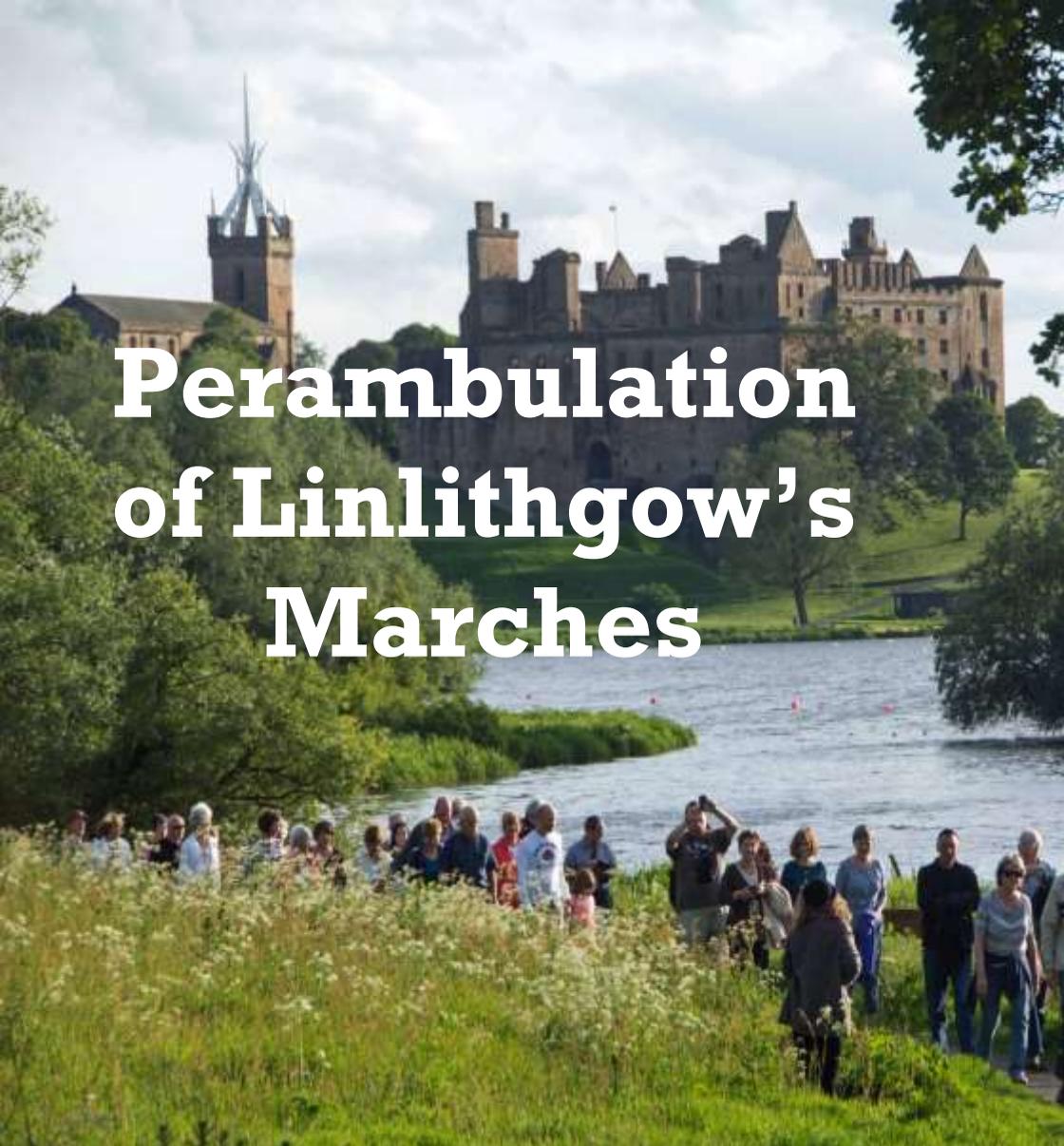


Perambulation of Linlithgow's Marches



**EXPLORE LINLITHGOW'S HERITAGE
ALL YEAR ROUND**



LINLITHGOW & LINLITHGOW BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction to Linlithgow and the Perambulation

Linlithgow is one of Scotland's most ancient Royal Burghs, its first charter having been granted by King David I in the 1130s. A tradition dating back to the 16th century is the annual **Riding of the Marches**, on the first Tuesday after the second Thursday in June, which involves the inspection of the extremities of the burgh's one-time interests at Linlithgow Bridge and at the port of Blackness.

