

# Powillimount Viewpoint

**You are welcome to explore the seashore at Powillimount.**

Powillimount beach belongs to Arbigland Estate, you are welcome to enjoy the beach, please act responsibly during your visit:

- Powillimount is an internationally important site for birds, their wellbeing is threatened when they are disturbed whilst feeding and roosting, so please keep your dog under control.
- Powillimount has some fascinating fossils. Please leave them for others to enjoy.
- Powillimount is beautiful, please keep it that way by taking your litter home with you.
- Powillimount is enjoyed by visitors and residents because it is peaceful and safe, so no unauthorised vehicles are allowed on the beach.
- To ensure that shell fish stocks are not over exploited, commercial cockling in the Solway Estuary is now only allowed under licence.
- This beach is swept by fast tides. Take care not to get cut off by the incoming tide. You are advised not to swim on the outgoing tide.
- Guard against risk of fire. Keep all fires small, supervised and under control. Remove all traces before you leave.

**Have you ever wondered what story lies behind the rocks on a beach?**

The rocks poking up through the sand on the beach were formed 340 million years ago, known as the carboniferous period, when the climate was warm and wet. Layers of different sediments are now sandstones, limestones and mudstones.

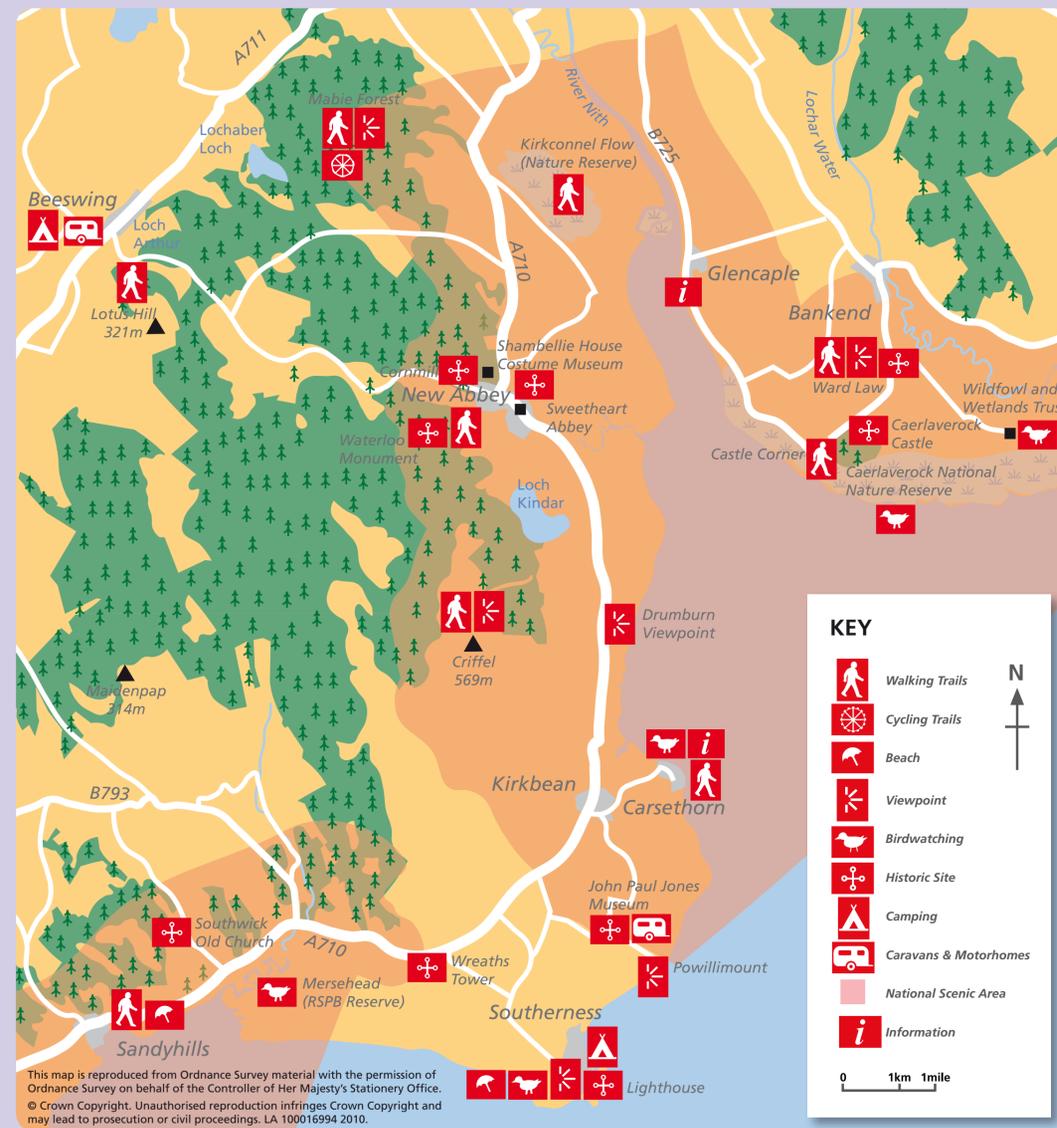
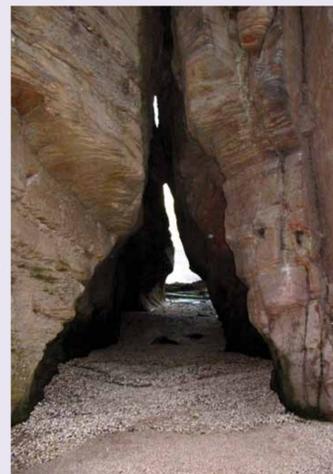
Although the layers have been folded, fractured and eroded they still give us clues as to how they were formed.

Some rocks have ripple patterns which are evidence of the sediment being deposited on the sea floor.

Many rocks have fossils of plant fragments which suggest they were formed close to land. Coral fossils are found in other rocks suggesting the area was once a reef and indicate that warm, shallow waters existed in the area at this time.

About 50 metres from the car park is a prominent ridge of sandstone with a natural feature, known as the Thirlstane Arch.

**Climbing and abseiling on the Thirlstane is undertaken at your own risk.**



**This is not a campsite.**

Camping facilities are available nearby at Southernness. Caravan and motorhome facilities are available at the John Paul Jones Museum.

**Arbigland is a working estate so please act responsibly during your visit.**

- care for the environment - don't damage trees and shrubs
- respect the interests of other people
- take responsibility for your own actions

**How did that get there?**

Further along the coast you will see a large granite boulder on the beach known locally as the Devil Stone.



A traditional story tells us that the devil bit a mouthful of granite from Criffel and spat it out on the beach. Current theories identify it as an erratic, a lump of granite carried from the hill by a glacier and dumped when it melted during the ice age.



**Powillimount is in the Nith Estuary National Scenic Area.**

This is one of the finest landscapes in Scotland. Further information about the National Scenic Areas can be seen at a developing network of viewpoints including Drumburn, Carsethorn and Sandyhills.

## Nith Estuary National Scenic Area

Worth enjoying, worth looking after

