

Edward the First of England was King from 1274 to 1307 and spent most of his reign in campaigning on England's western and northern borders. He was known as Longshanks, for his height, and the Hammer of the Scots for his hard and efficient pursuit of supremacy in Scotland. In the winter of 1306, while attempting to quell another uprising he became ill and rested at Lanercost Priory for several months. He died on Burgh Marsh, of dysentery, within sight of the shores of Scotland which had plagued him for so long. The monument pictured here marks the place of his death, and although it was slowly sinking into the marsh, engineers have recently rescued and restored it, so that we can go on remembering Edward I, Hammer of the Scots.

Architecture on the Solway Coast is varied and fascinating. Thatched cottages are rare on the Solway. During late medieval times, reedbeds were common, providing abundant raw materials for thatching. Later drainage works to improve marshes for rearing sheep, meant that many wetland habitats disappeared. Clay Dabbin barns are a relic of past times. They were constructed of frame

timbers or 'crucks', the walls were made from a mixture of clay, pebbles and straw.

The intertidal river Eden is an ever-changing environment due to the twice-daily inundation of the river channel by the incoming tides. This provides a spectacle for the birdwatcher all year round.

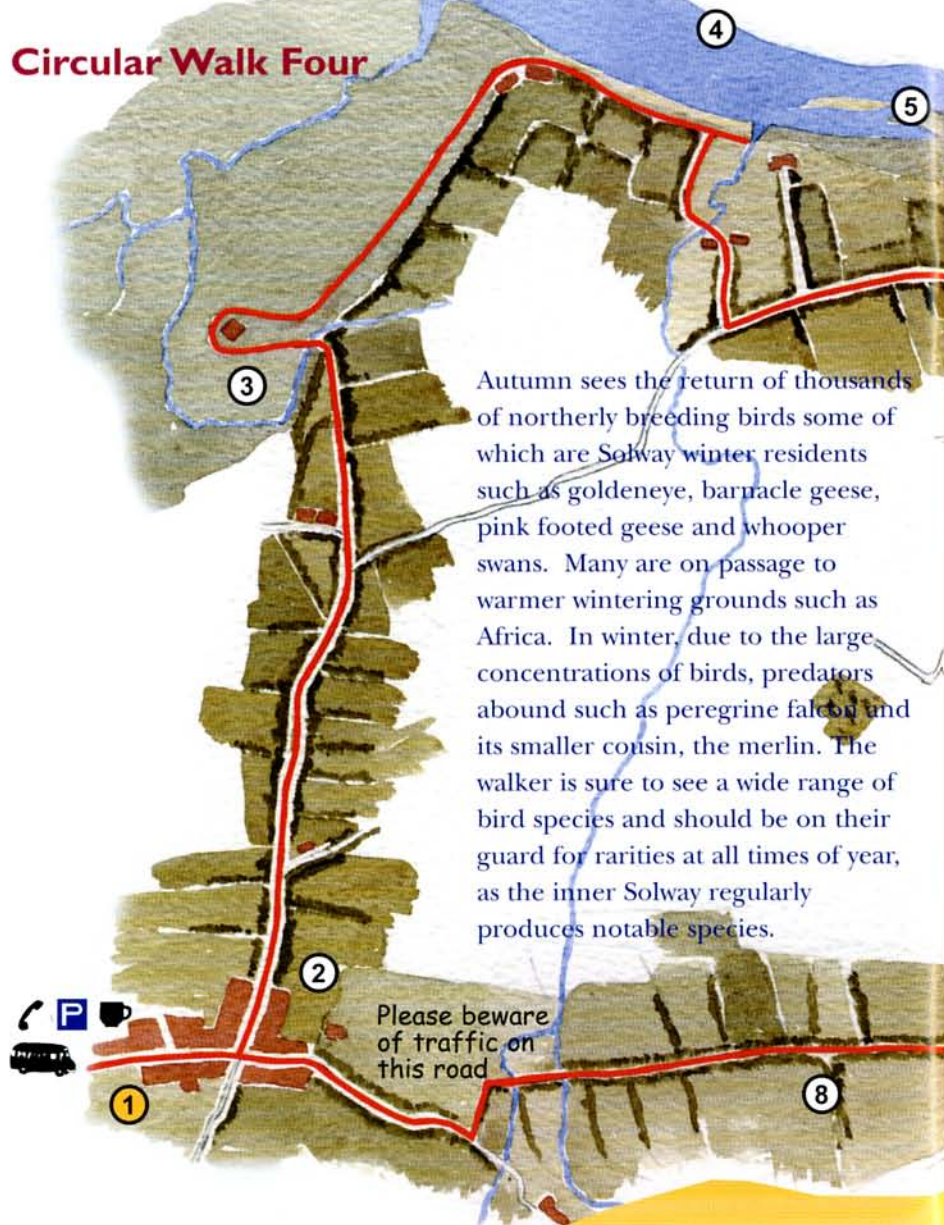
In Spring the Solway is a feeding area for those birds migrating north to their breeding grounds in more northerly countries. In Summer it is home to a large breeding population of gulls, terns, wading birds, and other saltmarsh species.



