

Enjoy a day exploring Otterburn Village, Elsdon and their surrounding areas

Welcome to Redesdale, a remote upland area in the wild heart of Northumberland that stretches all the way from the Scottish border at Carter Bar, to where the River Rede meets the River North Tyne at Redesmouth. This is an area rich in history, heritage and culture. Join us for the day to explore more of this unique landscape.

AM

Start your day by exploring the grounds of **Otterburn Castle** (NE19 1NS), which dates back to as early as 1245. The Grade II listed castle you see today was rebuilt in the 19th century by Thomas James of Beaufront near Hexham, and is now a hotel, restaurant and bar. Otterburn Castle stands on the original site of **Otterburn Pele Tower**, which was attacked by the Scots during the Battle of Otterburn (1388).

No visit to Otterburn is complete without a trip to **Otterburn Mill** (NE19 1JT). World-famous in the 19th century for its tweeds and blankets, today it sells a wide range of country, outdoor and leisure clothing, including the famous Otterburn pram rugs, just like the one which was commissioned by Buckingham Palace for Queen Elizabeth II on her birth.

From Otterburn Mill car park you can join the three-mile **Otterburn Village Trail**, which can be extended to visit the site of **Fawdon Hill Iron Age Hillfort** (see on-site panel for route and map). Alternatively there are three other walks exploring Otterburn and its surrounding areas. The gentle 2.8 mile walk along the banks of the River Rede to Old Town Farm leads you across some of fields and surrounding farmland in Otterburn. If you decide to do the longer walk around **Blakeman's Law**, take some refreshments with you and wear some sturdy footwear as this is a strenuous route.

LUNCHTIME

Rena's Country Kitchen at Otterburn Mill sells a selection of cakes, cream cakes, light bites and lunches. Also in the heart of Otterburn village is **The Border Reiver** (NE19 1NP), where you can get food 'on the go'.

PM

One kilometre west of Otterburn village, in a wooded copse of trees just north of the A696, you'll find **The Percy Cross** (NE19 1JF) and the site of the infamous Battle of Otterburn. Erected to commemorate the **Battle of Otterburn** in 1388, The Percy Cross is said to mark the exact location where the 2nd Earl of Douglas was killed.

From the car park at The Percy Cross, you can also join **The Rede and Dargues Burn** circular walk. Find more details at www.revitalisingredesdale.org.uk/walking.

If you'd like to visit more sites connected to The Battle of Otterburn, the village of **Elsdon** (NE19 1AA), which sits south of Otterburn off the A696, is home to **The Church of St. Cuthbert**, which many believe to be the final resting place for many of the dead from the Battle of Otterburn. The grooves on the church pillars where 'the wild men of Redesdale' once sharpened their swords highlights Elsdon's historic and violent past. Inside the church, discover the story behind the three horse skulls found in a cavity of the spire in 1837, and see the monumental slabs honouring former Rectors and some of Redesdale's notable families, including the Reeds, Halls, Heldeys and Andersons.

Elsdon was the capital of Redesdale for thousands of years, and it remains the historic centre of Redesdale. On the outskirts of Elsdon is **Mote Hills** (NE19 1AB), considered to be the best example of a motte and bailey castle in Northumberland. And no visit to Elsdon would be complete without visiting the **Winter's Gibbet** (NE61 4LE) - sometimes referred to as the Winter's Stob - a replica gallows that stands on the edge of the valley at the top of Battle Hill.

You can explore Elsdon and its surrounding areas in more detail via a series of walks, which all begin from Elsdon Village car park. End your day exploring Otterburn and Elsdon with a locally brewed beer or ale at Elsdon's Grade II listed pub, **Bird in Bush** (NE19 1AA), or enjoy a piece of gibbet fruitcake at the **Impromptu Café** (NE19 1AA).

