

FORTH TO FARNE PILGRIMAGE WAY

COLDINGHAM PRIORY CIRCULAR WALK

In the middle ages Coldingham was a major visiting/resting place for pilgrims travelling from the south and on to North Berwick and St Andrews.

Coldingham Priory

Originally the home for Benedictine monks. The Priory has been around in several forms for over 1,000 years, and there are still some remains of a 13th century building.

In recent years the Priory has been upgraded and restored (inside and outside) through Heritage Lottery funding. Under floor heating was installed, pews replaced by individual chairs, a new kitchen and toilets were installed and the Priory opened its doors to walkers (as well as all visitors).

Creel Road

St Abbs was originally known as Coldingham Shore. Fishermen lived in Fishermen's Road in Coldingham and carried their nets and gear down to the Shore using the Creel Road – carrying their catch back at the end of the day.

Coldingham Bay

A lovely (blue flagged) bay with many beach huts and a summer-opening café. The shape of the bay allows large waves to form which attracts surfers throughout the year.

St Abbs

The ancient, well protected 3 harbours were a main centre for the east coast fishing industry. Although fishing is still carried out, due to the clear inshore waters, St Abbs is now a main centre for scuba diving.

There is a community funded lifeboat at the harbour.

The visitor Centre displays artefacts and interactive exhibits that tell the story of the village – free entry.

A bronze statue was erected near to the Visitor Centre in 2017 to commemorate a terrible fishing disaster that took place off Eyemouth in 1881. In a severe storm over 40 fishing boats capsized or were dashed against rocks and 189 men drowned, including many from St Abbs.

St Abbs also has a Community Centre and two cafes.

Kirk Hill and Adjoining Hill

The sites of a medieval church (1300s) and monastery founded by St Aebbe in the 7th century. The monastery was in 2 parts –

for nuns and monks – but didn't survive too long. There is very little remaining on site – but it is believed the masonry was used in the development of Coldingham Priory nearby.

St Abbs Head, Lighthouse and Fog Horn

St Abbs Head was formed by active volcanos. The sheer cliffs, offshore stacks and narrow gullies provide the perfect nesting habitat for many types of seabirds.

After the nearby sinking of the Matello in 1857, the lighthouse was built in 1862 by the Stevenson brothers. Originally an oil burning light it was converted to electricity in 1966, and became automated in 1993.

The Siren Gog Signal was built in 1876, the first in Scotland. It was discontinued in 1987 after the arrival of electronic warning devices.

Nesting Birds

The 100m high cliffs provide an ideal home for about 50,000 nesting seabirds each year – these include herring gulls, guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, shags and puffins.

Pettico Wick

Where tectonic plates meet, now showing geological folded rock formations.

North Atlantic salmon on their annual journey to the River Tweed were caught off shore and processed in a building that was located by the sloping slipway. A salmon fishermen's bothy was also located here.

The slipway was also used for the delivery of supplies for the lighthouse.

Mire Loch

A 600m long fresh water man made loch (dammed in 1900 for fishing). Was formerly a boggy area between the harder volcanic rock of St Abbs Head and the mainland softer sedimentary rock. A resting place for migratory birds.

Measured Mile Posts

Located on top of the hillside to the west of Pettico Wick are two pairs of tall metal posts that are set 1 nautical mile apart. These can be clearly seen from the sea and were used for measuring a ship's speed.

