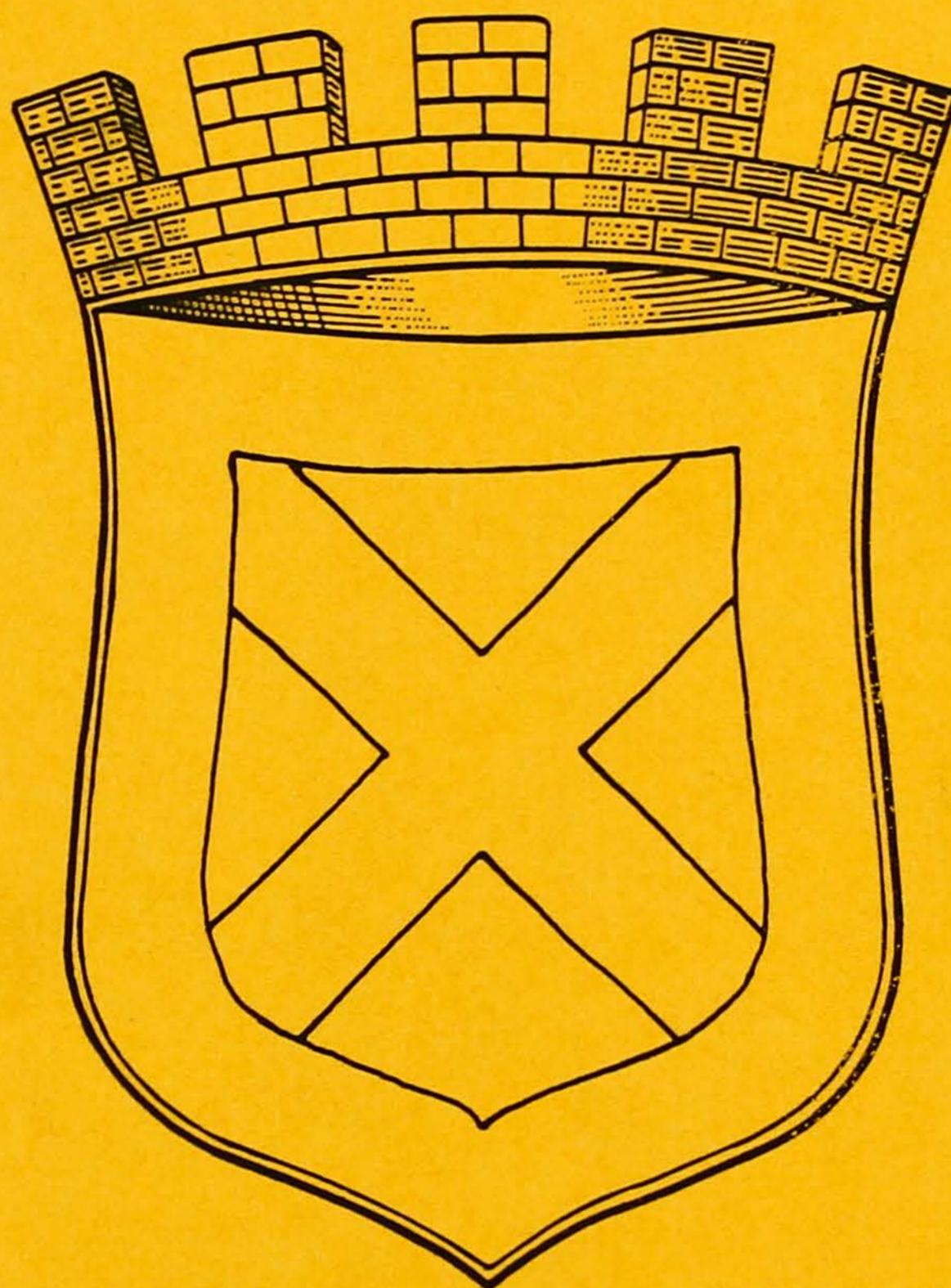


Historic
ANNAN

the archaeological implications
of development



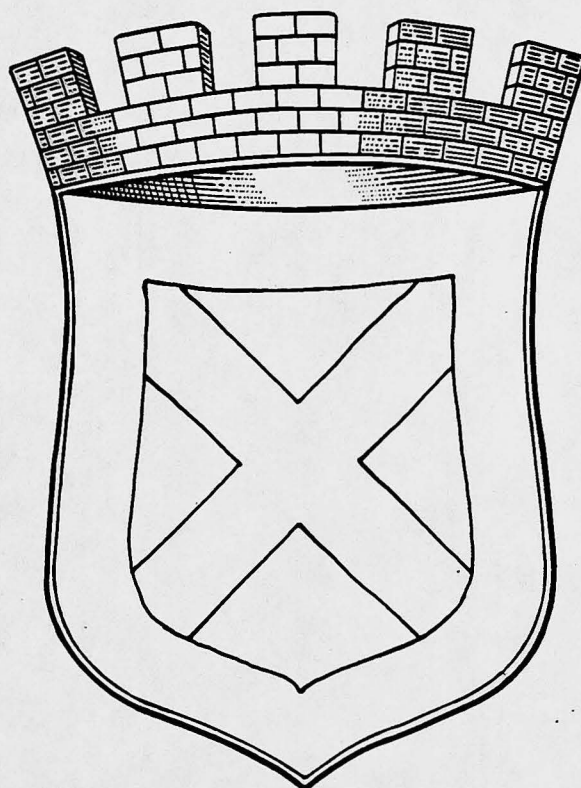
Anne Turner Simpson
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Scottish Burgh Survey
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PREFACE

This report of the history and archaeology of the former burgh of Annan is one of a series of such reports on the historic towns of Scotland. The reports have been commissioned by the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Scottish Development Department with a view to providing the necessary background information upon which to base a policy for urban research in the future. They are also aimed at providing local authority planning departments with the historical and archaeological information necessary to enable them to assess the archaeological implications of any planning applications.

Each report contains an historical report compiled by Anne Turner Simpson with an archaeological report and a series of illustrative plans compiled by Sylvia Stevenson and drawn by Derek Shaw. The reports attempt to identify those areas within the burghs which were developed at various periods of their history up to approximately 1800, and to locate within those areas sites which are of particular historical importance. Areas of 19th century growth and modern suburbs have not been examined.