- ① Start at the Greyhound Inn. As you walk out of **Burgh By Sands** you can see the history of the village come to life through the range of building styles. Boulder and clay barns known locally as 'Clay Dabbins' can be seen alongside thatched cottages and Victorian brick built houses.
- ② Across the river, the red escarpment is called Red Rocks. The site is geologically unique and has been designated a Regionally Important Geological Site or RIGS. The outcrop is made up of sandstone which was laid down as desert dunes around 300 million years ago.
Also across the river is the **village of Rockcliffe**, named after the escarpment. The church in Rockcliffe is notable for the height of its spire. Churches of this grandeur are uncommon, but Rockcliffe lies within a large estate, and the church probably benefitted from this wealth.
- ③ **The Edward I Monument** was erected in 1685 to commemorate the site where the King died in 1307. Edward died whilst camped on the marsh close to the Stony Wath where his army could cross to Scotland at low tide. Please pause to read the panel in front of the monument.
- ④ **Old Sandsfield.** As you leave the marsh and head up the River the building on your right was once an inn for those trading with Scotland across the Wath, or ford. Old Sandsfield appears in Sir Walter Scott's "Red Gauntlet", as the inn called the Lady Lowther, whose landlord was Father Crackenthorpe.
- ⑤ Situated above the Eden, **Beaumont** was probably founded by the Romans as a strategic point. The settlement is typical of the Solway Plain in that dwellings are set within the four points of the compass which are marked by farms.
- ⑥ The remains of the wall are not easy to see on the Solway. This lane actually passes along the line of the Vallum, a complex of ridges and ditches which mirrors the line of the Wall.



Circular Walk Four



Autumn sees the return of thousands of northerly breeding birds some of which are Solway winter residents such as goldeneye, barracle geese, pink footed geese and whooper swans. Many are on passage to warmer wintering grounds such as Africa. In winter, due to the large concentrations of birds, predators abound such as peregrine falcon and its smaller cousin, the merlin. The walker is sure to see a wide range of bird species and should be on their guard for rarities at all times of year, as the inner Solway regularly produces notable species.

Please beware of traffic on this road



Beaumont Church

Map Key

- Route
- Gradient moderate steep
- Road Bus
- Point of Interest
- Access to Road
- Telephone Toilets
- Parking Refreshments
- Signpost Bridge
- Perch/Seat Step Stile
- Gate Narrow Gate
- Kissing Gate View Point

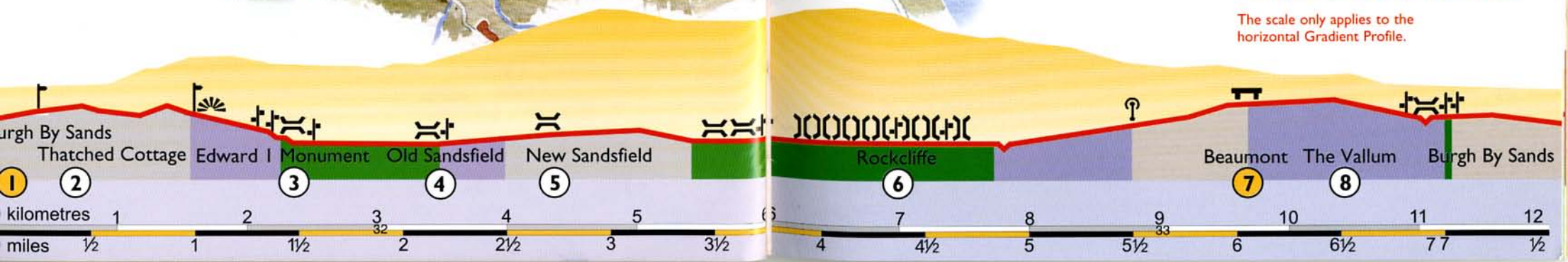
Path Surface

- Grass
- Firm/Even
- Soft
- Rough/Uneven

Gradient Profile

The highest point on this walk is 35m

The scale only applies to the horizontal Gradient Profile.



Burgh By Sands Thatched Cottage Edward I Monument Old Sandsfield New Sandsfield Rockcliffe Beaumont The Vallum Burgh By Sands

kilometres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
miles 1/2 1 1 1/2 2 2 1/2 3 3 1/2 4 4 1/2 5 5 1/2 6 6 1/2 7 7 1/2