



Royal
Geographical
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with IBG

On the borderline

A self guided walk around Berwick-upon-Tweed



Explore the best preserved fortified town in Britain
Discover why Berwick was on the frontline in wars and battles
Find out how a town's location shapes its history and identity
Enjoy magnificent views of spectacular constructions

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the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

Contents

Introduction	4
Route overview	5
Practical information	6
Detailed route maps	8
Commentary	10
Credits	15

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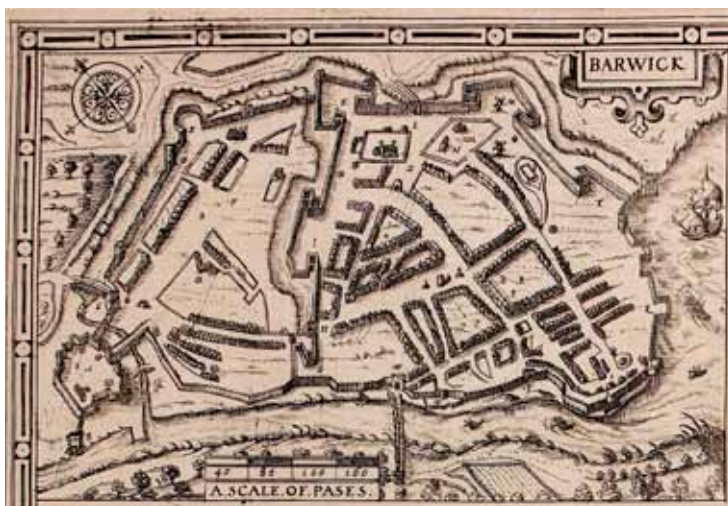
On the borderline

Discover the dramatic story of Berwick-upon-Tweed

Introduction

Did you know that the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed has changed hands between England and Scotland at least 13 times in its history? Things are peaceful today but Berwick has had a dramatic history caught on the front line of battles, rebellions, wars and skirmishes.

Magnificent viewpoints reveal why Berwick's castle is on an ideal defensive site. Find out how successive rulers strengthened and expanded Berwick's defences.



Map of Berwick's walls (1610)
© The British Library Board (G.7884 page 89)



Bell Tower from Lord's Mount
Jenny Lunn © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Walk around the walls and see medieval, Elizabethan, Tudor and eighteenth century constructions. Find out how Berwick led the way with fortification design and weaponry. Discover how the townspeople have lived alongside the military for centuries. Look for evidence as to whether Berwick is an English or Scottish town.

This walk around one of the best-preserved fortified towns in Europe is an unforgettable experience.

Route overview



Practical information

Location	Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, Northeast England
Getting there	<p>Train - Berwick station is served by East Coast mainline services (50 mins from Newcastle Central, 50 mins from Edinburgh Waverley)</p> <p>Bus - Served by regional and local bus services.</p> <p>Car - Berwick is off the A1 about 60 miles north of Newcastle and 60 miles south of Edinburgh.</p> <p>Various car parks in the town centre include the railway station and Castlegate (accessed near Scot's Bridge) - both pay and display.</p>
Start point	Berwick railway station, TD15 1NF
Finish point	Berwick Barracks, TD15 1DG
Distance	3 miles
Level	Moderate – An easy walk with a few short steep climbs but alternative routes are available
Onward journey	From the Barracks it is just a short walk back to the railway station. With the entrance to the Barracks on your left, go along Parade. Turn right onto Church Street and left onto Walkergate. At the mini roundabout turn right and go under the bridge. Follow Castlegate for about 400 metres and the station is on the left.
Conditions	The walk is mostly on pavements and gravel paths with grassy paths an option. Wear suitable shoes though and take care of your footing at the historic sites.

Suitable for

Families - the battle stories about the castle might appeal to children.

Wheelchairs / pushchairs - step-free routes are indicated in the directions

Dogs - must be kept on a lead in the town and near roads

Refreshments

There is plenty of choice in the town centre, particularly along Marygate. Also try the Maltings Theatre cafe in Eastern Lane just off Marygate.

