Castle Hill, Lochmaben Golf Course: Archaeological Assessment

Data Structure Report

by Louise Turner and Thomas Rees

issued 26th June 2009



Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

its

Signed		Date
	with the procedure of Rathmell Archae ve been reviewed and agreed by an ap	
Checked		Date

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Contents

Introduction	
Scottish Historic Environment Policy	3
Project Works	4
Findings	4
Historic Sources	4
Aerial Photographs	6
Archaeological Background	6
Site Walkover	9
Evolution of the golf course on the Motte	
Discussion of Drainage	12
Proposed scheme	12
Recommendations	13
Conclusion	13
References	
Documentary	14
Cartographic	
Appendix 1: Scheduling Document	
Contact Details	
Figures	
Fig. 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Map of 1747-55	5
Fig. 1b: Extract from 1^{st} Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1856	5
Fig. 2: RCAHMS topographic plan of the motte	7
Fig. 3a: Vertical aerial photograph showing Lochmaben Motte prior t build up of tees, etc. (c.1948)	
Fig. 3b: Oblique Aerial Photograph showing Lochmaben Motte (c.197	76)8
Fig. 4a: Main Tee for 3rd hole on the summit area (from north edge standing water to front of raised tee	
Fig. 4b: Secondary Tee for 3rd hole on summit area from west, note foreground, Gallows Hill visible to rear of shot.	
Fig. 5h: Panorama of the 2nd Green from the east	11

Introduction

- 1. Lochmaben Golf Club are developing a programme of drainage works that are required for the continued use of their golf course. This golf course overlies, and uses, Castle Hill a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- 2. Historic Scotland have advised Lochmaben Golf Club to have a desk-based assessment undertaken as a first stage in the determination of the likely impact of the drainage scheme should it be given consent to proceed. This Data Structure Report presents the findings of this archaeological desk-based assessment, supported by a site inspection, and considers the potential impact of a drainage scheme.
- 3. This report draws heavily on information supplied by Lochmaben Golf Club (in terms of the drainage scheme and other improvements proposed), Historic Scotland (for information on the condition and character of the archaeological remains), Canmore (RCAHMS records) and Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service.
- 4. Recommendations are also made as to the most appropriate way forward. The next stage of works is anticipated to be an intrusive evaluation of the drainage locations to determine the exact character of the archaeology in these locations. Remote sensing techniques (including Ground Penetrating Radar) have also been proposed in support of this stage by Historic Scotland. This stage would require to be interlinked with an application for Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 5. Undertaking these archaeological works does not guarantee or assure that Historic Scotland will ultimately grant Scheduled Monument Consent to the proposed drainage scheme. Rather they are designed to provide sufficient information to ensure the design minimises the likely impact on archaeology and that Historic Scotland understands the consequences of granting consent should they be so minded.
 - Scottish Historic Environment Policy
- 6. Scottish Government policy is laid out in detail in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP). This policy document explores many aspects of the interrelationship between the Historic Environment and the needs of the people of Scotland. One of the critical elements of the policy is that:

The protection of the historic environment is not about preventing change. Ministers believe that change in this dynamic environment should be managed intelligently and with understanding, to achieve the best outcome for the historic environment and for the people of Scotland. Such decisions often have to recognise economic realities.

Scottish Historic Environment Policy, October 2008

7. However, SHEP is also about a balance recognising the fragile, finite and non-renewable character of the archaeological resource protected as Scheduled Monuments by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979:

Ancient monuments offer a tangible, physical link with the past. They are a finite and non-renewable resource containing unique information and have the potential to contribute to increasing our knowledge of our past. Such remains are part of Scotland's identity and are valuable both for their own sake and as a resource for research, education, regeneration, leisure and tourism. The remains are often very fragile and vulnerable to damage or destruction and care must be taken to ensure that they are not needlessly damaged or destroyed.

Scottish Historic Environment Policy, October 2008

8. The responsibility for the implementation of this policy is laid down on all aspects of the state including Historic Scotland.

