion so his friends buried him here and planted trees around the spot.

The former employer of Paddy, who was a farmer, was angry at the vicar for refusing the churchyard burial and was determined to show it. The Vicar of Embleton at this time was extremely well built and was in the habit of taking a weekly walk across Christon Bank Farm land to inspect the outer reaches of his Parish.

The farmer was well aware that he couldn't stop the vicar from using the rights of way but what he did do was to narrow all the stiles on the route such that the Vicar was unable to get through them.

B Fallodon Hall

Fallodon Hall was most famously the birthplace and/or home of the Grey family. The second Earl Grey, famous for his connections with the 1832 Reform Bill and with Catholic Emancipation was born here in 1764.

Sir George Grey (1799 - 1882) was Home Secretary for almost 20 years. His grandson Sir Edward Grey (Grey of Fallodon) was born in 1862 and was Foreign Secretary during the First World War.



The Hall was sold in 1946 to the Hon. Henry Bridgeman and still remains in the family.

The greater part of the house that stands today was built by Thomas Wood in the early eighteenth century incorporating part of the older 17th century residence. After his death in 1755 Fallodon passed through his daughter to the Grey family of Howick. In 1917 a serious fire gutted the main part of the house, the kitchen wing being the main surviving area.

The house was rebuilt in 1921 - 1924 within the old shell, but without the second floor, under the direction of George Reavell the Alnwick architect.

The old walled garden has walls about 3m in height and basically seem to be those of the famous late 17th century garden.



C The Halt

Opposite the public footpath sign to Embleton is a flat gravelled area by the side of the railway. The Grey's were sufficiently important in Victorian Northumberland to have their own private halt (station) close to their house where trains stopped if any of the Grey family were aboard.

Unfortunately, the station has long since disappeared but the site remains as a reminder of what used to be. There was also an L.N.E.R. steam locomotive called Fallodon.

Walk No. 4

Embleton – Low Newton – Spittalford – Embleton

This 4 mile, 6km walk follows the dunes past the wooden bungalows to Low Newton and returns along the beach to Dunstan Steads then through the woods to Spittalford and so back to Embleton.



- ① Leave the village green next to the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel and proceed up the hill, past the village shop, and continue over the brow of the hill into Sea Lane. Keep to the footpath on the left hand side, past the Sportsman Inn on your right and join the footpath enclosed by hedges. Follow the path down to the golf club.
- ② Cross the golf course using the track and just before you reach the bridge over Embleton Burn turn left towards the north and walk parallel to the coast. When the land rises steeply do not turn to the beach but climb up the slope towards the bungalows. The path, which is clearly marked, at first follows the edge of the golf course but then moves towards the coast passing amongst the bungalows.
- ③ The path emerges close to the Newton Pool Nature Reserve boundary (National Trust) Keep the Nature Reserve to your left and follow the path around the pool, past the hide, to meet a well made track close to Risemoor House. Follow this track into Low Newton.
- ④ Those in search of Real Ale and food should turn right into the square to the Ship Inn in the corner. Others should go down the slope onto the beach and walk back towards Embleton admiring the view of Dunstanburgh Castle. The remains of a pillbox can be seen at the foot of the dunes below the bungalows.
- ⑤ Cross the mouth of Embleton Burn, which can be forded easily at low tide. At high tide it is dangerous to attempt this and you should turn inland, staying on the north bank of the Salt Hole and following the track until you reach the golf course. Cross the bridge and return to the beach. Walk along the beach until you see a lifebelt on a pole (about 1km) and turn up through the gap in the dunes. Cross the golf course and join the road.
- ⑥ Proceed up the road past the converted buildings and houses and, on reaching the sharp right turn in the road, turn left (signposted public footpath) and follow the track in the field. At the waymark turn right and follow the hedge. At the bottom of the field enter the wood by a footbridge over a small stream on the banks of which primroses grow.
- ⑦ Where the woodland path swings left towards the camp site, cross the stile into the field and walk straight across to the stile in the hedge. Drop down into the paddock, head right to the field gate and through another and over Embleton Burn again. Do not cross the footbridge marked PRIVATE but follow the short path through the copse onto the lane where you should veer left and climb up to meet the edge of the village. Turn right to return to the centre.

