



14 Site of Bruce's Castle

A 12th century motte and bailey castle of wooden construction originally stood on what is now the second green of the golf course.

The Bruce family became Lords of Annandale in 1124. It is claimed that King Robert I of Scotland (Bruce) was born there, which is why the town adopted the motto "From us is born the liberator king" (in Latin) on its coat of arms. A 13th century key found on the site is displayed in the Clubhouse.

15 Site of Lochmaben Public School

A collection of fine red sandstone buildings, many of which have survived, formed the school which educated pupils from the parish for over 100 years until the new Primary School was opened in 1983.

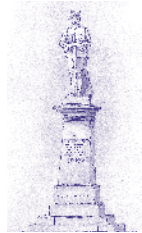


16 Lochmaben Church

"Mr Glover's Schoolhouse" was situated where Lochmaben Church of Scotland now stands. The church was built between 1818 and 1821. In the belfry are two of Scotland's oldest working bells : the Pope's Bell and the 14th century Bruce Bell. Upstairs in the church there

still exist the old named pews where the local farming families, their employees and heritors would sit on Sundays.

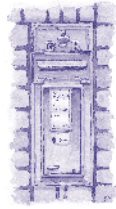
17 The War Memorial is dedicated to those from the Parish of Lochmaben who died in the two World Wars. A very youthful KOSB statue has a stand collar rather than the stand and fall collar of the 1902 pattern tunic. A wide variety of regiments are listed including the Ghurkas.



18 Victory Park is an

ideal viewing point for the Castle Loch and yacht club. There are tennis courts and a bowling green accessible from the Annan Road. At the corner of the Bowling Green next to the Loch was the site of the Boating House and jetty. The House was

burned down in 1952. Fishing for visitors requires a permit. Beyond the Bowling Green is the woodland path along the Castle Loch leading to the medieval Lochmaben Castle, a mile and a half away. The Castle Loch is a Ramsar site, a wetland of international importance. It is an important bird watching area and is internationally famous for pink-footed geese. (see *Castle Loch leaflet for details*).



19 The High Street

A fine example of a broad market street including a George V post box, set in the wall and still in use. Opposite the post box and behind the doctor's surgery is the new Primary School and Lochmaben Centre which offers a range of activities for all ages. Beside them is the drained Grummel Loch now used as a recreation area.

Close by were the old playing fields - venue for the Lochmaben Games which included horse racing, running and Highland dancing.

Also on the High Street are the old Schoolhouse and the Freemasons' Hall which houses the town library.

20 Old Churchyard

Access is up the lane at the King's Arms. A church, founded in 1170 by Robert the Bruce, was sited there. The churchyard contains an obelisk to the memory of James Mounsey who was a physician to the Empress Elizabeth of Russia and is credited with bringing rhubarb seeds to Britain. Another monument stands in memory of Dr William Jardine, a founder of the Jardine-Matheson Trading Company.



Further information on Lochmaben may be found on the Community Website: www.lochmaben.org.uk
There are also leaflets available about walks around the lochs.

Acknowledgments

All Drawings by Paul Roxburgh except the old Primary School by Rebecca Gow
Text – Isabelle and Paul Gow, Tom Russell, David Mair

Further references

1897 Lochmaben Almanac.

Two books by John B Wilson MD:

"The Royal Burgh of Lochmaben" 2nd Edition first pub 2001
"Further Glimpses into Lochmaben's History" first pub 2009

A book by Isabelle C Gow

"A Guid Wee Schule - a history of Lochmaben Primary School"
first pub 2005

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ROYAL BURGH OF LOCHMABEN TOWN TRAIL



LOCHMABEN TOWN HALL 1930s

www.lochmaben.org.uk



LOCHMABEN

became a Royal Burgh in 1447 but the charter was destroyed during the border wars. It was renewed by King James VI in 1612. Human habitation in the area was known to be present long before this as a crannog, or lake dwelling, was discovered in the Castle Loch one hundred and fifty years ago. Its timbers have been dated to AD 630.

The first mention of Lochmaben in documented history occurs in 1166 when William the Lion granted a charter to Robert Bruce, Earl of Annandale.

1 Town Hall

There was a Tollbooth in 1563, but it was replaced by the Town Hall in 1723. This building was enlarged in the 1860s and two stained glass windows depicting Bruce and Wallace were added in the Upper Hall.

The statue of the Rev William Graham, a former provost, replaced a statue nicknamed "Flora MacDonald". On the wall of the Hall is a plaque commemorating William Paterson of Skipmyre (near Lochmaben) who founded the Bank of England. In front is the statue of Robert the Bruce.

2 St Margaret's

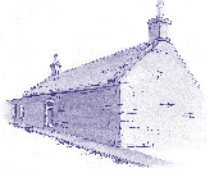
The flats are built on the grounds of St Margaret's Church (1920-1957). Part of the vestry can still be seen.