The survey team would like to acknowledge the help and support of Dumfries and Galloway Region: Mr. A.H. Dobbie, Director of Physical Planning, Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council, specifically Mr. Urquhart; the staff of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, Edinburgh; and the Historic Buildings Branch of the Scottish Development Department. The survey team would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. A. Truckell, curator of the Dumfries Museum, Mr. Preston and the staff of the Ewart Library, Dumfries, and Professor Leslie Alcock and Mr Eric Talbot who supervised the project at Glasgow University.

Note:- The views expressed herein are those of the survey team, freely given, and do not necessarily represent official policy.

Cover:- The Coat of Arms of the burgh of Annan as depicted in Bute, MacPhail and Lonsdale, 1897, 10.

History

INTRODUCTION

Site: Annan is the chief town of Annandale. It is about a mile away from the Solway coast and sixteen miles from Dumfries, Carlisle and Langholm. In the middle ages a major route led from Annan to Lochmaben and into Nithsdale where it forked - one road continued to Clydesdale and the other to Ayrshire.

Place-Name: The place-name is first recorded as a river-name and then as part of the name of the valley through which the River Annan flows. Derived from the valley-name is the district-name Annandale which provides most of the early evidence. The place-name occurs as Anava in the seventh century, Estrahanent in 1124, Stratanant 1152, vallum de Anant 1147 X 1153, Annadesdale 1179 and Valle Anand 1187 (Nicolaisen, et al., 1970, 39). In Estrahanent the first element is the Welsh ystrad 'river valley' and in Stratanant it is either the Gaelic cognate strath or a shortened form of ystrad. In Annadesdale of 1179 and many later examples, Old Norse dalr or Old English dael has been added to the river name (Nicolaisen, et al., 1970, 40). W.F.H. Nicolaisen has suggested that the river-name is among the oldest in Scotland. If it was an early Celtic Name, it is possible from a root pen- /pon- 'water, mire'. There are some rivers on the Continent called Anava as well as a tribal name Anauni, and in form and meaning the Scottish river-name and its Continental parallels may be pre-Celtic although Indo-European (Nicolaisen, et al., 1970, 40). To the place-name Nicolaisen assigned the explanation 'river' or 'water'.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Burgh Status: Annan appears as a burgh only as late as 1296 when rent was due to the Bruce family. Early Annan was a baronial burgh, the caput of the barony of Annandale. In 1314 Annan and Lochmaben, both Bruce burghs, passed into regality to Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray (Pryde, 1950-1, 88). During the 'second phase' of the Wars of Independence, the district of Annandale came under English control, but in 1385 the area was recovered by Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas. G.S. Pryde assumed that for the next fifty years Annan was a Douglas burgh

(1950-1, 89). It may then have passed to the crown on the extinction of the main line of the Earls of Douglas in 1440.

Although the scholar George Neilson cited a private document as proof that Annan was a royal burgh by 1532 (1914, 10) the burgh's earliest surviving charter is a re-erection by James V on 1 March 1538/9 (Pryde, 1965, 26). By the terms of this charter Annan was granted all the privileges of a royal burgh. Annan was enrolled in the Convention of Royal Burghs in 1604 and attended Parliament regularly from 1612.

Medieval: It has been said that medieval Annan had as stirring experiences of any settlement in the kingdom - a career dignified by connection with one of the greatest Anglo-Norman families, a legendary visit from an Irish saint, a situation endowed with military importance due to being a national outpost near a hostile border, and a community fated by the fortune of war to a renown for a sturdy loyalty which cost much suffering to earn and sustain (Neilson, 1914, 1). In the beginning of this reign, about 1124, David I granted to Robert Bruce, 'Annandale and all the land and its castle with all the right which Radulf Meschin ever had in Carduill (Carlisle) and in his land of Cumberland' (ESC, 1905, 307). It is probable that Robert Bruce, and certainly his descendents, held Annandale and Annan Castle as a fief for the service of ten knights (Barrow, 1973, 281).

According to a tradition recorded by the writer of the Lanercost Chronicle, the Bruce family and Annan were cursed by a visiting Irish bishop, St. Malachi, in the mid-twelfth century. The Irishman was passing through Annandale on his way to Rome and is said to have stopped at Annan which the chronicler tells us was a small town although capital of the district, Anandia capitanea illius patriae villula. The final result of the story was the holy man put a curse on the Bruce (son of the original grantee) for hanging a chief after he said he would not. Thus, Annan lost the honour of being a burgh, villula quae burgi amisi honorem (Chron. Lanercost, 1839, 160). The chronicle passage was written in 1346 and the chronicler uses a variety of descriptive terms villula, villa, burgus, civitas, but it is unknown what was exactly meant by those terms (Neilson, 1914, 6).

Annan, situated as it was, was forever caught up in the horrors of border warfare, for it was the only place worth burning until one came to Dumfries (RCAM, 1920, xxx). The town was apparently burned at the beginning

of Lent, 1298, when, according to the Guisborough Chronicle, there was an 'immense conflagration which burned our church' (Neilson, 1896, 10). However, it could not have been totally wasted for in the following year victuals had been stored in the church steeple against a possible attack by Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick (CDS, ii, 284). It was reported in 1317 that due to the effects of the Wars of Independence, the valley of Annan was so wasted that there was neither man or beast left (CDS, iii, 105). In the 'second phase' of the Wars of Independence, in the 1330s, the pretender Edward Balliol ceded Annan and Annandale to Edward III and for half a century the English maintained a firm control of the area. When Lochmaben was wrested from the English in 1385, the occupation of Annandale was brought to an end. Annan shared in the general emancipation.

When there was no trouble from the English, Scottish nobles often warred against each other or the crown, and Annan from time to time was caught up in the disturbances. In 1481 James III was worried about the turbulent antics of his brother, the Duke of Albany. Border burghs were ordered by an Act of Parliament to supply men for an army and Annan by the terms of this statute was to be garrisoned by the Laird of Amisfield and provide forty men (APS, ii, 140, cl.8, 9). Nearby Lochmaben was to supply a staggering total of one hundred men. This was not the only time that Annan would provide men for the army under Parliamentary legislation. During the civil wars in the seventeenth century Annan was repeatedly called upon to supply men and money for the army.

