

Dog-friendly Solway

Explore the Solway Coast National Landscape with your four-legged friend.



Solway Coast
National
Landscape

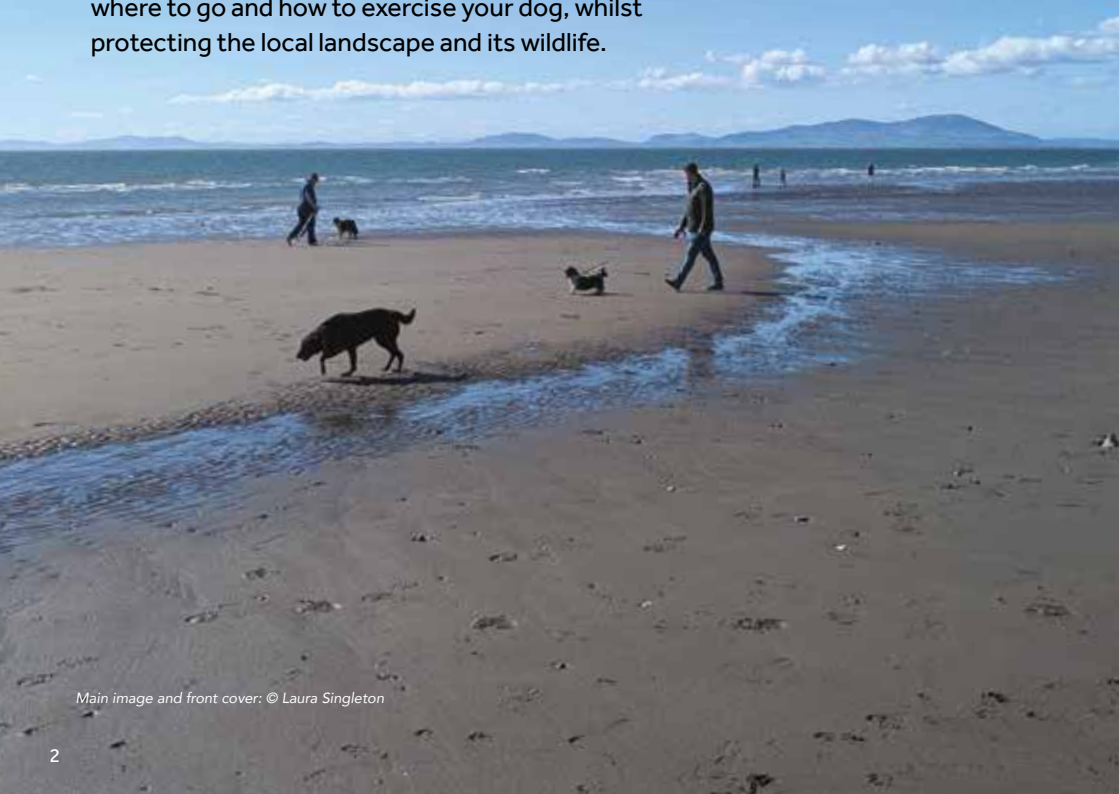
Introduction

Welcome to the Solway Coast National Landscape – the perfect place to go exploring with your dog. With a huge variety of habitats and landscapes from extensive beaches, sand dunes to lowland mosses, grasslands and riverbanks, there are places for every dog to enjoy.

Taking dogs for regular walks is essential for their mental and physical well-being – providing exercise, stimulation and activities outside their daily routine.

Any walk should be planned with due consideration for your dog's age, health, behaviour and fitness and knowledge of your dog's general reactions to other people, other dogs and wildlife.

This handy guide to dog walking in the Solway Coast National Landscape will help you plan ahead as to where to go and how to exercise your dog, whilst protecting the local landscape and its wildlife.



Solway dog walking code



-  Ensure your dog is always in sight and under effective control.
-  Keep your dog on a lead in areas with livestock. Never let your dog worry or chase wildlife or livestock.
-  Keep on the public rights of way.
-  Always bag up your dog's poo and place it in an appropriate bin.
-  Between March and July in areas where ground-nesting birds can be found, please keep your dog on a lead and don't let your dog chase or disturb birds on the beach.
-  Be aware of fast rising tides along the Solway Coast.
-  Don't assume that everyone is happy to be approached by your dog. Some people, dogs and horses can feel intimidated or fearful of other dogs and prefer to give them a wide berth.

Top Tips for Dog Walkers

-  Bring a towel to dry your dog (if you intend to let your dog swim in the sea or a river).
-  Bring extra drinking water for hot days.
-  Carry a phone for emergencies.
-  Check your dog carefully and remove any ticks with tick tweezers.

Games for dogs

Dogs love stimulating activities. Here are a few ideas to try out:

Fetch! Whether it's a stick or a ball, dogs love chasing after a thrown item and to bring it back to you for more chasing fun.

