

## Holy Island Today

A warm welcome to Holy Island where there is a thriving island community of 150 people. The Island has a post office, general store and a first school. Local fishermen still fish from the small harbour.

The Holy Island Community Development Trust, established in 1996, is run by volunteers and has led several exciting projects for the benefit of the islanders and visitors. Please come and see us in the Lindisfarne Centre (details opposite). Other Trust projects include the creation of the Gospel Garden (pictured below), responsibility for the inner harbour area, and building affordable houses for local people.

In 2011 the trust started renovating the former Coastguard Lookout Tower for public access, and building a new wildlife observation/information point alongside the harbour road. These new features are due for completion in summer 2012.

The community hope you enjoy your visit to the island whether you have come for the nature reserve, the castle, the priory, the churches, the peace and tranquility or for quiet contemplation in one of the retreats.

Please respect our community and the special Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

## Place of Pilgrimage and Prayer

As a 'cradle' of English Christianity Holy Island attracts many visitors each year who come as pilgrims or for a retreat, seeking spiritual renewal and refreshment, following in the steps of the Northern Saints, especially Aidan and Cuthbert.

There are three churches on the island: St Aidan's Roman

Catholic Church, St Cuthbert's United Reformed Church and St Mary's Church of England Parish Church; each of these offer regular worship and are open for visitors every day. There are also two retreat centres: Marygate House and the Open Gate.

[www.lindisfarne.org.uk/religion](http://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/religion)

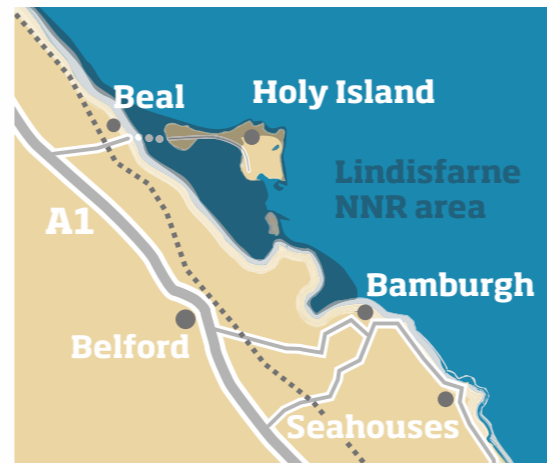


## Visiting Holy Island

Located 60 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne and 60 miles south of Edinburgh.

**By Car:** 5 miles off the A1, follow signs from Beal.

**By Train/Bus/Taxi:** 8 miles south of Berwick-upon-Tweed mainline station. Summer bus service only.



## Holy Island Causeway

Holy Island is linked to the mainland by a causeway which is covered by the sea twice each day. The island is inaccessible to vehicles and pedestrians for approximately 5 hours each day. Safe crossing times are posted at each end of the causeway and can be obtained from [www.lindisfarne.org.uk](http://www.lindisfarne.org.uk). Please respect the tides, do not chance

your luck and drive straight into the North Sea.

### For further information please telephone:

Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust - 01289 389004  
or  
Berwick Tourist Information Centre - 01289 301780.

**Please consult individual websites before you start your journey.**



### Northumberland Coast

The Northumberland Coast is widely recognised for its varied and spectacular landscape. The quality of this landscape has been judged amongst the finest in England and Wales and as such has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and covers 39 miles of coast from Berwick to the Coquet estuary.

**Websites:** [www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org](http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org),

[www.ourcoastoursea.org.uk](http://www.ourcoastoursea.org.uk)

**Email:** [coastaonb@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:coastaonb@northumberland.gov.uk)

Project developed by the Holy Island Partnership and jointly funded by the National Trust, English Heritage, Natural England, Northumberland Coast AONB



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural development:  
Europe investing in rural areas

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# Holy Island of Lindisfarne



**The Community, the  
Castle, the Priory and  
Nature Reserve**

## The Lindisfarne Centre



yourbeautifulphotography.com

The Lindisfarne Centre is run by the Holy Island Community Development Trust and is a good place to start your visit. The centre is staffed by local people with knowledge of the island and is packed with information and activities for adults and children. We stock leaflets, books and a selection of gifts. All funds raised from the shop and exhibitions are reinvested in community projects based on the island.

Come and see a copy of the **Lindisfarne Gospels** and 'turn the pages' on the touchscreen displays.

The first Viking raids in Britain were on Holy Island in AD 793. Come and see the **Viking 793** film and other exhibits from these exciting times.

Hear stories and see pictures of what it was like living on the island in times past in the **Island Life** exhibition.

The Lindisfarne Centre is packed with information and activities for adults and children.



**The Lindisfarne Centre**  
[www.lindisfarne.org.uk](http://www.lindisfarne.org.uk)  
 Tel: 01289 389004  
 Email: [lindisfarne-centre@uk2.net](mailto:lindisfarne-centre@uk2.net)



## Lindisfarne Castle



Location has always been the main attraction for the owners and occupiers of Lindisfarne Castle on Holy Island.