Several buildings in Queen Street (formerly East Street) housed old shops. An almanac of 1897 listed 9 grocers, 3 bakers, 3 butchers as well as several other commercial businesses in the Burgh.



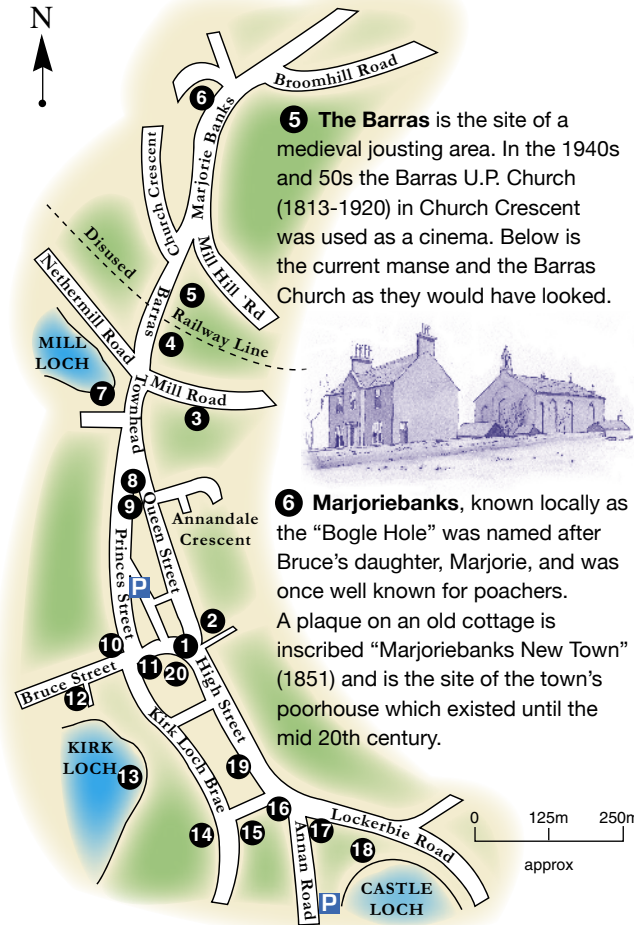
3 Dolphin Cottage

Dolphin Cottage was the site of a corn mill until about 1900. It was powered by water from the Marjorie Sike which is now culverted from the Mill Loch to the edge of the built-up area. Nearby were the old town gas works.



4 Railway station and goods' yard

The Caledonian Railway branch line transported Lochmaben passengers and goods to Dumfries or Lockerbie from 1863 until 1952 and goods until 1965.



7 The Mill Loch was the home of the famous Vendace fish last caught there in 1966. Specimens can be seen in Dumfries Museum. On a clear day you can also see the site of an Iron Age fort - Woody Castle. There is a picturesque walk around this loch and free fishing is available for visitors.



8 The Coronation Fountain, originally sited in front of the Town Hall, was erected in 1911 to the memory of King Edward VII by a sister of the Laird of Halleaths.

5 The Barras is the site of a medieval jousting area. In the 1940s and 50s the Barras U.P. Church (1813-1920) in Church Crescent was used as a cinema. Below is the current manse and the Barras Church as they would have looked.



6 Marjoriebanks, known locally as the "Bogle Hole" was named after Bruce's daughter, Marjorie, and was once well known for poachers. A plaque on an old cottage is inscribed "Marjoriebanks New Town" (1851) and is the site of the town's poorhouse which existed until the mid 20th century.

9 A knitwear factory

House Nos 51 - 55 in Princes Street (formerly West Street) was where a knitwear factory was located. It was owned by the McGeorges and also made socks for the Prince of Wales - later Edward VII. It closed in the late 1970s.



10 Mercat Cross

In the garden next to the Church Hall is the Mercat Cross. It was originally sited in front of the Town Hall. The shaft of the cross is oblong in section with splayed edges. The whole is crowned by a circular neck supporting an arrangement of sundials on all four sides with a ball on top - this section is dated 1729. Only the north and south sides feature a gnomon.



11 Magdalene House

In Bruce Street (formerly Braegate) is Magdalene House.

Originally a church manse, the house was named after the patron saint of the town. It was in this Manse that Robert Burns wrote "The Blue Eyed Lass" after spending the evening with the minister and his family, including the 15 year old Jean Jaffray.



12 Old Bank House

One of the oldest existing houses in the Burgh, built in 1703, is called "Old Bank House" and accommodated the National Bank and the Lochmaben District Savings Bank.



13 The Kirk Loch

It is bounded by the Burgh's attractive 18 hole golf course and a popular caravan park from where paths are accessible along the loch. Free fishing is available from the caravan park. The Curling Hut is a reminder of the past when the frozen loch was used for outdoor bonspiels.