Digging for joy! Dogs enjoy finding buried treasure, which may be their favourite toy. On the beach, dogs may dig away to their heart's content. But in grassland or sandy dunes, this may cause disturbance to livestock, plants and ground-nesting birds, so please avoid these areas for digging games.

Swim! Dogs and water often go together, whether it's for swimming, playing or just cooling off. But before you let your dog go into water, check that it is safe for them to do so.

© Laura Singleton



Crosscanonby Beach

Dog walking sites



1. Crosscanonby Carr

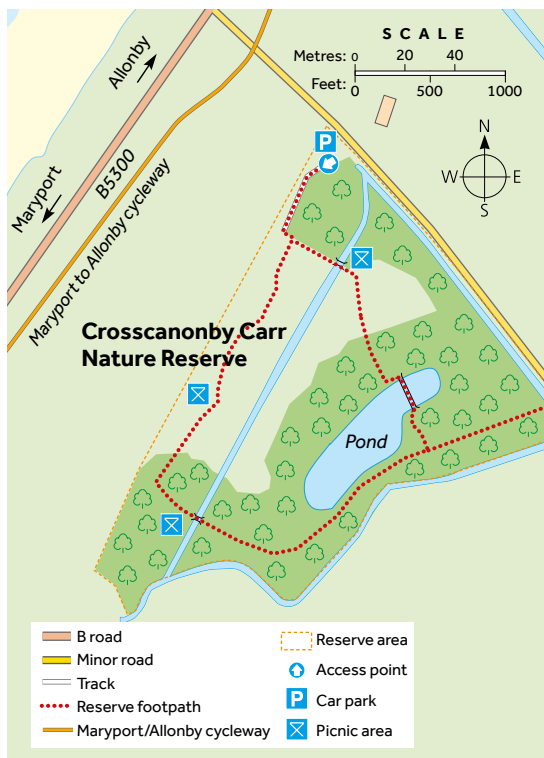
A small nature reserve made up of a mosaic of wetland, meadow and woodland – a haven for animals, birds and plants.

Great for:

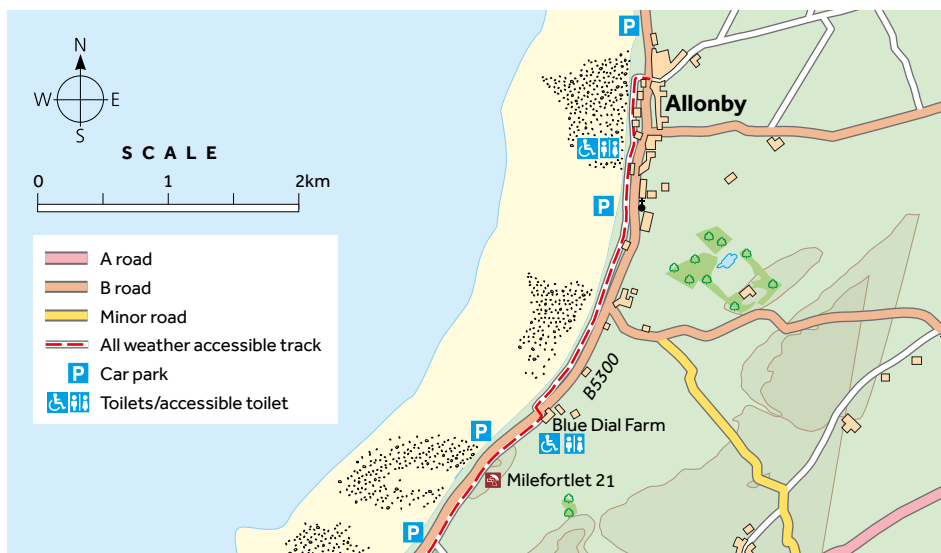
- A short walk around the reserve, with picnic tables provided.
- Close to the beach and a traffic-free cycle path if you wish to extend your walk.

Key messages:

- Keep dogs under close control during the bird breeding season (March–August).
- There is a risk of heat exhaustion during the summer months. Allow your dog to rest in the shade and provide plenty of water.



© Laura Jackson



2. Allonby

A beautiful seaside village complete with sandy beaches, large greens, an ice-cream shop and a children's play park.

Great for:

- A variety of exercise options for dogs – on the beach and village greens or along the adjacent walking/cycling path.
- Dog socialisation. Many people walk their dogs at Allonby, so this is a good opportunity for your dog to meet others.
- Plenty of places to get refreshments for you and your dog.

Key messages:

- Don't let your dog run around on the shingle due to ground-nesting birds.
- Watch out for toxic debris that may wash up on the beach – keep an eye out on what your dog is sniffing.



