

Scheduled monuments in West Lothian

2022

West Lothian's Scheduled Monument locations



- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Cairns Castle | 6 |
| 2. West Cairn Hill in Pentlands | 7 |
| 3. Camilty Hill Enclosure, Harburn | 8 |
| 4. Castle Greg, Roman Fortlet, Camilty Hill | 8 |
| 5. Murieston Castle, Wester Murieston, Livingston | 9 |
| 6. Bathgate Castle | 10 |
| 7. Duntarvie Castle, by Winchburgh | 11 |
| 8. Midhope Castle, Hopetoun Estate | 12 |
| 9. Staneyhill Tower near Hopetoun House | 13 |

10. Peace Knowe Fort , Bathgate Hills	14
11. Craigmailing Cross Slab , near Torphichen	15
12. Bowden Hill Fort	16
13. Cockleroy Fort	17
14. Union Canal Aqueduct	18
15. Almondell (Nasmyth) bridge and aqueduct	19
16. Kirkton old parish church , Bathgate	20
17. Faucheldean shale bing , Winchburgh	21
18. Gala Braes , standing stones	22
19. Abercorn Fort , 450m south west of West Lodge, Hopetoun	23
20. Greendykes shale bing , Broxburn	24
21. Enclosure south west of Niddry Farm , Winchburgh	25
22. Corston Hill , Cairn	26
23. Carledubs unenclosed settlement 275m north east of Uphall	26
24. South Mains, homestead moat 200m north of South Mains Farm, Bathgate Hills	28
25. Broomy Knowes , cairn east of Beecraigs Country Park, Bathgate Hills	29
26. “Five Sisters” Westwood Shale Bing	30
27. Old West Calder Kirk , West Calder	31
28. Easter Gormyre, refuge stone , 475m north east of Torphichen	32
29. Refuge Stone , 300m north west Westfield Farm, Westfield	34
30. West Harwood, burial mound , south west of West Calder	35
31. Woodend Farm, farmstead 1400m south west of Woodend Armadale	36
32. Craigmarry Farmstead 720m west north west of Craigmarry, north west Armadale	36
33. Muckraw , building 200m east south east of Muckraw Farm, south west Westfield	37
34. Hilltop House, coal pit , Bathgate Hills	38
35. “Windywa’s” 300m southwest of Wester Tartraven, Bathgate Hills	39
36. Woodmuir Farm, coke ovens and reservoir 600m south south east of Breich	40
37. Castlethorn Fort and standing stones 500m east south east of Torphichen Mains, Torphichen	41
38. Crosswood Cairn , south Crosswood Reservoir, near Harburn	42
39. Torphichen Bridge, mill lade & trackway 200m north east of Torphichen	43
40. Cairnpapple Hill , prehistoric ceremonial complex, Bathgate Hills	44
41. Linlithgow Palace, Peel and Royal Park	43
42. Torphichen Preceptory	46



Scheduled monuments are the physical remains of the societies and people of Scotland over the past 10,000 years. They are vital to the understanding of our nation's past. The 50 scheduled monuments within West Lothian are an essential part of the history and culture of the area. They contribute to education, tourism and overall quality of life. Scheduled monuments are not only important to West Lothian but they are nationally important.

Given the wide timespan of history, the types of scheduled monuments present in West Lothian highlight the diversity of activities which have taken place in the area. They range from pre-historic sites, through Roman forts to iron-age settlements, castles and industrial sites.

Some monuments are easy to see, such as Linlithgow Palace but most are below the surface of the ground. They are often fragile and sometimes not in the most accessible location. What is common to them all is the legal protection given to them by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. As such, it is an offence to undertake works to a scheduled monument without consent. It is also an offence to metal detect without prior written permission from Scottish Ministers. Applications should not be submitted to the council but should be made to Historic Environment Scotland. Their e-mail address is designations@hes.scot

Further detailed information can be found at: <https://canmore.org.uk/>

This is the on-line catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage and maintained by Historic Environment Scotland.

On the following pages, you will find a brief description of the scheduled monuments within West Lothian. Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code when visiting any sites as many are farmland.



1. Cairns Castle

Type: Medieval Castle

Location: south of Harperigg Reservoir

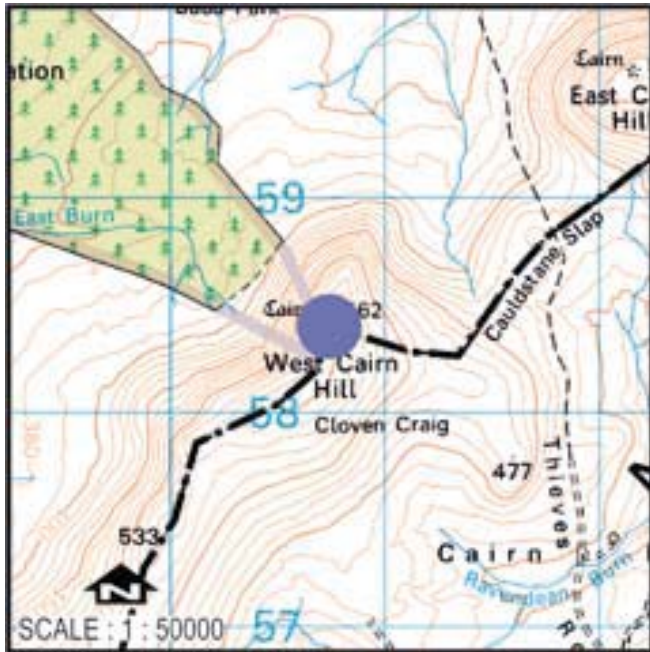
Grid Ref: 309036 660502

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49093/cairns-castle>



Located at the western end of Harperrigg Reservoir to the south-west of Kirknewton, Cairns Castle dates from the middle of the 15th century and was once the seat of the Crichton's of Cairns. Until the completion in 1860 of Harperrigg Reservoir, Cairns Castle stood above the headwaters of the Water of Leith.

Originally it was an L-plan building and had an entrance tower. That tower no longer exists. The principal door was, at one time, the kitchen fireplace. The builder of the castle is thought to have been George Crichton. Crichton was the sheriff of Linlithgowshire and an ambassador to the Duchy of Brittany and in 1448, he was appointed Lord High Admiral, one of the Great Officers of State. He later became the sheriff of Stirling and Keeper of Stirling Castle. In 1452 he was created Earl of Caithness by James II. Crichton's son, James, imprisoned his father in Blackness Castle. As punishment, King James prevented James Crichton from inheriting his father's estates and title. The Earldom returned to the Crown when George Crichton died in August 1454. The castle then passed to the Tennant family who owned it until 1708. The building is of three-storeys, in rubble and is roofless.



2. West Cairn Hill in Pentlands

Type: Neolithic cairn

Location: in the Pentland Hills south of Harperigg Reservoir

Grid Ref: 310730 658403

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/50191/west-cairn-hill>



Some 2.7km south east of Cairns Castle lies West Cairn Hill. This monument was the site of a prehistoric ritual and funerary cairn that straddles the border of West Lothian and Scottish Borders Council areas. Situated on the summit of West Cairn Hill, which is 562m above sea level, the cairn outline is largely obscured by the three drystone dykes which meet at the summit. The stones from the cairn have been removed over time and what remains is a circular grass covered mound about 14m. In the centre of the scheduled area is an Ordnance Survey triangulation point.

3. Camilty Hill Enclosure, Harburn

Type: Enclosure

Location: Harburn, south east West Calder

Grid Ref: 304921 659362

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49002/camilty-hill>

Camilty Hill, enclosure, Harburn is a circular enclosure formed by a turf bank and located some 90m north of Castle Greg Roman fortlet. The enclosure measures approximately 12m in diameter. While it may be associated with the fort, it seems likely that it represents a post medieval stock pen.



4. Castle Greg, Roman Fortlet, Camilty Hill

Type: Fortlet

Location: Harburn, south east West Calder

Grid Reference: 305025 659255

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/48988/castle-greg>

This Roman fortlet probably of Flavian (c. AD95 - AD105) date is rectangular in plan, with rounded corners, measuring internally between crests 54.9m by 46.3m. It is surrounded by a well-defined rampart, best preserved at the south end where it is 8.5m wide, rising 1.2m above the interior, and 2.1m above the ditch immediately in front: 2.1m away is a second ditch, both ditches being 2.4m wide and 0.8m deep. They surround the fortlet except in the centre of the east side, where there is a 6.7m wide causeway, leading to a 2.7m gap in the rampart. Some 8.5m north of this entrance is an oval hollow, possibly the site of a hut. The fort has been known by antiquarians since at least the early 19th century and is marked on Greenwoods map of 1828. Many coins and other articles of Roman workmanship are said to have been dug up at Castle Greg from time to time and a circular hollow near the centre of the fortlet 3.7m in diameter, locally called the Well, but supposed to have been the foundation of a flagstaff, was excavated about 1830. The fortlet could have housed a unit of 80 soldiers.