The **'Perambulation of the Marches'** complements the official Riding of the Marches, giving citizens and visitors the opportunity to walk the line of a recorded boundary (or 'marches') of the Royal Burgh – in this case the 'Parliamentary Boundary' as established by the Representation of the People (Scotland) Act 1832. After the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892, this also became the boundary of Linlithgow Town Council's jurisdiction.

The **'Perambulation of the Marches'** is both an event open to all – which starts at 7pm on the Wednesday evening preceding Linlithgow's Marches Day – and a walk which can be enjoyed at any time.

The walk is 4 miles (6.5 km) long, and passes by seven out of eight **march stones** (one original and seven replicas, installed in 2014 – see photograph on right) marking the old boundary. This leaflet gives details of both the route and the many features of historical or architectural interest that it passes. The route map can be found in the centre pages. There is also an accompanying smartphone 'app'.

The 'Perambulation of the Marches' starts at March Stone No. 1 in front of St Ninian's Craigmalen Church in Falkirk Road and proceeds in a clockwise direction round the route. This direction of travel is strongly recommended for safety reasons with regard to visibility at road crossings and steep steps.

We hope that you enjoy your walk and look out for those march stones inscribed 'LPB' (Linlithgow Parliamentary Burgh) on top!



This leaflet was produced by Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council as a supplementary contribution to the Perambulation of the Marches project, with Special Project funding from West Lothian Council.

The overall Perambulation of the Marches project was developed by Linlithgow Civic Trust in collaboration with the Deacons Court, the Fraternity of Dyers, the Linlithgow Ramblers, Linlithgow Business Association and other local groups. 75% of the original funding came from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other contributions were received from Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group, Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Linlithgow Civic Trust, Linlithgow Heritage Trust, councillors' disbursements and Pride & Passion Linlithgow.

PERAMBULATION OF LINLITHGOW'S MARCHES

Start the walk at the Interpretation Board and **March Stone No. 1** on the north pavement of Falkirk Road, just to the west of St Ninian's Craigmalen Parish Church. The Interpretation Board includes not only the route map but an 1856-57 Ordnance Survey plan showing how the Parliamentary Boundary (and the contemporary Municipal Boundary) related to the extent of the town at that time. The March Stone marks the western extent of the 1832 Parliamentary Burgh. The numbers related to the Places of Interest below refer directly to the map in the centre pages.

Proceed eastwards down the slope towards the West Port – the photograph on right shows the start of the inaugural Perambulation on 11 June 2014. On your left, you will pass the front of St Ninian's Craigmalen Parish Church then, shortly afterwards, the related Longcroft Hall.



1. St Ninian's Craigmalen Parish Church



This church, with its elegant broach stone spire, is designed in Early English Gothic Revival style, but the identity of the architect is unknown. It was built between 1873 and 1874 as Linlithgow Free Church at a cost of nearly £4,000, replacing an earlier building of 1844 on the opposite side of the road. But its congregational history dates back to 1738 with the formation of a congregation of the Secession Church which held outdoor services on Craigmaling Hill, about three miles (five kilometres) south of Linlithgow, at a spot marked by the Preaching Stone. In 1901, the church was enlarged by the addition of a south

transept and the formation of an apse in place of a church hall. It has a hammerbeam roof, and there is stained glass dating from 1885 at the east end commemorating Thomas Chalmers, the local papermaker who lived in Longcroft House, the drive of which commences just beyond the church.

2. Longcroft Hall



Just beyond the drive to Longcroft House is Longcroft Hall, built as an infant school in 1869. The building was used as Linlithgow Academy from 1894 until 1902, and, since 1921, it has been the church hall of St Ninian's Craigmalen Church. The car park in front of the hall was the 19th century Horse Market.

3. West Port

Before turning left into Philip Avenue, have a look at the West Port ahead, featuring the West Port Hotel and the Black Bitch public house on the left and, on the opposite side of the road, Katie Wearie's tree and the new sundial sculpture created by Tim Chalk. You can view these at closer quarters at the end of the Perambulation (see fuller details on Page 18).

