

Tour of Britain Comes to Northumberland

7 SEPT TOUR OF BRITAIN COMES TO NORTHUMBERLAND

On Monday 9 September, cycling's Tour of Britain will bring some of the world's top cyclists to Northumberland.

This top cycling event is organised by British Cycling, the sport's governing body in the UK, and is a multi-stage race held over eight days.

Internationally the Tour of Britain is one event in the UCI Europe Tour season in which professional teams from around the world compete. Teams for the Tour of Britain will be announced in the summer and each will pick their six rider line-up from a squad, which may number up to 30 riders.

Tour of Britain in Wooler

The stage passing nearest to Wooler is on day 3 of the Tour. The stage will see 120 of the world's top cyclists racing from Berwick-Upon-Tweed to Newcastle, building on the success of the 2018 race when some of the World's top cyclists including Chris Froome took part.

Stage three of the 2019 OVO Energy Tour of Britain will be the first to link all areas of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, with the route taking in Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle Upon Tyne.



The stage will start from the centre of Berwick-upon-Tweed, crossing the Grade I listed Berwick Bridge as the race heads away along the Tweed Valley and onto Ford and Wooler. The route will race along the Northumberland Coast, including past Bamburgh and Warkworth castles, showcasing the Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty through the worldwide television coverage.

After passing through Whitley Bay, Tynemouth, North Shields and Wallsend, the final kilometres will see the race heading alongside the banks of the River Tyne on the Quayside, before turning on to Grey Street for a spectacular uphill city centre finish.

Wooler Wheel

Of course, Wooler is no stranger to cycling events. The Tour will see the pros' route include sections of the increasingly popular Wooler Wheel sportive routes.

If you are thinking of bringing your own bikes on holiday then Homildon Cottage has space to store them in our lockable games room with a floor 4 bike, dual-height cycle rack. There's an outdoor tap for washing bicycles and outdoor clothing, and space for drying outdoor clothing and footwear. We also have maps of local bridleways as well as the nearby Sandstone Way. Alternatively why not hire a bike once you're here?

pic: Eric The Fish from UK (Tour of Britain 2014) [[CC BY 2.0](#)], via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Ancient Wonders E03: Ancient Castles and Hulne Priory

Part three of this captivating series considers the turbulent history of Northumberland during the Middle Ages

Wandering the ruins of Mitford Castle captures an eerie sense of history at the site of what was Britain's only five-sided keep. Built in the 11th Century, it was burnt to the ground by King John in 1216. It was rebuilt in the early 14th century, only to be confiscated by Henry III and then pillaged by Robert the Bruce.

McVay visits Newminster Abbey, a Cistercian abbey near Morpeth which fell victim to the first wave of dissolution in 1537, and Hulne Priory, a home to "White Friars" near Alnwick. Hulne Priory was the filming location of Marion's home in the film Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, and sits within Hulne Park. The park is open to the public –although it is not marketed as a visitor attraction and has no visitor facilities.

Moving on to the river gorge of the National Trust's [Allen Banks](#), McVay muses philosophically, "when you are a traveller, the greatest point of the adventure is not knowing where you are going and that sometimes being lost can be a good thing".

The final location of this episode is [Thirlwall Castle](#), near Hadrian's Wall. It is one of many strongholds built in the local area as part of the defence of the English Border against Scottish raids.

Hulne Priory directions

Entry is via the approach from Alnwick, and is restricted to pedestrians only with dogs not permitted. If driving, park on Ratten Row on the north-west edge of Alnwick [[map](#)]. Opening hours are generally 11am to sunset each day, but visit the Northumberland Estates website or call the Estate Office on 01665 510777 to check other limitations. Two circular routes along permissive paths visit the abbey – [Hulne Park walks map](#) [[PDF](#)]

Thirlwall Castle directions

Turn off the A69 to Greenhead, and park near the Church [[map](#)].

An easy walk of under 2 miles is suggested by Northumberland National Park –