

# The Otterburn Ranges

## Controlled ACCESS AREA

### ③ 50K Challenge (yellow route on map)

This circular cycle route takes you from Alwinton through the remote beauty of Coquetdale to the Roman camps at Chew Green and then back along the upland spine of the military training area. (50km / 31 miles)

**Start:** The National Park car park at Alwinton. Turn right to follow the road up the Coquet Valley 20km to Chew Green.

Continue SE from Chew Green on Dere Street for 3km to junction of military roads – go left, continue 2.5km then take the road left 2.5km to Ridlees Cairn. After 1km keep left.

After 3.5km turn left again to follow the 'Burma Road' for 10km to descend through Holystone Forest to Holystone village. Turn left, leaving Holystone, to continue the final 7km N, through Harbottle to finish in Alwinton.

### Things to look out for

**Birds and beasts** Because of its remoteness the Otterburn Training Area is a haven for wildlife. The MOD's conservation team based at the Camp have provided Barn Owl nesting boxes at farms on the estate. There has been a marked increase in Barn Owl chicks raised here over the last few years!

**Stone circles** The circular stone pens you see are 'stells' which shelter sheep in the winter.

**Barrowburn Village Hall** Coquetdale was a thriving community in Victorian times. Farmers from the valley held dances, markets and mass-clippings of their sheep in Barrowburn village-hall.

**Chew Green Viewpoint** Stop at this exposed spot on the route of Dere Street for a 'bird's eye view' of the Roman camps at Chew Green.

**Outer Golden Pot** Outer Golden Pot is one of the viewpoints used by the military to observe artillery and missile training on the ranges and gives views across the Redesdale Range – an 'all-arms' range where modern soldiers train for operational deployment

across the world. Sheep and cattle are cleared from the area before any live firing begins, and red flags are flown to show the roads across the ranges are closed to public access.

