

## On the edge of two nations

Berwick sits on the River Tweed on the frontier between England and Scotland. Its name means 'barley farm', and by the late 12th century it had grown to be the wealthiest town in Scotland as the nearest port to Europe. Among the exports was grain from the 'bread basket' of the Tweed Valley, a trade that continues today.

Between 1174 and 1482, Berwick changed hands many times, finally ending as part of England. The castle, already in a state of decay, was abandoned after the Elizabethans split the town with their massive new defences in the 1550s to defend Protestant England from the Catholic Scots and French. In Victorian times the coming of the railway and the building of the station and the Royal Border Bridge destroyed most of what was left of the castle. You can see what remains today from the trail and station platform.

## Two parks – on the edge of town

### Castle Vale Park

Castle Vale Park was opened in 1931. The land was donated to the town by Mr John Cairns, a baker who lived on nearby Tweed Street. Originally part of a ravine crossed by the old castle bridge, the vale was the site of a stream powering Low Mill where corn was ground. The ravine was partially filled in when the station was built and is now the car park.

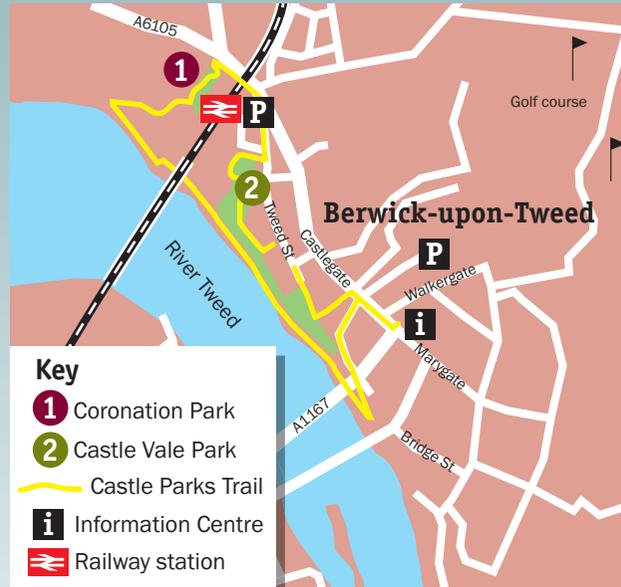
### Coronation Park

Coronation Park was planted out in the spring of 1937 to celebrate what should have been the coronation of Edward VIII. After his abdication the coronation was that of his brother George VI, Queen Elizabeth II's father.

Apart from bloody sieges, the park has witnessed other gruesome events in the past. Crowds would have gathered for the public hangings held on 'Gallows Knowe' at the top of the park near the entrance.

### Low Mill in the 19th century

It was sited where today the steps go down from the Lily Pond in Castle Vale Park to the river.



## About the trail

The whole circular trail route will take you about an hour. There is one steady climb back up from the river through Coronation Park. If you have less time (and can manage the steps) you can shorten the trail by following the other paths through Castle Vale Park back to where you started – see the map inside.

## A new lease of life

Restoration of Castle Vale and Coronation Parks has, with help from the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Funds, reinvigorated these little known gems near the centre of Berwick. The 'Castle Parks Trail' will guide you along surfaced footpaths to the wonderful views you can enjoy from them!

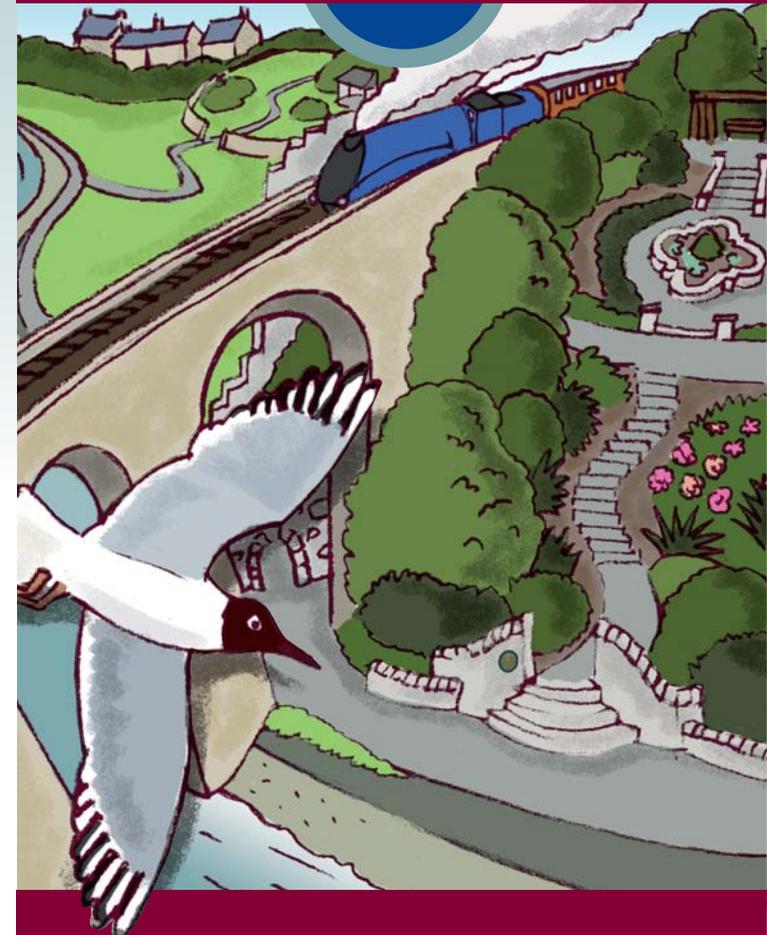
There are several information plaques and panels along the way which reveal much about Berwick's fascinating past as you go, and plenty of seats for you to rest and take in the views – or why not take a picnic?

For more information, or to get involved as a 'Friend of the Parks', please contact the Berwick Parks Project Officer via [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



# The Castle Parks Trail

Enjoy a pleasant stroll round Castle Vale and Coronation Parks, Berwick-upon-Tweed



**BERWICK'S HIDDEN HISTORIES REVEALED...**  
Discover the town's walls, remains of the castle and lovely views of the River Tweed with its three bridges.

# Revealing Berwick's past – the Castle Parks Trail



## Constable Tower

Keep a look out for the best preserved remains of the old castle just after you enter Castle Vale Park. (Note: The tower is in the private grounds of Castle Vale House B&B – please view from the park only)



## Lily Pond

Both Castle Vale and Coronation Parks were laid out in the 1930s. The influence of the 'Art Deco' period of the time is seen in the shape and design of the Lily Pond and the nearby shelter in Castle Vale Park.



## A Baker's Dozen?

More slices of history from Berwick's past are revealed at the viewpoint in Castle Vale Park! Six questions are posed here on bread-shaped bronze plaques. The answers lie nearby – can you find them?