Whether it be the original Tudor builders looking for a strong position to protect the island harbour, or the wealthy Edwardian bachelor seeking a quiet retreat from London, the situation of the Castle has intrigued and inspired for centuries.

Lutyens' renovation both hides and emphasises the old fort, all the while overlooking Gertrude Jekyll's enchanting walled garden, the traditional upturned boat sheds, and the often-missed grandeur of the Lime Kilns, magnificent evidence of Lindisfarne's industrial past.

**Access:** Property on a very steep slope, with steps, trip and slip hazards and low doorways. Assistance dogs only.



National Trust

**Lindisfarne Castle**  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lindisfarne](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lindisfarne)  
 Tel: 01289 389244  
 Email: [lindisfarne@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lindisfarne@nationaltrust.org.uk)



## Lindisfarne Priory



Lindisfarne Priory was and still remains one of the most important centres of British Christianity. Today, it offers the perfect island escape - a place of peace and spirituality.

The priory, founded in AD 635, is famed as the home and original burial ground of St Cuthbert, who lived on Lindisfarne until his death in AD 687. His remains were exhumed 11 years later and found to be undecayed - a sure sign of sanctity. The tranquility was disturbed when Viking raiders invaded the island in AD 793.

Hear all about the enthralling story of the monks and Vikings in the fascinating visitor centre and gift shop. Take in spectacular views of the coast, stroll around the atmospheric ruins of this tranquil setting and see the stunning rainbow arch. Be thrilled by live action and living history events in the priory grounds every spring and summer.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

**Lindisfarne Priory**  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/lindisfarne](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/lindisfarne)  
 Tel: 01289 389200  
 Email: [lindisfarnepriory@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:lindisfarnepriory@english-heritage.org.uk)



### Opening Times 2013-14

29Mar-30Sept  
 10:00 am - 6 pm (daily)  
 1 Oct-3 Nov  
 10:00 am - 4 pm (daily)  
 4 Nov-14 Feb (2014)  
 10:00 am - 4 pm (Sat/Sun only)  
 15 Feb-23 Feb (2014)  
 10:00 am - 4 pm (daily)  
 24 Feb-31 Mar (2014)  
 10:00 am - 4 pm (Sat/Sun only)  
 Closed: 24, 25, 26 Dec and also 1 Jan (2014)  
 (Last entry 30 minutes before closing)

**Admission Costs**  
 Adults: £5.20  
 Concession: £4.70  
 Child: £3.10  
 Shop: Free admission

**Under 5s and English Heritage Members go free. Additional entry charges may apply on event days.**

### Opening Times 2013-14

16th Feb-4th Nov (Tues-Sun)  
 Open Bank Holidays and some Mondays, see website  
 Opening tide dependent either 10am-3pm or 12pm-5pm  
 (Last entry 30 minutes before closing)

### Admission Costs

Gift aid adult: £7.20  
 Gift aid child: £3.60  
 Gift aid family: £18.00

Adult Standard: £6.50  
 Child Standard: £3.25  
 Family Standard: £16.25

**Under 5's and National Trust members go free**

**National Trust shop in village. Free admission. Open 10am-5pm (tide dependent)**

**Weddings by arrangement**

# Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve

On the edge of Britain, land and water meet. Shifting sands and tides combine to create the dunes, saltmarsh and mudflats of the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, home to a fascinating array of wildlife. The reserve is managed by Natural England to protect habitats and wildlife for your enjoyment.



Brent geese

Please help us conserve this special place by keeping to paths and avoiding disturbance to wildlife. For more information about the reserve please contact the reserve office on 01289 381470.



Cattle grazing



**For more information:**  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)  
 Tel: 0845 600 3078  
 Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)



Fulmars

The nature reserve can be enjoyed all year round, with beautiful orchids in the summer months and migrant birds in the spring and autumn. Wintering birds include short-eared owls and the rare light-bellied brent goose which migrates from Svalbard within the Arctic Circle.

The dune grassland is grazed with cattle and sheep and helps maintain an open sward, allowing marsh and spotted orchids, and grass of Parnassus to flourish. Insects such as the dark green fritillary butterfly also thrive here.

Sandham Bay is a good area to look out for seals. Grey Seals are most common in this area, they could be hauled out on rocks exposed by the tide.

Wintering waders can be seen along the causeway. Curlews, redshank, bar-tailed godwit and the much smaller dunlin can be seen from autumn onwards.

The lough bird hide is a good place from which to look out for peregrine, sparrowhawk and short-eared owls in winter.

Holy Island is on the route of both St Cuthbert's Way and St Oswald's Way. See the websites and leaflets for these long distance paths.