*Now turn left into Philip Avenue, and proceed to the end of the cul-de-sac where you should follow a narrow footpath down steps to St Ninian's Road. Turn left and cross the road at the traffic island. Continue in the same direction a short distance and observe **March Stone No. 2**. Shortly afterwards, turn right on to a tarmac footpath signposted 'Linlithgow Loch'.*



4. Mill Lade



The watercourse on your right, flowing out of the loch, is the Loch Burn, also known as the Mill Lade, so called because it once supplied Lochmill, one of two major paper mills which used to exist locally. Long before that, the stream was the site of an 'eel ark', a wicker basket with a narrow neck, similar to a lobster pot, or latterly a timber structure or box, for trapping eels. Eels used to flourish in Linlithgow Loch and were indeed a famed delicacy, supplied to the royal tables at

Linlithgow, Edinburgh and Stirling. Most eels were caught around October, when the eels' instinct was to swim downstream, and it was recorded around 1800 that the trap "was every morning emptied of its fish, which are there found in such abundance as to require sometimes to be carried off in carts".

A short distance further on, at the branch in the path, bear right to cross the footbridge. Follow the south bank of the loch in the direction of Linlithgow Palace.

5. Linlithgow Loch

Linlithgow Loch is a natural sheet of water, one of relatively few remaining in the Lothians. In pre-glacial times, the River Avon flowed through the valley now occupied by Linlithgow Loch, but the river became diverted north-westwards by the presence of glacial deposits within which a large mass of ice may have melted to form the depression now filled by the waters of the loch. Linlithgow Loch currently extends to an area of 102 acres (41 hectares), at a level of 125 feet (38 metres) above sea level.



Two small tree-covered islands in the loch – Cormorant Island and The Rickle – have been identified as the sites of crannogs (timber roundhouses on wooden piles) dating from around 3,000BC. One of these islands also features in the legendary story of the Linlithgow ‘Black Bitch’, which credits a dog with having swum across the loch to the island with food for her imprisoned master. The dog was later caught and chained to a tree on the island; both dog and owner starved. The loch’s waters have been used for bleaching, and curling bonspiels were held on the frozen loch during the 19th century.

Nowadays, the loch is mainly a recreational resource – for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and windsurfing – and a wildlife sanctuary. Around 9,000 fish are caught annually, the fishing having been leased by Historic Scotland to the Forth Area Federation of Anglers since 1962. Birds that may be seen on the loch include the mallard, tufted duck, pochard, goldeneye, mute swan, coot, moorhen, great crested grebe and cormorant; a total of 90 species has been recorded.

As you continue along the lochside footpath, you will begin to see Airngath Hill on the opposite (north) side of the loch. Amongst the woods near the top of the hillside is Grange, a large country house completed in 1909, while the prominent monument nearby was erected in 1859 to the memory of Brigadier the Hon Adrian Hope, killed during the Indian Mutiny.

6. Lady’s Park and Calf Lea



The first part of the lochside footpath has, on its right, an area of open ground which has been used for grazing for many years. Its open aspect has been preserved from development by the existence of a trust which was established for that purpose.

7. Water Yett Community Garden



As you approach the point where housing reaches down to the loch, you will notice the beautiful floral displays created and maintained by local residents at Water Yett, in an entirely voluntary capacity. Such community gardens are a notable feature of this part of Linlithgow and have been praised by judges from both Beautiful Scotland and Britain in Bloom.

8. Serpentine Flower Bed & St Peter's Episcopal Church

Along the next section of lochside footpath, you will see the pontoons of the Forth Area Federation of Anglers, and shortly afterwards, on your right, an innovative 'serpentine' flower bed, brightly coloured during the summer months and the result of collaboration between Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow and West Lothian Council. Beyond the bed, up on the opposite side of the High Street, can be seen St Peter's Episcopal Church which was built in 1928 in a very unusual Byzantine style.



9. The Vennel



You will not fail to notice the rather striking but unfortunate 1960s architectural style of The Vennel flats, next on the right. This redevelopment scheme, which destroyed the old burgh layout for much of the length of the High Street to the west of The Cross, was designed by architects Rowand Anderson, Kininmonth and Paul. It provided 90 flats, a variety of shop units, a double-deck car park, a library, a health clinic and public toilets (easily accessible from this walk). On the plus side, the layout opened up views to the loch, and trees and greenery were introduced to the High Street, but, as often with such 'groundbreaking' projects, it proved to be more popular with the architectural establishment than with public opinion, receiving a Saltire Housing Award in 1969.