Early Modern: The sixteenth century again brought trouble from the 'old enemies of England'. In 1514 a raid led by Lord Dacre resulted in the burning of the town. The 'Rough Wooing' of Henry VIII increased military activity in Annandale. Lord Wharton in 1543 drew up plans to destroy 'the town of Annade which is the chief town in all Anerdail except Dumfries' (Cal.State Papers, v, 344). Later, in 1547, he proposed that he should ride therein to overthrow and cast down 'a certain church and steeple called the Annane', which is 'a thinge of litle importance...to the enemye' (Cal.State Papers, v, 545). This 1547 attack proved to be devastating for the town of Annan. An English chronicler related that after the surrender of the place 'they burnt the town after they had sacked it, and left not one stone standing upon another' for the town had been 'a verie noisome neighbour to England' (Neilson, 1896,

29). Wharton in a despatch is alleged to have written that 'upon the Tuesday mornnyng cutt and raised down the church wall and steeple and brent the towne not leving anything there unbrent which was the best town in Annerdaile' (Steel, 1934, 48). Thus, after 1547, there was not a church nor a fortified steeple and the citizenry urgently needed to rebuild one or the other. It is said that a fortlet of two storeys in height was quickly built in the place where the church had stood (Steele, 1934, 50). Hard on the heels of its re-erection came more English harassment and the Queen Regent sent French troops to the area to help keep the peace.

Hitherto we have seen few proofs of municipal life. Annan did not engage in overseas trade, so therefore there are no customars reports for the town entered in the Exchequer Rolls. It did not send any representatives to Parliament, nor to the Convention of Royal Burghs. Similarly before the 1530s there is only scant indication of its having exercised distinctly corporate rights or had any civic life (Neilson, 1896, 22). The 1539 charter of novodamus granted by James V went a long way to recognising Annan's place in the kingdom. It noted that the town had often been destroyed and burnt in sieges by the English and had even remained loyal Scots, true to the crown. In view of the fact that the ancient charter of foundation and infefments of the burgh made by his predecessors had been destroyed and burnt in sieges and fires, James V's grant recognised Annan as a free royal burgh. Its liberties included the right to have a weekly market and market cross as well as an annual fair of eight days continuance (RMS, iii, No.1919).

Despite the grant of a weekly market and yearly fair, Annan's economic state remained fairly low and static in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. On the stent rolls authorised by the Convention of Royal Burghs between 1649 and 1730, Annan did not significantly waver from the rate of two shillings. The 1692 report issued to the Convention made no mention of a weekly market, although it did note that the burgh maintained two yearly fairs. Annan furthermore claimed that she had no inland trade nor ships of any description save for the ferry boat which plied the River Annan (RCRB, iv, 656). Three years later in 1695 a passing reference in the records of the Convention of Royal Burghs spoke of the town's 'mean and low condition' (RCRB, iv, 198).

Eighteenth Century: When the century opened, Annan was no longer a flourishing place. Daniel Defoe left an invaluable description of the

town he visited about 1725:

'The first place of note we came to in Scotland was Annan or as some call it Annandale, as they do in the county, though I think improperly. It was a town of note and a seaport and having a good river and harbour, was esteemed a town of good river, but it was not situated for strength and the English took it so often specially the last time burnt it to the ground in that war so fatal to the Scots in the reign of Edward VI, that it never recovered. Here was a good salmon fishery, and a trade to the Isle of Man, and by that to Ireland, but as the face of its trade is altered since that time, and by the ruins of the place, the merchants and men of substance removed to Dumfries, the town continues to all appearance in a state of irrevocable decay...was but a dull welcome into Scotland to see, not only by this town, that the remains of old devastations committed in the hostilities between the two nations were so visible, so unrepaired and, as we might say so likely to continue unrepaired; whereas there are many places things much restored, and in a way more so. But the poverty of the common people and the indolence of the gentry will fully account for the difference' (Rogers, 1973, 589,590).

It was in the early eighteenth century a small town of about four hundred souls, which no longer attracted visitors, which no longer had any military significance, the trade of which had been channelled to nearby towns such as Ecclefechan and Lockerbie and whose mounting debts presented an insoluble problem. In 1717 the Convention of Royal Burghs allowed the burgh of Annan to feu a part of their muir and set another in tack for twenty-one years for payment of their debts (RCRB, v, 174). In 1726, 160 acres of the common muir were set in feu and two years later Annan again applied to set off in feu some of their burgh muir for payment of the town's debt (RCRB, v, 405, 480). In order to enable the town to build a steeple and to purchase a clock to put in it, the town council again applied to the Convention in 1733 to feu out a part of the muir for the advancement of their common good (RCRB, v, 552).

As the acreage of the common land being feued off mounted up, so did the council's liquor bill. In December, 1740 the town council tried to put a ceiling of £30 sterling per annum on their bill because of the state of the town's finances. However, the liquor bill continued to amount to more than £30 per annum. Many of the burgh's publicans went unpaid for years owing to the sad state of the town's funds. In September, 1765, with the debt still around their necks the council agreed to make an effort to wipe out the accumulated debt of seven years. The treasurer received instructions to pay the publican's outstanding

bills in full though they exceeded the authorised sum. However, 'as the town's revenues were much impaired this was to be no precedent in time coming' (Miller, 1890-91, 11).

Notwithstanding the problem of debt, eighteenth-century Annan was not a town devoid of industry. Fishing, which had long been a principal industry in the area, expanded in the latter half of the century. A cotton manufactory for the spinning of yarn was introduced in 1785 (NSA, 1841, 528). Goods were imported from the West Indies, Liverpool, London and Gothenburg (OSA, 1797, xix, 448). Exports included shoes and clogs, potatoes, freestone, cotton and yarn (OSA, 1797, xix, 448) and the town council made several unsuccessful attempts to obtain coal in the neighbourhood (Miller, 1908, 2). It was a town which boasted not only four lawyers, but a surgeon, a schoolmaster, merchants, shopkeepers, tailors, shoemakers, a tanner, a carrier and a clog-maker (OSA, 1797, xix, 449).

Despite this flurry of commercial and industrial activity, the town boasted only a small yearly income of £300 arising from tolls, fisheries and feu-duties (OSA, 1797, xix, 448). There was no banking outlet in Annan until 1812 and previous to that date financial business had to be transacted either in Carlisle or Dumfries. Also there was the ever-present problem of debt. Between 1793 and 1833 the sum realised from the sale of town lands was £6000 and at the end of the day there was still a large debt owed (D. & G. Courier, 28).