Project Works

- 9. The programme of works agreed with Lochmaben Golf Club commenced with a desk based assessment. This consulted resources within:
 - the National Monuments Record of Scotland (known archaeological sites; oblique aerial photography; archived commercial reports);
 - Sites & Monuments Record (known archaeological sites);
 - Historic Scotland records (Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other designations);
 - National Library of Scotland (bibliographic records, historic Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey mapping); and
 - local museums, libraries and other archives (Old & New Statistical Accounts, local history books).
- 10. A site inspection of the Scheduled Monument was undertaken on the 17th June 2009 to assist in the characterisation of the monument.

Findings

11. The desk-based assessment focuses solely on the archaeological and historic remains known as Lochmaben Motte or Castle Hill which serves as the second green and third tee of Lochmaben Golf Course. Lochmaben Golf Club has used the motte in this manner since their establishment in 1926 as the custodians of the motte and its associated archaeological features. This monument has been protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 since 1968 (see Appendix 1).

Historic Sources

- 12. The Anglo-Norman twelfth century lordship of Annandale was conceived to constrain the Galwegians of Nithsdale and to protect a western routeway through the Southern Uplands. Brus, when granted the lordship, constructed a sequence of castles commencing with Annan and followed by Lochmaben. Lochmaben was chosen as a central location within the lordship where the Kinnel Water and the Waters of Ae and Dryfe meet (RCAHMS 1997).
- 13. There is no clear evidence of when the castle at Annan was abandoned in favour of the motte at Castle Hill, Lochmaben, although the natural loss of Annan through river erosion between 1173 and 1218 has been suggested (Reid 1955). The motte was most probably constructed between 1124 and 1166, given that in 1166 William the Lion granted Brus his confirmatory charter of Annandale at Lochmaben. Certainly for a period in the twelfth century both castles co-existed within the lordship.
- 14. The Castle Hill motte was captured by the forces of Edward I of England shortly after his victory at Falkirk in 1298 (Simpson & Stevenson 1980). His troops commenced the construction of a new timber peel; some scholars propose that this was on a promontory at the southern end of Castle Loch, roughly 1km south-east (Reid 1953), while others believe the Edwardian pele was built at the motte site (Wilson 1973).
- 15. The Castle Loch site was to be the location of the subsequent stone-built Lochmaben Castle, sequentially constructed from the fourteenth century onwards. Thus the motte at Castle Hill may have been slighted around 1300.
- 16. The earliest informative mapping which provides an insight into the town's development is William Roy's Military Map of 1747-55 (Fig. 1a). Here, the town plan is clearly shown, with its main street running N-S and a wide central market place. The surrounding area is subject to widespread cultivation, as denoted by the representations of rig-and-furrow shown throughout. While the motte is not itself shown, the area where it is located is

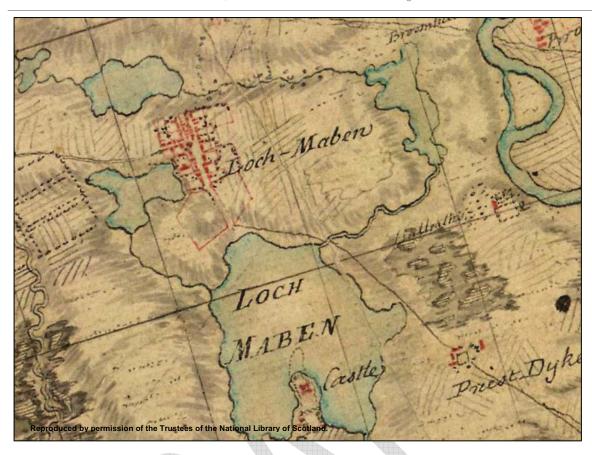


Fig. 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Map of 1747-55

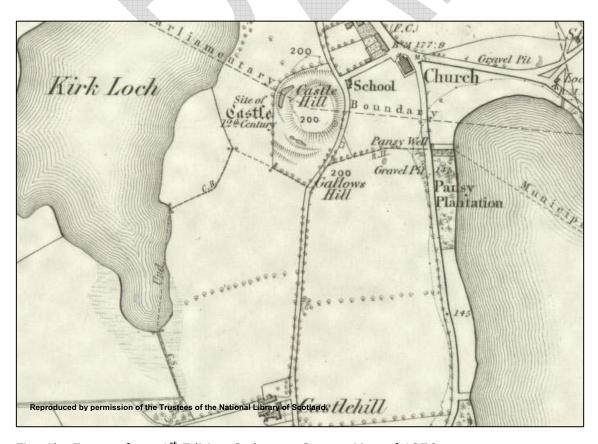


Fig. 1b: Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1856

depicted as an enclosed hill. Of note is that Castle Loch and Kirk Loch are both depicted as being more extensive in the mid eighteenth century with the motte benefiting, in defensive terms, from its placement between them.