10. The Peel

After passing the grounds of the Vennel flats, proceed through the gate into The Peel, the open parkland round Linlithgow Palace. It is one of only two royal parks in Scotland, the other being Holyrood Park in Edinburgh. The western bank of the palace mound in front of you was once terraced down to the loch side, and here fruit trees were grown and beehives were kept. There is more information about the parts of the Peel beyond the church and palace on the following page.



11. St Michael's Parish Church

Up on the mound on the right is St Michael's Parish Church with its striking aluminium spire. It is one of Britain's finest parish churches, one of the three largest in the Lothians, the others being St Giles' in Edinburgh and St Mary's in Haddington. It was dedicated in 1242 by David de Bernham, Bishop of St Andrews and was largely rebuilt after a fire in 1424 – most of the existing fabric dates from that period. King James III furnished the tower of St Michael's with a magnificent stone crown, making the church one of only four in Scotland to boast such a symbol of regal power. Sadly the crown was removed in 1821 as a result of safety concerns and the top of the tower remained bare until 1964 when the present spire was added. The church has an impressive interior, outstanding window tracery, interesting stained glass and there are several consecration crosses still extant. On the north wall of the nave is the blocked royal door through which direct access from Linlithgow Palace could once be gained. The church is well worth a visit in its own right to see these and the many other points of interest.



12. Linlithgow Palace

The raised promontory site of Linlithgow Palace has almost certainly been occupied since earliest times. The present building replaced a royal manor house first established in the 12th century; work started for King James I shortly after the fire that swept through the town in 1424. The palace was the birthplace of King James V in 1512 – he was responsible for the central courtyard fountain, the finest of its kind in Scotland, recently restored to full working order by Historic Scotland. By the time of the birth of Mary, Queen of Scots in the palace in 1542, the building would have achieved much of its present form, consisting of four tall building ranges around the central court-



yard, with the Great Hall or Lion Chamber in the eastern range, the Chapel Royal in the southern range, and most of the royal apartments in the western range. After the union of the English and Scottish thrones in 1603, the palace was little used as a royal residence and, in 1633, Charles I was the last monarch to spend a night there. In the 1650s, Cromwell fortified the palace and church and, in 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie was entertained here with the well flowing with wine in his honour. During the following year, the building was gutted by fire while occupied by soldiers of the Duke of Cumberland and it has remained a ruin ever since. The building came into state care in 1874 and it is now one of Historic Scotland's leading visitor attractions.

Continue following the lochside footpath to the north of the palace.

10. The Peel (continued)

As you go past the palace, you will observe a long strip of grass called the Bow Butts, where archery was practised, also a small harbour for light water craft, the vicinity of which is known as the Shog Bog. The lower level parkland to your right used to be the venue for local cricket matches – the present cricket ground will feature later in the Perambulation. These days, it provides an atmospheric setting for events as diverse as the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Children's Gala Day, mediaeval pageants, jousting, fashion shows and pop concerts.

13. Low Port Primary School

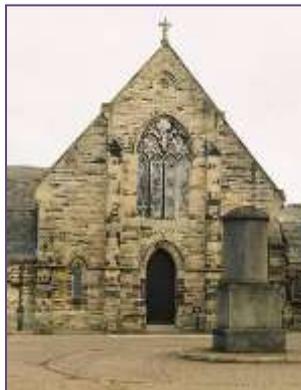
Set back to your right, beyond the parkland and the boundary trees, is the back of Low Port Primary School, the nearest section being a 2002 extension designed by RMJM, joint architects of the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh. The older part of the building was the second home of Linlithgow Academy, opened in 1902; with its distinctive turreted towers, it was used as a film set by the creators of the 2000 film, 'The Little Vampire'. Linlithgow Academy vacated the structure in 1968; after various temporary uses it became Low Port Primary School in 1973.



At the end of the parkland, follow the narrow tarmac path up to the right. At its end, turn left along the pavement of Blackness Road.

14. St Michael's RC Church and Presbytery

The buildings on your right as you walk up the path are those of Linlithgow's other St Michael's Church and its presbytery, the residence of the priest. These Gothic-styled buildings, by renowned church architects, Pugin and Pugin, date from 1887 and 1893. The church is also a memorial to Mary, Queen of Scots – the stone plaque high above the church doorway is worded 'IN MEMORIAM MARIAE SCOTORUM REGINAE 1893', but a proposed 64 foot (19 metre) tower was never built. Formerly in the church grounds were St Joseph's Primary School (1892-1963) and an international youth centre called Laetare (1942-2007).