Facilities

Public toilets available at:

- Berwick railway station (free, access without train ticket)
- Entrance to Castlegate car park (charge)
- Eastern Lane (charge)
- Woolmarket (charge)

Places to visit

The Main Guard (Stop 15) – June to Sept 1-5pm, closed Wednesdays. Free of charge.

Berwick Barracks (Stop 21) includes Berwick Museum and Art Gallery, the King's Own Scottish Borderers Regimental Museum, the 'By Beat of Drum' exhibition, and the Gymnasium Gallery of contemporary art. Free entry for English Heritage members. *NOTE: Closed 01 October 2012 to 28 March 2013.* (Tel: 01289 304493)

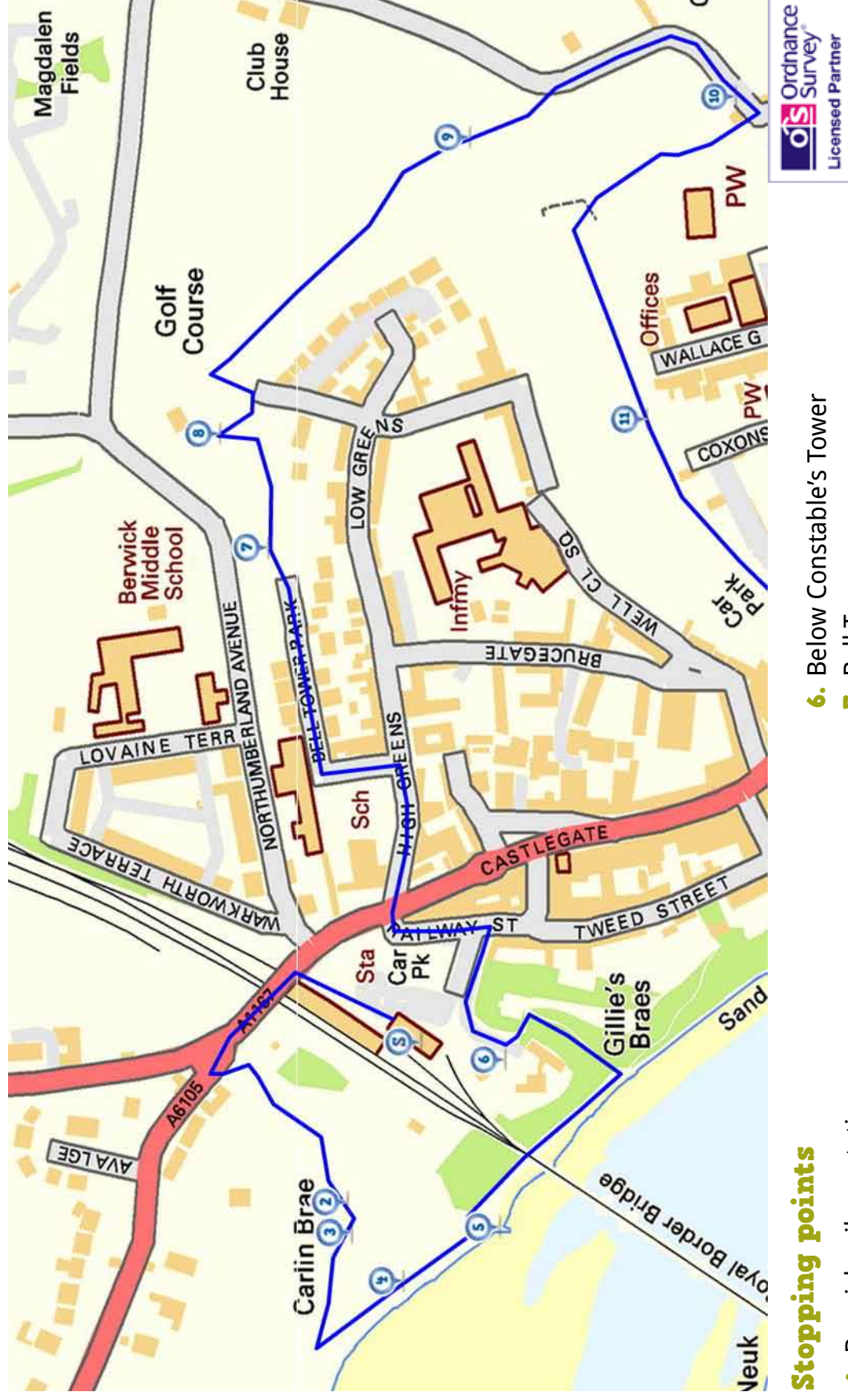
Public access to Cumberland Bastion, The Magazine and Main Guard on **Open Doors Weekend** (mid-September)

Berwick's **historic market** is held in Marygate on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Tourist information

Berwick-upon-Tweed Tourist Information Centre, 106 Marygate, TD15 1BN (Tel: 01289 330733). Closed Sundays.

