



## Nith Estuary National Scenic Area

Visit the wonderful Nith Estuary to enjoy its fantastic scenery, fascinating history and wildlife.

From the granite dome of Criffel and the forest at Mable, across the shimmering tidal flats busy with wading birds, to the triangular castle at Caerlaverock – there is lots to see and enjoy!

The area, recognised as one of the most scenic parts of Scotland, has some stunning views like this one from Drumburn, a viewpoint on the western shore, to the Cumbrian Fells.

The estuary, surrounded by fertile farmland and rolling parklands, is loved by locals and visitors alike. Its huge skies, intense light and awesome views have inspired many writers and painters and we hope it will inspire you to come and enjoy it too!



## Drumburn Viewpoint

Criffel rises steeply from the vast expanse of sand and mud flats providing a dramatic landmark for the surrounding countryside.

Nestling at its base, in a lush grazed valley of undulating hills and trees, is the picturesque village of New Abbey, dominated by the red sandstone ruin of Sweetheart Abbey.

Glencaple quay and Southernness lighthouse are reminders of the once industrious River Nith. Tobacco, tea and timber were imported, and at Carsethorn many people emigrated to start a new life overseas.

Generations of fisherman have been attracted to the dangerous mudflats to trap salmon, sea-trout and flounders in tidal nets. Haaf netting, a method of fishing introduced by the Vikings, is still used on the river today.

Huge flocks of geese overwintering on the merse (or saltmarsh), which fringes the shore, create a spectacular show as they take off into the sky.

From the viewpoint looking across the estuary you can see the prominent wood on Wardlaw Hill, a short walk from Caerlaverock Castle, which also has a viewpoint. The Wardlaw, which stands guard over the eastern bank, has a panoramic view, and was once used by the Romans as a lookout post.

## How to get there

Drumburn viewpoint is located on the A710 Solway Coast Heritage Trail between New Abbey and Kirkbean.

Both viewpoints have picnic facilities, information about what you can see and the history of the area. Remember that these viewpoints are on private farmland so please act responsibly, respect the interest of others and care for the environment.



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Drumburn viewpoint is part of a developing network of viewpoints that are being created across the three National Scenic Areas in the region.

## The natural place

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## Dumfries and Galloway

## National Scenic Areas



## Drumburn Viewpoint