BURGH MORPHOLOGY

Street Layout: The town of Annan developed as a local defensive point, market and port, along the east-west route from Galloway which crossed the River Annan at its lowest point. It arose on a gentle slope swelling to the south, east and north while the unbridged river, fordable above and below, kept a ceaseless watch upon the west (Neilson, 1896, 1). The town spread along the road (the later High Street) which led to Carlisle. Therefore, the High Street has always been the main thoroughfare in the burgh. It extended about a quarter of a mile from Kilncloss to Bridge End, a distance of about a quarter of a mile; and it was lined on each side with small houses, though in 1699 by order of the town council all peat stacks and dunghills had been removed (Steel, 1933, 48). In 1796, the level of the High Street was raised and the council enacted that the pavement should be widened and straightened

the whole length so as to make it one large street (Steel, 1933, 140). Town lands were apparently sold off to help fund the project.

A number of wynds led off the High Street. In the eighteenth century, the fashionable families lived in Butt Street, while only a few people were settled in Wilkins Wynd (Miller, 1908, 2). In Greencroft Wynd the town had an extension southward and Bank Street was not then in existence (Miller, 1908, 2). Pott's (later Downie's) Wynd led south from the High Street almost opposite the market cross and provided an access to Annan Hill. At a point called the Stut Raw, houses clustered near the bridging point, while Battery Brae descending from the High Street to the Kirk Burn on the way to the Moat 'exactly conforms to the requirements of the contemporary account of the siege given by Wharton...' (Neilson, 1896, 27).

The town's markets were kept in the High Street and clustered round the cross. The cross was first mentioned in the charter of novodamus of James V in 1538/9. By 1774 it was thought to be a 'Public nuisance' by the council and was ordered to be removed. Its stones were subsequently lodged in a convenient place 'for behoof of the burgh', the ground paved round it and the site marked 'so to make it in imitation of the present cross of Edinburgh' (Steel, 1933, 102, 103). A flesh market (or Shambles) likewise stood in the middle of High Street. In 1796, the council ordered that it should be removed and built again on the site of the old church (Steel, 1934, 79).

Defences: A deep fosse or ditch was dug 'from the town to the sea' in the sixteenth century as a means of defence (RCAM, 1920, xxxii). According to the reporter in the New Statistical Account part of the ditch remained opened 'not many years ago' and its line could still be easily traced to Annan moss, skirting the town on the side nearest to the English border (1841, 525).

The most striking aspect of Annan's early defences was the Steeple. The origins of the Steeple are unclear. It is possible that the Steeple in which Edward I stored grain (CDS, i, 284) could have been an embattled structure, sufficient to provide protection for the burgh. Undoubtedly the Steeple was incorporated in the fabric of the parish church and the probabilities are strong that the tower formed the western end of the building, the site of which is now occupied by the Town Hall and part of the churchyard (Neilson, 1896, 26). The Steeple received most

notice in the sixteenth century. It was burned by Wharton in 1547 and a second fortified structure was erected subsequently. This new tower was burned by Lord Scropes in 1570.

Bridge: Until the eighteenth century a ferry boat crossed the river near the site of the later bridge. At fairs, ford women attended and bore on their shoulders persons requiring assistance (Barbour, 1903-4, 320). In 1699 the Convention of Royal Burghs had authorised the magistrates 'to morgage a pairt of ther publict revenues for some tyme... for raiseing money to build a bridge over the river of Annan' (RCRB, iv, 287). A bridge, in addition to facilitating traffic crossing the river, would be an excellent source of revenue (through customs and tolls) for a burgh whose common good was parched. While the bridge was under construction the Convention donated 400 merks and in 1703 urged other towns to do the same (RCRB, iv, 319, 349). No details are known about this early bridge except that it was stone-built and had to be re-erected in 1720. Thomas Pennant in his travels described the bridge as having five arches (1772, ii, 84). The bridge was rebuilt in 1826 to a design of Thomas Telford.

Harbour: Little is known of the harbour at Annan. Thirteenth-century English references mention goods being beached at Annan (CDS, ii, 284), so it is assumed that early facilities were non-existent. Daniel Defoe noted that the town had a good harbour (Rogers, 1973, 589), and Thomas Pennant in 1772 observed that vessels of 250 tons burden could come within half a mile of the town and of sixty tons some as high as the bridge (1772, ii, 84).

BUILDINGS

Castle: The castle of Annan has ancient origins. It is first mentioned in the c.1124 grant of David I to Robert Bruce of the lands of Annandale and its castle (ESC, 1905, 49). During the Wars of Independence, the castle reputedly stood in ruins (Miller, 1887-8, 241). Shortly after his coronation at Scone in 1332, the pretender Edward Balliol seized Annan castle and from there demanded the homage of Scots nobles. His triumph was short-lived. Under the silence of night the Earl of Douglas and a group of retainers swept down on the structure and captured it. In the fray Edward Balliol escaped, but his brother Henry was killed. The reporter in the New Statistical Account noted that the ruins of Annan Castle with the exception of a part of the wall built into the town house

'finally disappeared about forty years ago' (1841, 184). It is unknown when the castle ceased to function.

An alleged fragment of the castle of Annan which has caused some controversy is incorporated in the fabric of the burgh hall. Because of the date on the stone '1300', many local historians have assumed that the castle was rebuilt at this period. However, because of the Wars of Independence and the supposed English occupation of the area, this is unlikely. Furthermore the Investigators of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments observed that the '1300' date was not original, but the Lombardic lettering (which spells out the name and title of Robert Bruce) 'could only have been not earlier than 1292 nor later than 1296' (1920, 3).

The motte on which the castle was situated is located on the west side of town, near a fording point in the river (Simpson & Webster, 1972,17), providing excellent protection for an attack coming from Galloway. Bishop Pococke in 1760 observed that 'the site of the house of Robert Bruce, grandfather to King Robert I' is the 'most beautiful situation in town' (Kemp, 1887, 34). The motte he described as 'an oblong square, defended by a deep fosse to the south, and by a double fosse to the north on which side is the keep' (Kemp, 1887, 84). Rising to an elevation of fifty feet, the motte measures about nine feet across its level summit by twenty-three feet lengthwise (Ordnance Survey, Record Cards, NY 16 NE 4). As early as the mid-twelfth century the river is alleged to have washed away part of the site of the castle (Pryde, 1965, 37), and even since 1920 the level area of the summit of the motte has been reduced as the result of a change in the course of the River Annan (Ordnance Survey, Record Cards, NY 16 NE 4).