Turn left along Blackness Road and, opposite Barons Hill Avenue, turn left through the field gate into Fiddlers Croft.

15. Fiddlers Croft

The Perambulation now follows the entire length of the recently-upgraded footpath through Fiddlers Croft. Owned by Historic Scotland, it is effectively an eastern extension of The Peel, protected from development and affording wonderful views of Linlithgow Loch. On your way through, look out for **March Stone No. 3** on your left. During the official Perambulation of the Marches event in June, the leading party pauses at each march stone inspection, while a piper plays.



At the end of the Fiddlers Croft path, turn right – with care, as there is no pavement – into Bonnytoun Farm Road.

16. Bonnytoun House

Looking left as you walk up the short stretch of Bonnytoun Farm Road, you will see Bonnytoun House in its rural 'parkland' setting. It is a large Tudor-style villa dating from around 1840, and possibly designed by Thomas Hamilton. The building has an interesting skyline, broken by gables and finials above the windows, and by grouped octagonal chimney stacks. The house was built for Adam Dawson, the proprietor of St Magdalene's Distillery (the site of which we will pass later on the walk). *Please respect*



the privacy of the occupants by refraining from approaching the property.



Marches Perambulation Map - Key

	Walking Route and Direction
	1832 Parliamentary Boundary
	Replica March Stone
	Original March Stone
	Points of Interest

Base Map Copyright (C) R P A Smith

At the end of Bonnytoun Farm Road, immediately, and with care, cross busy Blackness Road. Turn right on the opposite pavement, cross Springfield Road at the traffic island and turn left, following the pavement up the hill.

17. Kinloch View Retirement Housing



On your right is a large complex of retirement housing developed by McCarthy & Stone in 2005. Designed by the Planning Bureau Ltd, in a traditional Scottish 'vernacular' style with white harling, stone detailing and crow-stepped gables, it is situated on the site of an old sand and gravel pit. At the crest of the hill, in the corner of a flower bed maintained by Burgh Beautiful volunteers, can be found **March Stone No. 4**.

From this march stone (pictured on right), continue along the set-back pavement of Springfield Road, and turn right into the second cul-de-sac. Follow the footpath at the end, and turn right, then left, along the boundary of the cricket ground.



18. Cricket Ground

On your left is the home of the West Lothian County Cricket Club. Matches were relocated here from the Peel in 1930.

At the end of the Cricket Ground, turn left, then right under the low railway bridge, utilising the traffic signals as appropriate. When you reach Edinburgh Road, cross with care, turn right, then left up a stony lane, leading to steep steps which should be climbed to emerge on to the towpath of the Union Canal. At this point, the official Perambulation route in June turns right, but individuals and small groups may wish to turn left to visit **March Stone No. 5**, over 100 yards/metres beyond the aqueduct over Edinburgh Road. Once you have checked that the stone is still in place, retrace your steps and proceed westwards along the canal towpath.

19. Union Canal

The Union Canal, opened in 1822, completed the inland waterway link between Scotland's two largest cities by connecting Edinburgh to the Forth & Clyde Canal near Falkirk. The canal engineer was Hugh Baird, and, when finished, the canal was 31.5 miles (50.7 kilometres) long, constructed on a single level 240 feet (73 metres) above

sea level, except for a flight of eleven locks at the western end. The waterway, the route of which was endorsed by the great engineer, Thomas Telford, had a standard depth of 5 feet (1.5 metres) and standard widths of 37 feet (11.3 metres) at the water surface and 20 feet (6.1 metres) at the bottom. The canal carried passengers and various cargoes including manure, coal and building materials, but its heyday was cut short by the coming of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway in 1842, although it was not until 1965 that it was officially closed to navigation. However, interest in the canal revived, and a number of sections, separated by blockages, continued to be used for recreational purposes. Through navigation to both the Union and the Forth & Clyde Canals was restored in 2002 thanks to the Lottery-funded Millennium Link project.

20. St Michael's Hospital

On the south side of the canal, up the hill from the aqueduct over Edinburgh Road, stands St Michael's Hospital, the successor of a 19th-century Poorhouse which once stood immediately to the east. The Poorhouse was established under the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845, which transferred responsibility for poor relief from the Church of Scotland. It was completed in 1856, with between 140 and 170 inmates in separate male and female wings. In 1905, a new fever hospital for the Linlithgow area was opened on the adjacent site to the west; the original Poorhouse building was demolished in 1968 and the fever hospital itself was superseded in 1985 by the present hospital unit.



