

# Amble History Trail

## Red Trail (approx. 1hr)

1. Cross the Town Square, once the site of a British Legion Club, with one of the largest gnomes in Europe and the Memorial Gardens; exit towards the Harbour. At the railings look left- see part of the old Brickworks. Through the Harbour Village, turn left towards the R.N.L.I. Left of there, go along Coble Quay Walkway. Turn right over the Car Park; beyond here was a cinema and a dance hall. Go to the Car Park rear left.

2. With the metal fence to your right, walk along the grass. Beyond the Marina, look over the water to see the West jetty remains and workshops where coal and fishing boats were repaired. See wrecks at low tide. The Yacht Club site was an 18th century shipyard.

3. The Coquet, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has abundant birdlife- magnificent Warkworth Castle dominates the scene. (Staying longer? follow the Northumberland Coastal Path along the river.)

4. Return by the road to Amble. Left, at the bend, was the site of an old sawmill, a granary, a mineral factory and National Coal Board offices. The fields across the road had a slaughterhouse and a salt works. (Walk up Gloster Hill, the site of Roman remains- see the 18th century mansion house gateway.) On the trail, pass the old Gas works square building on the right. Turn left to avoid the steep hill or go on - near the top, turn right to see Gloster Terrace's Masonic Lodge which was the Congregational Church. (Next right is Amble's West Cemetery with its commonwealth graves.) Continue to town with the R.C. Church on your left.

5. Look left towards the narrow path- on your left is Hallbank Well entrance, one of the earliest water supplies; right, by the R. C. Church, are 15th century manor house remains. At the road, go left; the Wesleyan Chapel was before the Bowling Club. Right, next to the garden and seating area, is an 18th century cottage.

6. Queen Street, named after Queen Victoria in 1837, is the main shopping area with individual bespoke shops to entice you. (Look right to see St. Mark's United Reformed Church.) Two of Amble's oldest hostelrys, the Dock and the Waterloo- bought by a soldier who fought there- still trade. The Council offices were here; opposite the post office's old style post box, were the Courthouse and Police Station. Through the gap- Cross Street, site of a Church school- is the Church of England. Beyond that the Mechanics Institute building, now a Library. Walk down the street back to the Town Square looking up at the impressive 19th century building facades which are in a Conservation area.

## Green Trail (approx. 1hr 15mins)

1. Cross the Town Square, once the site of a British Legion Club, with one of the largest gnomes in Europe and the Memorial Gardens; exit towards the Harbour. See the old Brickworks behind the railings. Through the Harbour Village; look left to see the Lifeboat Station. Turn right along the Quay, around the dock to the harbour. Once a bustling port, the railway bringing coal exports for Europe, the staithes towered overhead; coal crashed into holds, black dust flew everywhere. Now it relies on fishing and tourist trade.

2. Walk towards the river mouth and the sea. Harbour trade meant there were Honorary Consulates for Germany, Norway and Sweden. Head onto the pier looking over the grass beyond the Harbour Master's building where fishermen mended their nets. Beyond here, were cement cottages and drying greens.

3. Watch out for waves on the breakwater! At the end is Cliff House, the Overseer's residence when the harbour was being built. Right are the original lifeboat station and coastguards' houses. Go up to Paddlers Park set in a quarry where stone was used for the breakwater and houses. Follow the dunes over the Hill- Rocket Hill- where flares once called out the lifeboat. Pause along the grass to view the rare sea birds on Coquet Island- an RSPB reserve. Pass Island View where salt was made from 1783 for over 100 years.

4. Behind the East cemetery, with its restored spire, admire the coastal views. (If time, explore the dunes, the site of burial cairns and quarries, by following the Coastal path.) Cross the grass and road- note the caravan site, evolved from caravans on the dunes. The field behind the houses was bought by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle for children of poor city dwellers to come for holidays. It was used for the Army, German P.O.W.s & displaced persons in WW2. Walk along the footpath, passing the cemetery.

5. On the left was farmland until the mid-1900s; on your right was a Links golf course and a rifle range. Further on Newburgh Street, and houses which were in Leazes Street, mostly belonged to the National Coal Board, housing mainly miners. Smaller Broomhill Street houses were where many fishermen and sailors lived. The Harbour Inn was a first port of call for seafarers. Use the footpath to the grassy mound to see wonderful views. Turn round, this grass had one of the largest diamond railway crossings. At the centre, turn right to walk where railway tracks once were- bringing coal from Radcliffe and Hauxley collieries. See the red brick houses of the old station.

6. The roundabout was where the railway bridge crossed the road. The Fourways Centre, to your right, was the Station Hotel; the flats opposite were the Lonnen School then the Council offices; alongside the Drop-In was the Fire Station. Along Bridge Street look left to Queen Street, the shopping area, then turn right to the Town Square. Amble is almost unique with two war memorials - The Clock Tower, Amble's own, and the smaller which came here when Radcliffe village was opencast for coal and its people re-housed here.



Brickflats



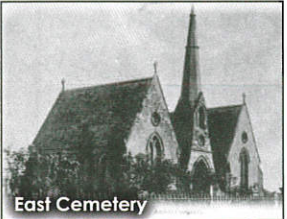
Queen Street



Old Dock Showing Staithes



Sailing Ships



East Cemetery



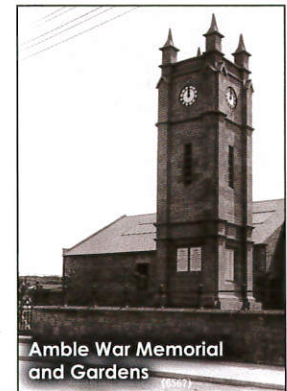
Manor House Window



Rolands Butcher



Dilston Terrace Flood



Amble War Memorial and Gardens