5. Murieston Castle, Wester Murieston, Livingston



Type: Medieval castle - Folly

Location: Murieston Castle Farm, south west Livingston

Grid Ref: 305014 663479

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49086/murieston-castle>

The monument is a late medieval tower; built in the 16th century and remodelled as a folly in 1824. The standing remains are two storeys high



and include a circular roofless turret set on a corbelled base. The monument can significantly enhance understanding of the character and distribution of late medieval towers in West Lothian. Its 1824 restoration by the then owner John Keir also demonstrates how the past could be appreciated, and medieval buildings remodelled and re-used, in the 19th century. It makes an important contribution to today's landscape. The understanding of the role and character of late medieval towers and particularly the ways they might be adapted and appreciated in later centuries would be diminished if this

monument was lost or damaged. However, there is a view that "*Murieston Castle has been over-restored and now has the appearance of a folly*".

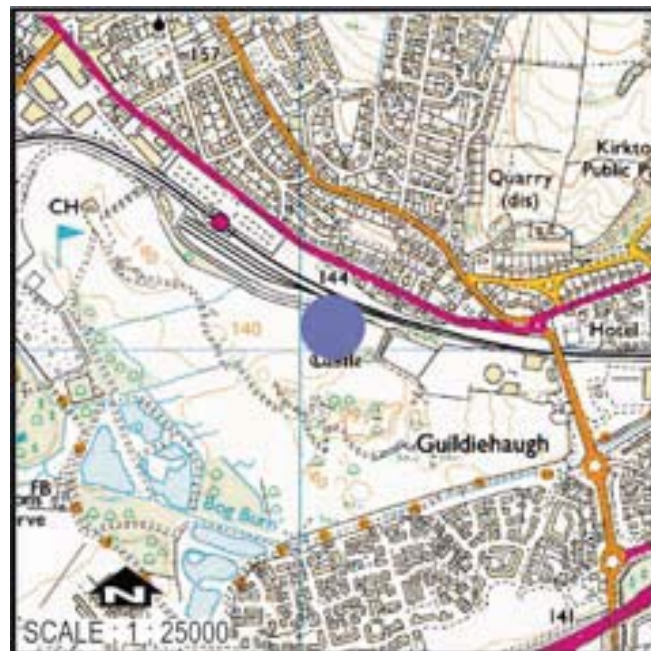
6. Bathgate Castle

Type: Earthwork

Location: south east of Bathgate
within Golf Course

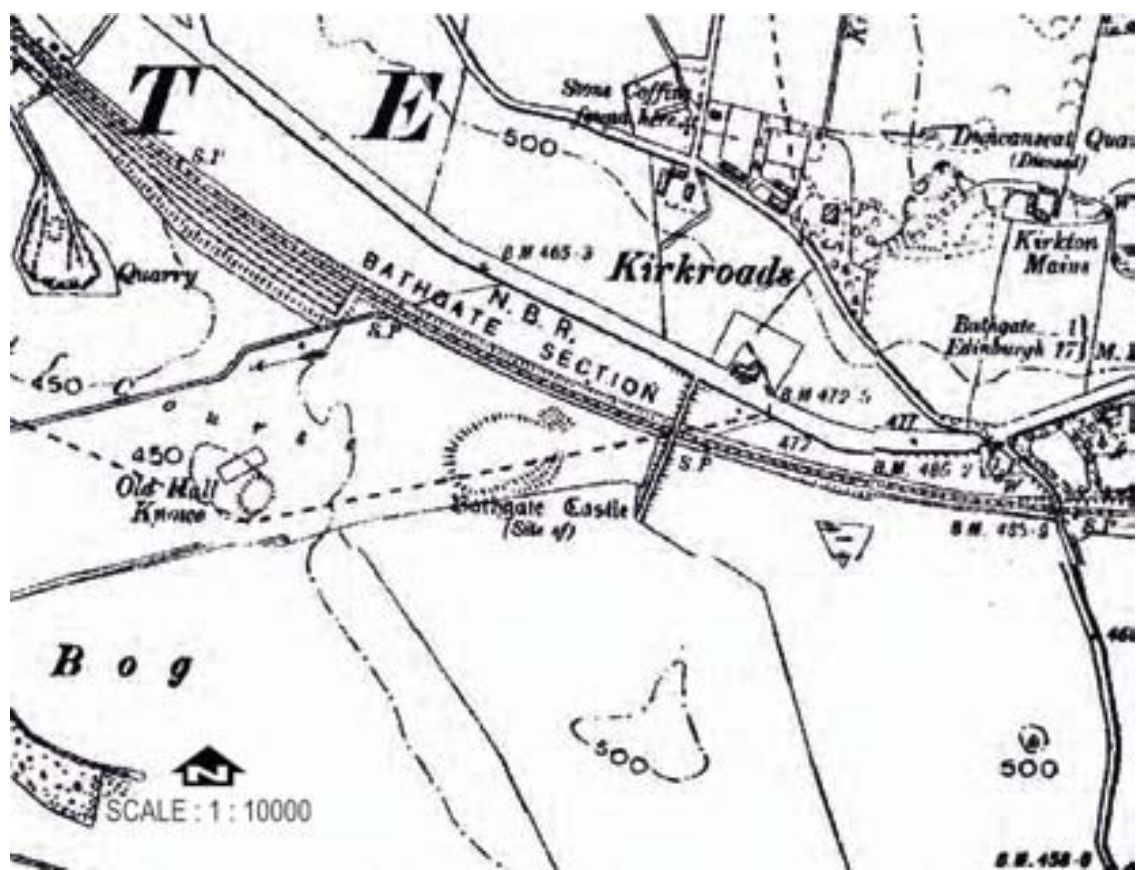
Grid Ref: 298058 668044

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/47768/bathgate-castle>



In 1328, the castle was given as a dowry by Robert Bruce when his daughter Marjorie (elsewhere Marjory) married Walter, High Steward of Scotland, after whose death it appears the castle was no longer inhabited. A grass-covered mound, 2m - 3m in height, denotes the site of Bathgate Castle. The lay-out of the golf course intrudes on the outline, but there are two distinct ditches visible, curving round the east perimeter of the mound. The bank formed between them averages 0.6m in height, spread to a width of 8m. The inner ditch, which is very shallow, averages 2m across. A causeway, 8m broad, emerges on the east side. The top of the mound itself is undulating, and no building foundations are to be seen. Part of the bank and ditches on the north side has been cut away by the construction of railway sidings related to Bathgate Station.

South west of the castle site on a small hillock is Old Hall Knowe. It is thought this is the place where the stables and other offices of the castle stood.



7. Duntarvie Castle, by Winchburgh

Type: Medieval Castle

Location: north west of Winchburgh

Grid Ref: 298058 668044

Link: http://www.ekjn.co.uk/project_pages/duntarvie_pdfpage.pdf



Ruined Duntarvie Castle stands just outside Winchburgh in the West Lothian countryside. On a 1605 copy of a charter dated 1396 there is reference to a castle at Duntarvie as early as 1212. By 1826 Duntarvie Castle is described in a memorandum to the then owner Lord Hopeton as being “very damp and cold” and in need of urgent repair. It has been uninhabited since 1840. In the 1990’s restoration work got underway. This four storeys high, oblong maxi block with square towers of five storeys attached to it’s north corner.





8. Midhope Castle, Hopetoun Estate

Type: Castle

Location: Abercorn west of Hopetoun Estate

Grid Ref:

Links: <http://www.scotland.org.uk/guide/castles/midhope-hall>

An early reference was of "Medhope" in a document from 1438 that related to a resolution of a boundary dispute between Henry Luigstone and John Martyne, laird of Medhope. The details appear to be vague, but it would seem that John Martyne would go on to build the original castle and remained as laird until his death in 1478. The original building may still partly survive in the arched basement floor of the tower. In 1478 it passed over to a Henry Levingstone.