21. St Magdalene's Distillery

Proceeding westwards along the canal, you will eventually pass a modern development within which can be seen large stone buildings with characteristic pagoda roofs. These belonged to St Magdalene's Distillery which was originally established by Sebastian Henderson in the late 18th century and later owned by Adam Dawson of Bonnyton House. Water was drawn from a 300-foot artesian well and two springs (for whisky production), and from the Union Canal (for cooling). On the canal bank was a wharf for the delivery of water-borne fuel supplies. Production of malt whisky in 1895 was recorded at an average of 200,000 gallons annually, but production ceased in 1983. All the remaining buildings have now been converted into flats.



22. Linlithgow Railway Station



Further along, over a stone parapet, you can look down into Linlithgow Railway Station. Dating from 1842, this well-preserved original station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway is thought to have been the first railway station to be photographed in the world. The railway, designed by engineers Grainger & Miller, included several deep cuttings, tunnels and two large viaducts, resulting in a line that was almost completely level, except for a steep incline at the

Glasgow extremity. It sliced through Linlithgow on a line between the High Street and the Union Canal, cutting through many of the ancient rigs and necessitating the construction of high retaining walls and the diversion of existing routes. The station itself includes one of the first underpasses ever provided on a Scottish railway, a large mural by Mary Louise Coulouris depicting the town's annual Marches procession, and floral and artistic decorations provided in association with Linlithgow Civic Trust's Burgh Beautiful campaign.

23. Linlithgow Town Wall

From the same point, you can see down below in Back Station Road what may be a remnant of Linlithgow's 17th century town wall (also evident in Strawberry Bank further west). This marked the back boundary of the rigs (or walled gardens) stretching back from the High Street properties. The wall, made of field boulders and stone rubble, was constructed by adjoining property owners in the 1630s at the request of the Town Council, in order to deter beggars and 'vagabonds' who might be carrying the plague.



Continue along the towpath, under Bridge 43, to emerge at the Canal Basin.

24. Ross Doocot

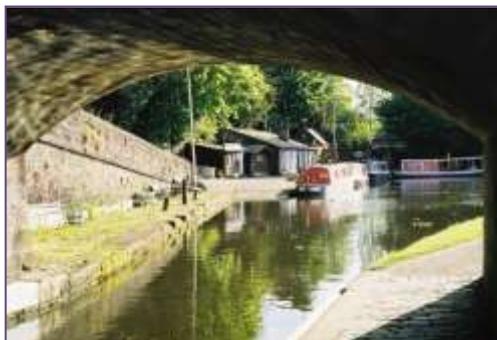


On your right, once beyond the stone retaining wall, you will see the 16th century Ross Doocot in the attractive setting of the Learmonth Gardens. The circular 'beehive' doocot has thick rubble walls and contains 370 nest holes. The projecting string courses acted as ledges for the pigeons and were also supposed to stop rats getting inside. The doocot was built for the Barons Ross of Halkhead (Hawkhead near Paisley), probably on the tail rig of their Linlithgow town house in the High Street,

on or near the site of the Royal Bank of Scotland. It would have provided pigeons for consumption but, in order to limit any negative impact on food being grown in the neighbourhood, the ownership of doocots was strictly limited and only two others were permitted in Linlithgow.

25. Canal Basin

This was Linlithgow's inland port! Here is based the Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS), an entirely voluntary organisation, formed in 1975. It has converted the old stables into a Canal Museum and tearoom and, in 2008, opened a new heritage education centre. The society operates weekend boat trips to the Avon Aqueduct on the *St Magdalene*, and town trips on the *Victoria*, throughout the summer months, runs charters throughout the year, and organises a very popular Canal Rally every August. Of particular interest at the Canal Basin are the deep grooves worn into the stonework of the adjacent Bridge 43 by the ropes pulled by horses to haul barges. The coping of the north quayside consists of square stone sleepers recycled from the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway which acquired the Union Canal in 1849. On the south bank, opposite and behind the trees, is Canal House, a fine stone Georgian villa which was the home of canal engineer, Hugh Baird.



