



Visiting Information for Schools

St Mary's, Beaumont – occupies an elevated site which has been recognised for its defensive potential for many centuries. The Romans built a **milecastle** there and subsequently a **Norman motte and bailey castle** was built on the site of the milecastle. The panel at the church's east gates shows an artist's representation of what the motte and bailey castle would have looked like, taking into account the contours of its position. The village green would have been the bailey, or courtyard.

Inside the church there are panels telling the story of the site from the Mesolithic Era and the Bronze Age through to the Romans, the Normans, Border warfare, the Jacobite Rising of 1745 and the Siege of Carlisle in December that year, and up to and including the 21st century.

There is level access into the church, but it is approached via either steps or a steep gravelled path.

Squash and biscuits can usually be provided for pre-booked visiting schools.

St Michael's, Burgh-by-Sands – has many layers of history to offer, and tours can include the history of the church building, sited on the Roman Fort of Aballava; the lying in State in the church of King Edward I (known as Longshanks); Border warfare and the Border reivers and the building of the defensive tower for the sheltering of the population in those violent times. There is an excellent series of historical information panels in the tower, which will be explained in detail to visitors and a time-line along the church path describing significant events over the centuries relating to the site.

St Michael's has full disabled access to the ground floor of the church, with a WC. It can offer tea/coffee/squash and biscuits to visiting schools, or children can eat their picnics on site, or outdoors, in the churchyard or on the village green further down the village, which also has a wildlife area and pond.

A modest donation towards our costs would be much appreciated.

Stewards will be available to assist teaching staff for pre-booked school visits.

St. Michael's, Bowness-on-Solway – an interesting parish church, with a hearse house in the churchyard, stained glass windows relating to agriculture and fishing in the area, and bells with a unique history. It is very well worth a visit. Again, stewards can be available to assist teaching staff for pre-booked visits and squash and biscuits

can be offered for school groups. The church is approached by a small number of steps into the churchyard and so is unsuitable for wheelchairs.

For further information or to book a visit to any of the Three Solway Churches please see contact information or download a booking form.

Other nearby attractions of interest to schools

For schools visiting the area and interested in other attractions there is:

- Watchtree Nature Reserve at Great Orton, near Burgh-by-Sands
www.watchtree.co.uk
- Natural England National Nature Reserves at Finglandrigg Wood,
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/nnr/1006054.aspx> Bowness Common, Glasson Moss and Wedholme Flow.
Finglandrigg Wood has woodland, heath and bog with a good footpath network.
Further information 016973 50005 and <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>
- There is an RSPB Nature Reserve at Campfield Marsh, Bowness-on-Solway
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/c/campfieldmarsh/>
- Bowness-on-Solway Primary School also has a school wood of native, deciduous trees, with a number of shelters built by the children, as well as willow sculptures 016973 51384 www.bowness-on-solway.cumbria.sch.uk
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust has nature reserves at Drumburgh Moss and Bowness-on-Solway, with onsite interpretation panels. www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org