- 17. By the mid-19th century, when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of Dumfriesshire was surveyed, upstanding antiquities were routinely depicted, and the Lochmaben Motte is no exception (Fig. 1b). It is clearly shown as an upstanding earthwork comprising a central mound with two parallel ditches lying to the south-east. The primary, closest motte ditch is shown as holding standing water in the north-west and south sections of its circuit. The monument is contained with an enclosure, the outline of which is still partly visible today and is followed by the modern scheduled area.
- 18. Beyond the motte, in the area currently occupied by Lochmaben Golf Course, the landscape shows a number of subdivisions into fields, with evidence of tree-planting around the limits of the motte itself and at the north-east edge of Kirk Loch. Many of these field boundaries have already fallen out of use by the time the 2nd Edition map is surveyed in 1899 (not illustrated) with the landscape then showing little if any change up to the present within the actual area of interest.

Aerial Photographs

- 19. Aerial photographs showing the area of interest are held by the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) and by the Archaeology Service of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Three sets of vertical aerial photographs are present in the NMRS, showing the site as it was in 1948, 1966 and 1988. By comparing the various photographs, it is possible to identify changes in land use throughout this period.
- 20. The motte is utilised for the golf course throughout this time, but it seems likely that prior to 1948, its surface had not been extensively modified into tees, greens, etc. Instead, the tees and greens appear to comprise mown areas of grass on a pre-existing ground surface. By 1966, these informal arrangements had been replaced by more clearly-defined earthworks.
- 21. Oblique aerial photographs held by both the National Monuments Record and Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service help to show the nature and extent of the 1950's to 70's alterations to the surface of the motte more clearly (Fig. 2a & b).

Archaeological Background

- 22. The importance of the motte established by Brus at Lochmaben (NMRS ref: NY08SE 7.0) is commensurate with its size and strength. Sculpted from the southern end of a hillock between the Castle Loch and the Kirk Loch, it dwarfs the majority of other mottes in the area (RCAHMS 1997). The monument comprises a large rise of up to 9m above the base of the surviving ditch to the northeast; the summit area, defined by the enclosing ditch, measures some 80m north to south and 60m east to west.
- 23. On its south side there are two probable outer ditches, at least one of which probably defended the bailey, but these have been virtually ploughed out to the west and are difficult to distinguish from the natural topography. Although the defences on this side of the motte have been mutilated by later activity, a low ramp that drops down from the outer lip of the motte ditch to the berm between the two outer ditches is possibly an original feature; it may be the remains of a roadway approaching the entrance to the castle and thus indicates the position of a bridge spanning the ditch that encircles the motte.
- 24. An oval enclosure, measuring 150m by up to 70m in extent, has been provisionally identified adjoining the SSE side of the motte at Castle Hill. This enclosure, coaxial to the longer axis of the motte and containing Gallows Hill, has been interpreted as a very large bailey, which may challenge the conventional inference that Edward I's palisade constructed in 1299 was at the site occupied by the later Lochmaben Castle (Welsh 2004).