By 1582 Midhope was owned by Alexander Drummond and his wife and by the 17th century Midhope is owned by the Earls of Linlithgow.

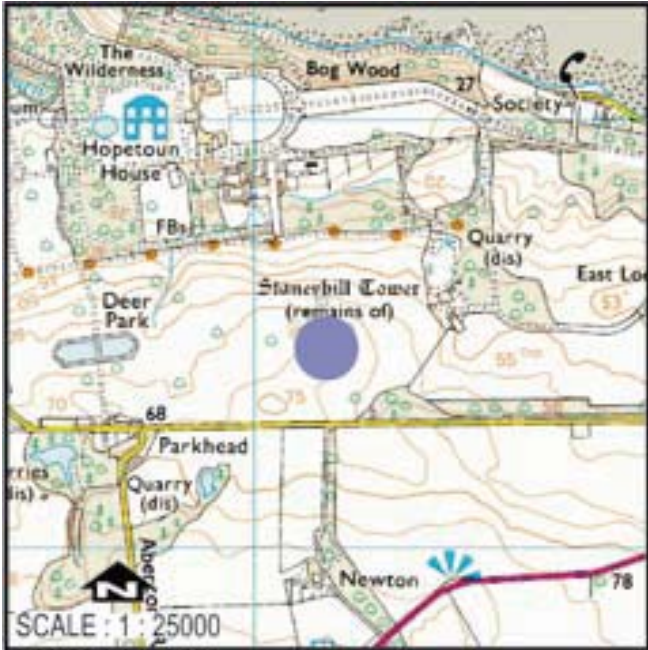
A surviving date stone (later moved to another location in the wall to the north of the gateway) commemorates the rebuilding of the tower with turrets by new owners Alexander Drummond and his wife, and includes their initials. This was probably the lintel of the front door but was later replaced and resited at its current location.

The present doorway and lintel are the work of 'G. L.' – George Livingston, third earl of Linlithgow, who came into that title in 1646 and kept it until his death in 1690. After the Restoration he became a privy councillor and led the government forces against the Covenanters.

In 1678 the castle was acquired by John Hope, incorporating it within the Hopetoun Estate. He raised the height of the existing eastern section and added two more bays on the end. The inscription above the kitchen reads '*ASPIRET COEPTIS JESUS*', translated as '*May Jesus favour your undertakings.*'

In 1710, Sir Robert Sibbald described 'Meidhope' as a 'fine tower house with excellent gardens, one of the seats of the Earls of Hopetoun'. Sadly, within the Hopetoun Estate it was always going to be a secondary building. In the 1851 census there were 53 people in 10 families living in Midhope, including four game keepers, four foresters, two labourers, a groom, a carter, a gardener, a joiner, and a number of paupers. While derelict by the 1950's restoration began in 1988. However, recently the castle has featured in the American TV Series 'Outlander' and known fictionally as "*Lallybroch*".

9. Staneyhill Tower near Hopetoun House



Type: Tower

Location: Hopetoun Estate

Grid Ref: 309169, 678512

Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM1911>

The monument comprises the vaulted basement floors of an L-plan 17th century tower house (once two-storeys high) and its exceptionally fine hexagonal stair tower which stands to full height in the south east re-entrant angle. The masonry is rubble throughout with decorative ashlar buckle-quoins and strap work, and an ashlar parapet to the tower. The entrance lies in this stair tower where a panel above the door bears the monogram of James Dundas and his wife. The basement

floor of the main block has been sub-divided, the east chamber functioning as a kitchen with a fireplace and oven in its gable. The inner room and that in the wing were probably cellars.

The monument was first scheduled in 1935 but not adequate to protect all the archaeological remains and was rescheduled to include the remains of the tower house and an area around them within which associated remains are expected to survive.



10. Peace Knowe Fort, Bathgate Hills

Type: Iron-age hill fort

Location: Bathgate Hills

Grid Ref:

Links: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/47204338@N03/6842658323>



Just east of Riccarton Hills are the remains of Peace Knowes hill fort off the back road between Linlithgow and Dechmont. The fort itself does not look very imposing and has been heavily affected by quarrying. The north side is covered in gorse and rabbit warrens. There are remains of triple ramparts on the south and western sides. These are visible by a low south facing rampart on the south and western side and the eroded remains, on the eastern side. The main entrance is evident to the west. The internal structure is difficult to discern, with a natural mound and the surrounding bank as described by the former Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments, as modern plantation features. This would make the fort interior appear quite small and may have been an out-post rather than a place of defence for a community.

11. Craigmailing Cross Slab, near Torphichen

Type: Slab stone – boundary marker

Location: Craigmailing, east of
Torphichen in Bathgate Hills

Grid Ref: 9909, 7270

Links: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/47917/craigmailing>



Vandalised in 2016, the slab was reinstated in Autumn 2017. The slab is sculptured with a patriarchal cross on both sides, shown in high relief on the east side as a Cross of Lorraine, and deeply incised on the west side. It marks the boundary of Torphichen which was held by the Knights of St John Hospitallers of Jerusalem where they established a Preceptory in 1124 and is often referred to as a "Refuge Stone".

This stone is incorporated in a wall, which would probably be relatively modern and hence would not be quite in-situ, but it is possible that it stood in the ground at this spot prior to the building of the dyke. There is also a refuge store in the fields to the west / north of Gormyre Road.

12. Bowden Hill Fort

Type: Pre-historic domestic and defensive hill fort

Location: south west Linlithgow

Grid Ref: 297748, 674432

Links: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM2283>



The monument comprises the remains of a hillfort of pre-historic date surviving as a series of earthworks. It occupies the summit of Bowden Hill, in the Bathgate Hills and commands extensive views over this part of West Lothian. It is defined by a substantial stone and earth rampart enclosing an area of approximately 250m east-west by 100m. The south of the fort is defined by natural crags and most of the defenses on this side have slumped away.

A further rampart encloses the highest part of the hill. There are numerous building foundations inside the fort, some of which may represent contemporary occupation. Two earth fast boulders on the east approach to the fort may be deliberately emplaced.

13. Cockleroy Fort

Type: Hill Fort

Location: west of Beecraigs Country Park, Bathgate Hills

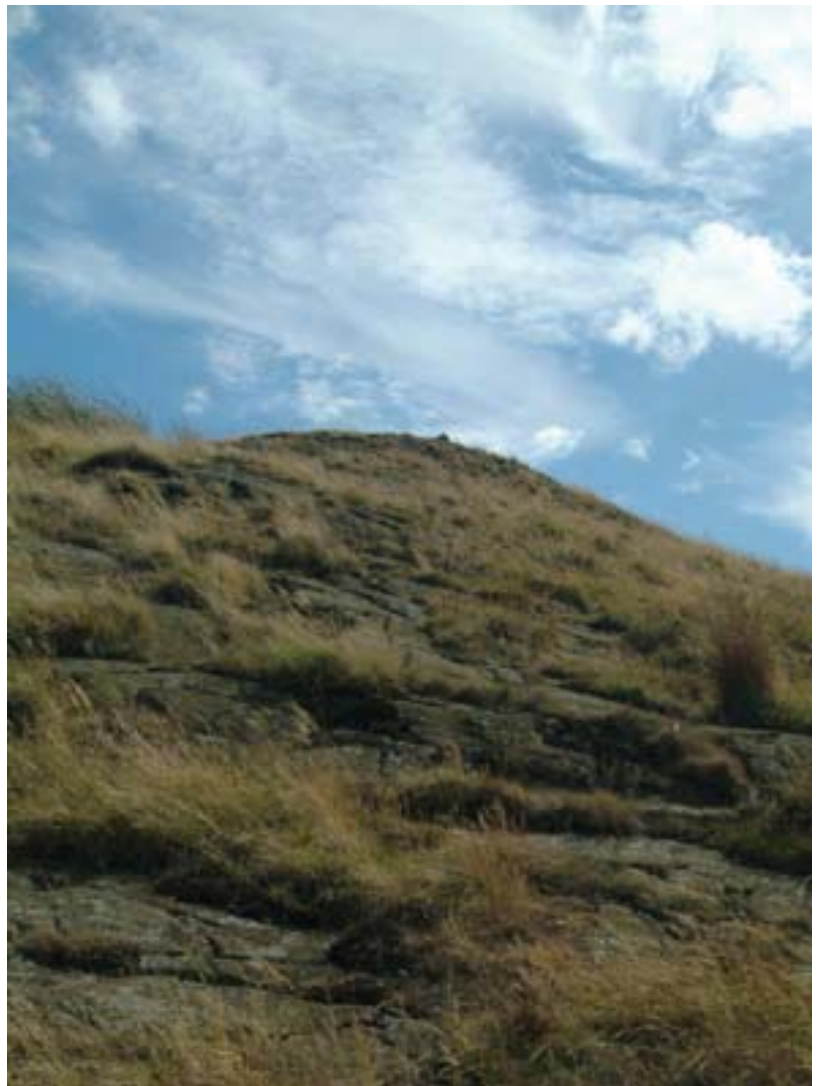
Grid Ref: 98940 74380

Links: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/48000/cockleroy>



The fort, or “walled enclosure” on the summit of Cockleroy Hill, a most conspicuous, rugged and precipitous hill, consists of a heavy, ruinous stone wall enclosing an area approximately 125m in length by 61m wide. The entrance is in the south east. The northwest end of the fort is further protected by an outer wall.