Detail of the first half of the route



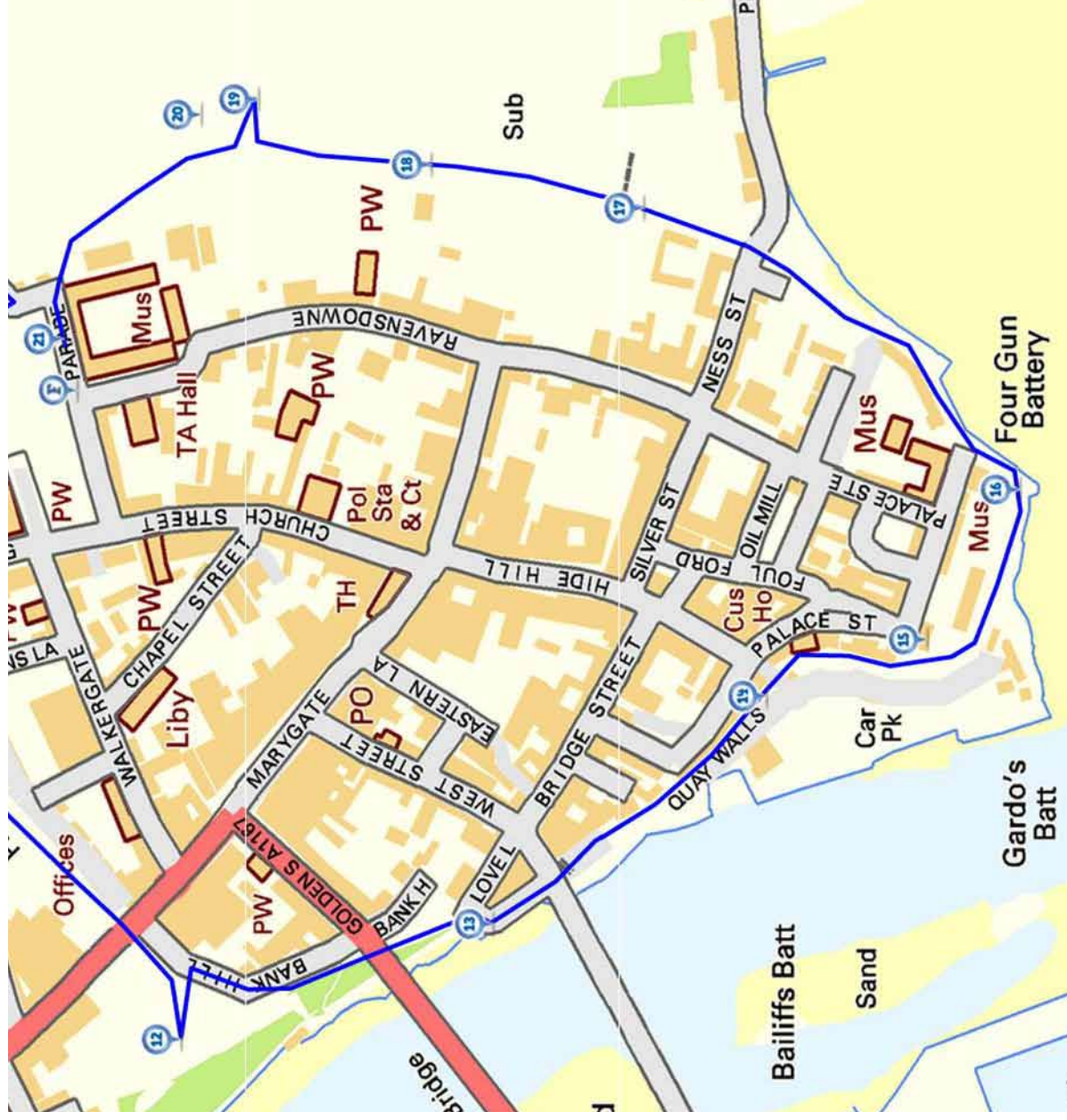
Stopping points

1. Berwick railway station
2. Curved bench on path to riverside
3. Curved bench on path to riverside
4. View of the castle walls, riverside path
5. Tower at the bottom of the White Wall
6. Below Constable's Tower
7. Bell Tower
8. Lord's Mount
9. Brass Bastion
10. Cow Port
11. Cumberland Bastion

Detail of the second half of the route

Stopping points

- 12.** Meg's Mount
- 13.** Bridge Terrace, between the old and new bridge
- 14.** The Quay Walls
- 15.** The Main Guard, Palace Green
- 16.** Coxon's Tower
- 17.** King's Mount
- 18.** The Magazine
- 19.** Windmill Bastion
- 20.** Windmill Bastion
- 21.** Berwick Barracks
- 22.** Berwick Barracks



Directions

These directions are for use with the Berwick-upon-Tweed walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Berwick-upon-Tweed

Berwick railway station

Directions 1

From the station entrance turn left with the train tracks on your left and the car park on your right. Go up the steps and turn left to cross the bridge over the railway. Where the main road forks look for a signed footpath on the left side. Go through the gate and follow the path as it snakes downhill. Go through the next gate. Stop at the curved bench overlooking the river, viaduct and castle walls and listen to Track 2.

NOTE: Stops 2 to 5 involve a modest – but highly worthwhile – descent and ascent. If you are unable to manage the terrain listen to these stops within the station grounds. Then go through the small gate near the post box and down a few steps (these steps are actually private property but the owners permit public usage). Turn right down the driveway of Castle Vale B&B. Stop beneath the ruins of the stone tower on the right just before you reach the buildings and listen to Track 6.

2. The border line

Curved bench on path down from A1167 to riverside

Directions 2

Remain at the bench and listen to Track 3.

3. Changing sides

Curved bench on path down from A1167 to riverside

Directions 3

Follow the path downhill. At the bottom go through the gate and turn left onto the riverside path towards the viaduct. Stop when you have a good view of the castle walls up on the hill to the left and listen to Track 4.

