

## TRAIL 6 - OUT ON THE BORDER

Take the A7 north for Scotland, about quarter of a mile on the right before the Border crossing at Scotsdyke is the Georgian landmark KIRKANDREWS-UPON-ESK church; its fine Italianate Baroque interior by Temple Moore and stained glass by Victor Henry Milner. The tranquil parkland backed by the magnificent Netherby Woods was once the heart of wild and lawless Debatable Land; home to the notorious Graham Reiving Clan and in earlier times the frontierland of the Roman empire. Buried under Netherby Hall across the river Esk lies the fort of Castra Exploratorum

Returning south just south of Longtown on the left of A7, is ARTHURET church, built in 1609. Like Greystoke (Trail 5), this is a Gothic survival church, built in traditional and stately Perpendicular style at a time when few churches were started.

Next take the long road eastwards for 12 miles through a country without villages. With good management you will come at last to BEWCASTLE - hardly a village, just a Roman fort, a ruined castle and a lonely church. It used to be said (unfairly) that Bewcastle folk were a hard lot and that only the women were buried in the churchyard - the men got hanged down at Carlisle. Yet in the churchyard you will find a monumental cross-shaft dating from the late 7th century, which (with a similar one at Ruthwell in Dumfriesshire) is unmatched not just in England but in Europe.

Turn due south now for 7 miles to LANERCOST Priory. The statue of Mary Magdalene, carved around 1270, still half-smiles down from the fine west front. The church, now dating mostly from the early 1200's, is well preserved. The nave was saved as a parish church when the priory was dissolved in 1538. But even although the chancel went out of use and the lead was stripped from the roofs, its walls were never robbed and stand today to eaves height. Out in the cloister, the west range survives because it was reconstructed by Thomas Dacre after the dissolution, as a house for himself, and is now partly used as parish rooms. The undercroft of the refectory all survives, but the chapter house and dormitory have gone.

Continuing to BRAMPTON, pause to look at St. Martin's Church (1874-5), the only one to be built by the distinguished architect Philip Webb. He used Gothic detail in novel and inventive ways, and brought in his colleagues William Morris and Burne-Jones to design a clean glowing stained glass.

Take the A69 back to Carlisle and detour left to WETHERAL just over Warwick Bridge. Wetheral Parish Church is the only church in England to be dedicated to St. Constantine, and is a reminder that this was once Scotland, where there are many other such dedications.

The Howard Memorial Chapel contains a fine marble figure of 'faith' by Joseph Nollekens R.A. one of the greatest sculptors of the 18th century, commissioned at a cost of £1,500 - a huge sum in those days.

In a quiet lane south of the village is all that remains of the Benedictine Priory (1113-1539), a massive gatehouse. It was intended as much for defence as for show, another reminder that this part of Cumbria was above all other exposed to border warfare.