Within the interior of the fort there are at least four ring-ditch houses; three are situated close to the rear of the wall on the northeast, and the fourth is on the south. The similarity of this structure to the one on nearby Bowden Hill is striking.



14. Union Canal Aqueduct

Type: Aqueduct

Location: west of Linlithgow

Grid Ref:

Links: <http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/falkirk/unioncanal/>

The Union Canal is one of two Lowland canals in Scotland. After four years' construction it opened in 1822 and was known as the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union Canal. The name reflected the role of the canal, linking Edinburgh with the Forth and Clyde Canal at Falkirk and so providing a through route between Scotland's two major cities.

The Union Canal as built was 31½ miles long and was Scotland's only contour canal. Known locally at the time as the "mathematical river", the canal followed the 240ft (73m) contour throughout its length, so making locks unnecessary. Together with the 62 fixed bridges, this helped speed up the flow of boat traffic along the canal.

As well as providing Scotland's first inter-city link, the canal was intended to ensure the easy transport of coal into Edinburgh from Scotland's coalfields, and lime to help the development of the capital.

The original estimates for building the canal had been a suspiciously precise £240,500. The final cost was nearly twice as much: £461,760. In part this reflected the need to build a 2,070ft tunnel and a deep cutting near Falkirk because the owner of Callendar House didn't want the canal on his land.



The largest of the Union Canal aqueducts is the one taking the canal over the River Avon west of Linlithgow. This is approximately 247m long and 26m high, the second longest in Britain. This can be viewed from paths in the Muiravonside Country Park and accessed from the River Avon Heritage Trail from Linlithgow Bridge.

15. Almondell (Nasmyth) bridge and aqueduct



aqueduct

Type: Estate and Industrial features

Location: Almondell Country Park between East Calder & Broxburn

Grid Ref:

Links: <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2828/Almondell-History/pdf/Almondell-history.pdf>

The house at Almondell was built by Henry Erskine in the 1790s. Henry was the brother of the 11th Earl of

Buchan, David Stewart Erskine, and was twice Lord Advocate for Scotland. Almondell was built in the style of an Italianate villa, extended over the years to become a fine mansion with an equally grand interior. Henry enjoyed his life and retirement at Almondell where he died in October 1817.

Generations of the family continued to live at Almondell until the 1940's when the Dowager Countess passed away and the title was passed to her son in Gloucester. The house was then leased as a private residence for ladies until the 1950's. Unfortunately, the house became vacant after this and the roof and windows were removed to avoid hefty taxes. The house soon fell into disrepair and was in ruins by the 1960's. It was officially 'blown up' by the Territorial Army in June 1969 as a training exercise in the use of explosives!

The nearby famous Nasmyth Bridge was commissioned by Henry Erskine and designed by Alexander Nasmyth, the noted Scottish painter, architect and landscape designer. Built around 1800 to serve as a crossing point over the River Almond on the southern approach to Almondell and also known as the 'Almondell Bridge', it was constructed from sandstone in a 'romantic fashion' with parapets and stone seats or 'merlons' across its width. Sections of Nasmyth's bridge collapsed into the river in October 1973. Impassable for over 25 years, this wonderful bridge became one of the first Heritage Lottery funded projects and was sympathetically restored in 1997.

The adjacent Canal Feeder Aqueduct was built in 1820, and consists of a cast-iron trough, on a cantilevered support and is a replica of the famous Iron Bridge in Shropshire. It carries the canal feeder across the River Almond. The canal feeder travels for three miles eastward to deliver a vital water supply to the Union Canal at Lin's Mill to the east on the boundary between West Lothian and Edinburgh.

16. Kirkton Old Parish Church, Bathgate



Type: Medieval Church

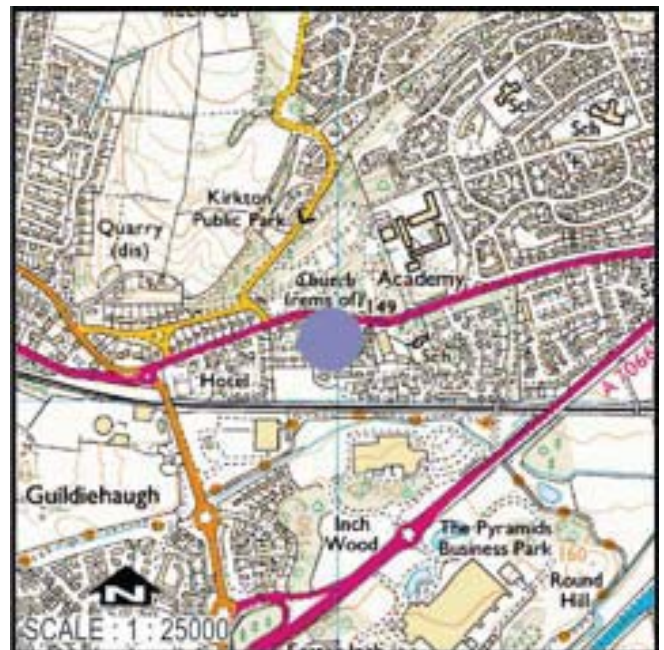
Location: south Kirkton Park, Bathgate

Grid Ref: 298998, 668158

Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM5671>

The monument consists of the remains of Bathgate Old Parish Church. The structure, situated in an old graveyard was granted to Holyrood Abbey by Malcolm IV (1153-65); it then passed to Newbattle Abbey, the gift being confirmed in 1372. It was abandoned in 1739.

The church is a narrow, oblong building measuring approximately 30m east-west by 8m north-south over walls 0.8m thick. The masonry is mainly rubble but this is intermingled with ashlar suggesting the existence of a much earlier building on the site. The west gable remains intact though fissured (c.6m high) and is intaken on both faces at wallhead level. A small lintelled window lights the west gable. The east gable has been partly rebuilt and rounded off during consolidation, probably in 1846. The lower part of a central buttress has been retained in the east gable and above it carved fragments have been incorporated in the wall: part of a quatrefoil and a grave tablet with a book and a pair of crossed bones.



The intervening wall heads have also been neatened. The entrance is in the north wall through the remains of a late transitional doorway (c.1200). On either side of the doorway were nook-shafts but these have vanished.

The remaining somewhat weathered capitals have waterleaf carving and square abaci. A transitional window, splayed and checked externally pierces the east part of the north wall. The remains of a round-headed and chamfered priest's door can be seen in the south wall. This door has been bisected by the insertion of a 19th century upright tomb. Also included in the scheduling is the 13th century recumbent effigy of an ecclesiastic which lies under the northeast window (dug up in the interior in 1852). A decorated 16th century tombstone, which has been cracked, has been fixed into the south wall.

Lying against the east buttress is part of a medieval tombstone showing a crudely incised cross with bulbous ends.

17. Faucheldean shale bing, Winchburgh

Type: Oil shale bing

Location: Between Winchburgh and Broxburn

Grid Ref: 308470, 674215

Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM5692>

The monument consists of a well-preserved shale bing. In form, the bing is flat-topped. It is a waste heap composed of residue from the destructive distillation of shale to extract oil. This process was the foundation of some of the earliest petrochemical industries.

The monument is of national importance as one of the very few intact spent-shale bings left in central Scotland. The shale oil industry was locally important for about a century, and its pioneer, James Young, developed refining techniques still used in the oil industry. This bing, with its neighbour Greendykes Bing, just north of Broxburn, gives a clear idea of the enormous volume of material processed in the extraction of oil from shale. In this case the works depositing waste was the Hopetoun Oil Works, which operated from about 1870 to 1935.