4. Cliff top position

Riverside path

Directions 4

Continue along the riverside path towards the viaduct. After following the path through the stone passageways turn right onto these stone walls. Stop on the top and listen to Track 5.

5. Breakneck stairs

Tower at bottom of the White Wall

Directions 5

Continue along the riverside path. Shortly after going underneath the viaduct there are two paths on the left. Take the first path which leads up a set of steps into Castle Vale Park. At the top of the steps turn left. Follow the path as it bends round to the right. Where the path merges with a road, turn left back down the road. This is a private driveway but access is permitted. This driveway follows the original access bridge to the castle and the twin towered entrance gate and south tower can be seen here. Stop beneath the ruins of the stone tower on the right just before you reach the buildings and listen to Track 6.

6. Berwick changes hands again

Below Constable's Tower, driveway of Castle Vale B&B

Directions 6

Walk up the driveway of Castle Vale B&B and follow it round to the right. At the road turn left and follow it to the junction. Cross carefully and go straight across into High Greens. Go a short way along High Greens and immediately after passing a school playing field on the left hand side turn left into Bell Tower Place. Follow the road round to the right and along towards the end of the houses. Go across the grassy area. Stop by the tower and listen to Track 7.

NOTE: For a shorter walk omitting stops 7 to 11 retrace your steps through the gate into Castle Vale Park. Pass the top of the steps that you came up and follow the path around to the right. After the viewpoint of the viaduct follow the path up the steps. At Tweed Street turn right. Where the road bends round to the left continue straight along the path. When the path reaches the corner of a high stone wall turn left with the wall on your right. At the road turn right. Immediately after going under the stone bridge turn right. Go through the gate on the right and up the slope. Take the path on the left up onto the viewpoint. Resume the commentary at Stop 12 (Meg's Mount).

