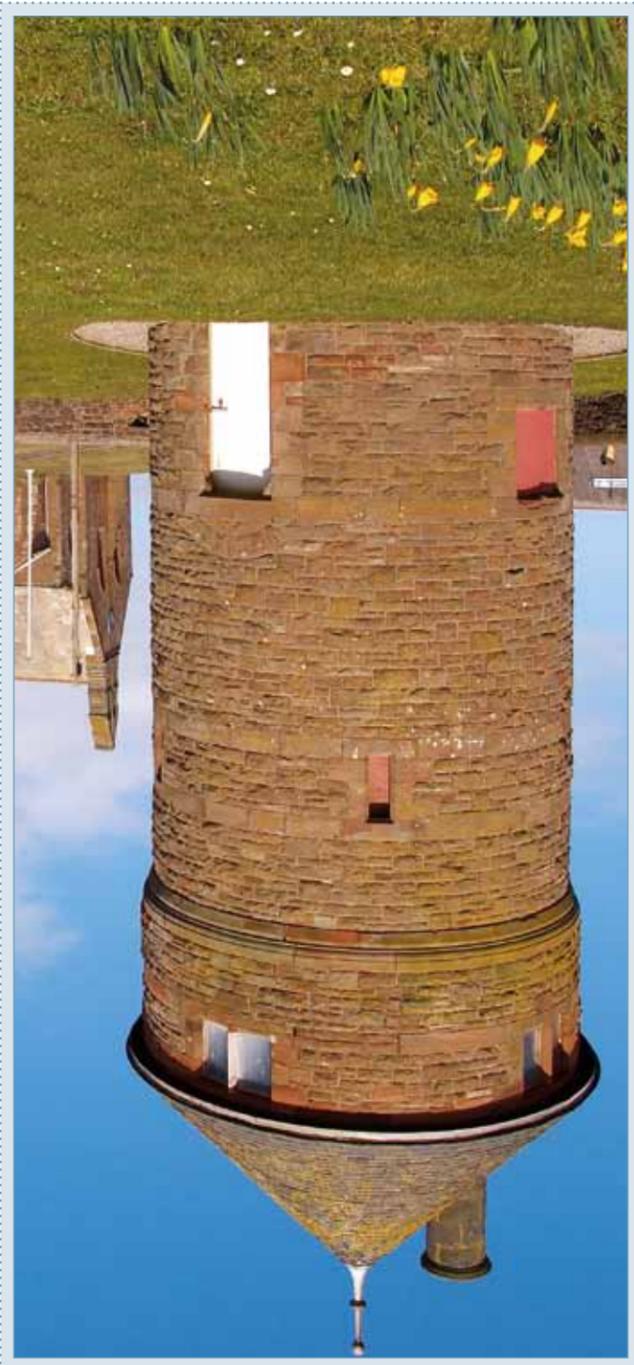


Seascale's history stretches back to the Vikings, being an early Norse settlement. For centuries thereafter it was quiet farmland until the arrival of the Furness Railway in the Victorian era, which brought visitors to the coast and put Seascale on the tourist map. In 1939 with the establishment of the nearby Royal Ordnance Factories, Seascale grew to accommodate the workers. In 1947 the nuclear building programme at the former Sellafeld Ordnance commenced and Seascale became a dormitory community for the Windscale and Calder Hall nuclear sites (later combined as Sellafield). In the 1950s it was known as 'the brainiest town in Britain'.

HISTORY



a sense of...

seascale

a sense of...

freedom

time

culture

history

heritage

seascale

Seascale is an attractive seaside village on the Lake District coast, nestled midway between Whitehaven to the north, and Millom to the south. Full of Victorian charm and blessed by its superb location, Seascale is ideal for exploring the spectacular coastline, and the stunning quieter fells of the Western Lake District. Seascale is easy to get to, from the A595 coastal road, or you can arrive in Seascale by train on the Cumbrian Coast Railway.

The award-winning **sandy beach** at Seascale stretches for miles, with spectacular views across the sea to the Isle of Man and the Scottish Galloway mountains. The village beach's wooden jetty and seafront fort are popular with families. Numerous interesting and easy walks lead from the village or if you prefer getting round on two wheels, Seascale sits on Hadrian's Cycleway and makes a good starting point for exploring the surrounding countryside.

Heading north is the small village of **Calderbridge** and the Sellafield Nuclear Site, site of Calder Hall, the world's first nuclear power station. Heading south is **Drigg**, **Muncaster** and **Ravenglass**, whilst eastwards is picturesque **Gosforth**, on the Lake District National Park boundary. Heading further east takes you into **Wasdale Valley**, home to England's highest mountain, deepest lake and smallest church as well as Britain's favourite view.