From the canal towpath, double back up the road to cross the canal bridge and then proceed up the Manse Road hill on the right hand footpath.

26. Clarendon House

The upward slopes south of the Union Canal were used to accommodate a number of mansions and substantial houses during the 19th century, mostly with ample wooded grounds. Up beyond Clarendon Road on the left-hand (east) side can be seen the beginning of the drive of Clarendon House, originally built as a simple two-storey classical villa around 1820. In 1875, it was greatly extended, with an Italianate tower, by a wealthy Edinburgh businessman. During the Second World War, the house was requisitioned to accommodate girls



evacuated from Edinburgh and Leith, and then, after being sold to West Lothian County Council, it was converted and extended into a home for the elderly in 1952. In 1992, Clarendon House became an adult day centre, but in 2014, it once again became a private home – *please respect the privacy of the occupants by not entering the grounds*. Near the start of the drive is the operational base of Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow.

27. Nether Parkley

Further up Manse Road, on your right, are the gates of Nether Parkley. This villa, out of sight at the end of its curved private drive, was built in the 1880s by William Horn Henderson, procurator fiscal for Linlithgowshire, and the property remained in the hands of the Henderson family until 1964. More familiar to passers-by than the main villa is the lodge house behind the Manse Road gates, with its overhanging eaves and ornamented timber porch. *Again, please respect the privacy of residents at this location.*

A short distance beyond the Nether Parkley entrance, pass between the stone pillars on your right on to the path signposted 'Site of Carmelite Friary'. At first the path leads a little to the left, then curves to the right into a woodland clearing.

28. Carmelite Friary



The clearing is the setting for lines of slabs tracing the scant remains of a Carmelite friary, founded in 1401 by Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith, using a pre-existing 13th-century chapel as the nave of the priory church. It is said to have been the Carmelites' or White Friars' third establishment out of 12 in Scotland, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. About ten years after the Reformation, in 1569, the friary passed into lay hands and the buildings were soon quarried for

building materials, leading to the almost complete removal of the structure above the foundations. Excavations over the past century have revealed evidence of a substantial church, possible bell-tower, cloisters, chapter house, latrine, refectory and burials both within and outside the church.



Continue along the same path, to eventually emerge into Rosemount Park. About three-quarters of the way, if you look carefully on your left, you will discover **March Stone No. 6**, more moss-grown than the new replicas and the only original example still in situ. Once in Rosemount Park, take the new path to your left, down the slope, then proceed to the left within the avenue of cherry trees.

29. Rosemount Park and Friars' Well



Rosemount Park is one of Linlithgow's hidden gems. The ground, known as the 'Rosemount Field', was bought by Linlithgow Town Council in 1966 for the sum of £1,990, one of the sale conditions being that the land be used for "public open space and recreational ground and for no other purpose whatsoever and that for a period of fifteen years". In the centre of the park is a stone fountainhead, rebuilt in 1821, the source of the water supply of Linlithgow's Cross Well. It was formerly

known as the Friars' Well because of its location within the lands of the nearby Carmelite Friary. On your way through the park, look out for **March Stone No. 7**, situated by the stone boundary wall on your right.

Leave the park, turning right into Friars Loan. At the end, turn left into Friarsbrae, noting Rivaldsgrreen House on your right.

30. Rivaldsgreen House

This mansion house dates from around 1840, designed in a style 'vaguely Elizabethan in the early manner of William Burn', with bay windows added around 1860. Its groups of slender square chimney stacks turned at 45 degrees, and various other features, create an interesting skyline. The overall property was subdivided into four dwellings in 1978, two in the main house and two in the stable wing, and Scotland's former First Minister, Alex Salmond, was a resident for several years.



You may be interested in a small detour at this point to view an interesting inscribed stone on a wall further up Friarsbrae, beyond Priory Road, on the right hand side. It can be quite hard to find, being in a fairly elevated position on the high wall. The stone bears the notation "WJD / THE DREAM / 8th DEC 1888", and commemorates the true story of a horse called 'The Dream'. During a hunting expedition, rider W J Dryborough caused the horse to leap the six-foot dyke, only to find a 14-foot drop on the other side. Apparently, both the horse and the rider fell, but gallantly they both picked themselves up and continued the hunt.