18. Gala Braes, standing stones

Type: Standing stone

Location: Bathgate Hills

Grid Ref: NS 9881 6983

Links: <http://www.stravaiging.com/history/ancient/site/gala-braes>



A pair of standing stones occupy a commanding position at the summit of a ridge in the Bathgate Hills. Stone A measures around 1.58m in height. This monolith has been split along its southern side at some time in the not-too-distant past, leaving a damaged wedge-shaped monolith, with one very thin eastern edge and a wider western side. The stone itself was erected to align roughly north-south-east-west. It was first shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. Human bones were found at its base when the local farmer was digging some years before 1902.

Stone B is now just a stump which has been broken and re-erected in a base of mortar-set stones. Two further fragments of this stone can be seen nearby. It stands approximately 68m to the west of Stone A at NS 9874 6983.

19. Abercorn Fort, 450m south west of West Lodge, Hopetoun



Type: Hill Fort

Location: Abercorn

Grid Ref: NT 0751 7842

Links: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49141/abercorn>

The monument comprises the remains of a bi-vallate fort of later prehistoric date represented by cropmarks visible on oblique aerial

photographs. The monument lies on a spur of locally high ground at around 50m above sea level, its northwest side being formed by the slope down into Midhope Glen. Two concentric semi-circular ditches, each some 4m wide, are visible as cropmarks cutting off the spur from other directions of approach. The full extent of the ditches on the south and southwest has been obscured by woodland. The area enclosed within the arc of the ditches measures some 70m in diameter.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to add to the understanding of later prehistoric settlement and economy. The ditches may also be expected to contain material relating to the contemporary environment and to the nature of the defences.

20. Greendykes shale bing, Broxburn



Type: Oil shale bing

Location: north of Broxburn

Grid Ref: NT 084 729

Links: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49286/broxburn-greendykes-shale-bing>

The monument consists of a large shale bing. The bing is a waste heap composed of residue from the destructive distillation of shale to extract oil. This process was the foundation of some of the earliest petro-chemical industries in the world.

The scheduled area is irregular in shape, about 920m by 580m.

The monument is of national importance as one of the very few intact spent-shale bings left in central Scotland. The shale oil industry was locally important for about a century, and its pioneer, James Young, developed refining techniques still used in the oil industry. This bing, with its neighbour to the north, Faucheldean Bing, gives striking evidence of the enormous volume of material processed in the extraction of oil from shale. In this case the operating company was the Broxburn Oil Co, active from the 1860s to c1940.

More information about bings and the shale oil industry can be found at Almond Valley Heritage Centre based at Millfield, Kirkton in west Livingston that hosts the Scottish Shale Oil Museum. <http://www.almondvalley.co.uk/>





21. Enclosure south west of Niddry Farm, Winchburgh

Type: Prehistoric domestic enclosure

Location: near Winchburgh

Grid Ref: 308905, 673844

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM6187>

The monument comprises the remains of an enclosed settlement of prehistoric date represented by cropmarks visible on oblique aerial photographs. The monument lies in arable farmland at around 95m above sea level. It comprises a sub-circular enclosure some 90m in diameter, defined by a ditch some 6m wide. There are indications of either complex entrance features or buildings slightly outside the ditch line at the northwest and southeast of the enclosure.

The monument appears to represent a type of enclosed settlement

characteristic of the later prehistoric period.

The scheduled area encompasses the visible features and an area around them in which traces of associated activity may be expected to survive. It is circular with a diameter of 120m.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential

to add to the understanding of prehistoric settlement and economy. The indications of structural complexity at the possible entrances enhance the importance of the site.



22. Corston Hill, Cairn

Type: Neolithic or Bronze Age burial cairn

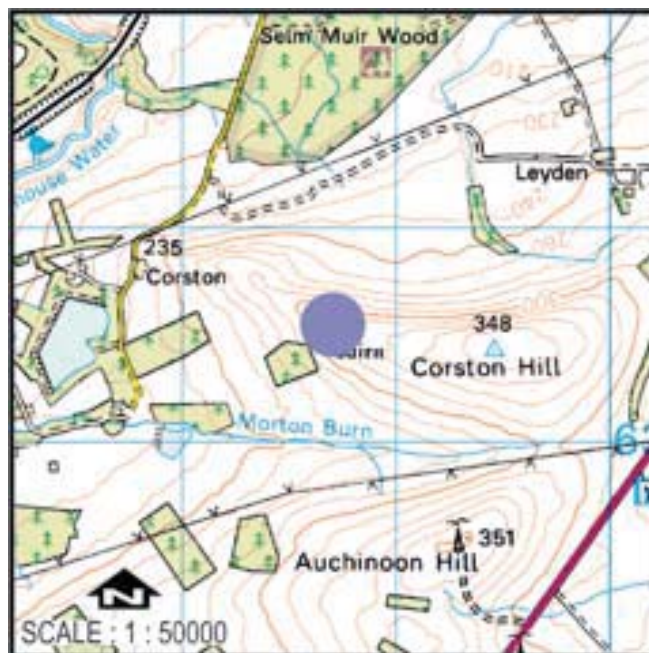
Location: North Harperrig Reservoir / A70

Grid Ref: 308739, 663542

Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM6194>

The monument comprises the remains of a burial cairn of Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date surviving as a grassed-over stony mound. The cairn lies on the ridge of Corston Hill at around 320m above sea level commanding extensive views in all directions except to the east, where the summit of Corston Hill blocks the view. The cairn is represented by a grassy mound some 15m east-west by 17.5m and approximately 1.6m high. It is surmounted by a modern cairn. The prehistoric cairn is likely to have acted as a focus for ritual activity after its initial construction and use. The scheduled area encompasses the cairn and an area around it in which traces of associated ritual activity may be expected to survive. It is circular with a diameter of 40m.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to add to our understanding of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The area around the cairn itself may be expected to contain evidence associated with the ritual use of the cairn over a considerable period.



23. Carledubs unenclosed settlement 275m north east of Uphall

Type: Late Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement

Location: Uphall

Grid Ref: 306392, 672732

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM6201>

The monument comprises the remains of an unenclosed prehistoric settlement visible as cropmarks captured on oblique aerial photographs. The settlement is likely to date to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age (c 1800 BC - AD 400). The cropmarks indicate the presence of three roundhouse structures, a possible sunken-floored building, a round barrow and a number of pits. Two of the roundhouses are typical in size and form to other known examples. Both roundhouses comprise a penannular gully measuring 1-1.5m wide with an approximate external diameter of 11m; a gap in the south arc of each indicates the likely position of the entrance. To the northeast of these structures are several pits ranging from 1-2m in diameter.

The third roundhouse lies to the south and is much smaller, with an overall diameter of 7.5m. The sunken-floored building is sub-rectangular, measuring 8m northeast-southwest by approximately 3m. The round barrow is situated to the northeast of the settlement and comprises a ring ditch measuring 4.5m in diameter, with a gap on the north arc.

The settlement is on locally high ground at 125m above sea-level and commands extensive views in all directions, but particularly along the Forth Valley and across the Lothians. The monument was first scheduled in 1995, but the entry has been amended to better focus the scheduled area on the archaeological remains.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to add to the understanding of later prehistoric settlement and economy. The survival of three roundhouses, as well as numerous pits and a sunken-floored structure which may contain additional features and occupation debris, means that the monument can significantly expand understanding of prehistoric settlement in SE Scotland. The survival of a single, broadly contemporary, round barrow in the near vicinity adds to the interest of the site and can inform the understanding of burial practices and treatment of the dead. Unenclosed sites are uncommon south of the Forth and very few examples are known in West Lothian. The monument therefore represents a rare example of an unenclosed settlement within a prehistoric landscape of generally enclosed settlements.



24. South Mains, homestead moat 200m north of South Mains Farm, Bathgate Hills

Type: Medieval homestead

Location: Bathgate Hills

Grid Ref: 301088, 672869

Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM6207>



The monument comprises the remains of a homestead moat of medieval date surviving as a raised area in an arable field and visible on oblique aerial photographs. The monument is a five-sided homestead moat raised slightly above the surrounding area which has been ill-drained pastureland. It measures approximately 100m east-west by 65m within a ditch up to some 11m wide. No entrance is visible. A mound within the west corner may be the location of an internal building. The site has been suggested as the medieval predecessor of the nearby Tartraven Castle, representing an early centre of the Lordship of Tartraven.

