

# North Berwick



*Hailes Castle*

Turn right at the end of the path at Abbey Bridge and follow the National Route 76 signs along country roads. Keep left at the next junction and after less than two miles take a left fork onto a single track road that runs past the substantial ruins of Hailes Castle. Built on an escarpment above the River Tyne, the castle, which has its origins in the late 13th century, has to be visited to appreciate what a fine and impressive structure it once was. From the castle, it's a fairly easy run, passing under the A1 again and down to the village of East Linton, where refreshments are available. Preston Mill to the north-

east of the town is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. It is one of the oldest meal mills in Scotland and is still in working order.

If you want to carry on to Dunbar, turn right onto the B1377 before you enter East Linton and join the A199 and then the A1087 to Dunbar. The majority of traffic is now on the A1, so these roads are relatively quiet. Dunbar is a very pleasant town, with a

picturesque harbour, rugged cliff faces, fine restaurants, a leisure pool and John Muir's Birthplace. Mary Queen of Scots was brought to Dunbar Castle by the Earl of Bothwell on 24 April 1567 after he abducted her and they returned to the castle after their marriage on 15 May. After Mary's subsequent surrender and abdication, the Scottish Parliament ordered the destruction of the castle. You can see the ruins near the harbour, now a nesting site for kittiwakes, although access is closed for safety reasons. If you wish to leave Dunbar by train, remember to book bike space in advance, as space is limited.

However, you have the option of continuing north from East Linton to North Berwick. There is a network of quiet roads from which to choose. A suggestion is to follow the B1407 past Preston Mill, taking the first left. After slightly under two miles on a straight minor road, turn left, then right, left and right and follow the road into North Berwick through Wamphray, with the volcanic plug of Berwick Law to your left. North Berwick is another lovely destination, with a harbour, sandy coves and the renowned Seabird Centre. In terms of travelling with your bike, it has the distinct advantage of being at the end of the line, having a frequent service into Edinburgh, and no need to book bike spaces.

**This ride was featured in *the hub*, Sustrans' supporter newsletter, in June 2010. To become a supporter and receive *the hub*, please visit: [www.sustrans.org.uk/support](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/support)**