Church: The church at Annan is first mentioned in a 1204 X 1207 grant to Guisborough Priory (Barrow, 1971, 418). It was burned in 1298 and was in ruins after the siege of 1547. The medieval church was located partly on the site of the present town hall, and in addition to its fortified tower, a strong rampart of earth greatly added to the strength of its position (Steel, 1934, 15). Following the 1547 siege, the parishioners worshipped in temporary quarters until 1609 when James VI, seeing that the town of Annan 'which is so miserable impoverisheit so as they are not hable to build ane kirk to themselves', granted them the site of the 'castell of Anand' and the 'stane and timmer of it to the new church' (APS, iv, 441). This church was built without a steeple. In the 1780s this ancient site was abandoned in favour of Kilncloss.

Tolbooth: There is no early mention of a tolbooth in the town as such, for there was apparently no municipal organisation, in the town until the late sixteenth century. One of the first mentions of a provost and bailies occurs in 1581. An early reference to the tolbooth occurs in 1610 (RCRB, ii, 302) and it is assumed that it was constructed at roughly the same time as the church. A 1612 charter of James VI confirmed the right of the town to have a council house with a prison (Steel, 1934, 53). The building was known to have been thatched in 1722 (Steel, 1933, 82) and about 1790 the tolbooth was slated, a tower was added with a clock and bell 'for the advantage and adornment of the burgh' (Steel, 1933, 82). The present town hall dates from 1875-78.

School: Prior to 1739, the schoolhouse of the burgh stood in the churchyard. In that year the town council deciding that 'the schoolroom formerly built by the burgh in the churchyard is now so much out of repair that it is become quite uninhabitable' resolved to remove the material from the structure and build a new schoolhouse in the burgh's 'common loaning' (Port Street) 'in the cheapest and most convenient manner' (Steel, 1933, 82).

Houses: With all the numerous conflagrations in its early days, it can only be assumed that the houses of early Annan were built primarily of wood. Bishop Pococke writing in 1760 noted the presence of plenty of soft red freestone that 'they used for door frames and window frames for their thatched cabins and made arched rustic door-frames of it for their barns' (Kemp, 1887, 34). Thomas Grey, author of the famous 'Elegy', visited the town just four years later and described the dwellings of the townspeople as 'huts of mud with no chimneys' (Miller, 1908, 1). However, the reporter in the Statistical Account writing at the end of the century, noted that the 'houses are in general decent and well-built' (OSA, 1797, xix, 448).

Mill: A mill of Annan existed in 1303 when the English king, Edward I, received £3 6s 8d in rent from it (Neilson, 1896, 14).

Archaeology

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Modern Annan has developed around the nucleus of a typically medieval single street plan. With some exceptions, the present street frontages on the High Street have changed little during the last hundred years, the majority of buildings dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Backland development accelerated in the early nineteenth century on both sides of the High Street, and today there is a significant degree of burgage repletion which is not apparent in the mid-eighteenth century (Tait, 1759). However, this has not basically led to the destruction of property boundaries, most of the development having taken place back from the street front within the boundaries of each individual burgage plot.

The north side of the High Street has undergone the highest proportion of building replacement on the street frontage (see map 2). These developments all lie within the area of archaeological interest, and it is regrettable that opportunities have been lost to examine any surviving archaeological deposits.

Sites under immediate threat

The present most obvious threat to the archaeology of Annan comes not from the developer, but from natural causes. The motte (NY 192 667) has been severely damaged by river action on the west side, and further disturbance will have been caused by the root development of established trees. Rainwater run-off and people scrambling up the west side of the mound, have caused gullies to form which bite into the remaining deposits on this side. There is a case to be made here for attempting to record any surviving archaeological levels on the top of the motte at the earliest opportunity, in the hope of retrieving information relating to the date and nature of early settlement on the motte.

Future Investigation

The policies outlined below are not listed in order of importance, but are intended to provide guide lines for future research as opportunities arise through renovation and redevelopment (see page 16 ff,

for full discussion).

1. To attempt, through excavation, to recover the earliest possible initial date and position of civilian settlement satellite to the motte, and to provide evidence of the nature of the development of this settlement both socially and economically.
2. To examine the possibility of any surviving evidence for town ports.
3. To determine any variations in street alignment and plan prior to that already established from cartographic sources.
4. To establish the physical nature and plan of town buildings prior to the eighteenth century, and to determine the nature of commercial and industrial usage of buildings, other than dwelling houses, prior to this date.
5. Should the opportunity arise, considering recent development, to confirm the site and dates of the early churches of Annan, and to recover, if possible, their respective ground plans.
6. In the event of any future development in the old kirk yard, it would be useful to examine the site of the sixteenth century castle, and attempt to establish the size and plan of the structure and any associated outworks.
7. To establish and confirm, respectively, the dates of initial development and abandonment of the early castle; to identify the sequence of buildings on the motte, and to establish the nature and disposition of occupation within the bailey. To identify the course and extent of any surviving outworks associated with the motte and bailey.

Areas of Archaeological Priority

There is very little material or structural evidence from Annan with which to construct the most basic guide to those areas which would prove to be of the greatest value archaeologically. The motte and bailey, and the known complex of early buildings at the west end of the High Street, are perhaps the two areas which might best allow the reconstruction of the early history of the burgh. However, both have suffered considerable disturbance from both natural and human causes. The frequent destruction of town buildings in the course of border fighting as late as the sixteenth century, has resulted in a paucity

of early written records which might have assisted the reconstruction of pre-sixteenth century town life. Taking into account, therefore the lack of material and documentary evidence, and bearing in mind a degree of recent development which has curtailed the potential area available for future investigation, the following areas are suggested in probable order of archaeological importance.

1. The early motte and bailey (NY 192 667) (see pages 9 and 23 for full discussion.
2. Area 2 is enclosed by the river Annan to the west, the bailey to the north, Lady Street and Downie's Wynd to the east, and property boundaries to the south of High Street (see map 2).

