

# Our Heritage timeline

- 2021 ● Heritage Wall restored.
- 1997 ● Nasmyth (Almondell) Bridge restored.
- 1988 ● Kirkhill Pillar rebuilt in Almondell.
- 1986 ● Mandela Bridge dedication ceremony.
- 1981 ● Visitor Centre opened.
- 1973 ● Nasmyth (Almondell) Bridge partially collapsed.
- 1971 ● Designated as a Country Park.
- 1969 ● Derelict mansion demolished using explosives.
- 1963 ● Erskine family sold the estate.
- 1937 ● Stable block converted to a cottage.
- 1867 ● Camps Viaduct opened to railway traffic.
- 1822 ● Union Canal & Feeder bridge built.
- 1818 ● House & Walled Garden drawn on county map.
- 1800 (circa) ● Nasmyth designed & built The Almondell Bridge.
- 1790 (circa) ● Henry Erskine acquired the estate.
- 1784 ● Memorial stones erected.
- 1776 ● Kirkhill Pillar created by David Steuart Erskine.

## Things to Do

Look out for this symbol  
– all our Heritage Trail  
information boards have  
a Things to Do section

# Brief History of the Country Park

Originally created by Henry Erskine (1746 – 1817) the 683 acres of the Almondell Estate was auctioned off by the 16th Earl of Buchan in 1963. Following a public campaign, against housing being built in the valley, Mid Lothian County Council bought ~90 acres in 1965 to create a public park. In 1971 this land together with the neighbouring historical estate of Calderwood, was formally designated a Country Park and became West Lothian Council's first Country Park when the council boundaries were redrawn a few years later.

*The Heritage Trail mainly follows flat surfaced paths, please enjoy the park and its wildlife as you learn more about its history.*



Researched and produced by the  
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Map symbols by Livingston Art Association



# Almondell Heritage Trail



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### 1. Almondell House (c.1790s)

With its roof and windows removed in the 1950s, to avoid taxes, the crumbling 50 room mansion house was blown up by the Territorial Army in 1969 to support the creation of the Country Park.



### 3. Almond Feeder Aqueduct (c.1822)

This innovative metal trussed aqueduct, inspired by Thomas Telford, has carried water over the River Almond to feed the Union Canal for more than 200 years.



### 4. Camps Viaduct (c.1867)

This 120m long, 9 arched brick and stone viaduct rises an impressive 24m above the river bed. Closed to rail traffic in 1959 it is now part of a network of paths connecting the local communities.



### 5. The Dell Bridge & Memorial Stones (late 1700s)

The Dell was an integral part of Henry Erskine's plans for his garden landscape. The riverside paths he laid out, which we still follow, included the building of this small bridge across the dell stream. You will also find a memorial and information about historic figures of Scotland's past at this location.



### 2. Nasmyth Bridge (c.1800)

A stunning sandstone bridge, designed by Alexander Nasmyth, with its rustic arches of different spans and crenelated parapet provided the country estate with an imposing southern access over the River Almond.



Postcard — Almondell House, early 1900s © McLaren, Broxburn



### 6. Mandela Bridge (c.1970)

Standing 19m tall with a 40m suspended walkway this bridge was designed and manufactured in prefabricated sections, welded together on site and hoisted into position by a large crane.



### 7. Walled Garden (c.1800)

A walled garden with only 2 walls! Come and find out why and what it looked like when it was last used as a productive market garden. It now houses a BBQ site and children's playpark.



### 8. Stable Block (c.1790s)

The changing faces of the stable block, converted to a cottage in 1937, renovated and upgraded a few more times before opening as our Visitor Centre in 1981.



Photo (pre 1937) showing the rose garden and arched loggia.



### 9. Kirkhill Pillar (c.1776)

Engraved on one side of this pillar are the calculations David Steuart Erskine (11th Earl of Buchan) used to create a scale model of the known solar system in his garden at nearby Kirkhill House (private).