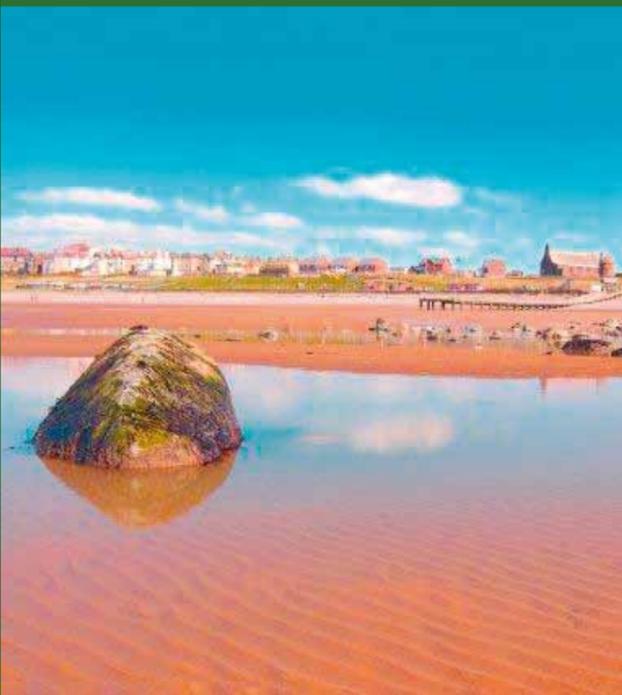
A Linahouse Design. Photography by Ben Barden, Brian Shewen & Andrew Heptinstall.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

SEASCALE



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Just south of Seascale is **Drigg Dunes Nature Reserve**. An area of sand dunes, shingle and salt marsh, it is the perfect environment for dune flowers (especially beautiful in May and June), insects and the endangered natterjack toad. The dunes are a Site of Special Scientific Interest and are accessible on foot from Drigg beach car park. Alternatively come by train. There's a railway station at Drigg, but remember it's a request stop.

Hallsenna Moor National Nature Reserve between Seascale and Drigg is a complex peat bog. Its peat supports diverse plant communities typical of woodlands, valley mires and swamps. It is home to birds such as barn owls, curlews, snipes, buzzards and whitethroats as well as a diverse beetle community. **Scafell Pike** in the Wasdale Valley is the highest mountain in England (3,209ft). The summit can be reached on foot starting from the Wasdale Head Inn or the National Trust car park.

ACTIVITIES



The **family-friendly beach** has miles of sand and fantastic views. You will find free car parking, public toilets, a picnic area and a children's play area. Local shops include a convenience store, pharmacy, bakery and there's a range of local services including doctor's surgery, library, post office, bank and recycling facilities.

Seascale Pump Track is a **BMX track** built to national competition standard by the Downhill Dragon crew. There are tracks for both novice and experienced riders, with bumps and ramps. Don't forget your helmet. There's a sports hall and flat bowling green where you can just turn up and play (weekday afternoons and evenings, but not Tuesdays).

Seascale Golf Club is a traditional links course, with views across the Irish Sea and the Lake District fells. Seascale Golf Club ranks in many 'best of' lists, both nationally and internationally. Visitors are welcome both on and off the course.

The annual **Gosforth Show** is a traditional agricultural show held in August, with competition classes for horses (showing and show jumping), sheep, cattle, dogs, poultry, vintage and steam farm machinery, handicraft, horticulture, children's sports, and mounted fancy dress.

HERITAGE



The village's buildings reflect times past. The listed Victorian **Water Tower** built by the Furness Railway Company is the village's prominent landmark, while the adjacent **Engine Shed** is now a sports hall.

To celebrate the Millennium, the wooden jetty on the beach was reinstated. It is a focal point for fishing, beach casting and provides a starting point for many of the village walks.

South of Seascale on a hillside overlooking the valley of the River Esk sits **Muncaster Castle**. Today the castle is a stately home but began as a fortified tower in late medieval times. It has been owned by the Pennington family since the Middle Ages and is today still the family home. The castle, Himalayan gardens and the World Owl Centre are open to visitors year round.



Did You Know... ?

In 1998 a cannon was reinstated on a plinth overlooking Seascale beach. During the Great War it was covered so that enemy war ships should not think that the village was fortified and shell it, as happened to Lowca, up the coast. During WWII the original cannon was removed and melted down as part of the war effort.

Evidence of Neolithic settlers can be found at the **Grey Croft Stone Circle** just north of the village. Though on private land, the ten 2m high stones in a 30m ring can be viewed from a public footpath.

Seascale's St. Cuthbert's Church was built in 1890 using local St. Bees red sandstone and has beautiful stained glass windows. **St. Mary's Church** at Gosforth is one of the most historical churches in the area with Viking monuments known worldwide. It is home to the tallest **Viking Cross** in England, carved in 940AD and 14 feet high. The Roman fort at nearby Ravenglass was known as **Glannaventa** and was an important naval base in the 2nd century. The bathhouse, also known as **Walls Castle**, is one of the largest surviving Roman structures in England.

Mawsons of Bailey Ground is a well-known local dairy farm. As well as milk, butter and cheese, they produce rum butter made with Jefferson's Fine Dark Rum from Whitehaven. Try one of the numerous luxury ice cream flavours in the ice cream parlour. The Mawsons have farmed locally for generations and can trace their agricultural ancestors as far back as 1596, to Fleming Hall just one mile away.

GETTING AROUND

Seascale is 2.5 miles west off the main A595 road.

Seascale is on the Cumbrian Coast Railway Line and the platform overlooks the beach. There is a daily service except Sundays. www.northernrail.org

Stagecoach bus route 6 passes through Seascale from Whitehaven and Muncaster. Service X6 runs on a Sunday to Millom. Traveline **0871 200 2233** or www.traveline.info

Seascale is on the Hadrian's Cycleway (National Route 72 Ravenglass to Tynemouth). www.sustrans.org.uk