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.

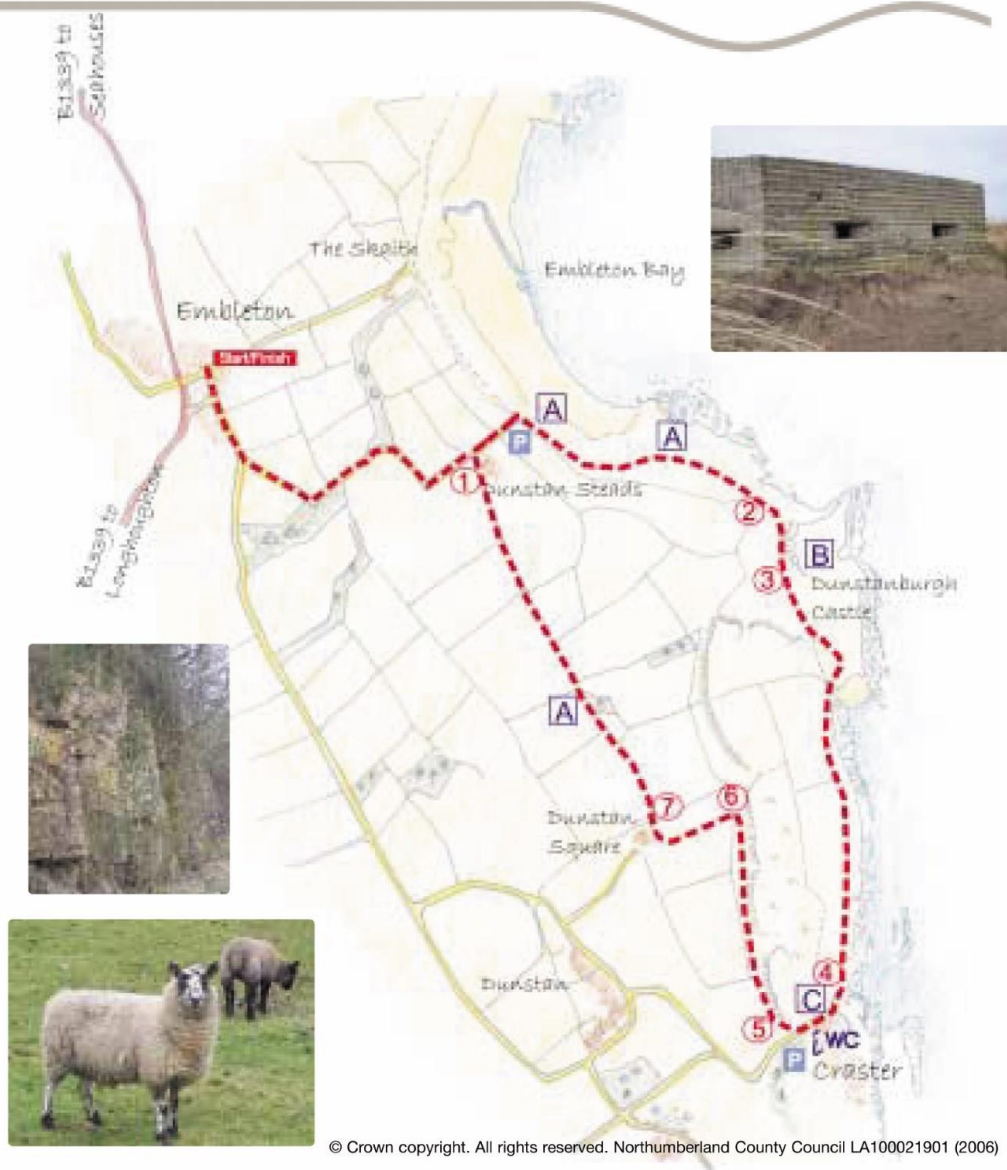
The laundry, which also carried out dyeing and cleaning, was built about 1900 by the Grey families of Howick and Fallodon to provide employment for local women. The building is now the village shop. Until 1939 the shop and post office were housed in the east end of the Blink Bonny. The narrow gauge railway 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.