The most important site in this area is the old kirkyard and the Town Hall upon which sites, the early church and later defensive structures were constructed (see pages 21 and 22). Recent extension to the Town Hall building along Battery Street, and in the environs of the kirkyard, has resulted in the demolition of a number of nineteenth century buildings, and may also have finally removed any remaining traces of the pre-eighteenth century churches. The site of the sixteenth-century castle (NY 1921 6661) may still be detectable in the churchyard, though disturbance of the foundations must have occurred, initially in the utilization of materials from this building for the early seventeenth-century church, and latterly, as a result of grave-digging through the last three centuries. The relationship of the High Street fronting properties to the kirkyard is uncertain. It is possible that many of these buildings have been cut back into the churchyard deposits, but those fronting the High Street may have had material built up to the rear as a result of continuous soil disturbance and depositions over the last three hundred years. Material from the demolition of the castle and its outworks, shown on a sketch of 1560 as fronting the High Street (RCAHMS, 1920, xxxii) must have contributed to the accumulated debris. The present Town Hall is sited either on, or in the immediate vicinity of its direct predecessor, the late eighteenth century flesh market and the first known church of Annan. There is cellarage in this building, but it is still possible that some traces survive of the earlier buildings beneath structural walls. Any future alterations involving work at ground level on this building might profitably be observed. The flesh market mentioned above, is shown on Tait's map of 1759, and sited at circa NY 1930 6659. Any work on the

street at this point could usefully be monitored. It seems possible that the foundations of this building may survive, as in 1796, the level of the High Street was raised in the course of a number of civic improvements. There is the possibility, also, that traces of street closure arrangements might survive, at depth, in the vicinity of the Battery Street/Port Street/High Street junction. The position of the High Street frontages has not substantially changed since the mid-eighteenth century. Recent building replacement has remained consistent to the pre-existing building line on both sides of the High Street, but the presence of cellarage in many of these buildings, implies that information regarding earlier buildings will be restricted.

The property boundaries on the north side of the High Street appear to have had their northern limits demarcated by the North Burn (Tait, 1759) which appears to have remained open until some time between 1859 (O.S. 25" sheet LXII, 8, 1859) and 1899 (O.S. 25" sheet LXII, 8, 1899) by which time it appears to have been culveted (see below and map 3). The backlands on the north of the High Street have been opened up and the property boundaries largely destroyed. The south side of the street, however, has maintained the boundaries, although development along new streets formed since the mid-eighteenth century at right angles to the High Street, has caused some disruption. Infill development has been intensive within the confines of those boundaries, and it seems likely that any early backland development on this side of the street may have suffered considerable disturbance. The potential on the north side of the street seems better, as most backland has been utilized for car parking.

3. Area three constitutes some of the later expansion of the town in the eighteenth century. Little is known of the buildings in this area before the eighteenth century, and any future development or renovation here, would be of interest in attempting to define the limits and layout of this part of the early burgh.

Traces of the culveted North Burn were uncovered at the Fish Cross (NY 1952 6659) during recent field work. At the same roadworks, foundations were revealed which were probably a part of the group of buildings shown on Tait's map (1759), which caused considerable narrowing of the street at this point (NY 1951 6659). To what extent the remains of these buildings can be further traced, is debatable, as a

subterranean public convenience of some extent, previously occupied a site at NY 1950 6660. The site can be identified as a result of subsidence of the ornamental garden at this point, and disturbance of surrounding deposits has almost certainly taken place.

It is possible that one of the ports of Annan mentioned in 1610 (see page 18), was also situated at this point, and could have been related to one of this group of buildings. Some cellarage is present on the frontages in this area, but building replacement is mainly confined to the north-side of the High Street. The backlands on both sides of the main street have been converted chiefly to use as car parks. Neither Tait, (1859), or Wood, (1826), show substantial development to the rear of High Street properties. By the mid-nineteenth century, infill had developed on the north side of the High Street in the area now occupied by the bus station. The properties on the south side of the street, however, have apparently remained as garden areas since the mid-eighteenth century, and the potential for recovering evidence of early backland buildings and industry seems good.

Recommendations

There is at present no re-development plan which will affect the historic core of Annan. Although the High Street lies within a conservation area, there will inevitably be a need to repair and replace existing street fronting properties and services, which will provide opportunities to investigate underlying deposits. The following recommendations are made in the hope that they will enable the maximum amount of information to be extracted from the minimum area of disturbance.

- a. Property renovation can be as destructive of the archaeological record as demolition and rebuilding. Any proposed renovation projects on the High Street and Butts Street particularly, could be usefully monitored, especially where structural alteration is involved at ground level. It might also be borne in mind that the structural remains of earlier buildings may survive beneath an eighteenth or nineteenth century facade.
- b. Any proposed road improvements, repairs to and extension of existing services such as gas, electricity and water etc., involving soil disturbance, could be profitably monitored.

- c. Considering the paucity of knowledge regarding civil settlement and economic development within the burgh, a policy of selective trial trenching could be usefully adopted in advance of future proposed re-development in the archaeologically sensitive areas listed above.

PREVIOUS WORK

No recorded archaeological investigation has taken place in Annan. A number of chance finds of wide chronological distribution have been recovered from the town, although none are from a satisfactory archaeological context.

1. A large point of Antrim flint, (similar to the Irish 'Bann' points), was found in a garden on the raised beach in Annan (NY 194 667) in 1965. Now in the Dumfries museum (Truckell, 1965, 16).
2. The central two-thirds of a large, flattish, greenstone axe was found in Annan, circa NY 193 666, and is now in the Dumfries museum (Truckell, 1973, 23).
3. A looped bronze, socketed axehead, decorated with a 'raised triangle on either flat side'. Found in a garden in Annan in the late nineteenth century, exact find spot and present whereabouts uncertain (Lennox, 1891-92, 80). A bronze spearhead was found in a garden in the High Street in the late nineteenth century, and was probably from the same source as the axehead (Barbour, 1891-92, 70). It is possible that the two bronzes came from a dispersed hoard.
4. A Roman 'second brass' of Hadrian was discovered in a garden in Butts Street (circa NY 194 667). Present whereabouts uncertain (MacDonald, 1923-24, 328).
5. An iron axehead was found at a depth of 1'6" (0.46m), in a garden in Stapleton Road, Annan. The object was provisionally identified as a woodworking implement of circa 1400, and is now in the Dumfries museum (Reg.No. 1967-269). (Scott, 1969, 181-182).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Early Settlement

With the exception of '5' above, the chance finds enumerated, provide

the only tenuous links with pre-twelfth century Annan. Although later chroniclers record the presence of the sixth century saint Mungo in Annandale, and the seventh century Abbot Adomnan of Jura at Annan Waterfoot, there is no certainty of settlement on the site of the present town until the early twelfth century. In or around 1124, David I bestowed upon Robert de Brus 'illam terram et suum castellum' in Annandale. Neilson (1896) considers that the 'castellum' mentioned refers to the site at Annan rather than the other possibility, Lochmaben, which also appears in the documentary record circa 1124 (Simpson and Stevenson, 1980, 14). Neilson (1914-15, 58) also queries the translation of the phrase 'suum castellum'. This is of relevance in determining whether or not a defended site was established prior to 1124, depending on whether suum is read as 'its', or 'his' castle. Neilson suggests that the words are best read as a 'licence to castle', a Royal sanction to the erecting of a stronghold. A date before 1124 would be possible, though early for motte building in Scotland.

