



## MOODS OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND COAST REPRINT

*Tony Hopkins*

The Northumberland Coast is a place of wide sandy bays, low rocky headlands, castles, islands, seabird colonies, gusty winds and bright sunshine. It is often deserted, sometimes wild and desolate, and always a joy to visit.

Most of the coast is designated AONB and Heritage Coast, recognising its cultural and natural importance. It is a landscape once exploited for quarystone and coal, fertiliser and fish, but these traditions have dwindled: what is left is picturesque rather than functional. This certainly applies to the most dramatic remnants of past glories – the great castles of Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh, the Priory and Castle of Lindisfarne and the pele towers and monastic ruins built when the county was a military and religious power-base.

Bays and dune ridges are linked by shallow sandstone cliffs and whinstone headlands. Take the boat to the Farne Islands or drive over the causeway to Holy Island and you are in a place steeped in history and vibrant with wildlife. In many ways this is an unexplored coast; you can find yourself alone on a beach with only eider ducks for company.

This book is Tony Hopkins' personal interpretation of a favourite stretch of coast, based on twenty years of photographing and writing about it: 'Often, the weather changes abruptly – it will be sunny on the beach or out to sea but dull and dreary inland. Clouds pirouette rather than scud across. Sea mists can roll in like an express train and then hang around for days. And because this is the east coast, the best photographs are taken in the morning, which means that much of this book is bathed in magenta.'



**Tony Hopkins** is a writer, artist, illustrator and photographer with a life-long involvement in field studies, conservation and countryside management. For fifteen years he was Interpretation Officer and Head of Visitor Services for Northumberland National Park, before leaving to establish a freelance career in countryside interpretation, undertaking contracts for conservation agencies such as the National Trust and English Nature. Tony has written and illustrated several acclaimed books about the North East, its farming, wildlife and cultural heritage.

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Example of a double page spread.



Seawater channels around dolerite boulders on the south shore at Embleton.



Above: Alnmouth Bay from the slopes of Castle Hill, on the opposite bank of the River Aln.

Left: Sailing boats high and dry, Alnmouth harbour.



Monks House was once owned by the Lindisfarne monks who launched their boats from here to row out to Inner Farne.



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