Walk No. 6

Embleton – Dunstan Steads – Dunstanburgh Castle –
Craster – Dunstan Square – Embleton

This 6 mile, 9.5km route takes the road from Embleton to Dunstan Steads and then follows the coast to Craster passing Dunstanburgh Castle on the way. From Craster it returns along the foot of the whinstone ridge to Dunstan Square and then through the fields back to Dunstan Steads and Embleton.



- ① Leave the village green next to the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel, walk up the hill and turn right. Continue to the junction with W.T. Stead Road. Cross over and follow the footpath past the cottages (Sunny Brae) on the raised footpath. At the end of the path cross to the road, signposted 'Dunstanburgh Castle'. Follow the road over the bridge crossing Embleton Burn (this used to be a ford), up the hill, round to the left past the houses and on to the converted farm buildings at Dunstan Steads.
- ② Continue to the golf course, cross the course and immediately before entering the gap in the dunes turn right and walk up onto the dunes path. Walk past the pillboxes A along the path that is bordered by the sea on one side and the golf course on the other. Near the 13th tee the path drops steeply and then rises up again to a gate.
- ③ Follow the path around the base of the castle mound and you can then either go straight on, following the path through a cutting in the rock, thereby cutting off the castle corner before rejoining the coastal path to Craster or, by continuing to bear left, you will arrive at the entrance to the castle. B
- ④ When you leave the castle walk straight on to join the coastal path to Craster. The path follows the shore until you arrive at a gate which allows access to the village via a surfaced road. Walking down this road you will pass the privately owned harbour dedicated by the family to John Craster, who was killed on active service in Tibet. C
- ⑤ At the harbour swing right and walk as far as the car park with the Tourist Information Centre.
- ⑥ Cross the road and follow the public footpath. The path leads under overhanging trees and after about 100 yds it is necessary to take the right fork which leads through a gate marked with a National Trust waymarker. The path, which leads below the whinstone ridge, is indistinct in places but the direction is clear. On this sector you will pass a derelict brick cistern and looking up you will see a terraced area used as a garden by Italian POW's during WW II.
- ⑦ At the gate turn left and through a five bar gate. Head up the field towards Dunstan Square farm, keeping to the left of the field.
- ⑧ At the farm go through the gate and turn right, then straight ahead through another gate onto a concrete road. The road passes a pillbox on the left and a derelict lime kiln on the right. After about 1 mile the road reaches Dunstan Steads farm and once through the farmyard turn left back to Embleton

A**Pillboxes**

There are approximately 450 known sites in Northumberland but not all the individual structures still exist. The pillboxes that do remain today may seem random and scattered but the majority are related to the defensive plan of the area. The pillbox, built of up to 18 inch (50cm) thick reinforced concrete and equipped with machine guns, created an extremely effective defensive position. They were intended to defend likely landing beaches, to hamper and delay movement, if not prevent landing, and to form defensive stop lines. These were hurriedly constructed and only 18 months later moves began to abandon them as a viable means of defence.

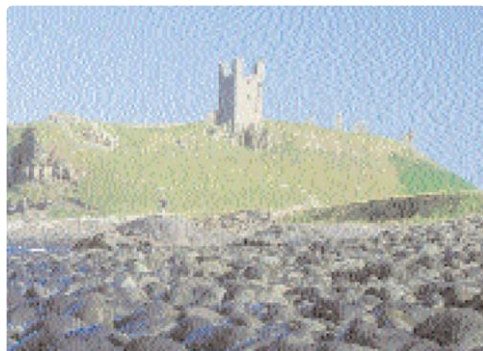
Around Embleton there were 11 pillboxes on the coast between Newton and Craster. The second line consisted of three in High Newton, four in Embleton, one on Kelso Hill, one at Dunstan Stead, two near Dunstan Square and one above Craster. Though it is doubtful whether they could have done more than slow down an invading force, that at least was better than nothing.

**B****Dunstanburgh Castle**

Building of Dunstanburgh Castle began in 1313 after the English lost Berwick to the Scots. Thomas, Earl of Lancaster and Lord of Embleton, decided to build a fortified port as a Lancastrian stronghold and chose Dunstanburgh as the site. Thomas was a very wealthy man (income some £11,000 per annum which today must be in excess of £50 million) and his castle had to be a symbol of his high standing.