The scheduled area encompasses the visible features and an area around them in which traces of associated activity may be expected to survive. It is sub-rectangular with maximum dimensions of 130m east-west by 100m.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to add to our understanding of medieval lordship centres. The low-lying position of the site and the relative massiveness of the ditches suggest that waterlogged material may survive which could contribute greatly to our understanding of the economy and environment of the area in the medieval period.

25. Broomy Knowes, cairn east of Beecraigs Country Park, Bathgate Hills

Type: Later Neolithic or Bronze Age burial cairn

Location: Bathgate Hills

Grid Ref: 301812, 673714

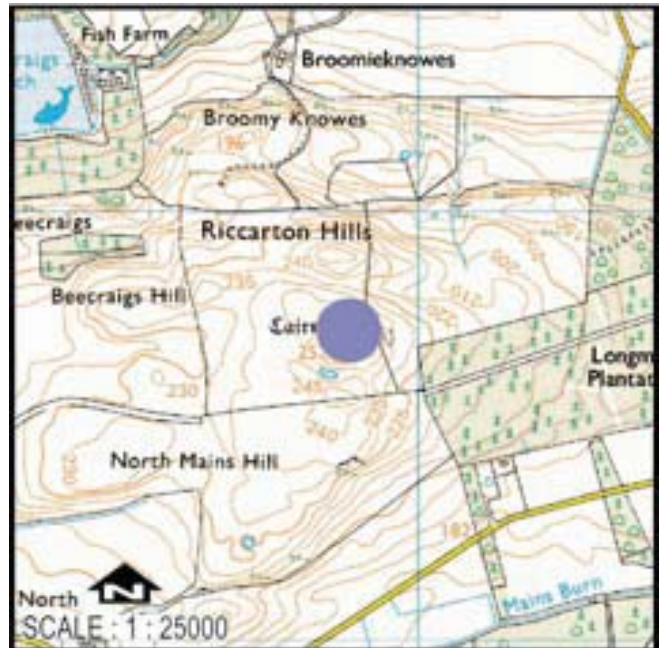
Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM6208>

The monument comprises the remains of a burial cairn of Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date, surviving as a grassed-over, stony mound. The cairn lies slightly to the south of one of the unnamed summits of the Riccarton Hills in the Bathgate Hills at around 250m above sea level. It survives as a grassy mound

some 11.5m in diameter with several large stones clearly visible on the surface. Several of these appear to represent kerbstones in their original positions, while others are slightly displaced.

The scheduled area encompasses the cairn and an area around it in which traces of associated ritual activity may be expected to survive. It is circular with a diameter of 30m.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to add to the understanding of Later Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary practice. The area around the cairn may also be expected to contain evidence relating to contemporary and later ritual practice.



26. “Five Sisters” Westwood Shale Bing

Type: Industrial -oil shale bing

Location: north of West Calder

Grid Ref: NT 009 640

Links: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49113/livingston-westwood-shale-oil-works-five-sisters-bing>



The monument consists of a substantial shale bing, the evidence of former extraction and processing of oil-shale. The “Five Sisters” bing is the best-known example of a shale bing. It is of rather unusual form, with five distinct lobes

formed by the method of tipping employed and is a local landscape feature of some importance. The oil-shale was worked from a site immediately to the north east of the bing, but this has been redeveloped and is not included in the scheduling. The scheduled area is irregular on plan, consisting of the bing and its immediate boundary walls and fences.

The monument is of national importance as the most widely-known reminder of the important pioneering oil industry based on the mining of the West Lothian shales. This laid the foundations for the modern international petro-chemical industry. The bing, in addition to its value as a memorial and significant landscape feature, may contain evidence relating to mining and tipping procedures and types of equipment utilised.

The bing, in addition to its value as a memorial and significant landscape feature, may contain evidence relating to mining and tipping procedures and types of equipment utilised.



Intriguingly, Westwood House, built during the 19th century as the graceful country retreat of a wealthy Edinburgh lawyer now lies buried under the Five Sisters bing!

The estate changed hands a couple of times, and in the late 19th century belonged to Captain Steuart, who was a prominent supporter of the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt. Westwood was one of the meeting places for the hunt, and from here the pack would tear across the fields and woods of Harburn, Hermand, Bellsquarry and Breich.

The lands of the estate, whilst not particularly rich agriculturally, contained deposits of shale and the Westwood Shale Oil Company began manufacturing crude oil on Captain Steuart's estate in the 1860s. Under one company or another, shale was extracted from Westwood until the closing of the works in 1962.

As the shale seams on the estate were opened up, Westwood House was in the way of the works. Rooms once echoing to the sounds of family and the social scene began to reverberate with the sound of shale being dumped on the advancing bings....and the house was eventually engulfed by the piles of spent shale from the Westwood Works.



27. Old West Calder Kirk, West Calder

Type: Burial Ground

Location: West Calder

Grid Ref:

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/49099/west-calder-old-parish-church-and-graveyard>

The parish of West Calder was disjoined from the ancient parish

of Calder-Comitis and erected in 1647. It was disjoined from the Presbytery of Linlithgow and annexed to that of Edinburgh in May 1884.

It was built in 1643, three years before West Calder became a separate parish from that of Mid Calder. Long and plain, the round-headed windows are now filled in. Two small windows on the north side are obscured by a later turnpike stair that must have served a gallery or more likely a pulpit. There is a square bellcote with a ball finial on the west gable. The walls were buttressed in the mid 18th century.

During the unrest of the Civil War, the Kirk Session supported Cromwell's side. Apparently his soldiers used the local church buildings to stable their horses as at that time there were no pews. The village grew up around the Kirk, and the land began to be feud in 1660. The allegiance of the session remained strongly Presbyterian. It is recorded that a fine of 16s 8d and £2,958, which must have been a huge sum in those days, was imposed on the Church and its members for adherence to the Covenant.

It became ruinous after its abandonment in 1880 when a new church was built further west along Main Street.

28. Easter Gormyre, refuge stone, 475m north east of Torphichen

Type: refuge stone

Location: Torphichen

Grid Ref: 298065, 673114

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM7279>

The monument consists of a quadrilateral upright boulder standing in arable land north east of Easter Gormyre Farm in the Bathgate Hills. It is one of the five refuge stones marking the boundary or 'girth' of the sanctuary associated with Torphichen Preceptory, founded by the Knights Hospitallers or Knights of St John in the 12th century.



Torphichen Preceptory, as with many other ecclesiastical establishments, was granted the right to offer sanctuary to fugitives by charter. The stone is of red gritstone, roughly oblong and measuring about 1.2m high by 0.8m by 0.6m. It marked the northernmost point of the sanctuary; the other four stones marking the centre (in the graveyard adjacent to the Preceptory itself), the southern, eastern and western points.

The four stones marking the boundaries are traditionally thought to be one Scots mile from the centre stone, although this is not the exact ground measurement. Four of the five stones are being scheduled, the southern stone, thought to be near North Couston Farm, was unfortunately broken up some time ago.



29. Refuge Stone, 300m north west Westfield Farm, Westfield

Type: refuge stone

Location: East of Westfield Village

Grid Ref: NS 9437 7211

Link: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/48010/westfield-farm-refuge-stone>

The monument consists of a sandstone boulder, known as the Refuge Stone, and associated field banks, situated in scrub land on a small hillock. It has been rescheduled in order to extend the scheduled area to include the associated field banks, which were unrecognised at the time of the original scheduling. The sandstone boulder is one of the five 'refuge stones' marking the boundary of the sanctuary associated with Torphichen Preceptory, founded by the Knights Hospitallers or Knights of St. John in the 12th century.

The stone is of undressed sandstone, roughly oblong and measures about 1.6m in height. It marked the westernmost point of the sanctuary. Recent excavations in advance of conservation works revealed that the stone was set over a stone structure of unknown, but clearly earlier date. Field survey has further demonstrated that it was set at the intersection of two field banks.



30. West Harwood, burial mound, south west of West Calder



Type: Prehistoric ritual and funerary barrow

Location: West Calder

Grid Ref: 301700, 659800

Link: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM11210>

<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM11210>

The monument comprises a barrow of prehistoric date, visible as a mound in a cultivated field on the gentle north-east slopes of Pearie Law 425m northwest of Vein Syke waterway. The southwest corner of the abandoned steading of Kipsyke is situated about 20m south of the barrow.

The barrow measures about 25m in diameter from north-west to south-east by 20m transversely and stands about 1m above present ground level. A broad shallow depression around the base of the mound is probably the remains of a silted-up ditch.