Fig. 2: RCAHMS topographic plan of the motte



Fig. 3a: Vertical aerial photograph showing Lochmaben Motte prior to enlargement and build up of tees, etc. (c.1948)



Fig. 3b: Oblique Aerial Photograph showing Lochmaben Motte (c.1976)

- 25. During tee building operations in 1967 the central platform of the motte (NY083823) was disturbed. Finds of 27 sherds of pottery, tiles, lead, oyster shell and animal bone were reported. The tiles were very thick and unglazed, resembling similar materials from Morton Castle (Williams 1967, Truckell & Williams 1967). The 1967 material has been accessioned by Dumfries Museum (Accession No. 1967.593.3.) who also hold material accessioned from 1956 (Accession No. 1956.90) which is also attributed to the motte. It is probable that these 1950s finds relate to some of the golf management work identified below.
- 26. The eastern defences of the motte have been damaged by road building which has used the line of the eastern ditch to reduce the gradient into Lochmaben. This must have taken place prior to 1856, as the route followed by the modern road is largely unchanged throughout the modern mapping sequence. The eastern side of this road has been progressively developed through the nineteenth and twentieth century; although this must have involved considerable progressive disturbance there are no records of any associated finds.
- 27. A fragment of medieval pottery, identified as a jug-handle, was found close to the motte on Lochmaben Golf Course (NMRS ref: NY08SE 48). This material was accessioned into the National Museum of Scotland (Accession No. NMS H.1992.55) during 1983-4 (Anon 1985). However, the exact location of this find is unclear from the available sources.

Site Walkover

- 28. A walkover survey took place on the 17th June 2009 which inspected the character of the motte and the proposed drainage scheme. Information on the character of the golf course structure is incorporated into the section below.
- 29. The summit area and the southern defences continue to be managed under grass and there were no notable areas or bare or eroding earth. There were areas of standing water on the non-enhanced portions of the summit area, but none in the main ditch where access covers were visible for a drain running along the southern section of the ditch, discharging beneath the course to the west towards Kirk Loch.
- 30. The western, northern and eastern flanks of the monument were covered by rough grasses, willow herb, woody scrub and trees. This contrasts with the historic condition of these slopes (see Figs 3a and 3b) which have consistently supported trees, but appear to be otherwise only clad with rough grasses. Some whin bushes have also established themselves on the outer bank to the south, within the limits of the scheduled monument.
- 31. The green for the 2nd hole is clearly a raised, roughly level structure formed of imported material to the summit. There is a clear topographic break where the imported material starts; the scale of this is uncertain but the resulting feature is at least 400mm high. The green is ringed by a recessed sprinkler system which extends to the green from the tee for the 3rd hole to the northeast. The outfall for a drain from the green is identifiable to the northwest as the ground starts to fall from the summit.
- 32. The tees for the 3rd hole are clearly raised level structures formed of imported material to the summit. A shell path, generally in good repair, falls from the southern edge of the summit to the southeast edged by a wooden rail.

Evolution of the golf course on the Motte

33. During the course of this assessment Mr William Henderson of Lochmaben Golf Club has provided extensive information and guidance as to the evolution in the use of the motte as an element of the golf course. The course has actively used the motte since 1926 and in this period the role of the motte has essentially remained unchanged – to provide a green for one hole driving in from the south and a tee for the next, returning to the south. This is reflected in the relatively open, treeless aspect to the south while the western, northern and eastern faces of the motte retain tree cover.



Fig. 4a: Main Tee for 3rd hole on the summit area (from north edge 2nd Green), note standing water to front of raised tee

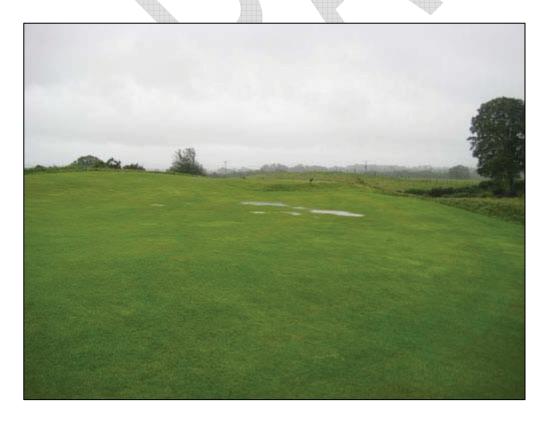


Fig. 4b: Secondary Tee for 3rd hole on summit area from west, note standing water in foreground, Gallows Hill visible to rear of shot.



Fig. 5b: Panorama of the 2nd Green from the east.