He could afford to employ the best of contemporary castle architects and engineers. Edward I had built some great castles in Wales and master Elias, who was the master mason employed by Thomas, based his design on those, particularly Harlech. If we compare Dunstanburgh with other castles such as Alnwick or Warkworth we see that the traditional designs include a heavily fortified keep within the walls as a last line of defence.

At Dunstanburgh there is no keep and, in line with the Welsh precedent, the gatehouse provides the major fortification. The twin towers we see today on the south side of the site are the remains of the original gatehouse. In 1315 a licence to crenellate was granted and the building was completed and in use by 1319. Dunstanburgh is a very large castle of about 11 acres for utilitarian reasons - to accommodate the Earl's retinue and possessions, his tenants, their families and animals at times of raids by the marauding Scots.



Later in the century, about 1383, John of Gaunt, brother of Edward II realised the limitations of having the gatehouse as the first and last line of defence. He set about improving the defences by building a new, more easily defended gatehouse and additions to the perimeter wall. Unfortunately, the new work was not up to the standard of Master Elias and by 1430 the new gatehouse was falling down.

Today it has almost disappeared, only the foundations complete with portcullis grooves remain. After this there were no further developments and the buildings went into steady decline with only occasional maintenance. In 1503 £27 was spent; in 1520 it was used as a source of lead to repair Wark Castle, and in 1538 it was described as 'a very ruinous place'. In 1543 a few repairs were carried out but Henry VIII saw no prospect of restoration. In 1562 it was described as being in a 'wondrous state of decay' and in 1584 it was estimated that £1,000 was needed to restore it to original condition or £400 to provide for a garrison of 100 men. The castle was effectively abandoned to the elements and predations of the local people. In 1604 James I/VI sold it via Sir Thomas Windebank to Sir Ralph Grey of Chillingham for £1,492.14s and later it passed to the Earls of Tankerville, and then in 1869 to the trustees of the late Mr Samuel Eyers of Leeds. In the 1930s it passed into the hands of HM Office of Works. The Scots are never recorded as actually attacking the castle, although it is recorded on several occasions that they attacked Embleton and Stamford.

It was besieged in December 1462 by Yorkist troops and it was starvation, not bombardment, which caused the surrender by Sir Ralph Percy to Edward IV. Nobody of importance ever lived in the castle and indeed it is not certain that its two main benefactors ever visited it. In 1323 the castle was said to hold thirty heavily armed and one hundred lightly armed horsemen, but generally it was much less and in 1400 a force of only ten men-at-arms and twenty mounted archers garrisoned the castle.



C Craster

Craster was once the kipper capital of England smoking over 25,000 fish a day in the early part of this century. The fish were gutted by crews of Scottish herring girls and barrels of salt herring were exported to Germany and Russia. The smokehouse worked through the night and kippers were sent by rail throughout the country and eventually became world famous as Craster Kippers. The privately owned harbour was dedicated by the family to John Craster, who was killed on active service in Tibet. On the road out of Craster on the left, there is an old whinstone quarry which used to send stone to the harbour via an overhead tramway. The quarry closed in the 1930s, reopened briefly during WW II and then closed again. Recently the village has been used for filming the television series Distant Shores.



Embleton Parish Amenities

(ALL EMBLETON VILLAGE UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE)

ACCOMMODATION

Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel

DOCTORS

The Bondgate Practice

EATING OUT

Blink Bonny (Christon Bank)

Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel

Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club

The Greys Inn

COFFEE STOPS

Mandell's Coffee Pot, Parish Church Room, Embleton

Eleanor's Byre, Spitalford, Embleton

GARAGE and PETROL

J. R. Grieves & Co Ltd.

GOLF COURSE

Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club

(bottom of Sea Lane Embleton)

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Anglican Church

Methodist Church (Christon Bank)

POST OFFICE

Christon Bank (within the shop)

Embleton (within Moody's shop)

PUBLIC BARS

Blink Bonny (Christon Bank)

Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel

Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club

Greys Inn

SHOPS

Moody's Londis - general store including groceries, wines and newspapers

James Young & Sons - convenience store including newspapers (Christon Bank)

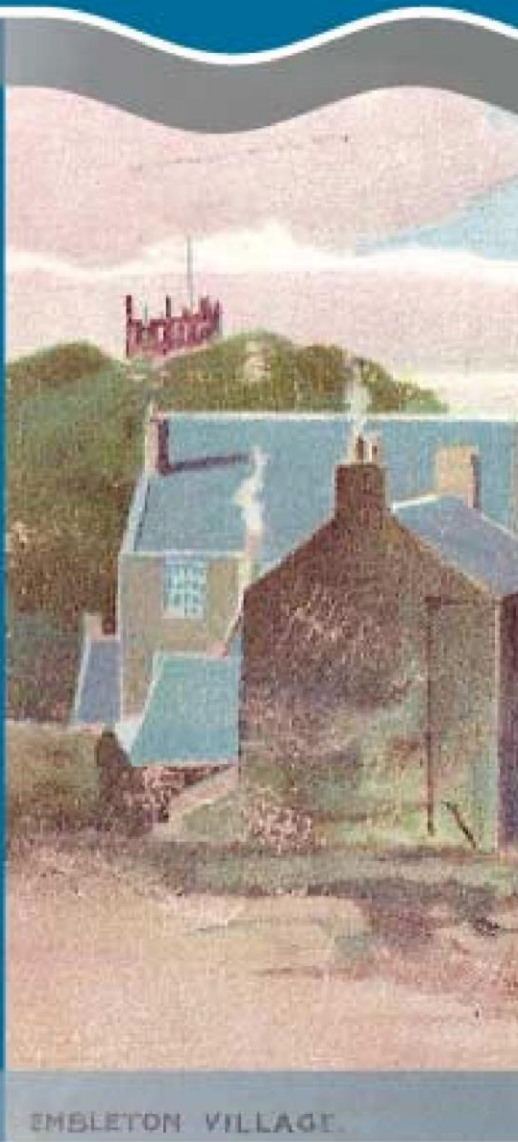
J. R. Grieves & Co Ltd (the garage) - general store including groceries, wines and newspapers

Turnbull mobile butcher and greengrocer - Embleton & Christon Bank Tuesday/Friday

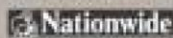
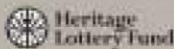
Using Public Transport

Embleton can be reached using the Arriva bus services X15 and X18 or the Travelsure bus service 418. The nearest rail station is Alnmouth which is also served by the Arriva buses.

Front cover-Front Street Embleton painting by
 H. L. Robinson circa 1904
 Inside cover-Dunstanburgh Castle from south by
 Andrew Hayward
 Page 7 - Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel Embleton circa 1933
 Page 8 - Front Street Embleton looking north circa 1938
 Page 9 - Front Street Embleton looking west circa 1958
 Page 10 - Creighton Memorial Hall Embleton circa 1907
 Page 11 - Vicarage and Peel Tower Embleton circa 1906
 Page 12 - Embleton Church by John McGuinness
 Page 13 - Old Manse Embleton circa 1912
 Page 14 - Moot Hall Embleton circa 1910
 Page 15 - The Smithy Embleton circa 1935
 - The old school Embleton circa 1905
 Page 16 - Embleton Garage (Reed's) circa 1928
 Page 17 - Embleton Quarry circa 1923
 Page 19 - Bolton Bros bus (unknown crew) 1929
 by R. C. Davis
 - Bolton Brothers charabanc circa 1926
 Page 22 - The bungalows Embleton circa 1952
 Page 23 - Low Newton Square circa 1918
 Page 26 - Falloden Hall 1906
 Page 27 - Falloden crossing
 - signal box and Halt circa 1915
 Page 32 - Christon Bank Lime Kilns by T. J. Howells
 Page 33 - Redsteads - Christon Bank circa 1910
 - Christon Bank Laundry circa 1912
 Page 36 - Embleton Bay photograph by Peter Hawkey
 Page 37 - Dunstanburgh Castle by Graeme Peacock
 Page 38 - Craster harbour circa 1930
 - Craster Haven circa 1930



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