The monument is of national importance as a rare survival of an earthen burial mound and its consequent potential to contribute to an understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practices.

31. Woodend Farm, farmstead 1400m south west of Woodend Armadale



Type: post-medieval farmstead

Location: Torphichen

Grid Ref:

Link: https://ancientmonuments.uk/124692-woodend-farm-farmstead-1400m-wsw-of-armadale-and-blackridge-ward#.W_5sjU1LH5o

The monument comprises a farmstead of post-medieval date, visible as an upstanding monument. The monument lies within an area of rough grassland and bracken, at a height of around 215m above sea level, and comprises the foundations of three buildings and two enclosures.

The monument is depicted as a ruin on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Linlithgowshire 1856, sheet viii).

32. Craigmarry Farmstead 720m west north west of Craigmarry, north west Armadale

Type: post-medieval farmstead

Location: Torphichen

Grid Ref: 301700, 659800

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM11223>



The monument, a farmstead of post-medieval date, is visible as an upstanding monument, comprising the foundations of a single building of three compartments with two attached enclosures, situated on a slight elevation. The monument is identified as 'Todholes' and depicted as a ruin on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Linlithgowshire 1856, sheet viii) and on the 1818 Linlithgowshire map produced by W Forrest. The scheduled area is irregular in shape, with maximum dimensions 70m north-south by 50m transversely, to include the remains described and an area around them in which evidence relating to their construction and use may survive.

The monument is of national importance as an example of a well-preserved pre-improvement farmstead which has the potential to greatly enhance the understanding of post-medieval rural settlement in the area.

33. Muckraw, building 200m east south east of Muckraw Farm, south west Westfield



Type: Late Medieval hall

Location: Near Westfield village

Grid Ref:

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/hes/web/f?p=PORTAL:DESIGNATION::::DES:SM11224> (is this Craigmarry web site connections ?)

The building, potentially a high started medieval hall, measuring c. 18m northeast - southwest by 7m transversely, is located at c.160m above sea level in the east corner of a gently sloping field to the east of Muckraw Farm. It is substantial in nature, with large boulders incorporated into the lime-mortared walling, which is over 1m thick in places. Sections of the walling stand to over 1m in height. At the east end of the building the remains of a dressed stone window can be seen in the gable end, which has evidently stood much higher in recent times, but has been knocked inwards, filling the central area with rubble. The present land owner recalls an ornate carved fire place within the east gable which may remain in part under the rubble. He also recalls several muskets having been found in the immediate vicinity of the building during ploughing in his father's time.

Local tradition holds that this building was a royal hunting lodge. The scale of construction of the building, and its relatively small and simple plan may lend weight to this tradition.

The building is identified as a ruin on two early 19th century maps of Linlithgowshire (Forrest, W, 1818 and J. Thomson and Co., 1820). It is also depicted as an unroofed ruin on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Linlithgowshire 1856-64-5, sheet 4)

34. Hilltop House, coal pit, Bathgate Hills

Type: coal pit and associated spoil heap

Location: Bathgate Hills

Grid Ref: 297907, 671643

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM11225>



The monument comprises a coal pit and associated spoil heap, situated at approximately 250m above sea level on the west slope of Hilderston Hills. The pit is noted on the 1st edition of the 6-inch map (Linlithgowshire, 1856, sheet 5) as an 'Old Coal Pit'. The Ordnance Survey Name Book, 1856 indicates that the pit was approximately 106m "(58 fathoms) deep and communicate with a level by a tunnelled roadway at the base of the hill". It had not been worked for some time due to a disagreement between proprietors.

The area to be scheduled is irregular on plan, with maximum dimensions of 69m north west – southeast by 40m transversely, to include the pit and an area around in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the pit may survive. The monument is of national importance as an example of a coal pit which was abandoned at an early stage without further industrial exploitation, and which will therefore preserve early features undisturbed by later activity. It therefore has considerable potential to contribute to the understanding of early coal mining.

35. “Windywa’s” 300m southwest of Wester Tartraven, Bathgate Hills



Type: Industrial - mines, quarries

Location: East of Torphichen

Grid Ref: 298931, 671554

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM11226>

The monument comprises the remains of a silver mine, first worked in the early 17th century with later workings towards the end of the 19th century.

Silver was first discovered at Hilderston in 1606. Sir Thomas Hamilton of Binny

and Monkland, the King's Advocate took a lease from James VI in 1607 to work the mine, but it was taken over by the King in 1608, the mine being described then as 'apparently inexhaustible'. At least seven shafts were opened at this time,

with miners being brought from England and Germany. By 1610 the mine was proving less profitable than expected and in 1613 it was let to a private firm, but closed soon after 1614. The lease was renewed in 1870 by Mr Henry Aitken of Falkirk, some nickel ore having been recovered from the waste heaps and in 1873 a deep shaft was sunk, though nothing was found. An old shaft was also cleared, although the project proved unsuccessful and the mine was abandoned in 1898.



The monument is visible as a series of small depressions on the lower SE slopes of Cairnpapple Hill and the upstanding remains

of a building associated with the later mine activity.

The monument is of national importance as a rare example of an early 17th century silver mine which has strong links to the Scottish Royal Family and has the potential to greatly enhance understanding of early mining of precious metals in Scotland.



36. Woodmuir Farm, coke ovens and reservoir 600m south south east of Breich

Type: Industrial - kiln, furnace, oven

Location: Breich by West Calder

Grid Ref: 296781, 659829

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM11227>

The monument comprises a bank of coke ovens and associated reservoir and chimney situated alongside a former mineral railway. Located within planted forestry, the bank of 10 coking ovens is set back-to-back in five pairs, the bank being about 25m in total length. Each oven measures 3.55m in diameter and about 1.9m high, with a flue at the apex of its conical roof. Two adjacent banks of rubble may be the remains of a further two banks of coking ovens. The remains of a chimney and reservoir associated with the works are located to the south of the railway, in dense forestry.



The coking ovens, reservoir, chimney and mineral railway are depicted on the 1st edition OS 25 inch map (Edinburghshire, 1864), but are in ruins on the 2nd edition OS 25 inch map (Edinburghshire, 1906).

The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved example of a bank of 19th century coke ovens and associated remains which have the potential to greatly enhance understanding of early industrial processes. The best-preserved bank has the field characteristics of its class preserved very well.

37. Castlethorn Fort and standing stones 500m east south east of Torphichen



Mains, Torphichen

Type: fort and possible settlement

Location: Torphichen

Grid Ref: 297443, 672448

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM11242>

The monument comprises a prehistoric hillfort which is situated on the top of a knoll known as Castlethorn, but it is also known as "Canniewell Slack". The monument is roughly oval and measures approximately 70m x 50m

overall and is visible on the ground and on aerial photographs. The highest part of the knoll is surrounded by a low bank up to 2m across; to the north a second bank takes in a lower terrace. The entrance lies to the west. The trackway leading from the entrance is marked by two possible standing stones. The upper of the two stones currently lies on its side.

The area to be scheduled measures a maximum of 108m W-E by 88m N-S, to include the fort, standing stones and an area around it in which remains associated with its construction and use are likely to survive.

This monument is of national importance as an example of a prehistoric enclosed settlement, which has the potential to increase considerably the understanding of prehistoric domestic life in this area.