© Laura Jackson





3. Mawbray Banks

A nature reserve made up of some of the best sand dunes in Cumbria, grazed by a herd of Belted Galloway cattle.

Great for:

- Off-road parking at both ends of the reserve.
- Easy access to the beach.
- Varied habitat including sand & shingle beaches and undulating dunes.
- Poo bins in car parks.

Key messages:

- Avoid disturbing the endangered natterjack toad by keeping dogs out of the ponds.
- Whilst in the reserve, keep your dog on a lead to protect ground-nesting birds.
- The nature reserve is grazed by Belted Galloways. Please keep your dog under close control and away from livestock.



Belted Galloway cattle



The beach at Mawbray Banks

4. Silloth Green and Grune Point

© Roslyn Kerr

A classic Victorian seaside town with a well-kept green, and just a stone's throw from the natural environment of Grune Point.

Great for:

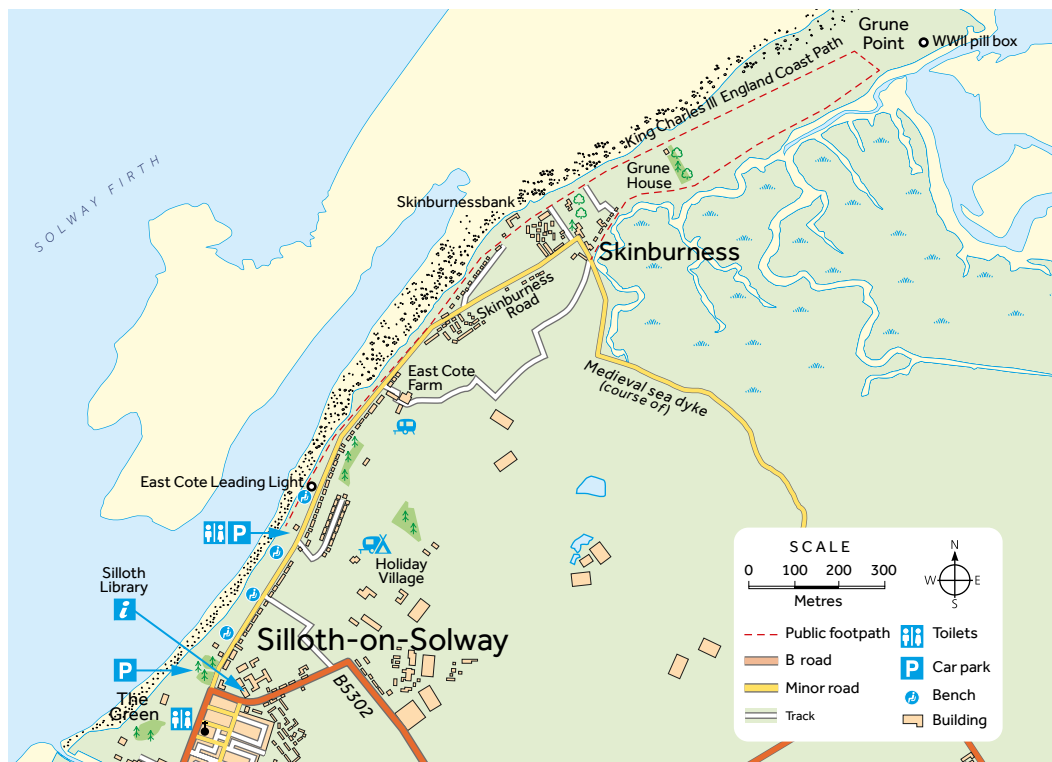
- Lots of recreational activities.
- Attractive walk along the promenade (or extend your walk along the coast to Grune Point).
- Plenty of free parking.
- Toilets and poo bins.

Key messages:

- Keep dogs under close control at Grune Point because of the presence of ground-nesting birds and grazing livestock.



Silloth Green



5. Bowness-on-Solway

A former fishing village on the southern end of the Solway Firth that now marks the western end of the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail.

Great for:

- Good beach walk on edge of the saltmarsh.
- Small parking area with a poo bin on western edge of village.

Key messages:

- Not accessible at high tide.
- Be aware of fast-incoming tides and sinking sand at this location.
- Keep dogs away from livestock on the salt marsh.
- Do not allow your dog to chase birds on the beach.



© Naomi Kay

Bowness-on-Solway



6. Glasson Moss

This lowland peat bog is now a restored wetland paradise, brimming with wildlife.

Great for:

- Enjoying a quiet wetland site with good visibility.
- Level access on boardwalks over the moss.
- Taking in panoramic views from the viewing tower at northeast end.

Key messages:

- Limited parking points.
- Ensure your dog stays on the boardwalks or designated footpaths.
- No poo bins, so please take your dog poo home.
- Watch out for adders.
- Check your dog for ticks.



Glasson Moss



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