Key: 1 – break of slope, 2 – area for new drain where turf failing, 3 – recessed sprinkler system, 4 – outfall of main drain (out of shot at base of bush)

- 34. As with any institution, the club records vary in quality and detail with time so presented below is a sequence of events which have been reconstructed from the available club sources. It is anticipated that there are likely to have been additional historic works that are not recognised in this sequence for the motte:
 - ❖ 1926 1960s course establishment and use of motte as green and subsequent tee;
 - c. 1967 remodelling / building of tee;
 - late 1970s insertion of drain into green with outfall to northwest, enlargement of green to south and forming of edging bank to west and north;
 - ?? insertion of drain in southern circuit of primary motte ditch;
 - early 1990s insertion of herring bone (in plan) drainage under southern 2/3 of green linked to pre-existing main drain, removal of edging bank and expansion of green;
 - ?? insertion of green and tee recessed sprinkler system;
 - early 2000s creation of replacement shell path with wooden rail in south-east of motte.
- 35. The overall pattern through the use of the motte has been a static use as a single green (which has been progressively raised, expanded and drained) and a tee (which has been gradually raised and expanded).
- 36. As noted above, the continued use of the golf course has kept the summit area and the southern defences predominantly under a short cut grass sward. Some disruptive activity has been removed from the scheduled monument, including the green keeper's hut which used to be in the south-east corner.

Discussion of Drainage

Proposed scheme

- 37. The works proposed by the Golf Club are designed to stabilise the drainage on the green and in particular the interface between the raised green and the underlying topography on its southern edge. This would be achieved through:
 - a. insertion on 300mm grid pattern across the surface of the raised green of 600mm deep aeration holes to be filled with sharp gravel and coarse sand; and
 - b. arcing catch drain (600 to 800mm deep) curving around the southern flank of the green draining to the northwest to either connect with or discharge at similar point to existing drain.
- 38. Both these proposed elements of stabilisation work are intrusive to elements of the scheduled monument and potentially damaging to archaeological sediments. Hence should they be proceeded with then Scheduled Monument Consent must be sought for these works in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The scope and scale of the works proposed have been limited to those essential to the continuing use of the ground as a golf course in common with the layout since the foundation of the course.
- 39. There is no desire to generally drain the motte summit, which is prone to localised standing water off the raised green and tee.
- 40. The green is clearly substantially formed by imported material and there is the sound potential that the proposed impact, striking to 600mm, may remain within this imported material and/or remnant topsoil. There is a good likelihood that the impact from these works will be minor or non-significant.

41. The potential impact of the arcing drain to the south is less certain as it is governed by the character of past impacts and the uncertain nature of the archaeological sediments in the summit area.

Recommendations

- 42. We recommend that the Lochmaben Golf Club submit an application for Scheduled Monument Consent for their proposed drainage works as summarised above under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Historic Scotland has already indicated that such an application cannot be determined without sufficient information to understand the archaeological consequences of enacting such a scheme.
- 43. Hence we further recommend that contiguous with the application a programme of investigative works are agreed with Historic Scotland and enacted in keeping with a Class VI consent under the terms of The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents)(Scotland) Order 1996. This class consent being designed to enable archaeological information to inform the determination of a Scheduled Monument Consent to be sourced for Scottish Ministers.
- 44. The character of such works should be agreed through a Written Specification, but we recommend that it include:
 - a. a sequence of augered holes (60mm wide) to 600mm within the green to validate the GPR results;
 - b. three test-pits (0.5m by 0.5m) targeted to the line of the drain to characterise the sediments within 800mm of the current surface; and
 - c. detailed survey to record the location of all the intrusive and non-intrusive works and the topography of the green.
- 45. The provision of the information from the investigative works should be sufficient to inform the decision of the previously submitted Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 46. Confirmation that these recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with the appropriate heritage bodies prior to the implementation of any works whose appropriateness may rely on these recommendations.

Conclusion

- 47. A programme of archaeological assessment and site inspection works was undertaken in respect of the proposed drainage scheme at Castle Hill, Lochmaben Golf Course. Should these works proceed they will impact on elements of the summit area of the scheduled monument protecting Lochmaben Motte.
- 48. The known history and archaeology of Lochmaben Motte has been determined and the character of the works assessed relative to this information base. Recommendations for the appropriate Scheduled Monument Consent procedure and the level of investigation believed appropriate to inform Scottish Ministers has been detailed.