Pirri Pirri bur, a non-native invader, is found throughout the dunes and its seeds are a particular problem from July to October. Please ensure that the seeds are not transported to other sites.

At the castle you should encounter the resident fulmars. Look out to sea and you may see eider duck or red-throated divers in winter. You could catch sight of a grey seal in the water and summer may bring passing puffins and guillemots.

**Key**

- Lindisfarne Causeway
- Nature Trail
- Walking route only over sand/mud (Extreme caution necessary - never cross during rising tide)
- Bird hide



Grey Seals



Marsh helleborine



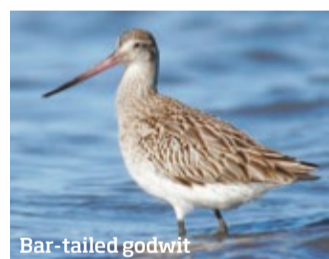
Northern marsh orchid



Pirri Pirri bur



Shelduck



Bar-tailed godwit



Eider (Cuddy) Duck

## Holy Island Timeline

- 635** The island is given to St Aidan by the Anglo-Saxon King Oswald as a base from which the pagan Northumbrians would be converted to Christianity.
- 685** Cuthbert becomes Bishop but dies in AD 687 on Inner Farne.
- 698** Lindisfarne Gospels begun. The community becomes the centre of the cult of St Cuthbert.
- 793** First Viking raid, monastery attacked and plundered.
- 875** Further Viking raids and monastery abandoned. Monks flee with St Cuthbert's remains.
- 1082** Priory re-founded. Island becomes known as 'Holy Island'.
- 1122** Parish Church of St Mary's built.
- 1536** After dissolution of Monastery, the small community of monks leave to return to Durham.
- 1549** First building on castle site.
- 1790** Coal pits in operation.
- 1791** Enclosure Act encloses agricultural land on the island. Permission granted to install first limekiln.
- 1860s - 1900** Limestone extraction and lime burning at castle point.
- 1902** Edward Hudson, founder of Country Life Magazine, acquires the castle.
- 1903** Sir Edwin Lutyens restores the castle.
- 1911** Gertrude Jekyll's walled garden begun.
- 1944** Castle handed over to the National Trust.
- 1954** First section of tarmac causeway built.
- 1956** Mains electricity and Artesian well water supplies completed.
- 1958** HM Queen Elizabeth visits island.
- 1961** Sewage system installed.
- 1964** Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve designated.
- 1966** Causeway completed.
- 1996** Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust founded.
- 1998** School is "mothballed" as there are no pupils.
- 1999** First affordable housing project completed providing rented homes for locals.
- 2000** Lindisfarne Centre opened in Marygate.
- 2000** School re-opens.
- 2008** Prince Edward visits island.
- 2008** Viking Exhibition installed in Lindisfarne Centre.
- 2010** Second affordable housing project completed.

**Car parks:**  
Open all year

**Toilets in village:**  
Open Easter - October

**Coach and disabled car park and toilets:**  
Open all year

**Bus Stop**  
Mini Bus Service. Castle shuttle runs from Easter to end of October according to tides and castle opening times.

### Holy Island Village

<b>A</b> The Lindisfarne Hotel	01289 389 273
<b>B</b> St. Aidan's R.C. Church	389 323
<b>C</b> The Island Oasis Café	389 119
<b>D</b> Lindisfarne Scriptorium	389 269
<b>E</b> The Ship Inn (pub & accom.)	389 311
<b>F</b> The National Trust Shop	389 253
<b>G</b> Celtic Crafts	389 033
<b>H</b> Sallys of Lindisfarne	389 033
<b>I</b> Pilgrim's Café	389 109
<b>J</b> The Open Gate Retreat House	389 222
<b>K</b> The Stables Café	389 060
<b>L</b> Lindisfarne Centre (Gospels, Vikings & Island Exhibitions)	389 004
<b>M</b> Marygate Retreat House	389 246
<b>N</b> The Gospel Garden	389 004
<b>O</b> Post Office (Café & accom.)	389 271
<b>P</b> St. Cuthbert Centre	389 254
<b>Q</b> St. Aidan's Winery	389 230
<b>R</b> The Bean Goose Restaurant	389 083
<b>S</b> Lindisfarne Priory & Museum	389 200
<b>T</b> St. Mary's C. of E. Church	389 216
<b>U</b> The Manor House Hotel	389 207
<b>V</b> The Crown & Anchor (pub & accom.)	389 215
<b>W</b> The Island Store	389 224

<b>Bed &amp; Breakfasts</b>	
<b>1</b> The Bungalow	389 308
<b>2</b> Bamburgh View	389 212
<b>3</b> Belmont	389 303
<b>4</b> Rose Villa	389 268
<b>5</b> High Rigg	389 040

Holy Island Bike Hire 309 643  
 Holy Island Walks 389 225

Right: Viking Raider stone from Lindisfarne Priory