7. Towers and gates

Bell Tower

Directions 7

Follow one of the grass pathways a little further along to the stone walls that you can see. Stop inside this tower and listen to Track 8.

8. The latest technology

Lord's Mount

Directions 8

Leave Lord's Mount towards the last house. Go down the steps and turn left onto the path. At the next junction of paths turn right. Follow the path with the golf course on your left hand side. Continue straight at the next junction of paths. Over the grass on the right hand side is a very large stone wall. Stop in a convenient place looking at this wall and listen to Track 9.

9. Italian design

Brass Bastion

Directions 9

Continue along the path with the walls to your right. Join the road and follow it round to the right. Stop just before the gateway and listen to Track 10.

10. A gate for cattle

Cow Port

Directions 10

Go through Cow Port then through the gate on the right and up the slope onto the ramparts. Where you meet the main path turn left with the church on your left hand side. At the corner you may wish to go up onto Brass Bastion on the right. Turn left and follow the path along the ramparts. Stop at the next mound and listen to Track 11.

11. A time of peace

Cumberland Bastion

Directions 11

Continue along the path until you reach the bridge over the main street. This is the Scots Gate, built in the 1560s as the gate out of the town on the road to Scotland. The eastern pedestrian gate was added in about 1815 and the main arch was widened in the 1850s. It was the route of the main A1 road until the bypass was built in 1983. Shortly after going over the Scots Gate take the path up to the right. Stop at the viewpoint at the top and listen to Track 12.

12. The Scots invade again

Meg's Mount

Directions 12

Retrace your steps down from the viewpoint. Turn right along the path and down to the gate. Continue straight along the lane and follow it as it bends round to the left. Where the lane splits take the right pedestrian fork. Follow this path down the slope and under the road bridge. Follow the signs for Coast Path which take you along Bridge Terrace. Stop at a convenient place between the new bridge and old bridge and listen to Track 13.

13. Crossing the river

Bridge Terrace, between the Royal Border and Royal Tweed bridges

Directions 13

Continue along Bridge Terrace. At the old bridge you may wish to walk a short way onto the bridge to enjoy the view. When you are ready continue along the flagged walkway called Quay Walls which is signposted Coast Path. Stop part way along Quay Walls and listen to Track 14.

14. Neither English nor Scottish

The Quay Walls

Directions 14

Continue along Quay Walls until you reach a grassy area by the Main Guard and listen to Track 15.

15. The defenders of Berwick

Main Guard, Palace Green

Directions 15

When you are ready continue along the walkway. As you walk along notice the stone bases where cannon would have stood. Where the wall makes a sharp turn to the left is a tower on the corner. Stop here or go up onto the top if you wish for better views of the river estuary.

16. Attack from the sea

Coxon's Tower

Directions 16

From Coxon's Tower continue along the walkway past the cannon at Fisher's Fort. Go through the gate. You can follow the paved path straight up onto the next hill or follow the grassy path alongside the wall to the right. Stop on the top of the plateau and listen to Track 17.

17. Rebellion

King's Mount

Directions 17

Continue along the paved path. Immediately after a path leading to a house is a building in a walled enclosure. Stop near this and listen to Track 18.

18. What a blast!

The Magazine

Directions 18

Continue along the paved path. Go up onto the next mound where there is a beacon and listen to Track 19.

19. The longest war?

Windmill bastion

Directions 19

Descend from Windmill Bastion. Go round to the seaward side of the Windmill Bastion and listen to Track 20.

20. The French threat

Windmill bastion

Directions 20

Continue a short distance along the paved path then bear left down to the gate. Go through the gate and straight along the pavement. Stop outside the entrance gateway to the barracks on the left hand side and listen to Track 21.

21. A first for England

Berwick Barracks

Directions 20

There is a charge to enter the barracks but you can look through the gate into the main courtyard. Remain outside the Barracks and listen to Track 22.

22. Past and present

Berwick Barracks

Directions 20

To return to the town centre or railway station walk past the front of the barracks along Parade then turn left along Church Street. This leads to the old town hall. Turn right up Marygate to return to the station.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **David Flintham** for creating the walk, taking photographs and providing the audio commentary
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