References

Documentary

Anon 1985 'Donations to and purchases for the Museum, 1 April 1983 – 31 March 1984', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 114 (1984), 597.

RCAHMS 1997 Eastern Dumfriesshire: An Archaeological Landscape, Edinburgh.

Reid, RC 1953 'Edward I's Pele at Lochmaben', *Trans Dumfriesshire Galloway Natur Hist Antiq Soc*, 31 (1952-3), 58-73.

Reid, RC 1955 'The caput of Annandale or the curse of St Malachy', *Trans Dumfriesshire Galloway Natur Hist Antiq Soc*, 32 (1953-4), 155-166.

Scot Gov 2008 SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment.

Simpson, AT & Stevenson, S 1980 *Historic Lochmaben, the archaeological implications of development*, Scottish Burgh Survey.

SOEnv 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology*, Scottish Office Environmental Department.

Truckell, AE & Williams, J 1967 'Medieval Pottery in Dumfriesshire and Galloway' *Trans Dumfriesshire Galloway Natur Hist Antiq Soc*, 44 (1967), 133-174.

Welsh, TC 2004 'Gallows Hill (Lochmaben parish), bailey', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol.5 37 Williams, J 1967 'Lochmaben Motte (Dumfriesshire)', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 18.

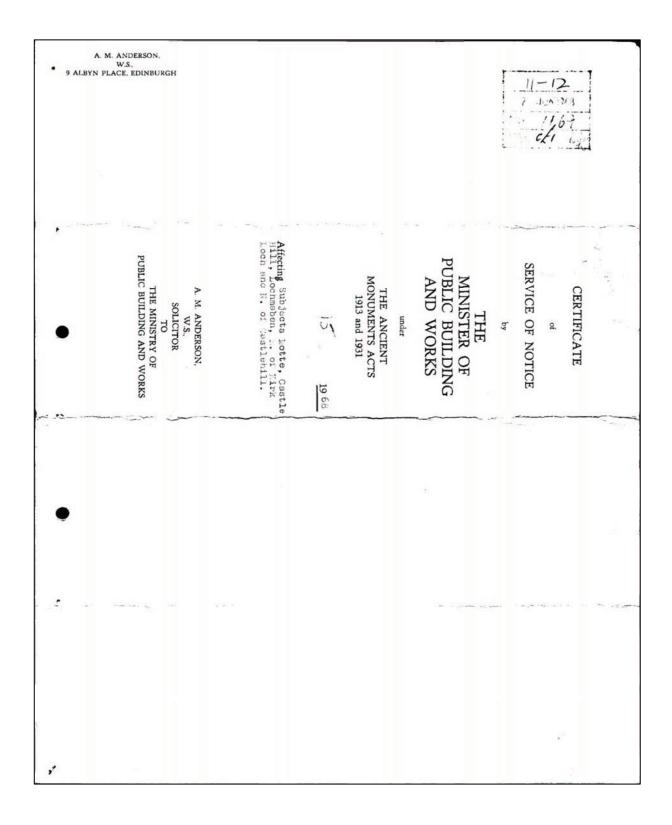
Wilson, J 1973 The Castle of Lochmaben, Dumfries

Cartographic

Moll, H	1732	The West Part of Galloway
Roy, W	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland
Ainslie, J	1782	Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland
Thomson, J	1826	Dumfriesshire
Ordnance Survey	1856	Dumfrieshire Sheet L 1 st edition map 1:10560
Ordnance Survey	1895	2 nd edition map 1:10560

Appendix 1: Scheduling Document

49. Presented below is the scheduling document that defines the nature form and extent of the Scheduled Monument protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This document was downloaded from the Historic Scotland website in June 2009.



REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND.

CENERAL REGISTER OF CASINES.

2637

e COUNTY OF DUMPHES 2016 1050 8

Dm Presented and Recorded on 28

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACTS, 1913 AND 1931.