38. Crosswood Cairn, south Crosswood Reservoir, near Harburn

Type: Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)

Location: West Calder

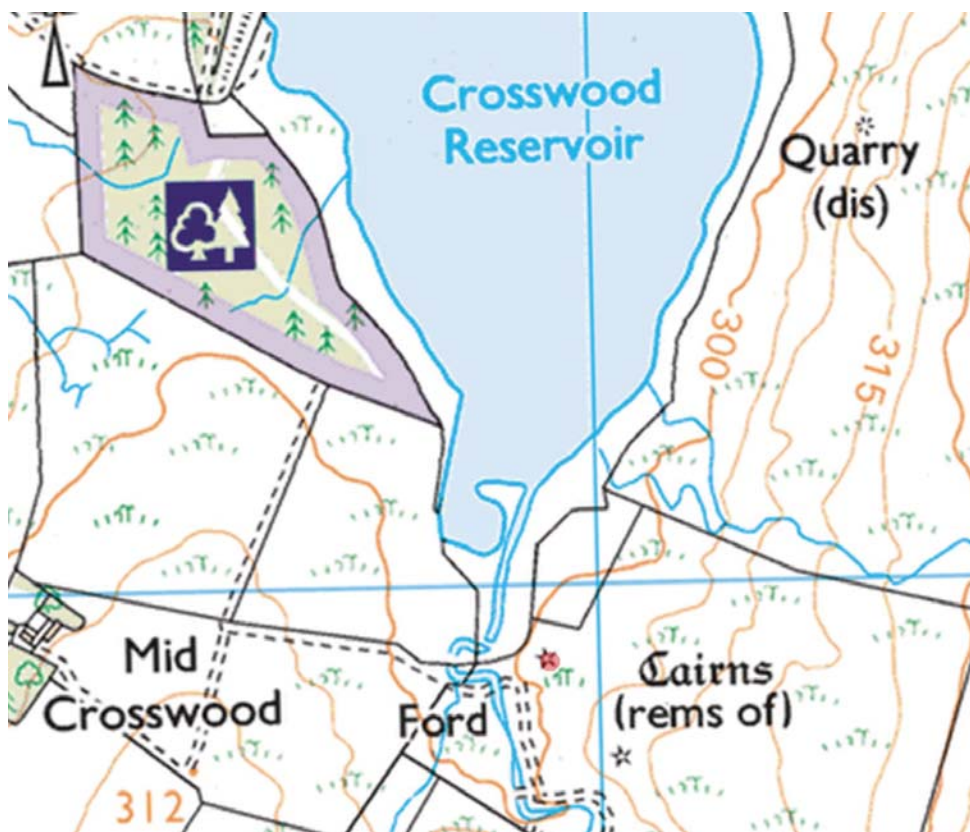
Grid Ref: 305951 656920

Links: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM11245>

The monument is a cairn of prehistoric date, visible as a turf-covered mound, lying in rough pasture at 302m OD.

The cairn measures c. 8m in diameter and is c. 0.5m high. It has been reduced in size in the past through stone robbing. Cairns of this type are funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and may be expected to contain burials and other material relating to their mode of construction and use.

The area to be scheduled is a circle of diameter 20m centred on the centre of the cairn, to include the cairn and an area around in which evidence relating to its construction and use may survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map.



39. Torphichen Bridge, mill lade & trackway 200m north east of Torphichen

Type: mill (domestic / small-scale)

Location: Torphichen

Grid Ref: 295700, 673628

Links: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM11253>

The monument comprises the remains of a post-medieval mill, lade and trackway located on the River Avon Heritage Trail (<http://johnmuirway.org/additional-routes/river-avon-heritage-trail>)

The mill building, measuring 17m north-south by 4m east-west and visible as an upstanding ruin, is located on a level platform on the south bank of the River Avon at c 85m above sea level. The south gable end stands almost to full height, although much of the rest of the building has been reduced to foundation level. The remains of an outshot, measuring c. 11m E-W by 6m N-S, with a rounded end on the east side, can be traced at ground level on the east side of the mill building. The route of the lade and access trackway can be traced from the south end of the mill through woodland on the higher slopes of the river bank.

The site is also the reported location of the cottage where Henry Bell, builder of the prototype steamboat 'The Comet' was born in 1767. A commemorative plaque to Henry Bell has been placed on the south side of the south gable of the mill building.

The mill, and a second unroofed building are annotated as "Ruins" on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map (Linlithgowshire 1856, sheet 5). Both buildings are also present on an 1818 map of Linlithgowshire drawn by William Forrest (1799-1832), labelled 'Old Mill'. Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) confirms this to be the location of 'Torphichen Mill' (sheet 6/6).

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to contribute to the understanding of post-medieval milling. It is of particular importance because of the survival of significant parts of the water management system, and because of the association with Henry Bell.



40. Cairnpapple Hill, prehistoric ceremonial complex, Bathgate Hills

Type: Prehistoric ritual and funerary - cairn (type uncertain); henge

Location: East of Torphichen

Grid Ref: 298726, 671746

Link: <http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/designation/SM90053>

The monument comprises a ceremonial complex of prehistoric date on the summit of Cairnpapple Hill. The central part of the complex is in the care of the Secretary of State and is delimited by a modern fence, but the scheduled area extends beyond this fence.



The monument occupies the summit of Cairnpapple Hill, lying in improved pasture at around 310m above sea level. It comprises a henge, or ritual enclosure, of Neolithic date, within which limited excavations have uncovered



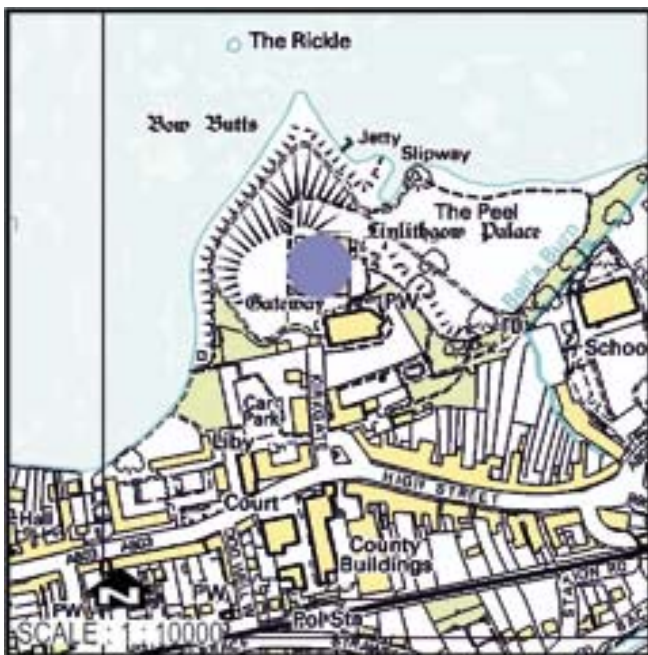
a sequence of burials ranging in date from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age. The principal focus of activity, however, appears to have been in the Neolithic period and Bronze Age, from around 5000-1400 BC.

Excavations on other sites of this kind, in Scotland and elsewhere, have demonstrated that henges formed the focus for extensive ceremonial activity in prehistory, including the construction of timber buildings and enclosures, human burial, and ritual deposition. Remains associated with such activity may be expected to survive in the vicinity of the upstanding remains.

Above-ground modern features associated with the radio mast and its compound, and other above-ground modern features are excluded from the scheduling.



41. Linlithgow Palace, Peel and Royal Park



Type: Ecclesiastical: burial ground, cemetery, graveyard

Secular: Royal Park; earthwork; midden; palace.

Location: Linlithgow

Grid Ref: 300246, 677538

Link: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM13099>

The monument comprises Linlithgow Palace and the core of the Royal Park, including Linlithgow Loch, the ground beneath St Michael's Church and the church burial ground.

The palace was built between 1424 and 1624 and is the largest non-defensive royal residence in medieval Scotland. The monument includes the upstanding palace buildings, as well as earthworks and buried archaeological remains in the surrounding parkland that preserve evidence both for early occupation of the site and for activity contemporary with the palace. The monument lies immediately north of the medieval town of Linlithgow, between the town and Linlithgow Loch.

The palace stands at 60m above sea level on a natural hill of glacial drift, giving it a commanding position overlooking the loch.

42. Torphichen Preceptory

Type: Ecclesiastical

Location: Torphichen

Grid Ref:

Links: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/47978/torphichen-bowyett-torphichen-preceptory-and-torphichen-parish-church>



Only a precious fragment of the order's Scottish house survives. The church's crossing tower and flanking transepts still stand complete and roofed. The nave (to the west) and choir (to the east) survive only as low footings. (The nave was rebuilt in 1756 as the parish church of Torphichen). Of the cloister to the north of the church, only foundations remain. Another surviving feature is an arrangement of five sanctuary stones, defining the preceptory's area of sanctuary. One stands to the south of the parish church, and four more in fields to the north, west, south and east although the south stone is missing (see other entries for: Craigmailing Cross slab, Easter Gormyre, Westfield Refuge stone).

The church has some fine architecture. Work of the late 1100s survives in the chancel arch (now blocked up). Much of the rest dates from the 1400s, including both transepts. These were built at the direction of Sir Andrew Meldrum, the preceptor, in the 1430s. An



inscription recording this survives in the north transept. Another interesting detail is scratched onto a wall in the south transept – a working diagram of the complicated ribbed vault, produced by the master-mason charged with building it. The painted wall decoration high up in the crossing and south transept is another rare survival.