Annan again appears in the documentary records in 1148 when the Irish saint Malachi visited Bruce (see page 2). The veracity of the report of this visit in the Lanercost Chronicle, is supported by the existence of a charter dated 1273 granted by a Bruce to the monks of Clairvaux in France, making restitution to the saint (Steel, 1934, 9). By the late twelfth century, a substantial settlement had developed. William of Newburgh (1136-1201?) in the Historia Rerum Anglicarum (Miller, 1920-21, 55-56) records a plague which raged in Annan circa 1196 destroying most of the inhabitants. According to William, Annan was already a place of some importance, having 'streets' - not just a single street. Although the motte appears to have been abandoned at an early date (see page 23), the strategically important site was maintained by a further fortification (see page 21) and the town continued to flourish between sporadic border fighting.

There is, however, a basic lack of evidence regarding the economic and industrial development of the town prior to the eighteenth century, although it is possible to speculate that the economy was boosted by its function as a small port and a distribution point for military supplies directed through Annandale. The town, therefore, owes its origin to the foundation in the twelfth century of the Bruce motte. The strategic position which the site held at a navigable and fordable

point of the river at the foot of Annandale on one of the main route-ways into Scotland from the south and west, fostered its continued development.

The chief archaeological problem lies in attempting to determine the initial date, position and nature of satellite civilian development in the vicinity of the motte.

Town Defences

The early strategic importance of the site of Annan is discussed on page 23 . Little is known of the defences intended to protect the town, but those intended to defend its strategic position and the entrance to Annandale, are discussed at greater length on pages and

There is a reference to 'the ports of Annan' in 1610 (RCRB, 1866-70, ii, 301). This mention apart, there is no other evidence for the existence of street closure mechanism or town walls before or after this date. In common with other Scottish towns, it is highly probable that the town buildings in Annan effectively sealed off access to the High Street from the back lots, by strong gates at the closes. The earliest map available (Tait, 1759), shows considerable narrowing of the street at the Fish Cross (NY 1951 6659). This point appears to mark the limit of the town in the mid-eighteenth century. It is possible, therefore, that one of the gates mentioned in 1610 was sited at this point. The logical position for the second gate would be on the approach to the ford, and later bridge (NY 191 665). It is possible that the street was formerly narrower at this point, and was widened to improve access to the bridge. The arrangements for street closure here may only be determined by archaeological investigation.

Defence of the strategic position held by the town was strengthened by the deep ditch, passable in only three places, which extended in the sixteenth century from the town to the sea, and landwards to Annan Moss. This structure was still partially visible at the time the New Statistical Account was written in 1841. The ditch was probably already in existence in 1579 when as part of Lord Herries design of re-fortifying the borders, an order was given 'to strenthin the keipar dyke that environettis the town of Annan' (RCAHMS, 1920, xxxii).

Any work proposed in the High Street at the points mentioned above, might be usefully monitored.

The Town Plan

Until the eighteenth Century, Annan appears to have consisted of a single market street without back lanes, with access to rear plots via a number of narrow closes. An act of 1717, required that 'any that builds within the burgh, shall hereafter always build the principal part of the building, fronting to the first street of the burgh in a straight line' (Steel, 1933, 143), which would imply that before this date, the High Street frontages were not as regular in appearance as latterly. By 1759 (Tait 1759) development had begun along Butts Street, Port Street, Greencroft Wynd, Lady Street and Downie's Wynd. In 1764, the High Street had been extended from Kilncloss to Bridgend, a distance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, and was lined on each side by small houses (Miller, 1907-08, 163).

By the late eighteenth century, an order was made by the Town Council, to widen 'several thoroughfares' in the burgh, and it was probably circa 1797 that the buildings occupying the centre of the street at the Fish Cross were removed. The flesh market similarly disappeared from the centre of the High Street about this time (see page 20). Approximately between 69 and 70 High Street, a 'fosse' is marked crossing at this point in 1759 (Tait). The exact nature of this feature is not certain, but it may represent drainage of the area to the south of the High Street to the North Burn.

By 1826, (Wood), the North Burn had been partially culveted, and the town had expanded to the north and south, with the formation of new streets cutting the High Street frontage at NY 1950 6658 (Murray Street) and developing parallel to the High Street at the foot of the burgage plots.

This expansion continued in the latter nineteenth century, with the development of Bank Street, the gradual infill of the burgage plots, and the further development of the street plan developed in the early nineteenth century to the north and south of the High Street. During this century, with increased industrialisation, the town has grown outwards from the historic centre to the north, east and south, with little apparent alteration in plan, though access to the High Street has been improved by widening some junctions as at Bruce Street (NY 1925 6660).

The main task of the archaeologist lies in attempting to establish any early alteration to the street frontages or alignment. It seems possible

considering the number of times Annan was burnt, that some deviations did occur, and indeed, the early eighteenth century act quoted above, which regulated those frontages presented to the High Street would seem to confirm some irregularities, and may make it possible to recover evidence of earlier buildings.

Early Buildings and Materials

There appear to be no extant buildings in Annan earlier than the eighteenth century. Building replacement on the High Street, Bank Street, and Butts Street, in the nineteenth century, and within the last ten years, has effectively cleared all earlier structures. The known history of the early motte, churches and later castle is discussed above. These are the early town buildings about which the most information is available in terms of plan and structural history. Domestic building before the eighteenth century are an unknown quantity. The Old Statistical Account records that houses in general were well built in stone. This is a considerable improvement on the housing reported by Pococke and Gray (Miller, 1907-08) who visited Annan between 1760 and 1764 (see page 10). These observations are borne out by a bill put before Parliament in 1760, which recorded that many houses in Annan were mean, and fallen into disrepair and decay. Many were ruinous and in need of rebuilding. Structurally they appear to have been built of stone mortared with clay, frequently without chimneys and either thatched or roofed with divots of turf from the burgh common (Johnstone, 1912-13, 198; and O.S.A. 1797, 448).