To the Countess of Lauderdale per Messrs. McJerrow and Stevenson, Solicitors, Lockerbie, owner of the Monument known as the Motte, Castle Hill, Lochmaben, situated to the East of Kirk Loch and to the Morth of Castlehill being the subjects indicated in red colour on the annexed plan and being part of the property known as part of Halleaths and Castlemains Estate

situated in the Parish of Lochmaben

and

County of Dumfries

In accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Ancient Monuments Act, 1931, the Minister of Public Building and Works hereby gives you notice that it is his intention to include the Monument above specified in a list of monuments to be published by him under Section 12 of the Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act, 1913.

Dated this Thirteenth

day of May

1968.

By Order of the Minister.

Under Secretary.

I, Alexander McIntosh Thomson, Chief Executive Officer in the Office of the Minister of Public Building and Works duly authorised by him in that behalf hereby certify that the notice of which the foregoing is a duplicate together with a copy of the plan annexed and signed as relative hereto was served on the before named

Countess of Lauderdale
by posting on the Thirteenth day of May 1968
between the hours of 4 o'clock and 5 o'clock after noon at the
Hope Street Post Office, Edinburgh, a copy of the same to her
by recorded delivery service addressed as follows:-

The Countess of Lauderdale, per Messrs. McJerrow and Stevenson, Solicitors, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.

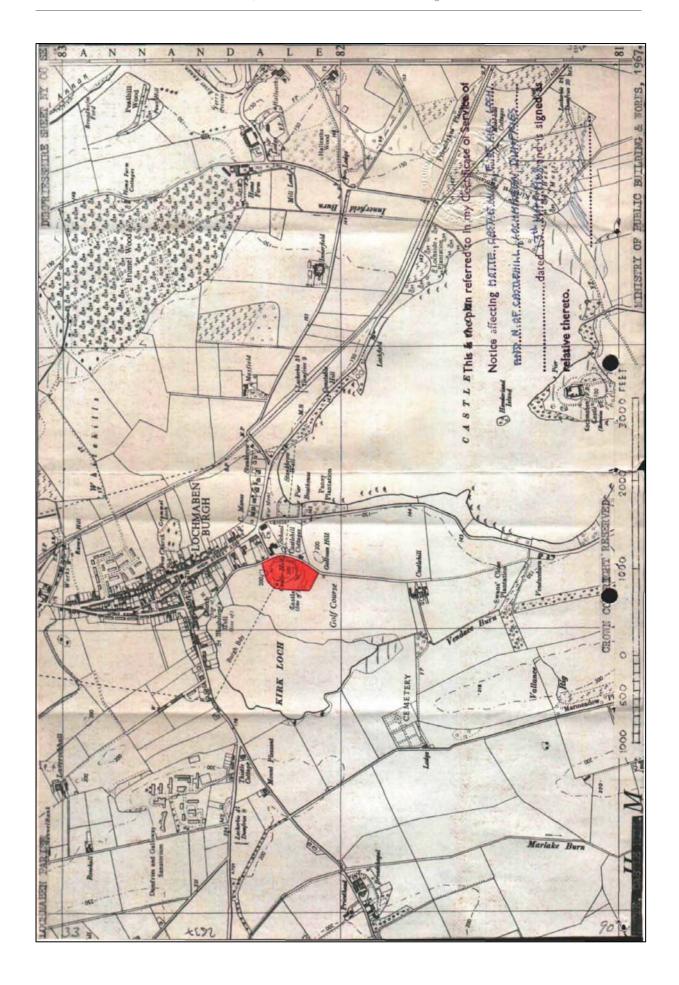
Register on behalf of the within named the Minister of Public Building and Works in the Register of the County of Dumfries.

> W.S., Edinburgh, Agent.

udeix

M.O.W. 1106B.

DE 11437 DL



Contact Details

50. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops

 Kilwinning
 t.: 01294 542848

 Ayrshire
 f.: 01294 542849

KA13 6PU e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

51. Historic Scotland Inspectorate can be contacted through the details noted below:

Historic Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Longmore House

Salisbury Place t.: 0131 668 8600

Edinburgh

EH9 1SH e.: hs.inspectorate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

52. Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service can be contacted through the details noted below:

Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Newall Terrace t.: 01387 260154 Dumfries f.: 01387 260149

DG1 1LW e.: jane.brann@dumgal.gov.uk