*From Friarsbrae, turn right into Priory Road (or left if you've seen 'The Dream'); then turn right at the second junction and immediately left into a fenced tarmac footpath which crosses another road and the head of a cul-de-sac before reaching Preston Road at the bridge over the Union Canal. After crossing the bridge, turn right and right again along the towpath. On your right, below the bridge abutment, you will see **March Stone No. 8**, the final of the Perambulation, which marked the south-western extremity of the Linlithgow Parliamentary Burgh. To avoid crossing the busy road, continue under the bridge, double back, turn left and proceed down the west pavement of Preston Road, all the way back to West Port, near the starting point.*

31. Linlithgow and St Joseph's Primary Schools



On your way down Preston Road, you will pass two of Linlithgow's primary schools on your left. Both are housed in modern 1960s buildings. Linlithgow Primary School (photograph on left) was opened in 1967 and substantially modified in 2002, while, in 2014, the pupils and staff of St Joseph's (right) celebrated 50 years in their 'new' building.

32. Prefabs in Preston Road



Just beyond the entrance to St Joseph's Primary School are four small, red-roofed bungalows. These are actually well-disguised prefabs, temporary houses built by Linlithgow Town Council after World War II at a time of building material shortages. All but one of Linlithgow's 40 original prefabs still remain (the others being in two groups at Hamilton Park and Preston Park), but West Lothian County Council's examples at Kettilstoun Road, Linlithgow Bridge were redeveloped in the 1960s.

Having reached West Port at the foot of Preston Road, you have completed the Perambulation of Linlithgow's Marches. We hope that you found all eight march stones and that you enjoyed your walk.

And finally, a note about the history and features of the West Port area...

3. West Port (continued)



The West Port, the western gateway to the Royal Burgh, was, like the High Port and the Low Port at the far end of the High Street, removed in the late 18th century. The name 'West Port' has long been the street name for the road west of the site of the old town gate, and the hostelries along the north side of this pleasing focal point are said to have been established to cater for travellers, excluded from the town by the

closure of the town gates for the night. Two 'inns' remain: the West Port Hotel, established in 1790, and The Black Bitch Tavern. There used to be a third, the Customs House Hotel, at the corner of the road to Bo'ness, its name being a reminder of the fact that the West Port, as a town gate, served as a collection point for tolls or market dues. During the 20th century, the junctions in this vicinity were widened, to the detriment of the area's character, but major environmental improvements were carried out in 2002.

Central to the area is Katie Wearie's Tree, a willow which is the claimed descendant of the original tree, possibly planted to commemorate the 1832 Reform Act, the act which led to the creation of the Parliamentary Boundary which you have just followed. The tree was severely lopped in 1898, and blown down in a storm on Guy Fawkes Night in 1911. A replacement tree lasted until 1982 when the present specimen was planted, both being said to have been grown from cuttings from the previous trees. The identity of Katie Wearie is unknown – she could have been a female drover (active or retired) from the Falkirk Tryst, who rested here waiting for the West Port to open on market days; she could even have been a jilted English lady who fled to Scotland. The most recent enhancement to the scene is the Katie Wearie sundial feature, created by artist Tim Chalk in 2010.

Perambulation of the Marches Event

All are welcome to take part in the annual Perambulation of the Marches event, organised by Linlithgow Civic Trust in association with the Deacons Court, the Fraternity of Dyers, the Linlithgow Ramblers, Linlithgow Business Association and other local groups.

The walk starts at 7pm on the Wednesday evening preceding Linlithgow's Riding of the Marches. The first Perambulation took place on 11 June 2014 and the most recent was on 13 June 2018.

All participants should assemble on the pavement in front of St Ninian's Craigmillen Church, Falkirk Road. Parking is limited, so please leave your car at home if possible. Walkers should dress as appropriate for the weather, and should bear in mind that some sections are stony and can be a little muddy.

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About Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council

This booklet was sponsored and published by Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, an elected body with responsibility to ascertain, communicate and coordinate the views of the community and take action to promote the interests of the community.

It aims to work with and support other groups in Linlithgow to address a wide range of issues, including:

- Development and planning, with a statutory right to comment on planning applications
- Housing and social housing
- Health services and health centre provision; social and care provision
- Transport, including high street traffic, bus services and rail services
- Employment and business, including retail
- Tourism, including attractions, events and accommodation
- Recreation, sport and community centres;
- Youth facilities and groups
- Events, such as the Marches, Advent Fair and Remembrance Day parade
- Policing and crime reduction.

The Community Council welcomes new members, whether elected or associate.

