

Spirit of NORTHUMBERLAND

Jason Friend

Northumberland is not only the northernmost county to be found within England but also the least populated. The 'land of the far horizons' offers some of the most picturesque scenery to be found throughout the British Isles, although it is often overlooked by visitors heading north to the uplands and highlands of Scotland.

Any visitor to the region has an array of locations to visit which all have something to offer. Be it the impressive remains of the World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall, the beautiful coastline of the Northumberland Heritage Coast or the rolling yet domineering features of the Northern Pennines as they sprawl towards the Southern Uplands of Scotland, the county can lay claim to a mix of quintessential English scenery.

Although Northumberland is now possibly one of the most tranquil and peaceful spots to be found in England, it has not always been that way. Marauding invaders from Scotland and Scandinavia dictated the construction of numerous fortifications to protect these northernmost English lands. The remnants of these buildings remain dotted across the landscape providing an enigmatic contrast to the natural features of the region.

With the relatively sparse population, and a large amount of suitable habitat, a wide variety of wildlife is found within the boundaries of the county. The Farne Islands are something of a Mecca for the bird watching community, whilst inland areas of woodland host the endangered Red Squirrel that any watchful visitor may have the privilege to see.

Through the medium of Jason Friend's superbly evocative photographs the reader can experience at first hand all of the glories that help make up the Spirit of Northumberland.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jason Friend lives in the North East of England. He is a regular contributor to *Outdoor Photography* and *Country Walking Magazine* and supplies images to a number of worldwide image libraries. This is Jason's sixth book – his previous titles including *Portrait of the Borders*, *Portrait of Tyneside*, *Spirit of Cumbria* and *Edinburgh Illuminated* also for Halsgrove.

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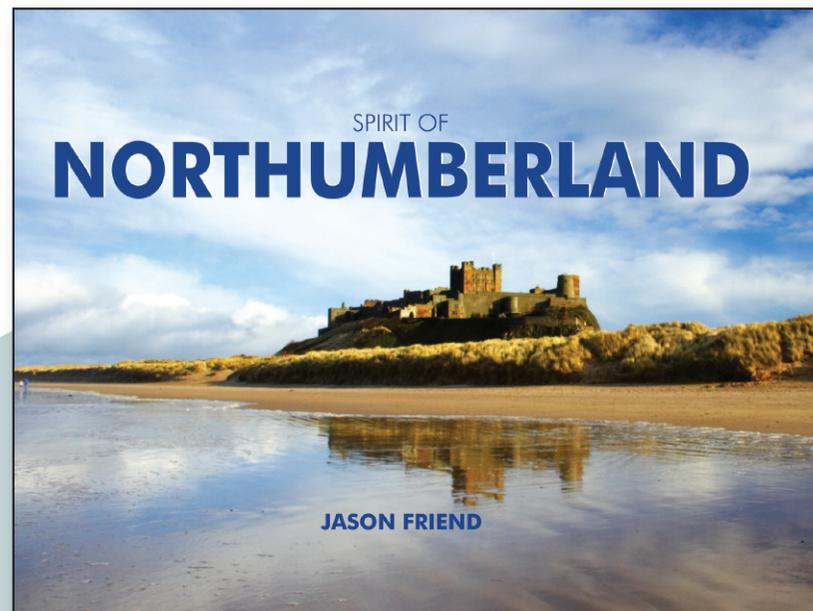
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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback, 64 pages, 110x155mm, illustrated in colour throughout.
Price: £4.99
ISBN: 978 1 906887 69 8
Imprint: PiXZ Books
Published: March 2010



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SPiRiT OF NORTHUMBERLAND



A single puffin waits patiently for its mate to return to their burrow on the Inner Farne Island.



Alnwick Castle, often referred to as 'The Windsor of the North', reflected in the still waters of the River Aln.



Boats moored within the harbour walls of Beadnell Harbour.



Right: Sunset behind the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall near the town of Once Brewed.



A wire fence running alongside the historic Clennell Steep route, as it heads towards Alwinton and the Coquetdale Valley.

Opposite page: Sheep crossing a country road running through dramatic North Pennines scenery.

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Example of a double-page spread.



Prehistoric cup and ring marks and rock art located on a stone at Lordenshaw near the Lordenshaw Hill Fort.