

TOUR 2 NORTH EAST

Northumberland is the setting for our good food ride in the North East as we drive from the outskirts of metropolitan Newcastle, through open moorland across the Cheviot Hills to the border region and then on to the North Sea coast, with its spectacular castles and wealth of birdlife.

Start out at **Brocksbushes Fruit Farm** which is found near Corbridge on the A69 just outside Newcastle. Enjoy picking your own strawberries or raspberries, and follow up with a drink and a late breakfast or light bite in the tea room. The award-winning farm shop will furnish you with provisions for the journey ahead.

Next, taking the A69 in the direction of Newcastle, cross the course of Hadrian's Wall before heading north on the A1. Sweep on to the A697, signed for Coldstream, and follow the road up on to the Cheviots, skirting the Northumberland National Park. In Wooler, you might want to stop at the small food emporium, **The Good Life Shop** (01668 281700) at 50 High Street. Here you'll find Newcastle Brown Ale ice-cream also produced in Wooler at the **Doddington Dairy** (www.doddingtondairy.co.uk).

Next, continue through Wooler, and then take the right turn on to the B6354, which, followed by a left, brings you to **Heatherslaw Corn Mill**, where you will find a Miller on hand to demonstrate the principles behind the working water mill. You can buy the stone-ground wholemeal flour at the shop, and the restaurant will offer lunch by the river that gives power to the water wheel.

Continuing on the A697, turn right at the roundabout in Cornhill-on-Tweed on to the A698 east to Berwick, and then take the A1 southbound, enjoying the views out over the North Sea. Turn off at Alnwick, a historic market town recently described by Country Life as "the best

place to live in Britain". The majestic castle, a seat of the monarchy for centuries, is something of a film star, having appeared in *Harry Potter* and *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* among others. Its grounds also play host to a unique culinary experience – dining in the **Alnwick Garden Treehouse**. You may wish to look around the grounds and have dinner here (Thursday-Saturday only), or, between Easter and the end of September, have a light tea and then drive on to the seaside fishing village of Craster. Here you can enjoy a walk on the harbour and savouring the view across the ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle before rounding off your tour with the pure, traditionally smoked bliss of a kipper tea at **L. Robson & Sons Ltd** café.

This drive has been created in association with Karl Christensen, the Chairman of Northumbria Larder.