A flesh house existed in the centre of the High Street (NY 1930 6659) until between 1759 and 1798, when a new building was ordered to be constructed on the site of the old church (Steel, 1934, 79). This shambles and fleshmarket stood to the rear of the Town Hall until the late nineteenth century. Recent redevelopment has taken place of the site, and it will probably, unfortunately, be impossible ever to recover the plan of this building. Little is known of its structural appearance.

A charter of James VI in 1612 gave permission for the construction of a court house with a prison in Annan (Steel, 1934, 53). If this was preceded by an earlier structure, the site is unknown, and there is no documentary evidence relating to a town house prior to the early seventeenth century.

The frequent burning of the town in the course of border warfare from

the thirteenth century onwards must be a factor which inhibited economic growth, and the burgh remained a small agricultural centre and port for coastal trading. No formal harbour works existed at Annan before 1810. Goods, previous to the completion of the wharf at the south end of Port Street in 1812, were unloaded at the river bank as far upstream as the motte.

Evidence for the usage of town buildings, other than as dwelling houses is at present virtually non-existent. Eighteenth century records such as the Old Statistical Account, document the varied crafts carried on in the burgh, and though by the late eighteenth century, purpose built manufactories were in operation for cotton yarn manufacture, smaller cottage industry must have continued in the home. Identification of such usage is likely to be impossible, and trades which can be identified in the archaeological record are perhaps restricted to tanning and under certain soil conditions, clog and shoemaking.

Essentially, therefore, a formidable task faces the archaeologist in attempting, from the surviving evidence, to establish the plan, physical nature and usage of town buildings prior to the eighteenth century.

The Early Church (NY 1918 6658).

The first documentary reference to a church at Annan occurs circa 1171 when the Bruce family granted the building to the monastery at Guisborough. The church was not, however, necessarily built in that year. Robert de Brus had received from the Bishop of Glasgow a concession of the bishopric lands of 'Stratanant' (or Annandale) at some time between 1138 and the mid-twelfth century, and had held secular possession of that part of Annandale as a result of the grant of David I since circa 1124. The church could therefore have been built at any time during this period. In 1298, the Guisborough chronicle recorded that an 'immense conflagration...burned our church' (Neilson, 1896, 10). It can be assumed that the walls of the church, or at least the belfry, were left intact, as, in 1299, the church steeple was used to store supplies destined for Lochmaben (Neilson, 1896, 11). If it is assumed that the motte was by this time ineffectual, the church must, in the thirteenth century, have become the refuge and citadel, which it was in the sixteenth century. For a description of the strengthened church which proved such a thorn in English flesh, it is necessary to turn to sixteenth century records. Letters of Lennox and Wharton in 1547, suggest that the steeple was low, or 'house height', and situated at the west end

of the building. The choir stood at the east end of the structure. On the north side, the position had the natural advantages of a steep slope down to the North Burn (see map 3). Around both the church and steeple, was a strong rampart of earth. This description is reinforced by an independent English chronicler, who reporting on the siege of the steeple by Wharton in 1547, describes the church and steeple, as 'of themselves verie strong and mightlie reinforced with earth'. Subsequent to the attack of 1547, Wharton reported that 'upon teusday mornynge cutt and raiced down the church wallis and steplee' (Neilson, 1896, 30).

The church stood partly on the site of the present Town Hall, the east end probably where the porch now is. Some traces survived into the nineteenth century. The foundations of the building presented difficulties to the sexton during grave digging in the nineteenth century, and the old jail, built circa 1612 (Steel, 1934, 53), apparently incorporated in the rear wall adjacent to the churchyard, contained fragments of walling circa 6' (1.8m) in thickness, which were probably survivals of the early church.

In 1609, James VI gave permission for a new church to be built, a little to the west of the position of its predecessor, using stones and timbers from the later castle. By 1780, a new church was being planned in Kilncloss (NY 1958 6661).

Recent redevelopment to the rear of the nineteenth century Town Hall, may have, regrettably, destroyed any lingering trace of the early churches of Annan. Considerable disturbance has naturally taken place in the course of interments in the churchyard. However, should any further work take place either in the churchyard, or beneath the nineteenth century civic buildings, there is a possibility that some early structural traces will survive, to corroborate the existing documentary evidence.

The Sixteenth-century Castle (NY 1921 6661).

The destruction of the steeple in 1547, was followed by the erection of 'a fortillet or toure of two houses, embattled' (Steel, 1934, 50), and by 1560, Annan was equipped with 'a fair tower, able to receive above a hundred persons 'at ease' and forty or fifty horses' (RCAHMS, 1920, xxxi). A sketch made in this year corroborates the above description, and sites the tower to the south of the early motte, set back from the main street, in the churchyard (sited by the Ordnance

Survey at NY 1921 6661). This new defensive structure survived until 1570 when it was burned by the English, and although it was reputedly repaired, it had fallen into disuse sufficiently by 1609, for its materials to be donated by James VI for the building of a new church.

Disturbance of the site has taken place through interments from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, but traces may still survive of the foundations of this building. Sufficient at least to establish the size and plan of the structure, and any associated outworks.

The Motte (NY 192 667).

References to the motte are sparse and frequently ambiguous. As previously stated, it appears to have been founded in the first half of the twelfth century and may have been the 'castellum de Anant' accounted by Benedictus Abbas as amongst the strongholds of King William the Lion held against the English King, Henry II, in 1173 (Neilson, 1913-14, 163). The events of 1298-99 (see page 21) suggest that by this date Lochmaben was the more important castle. However, no garrison holding Lochmaben could be considered secure unless it had command of Annan, which lay between it and its supply base at Skimburness in Cumberland (Neilson, 1896, 11). It is at this time that mention is made of the use of the church belfry in which to store supplies destined for Lochmaben. The strengthening and utilization of the church for this purpose, would suggest that the motte was no longer in use by the last years of the thirteenth century. The present eccentric shape of the motte, is entirely due to river action, cutting into the north-west side. Tait's map (1759) shows a far closer proximity of the remains of the motte to the river than existed in the nineteenth century, implying that erosion was continuing at that relatively late date. River action was very probably the reason for the abandonment of the site, although the fact that it was superceded in importance by the castle at Lochmaben probably meant that the river crossing could be controlled by a smaller fortification.

The structural nature of the buildings which occupied the motte and bailey is unknown. It was most probably never dignified with stone buildings, but following the tradition of early twelfth century fortified sites elsewhere in Britain, was most likely to have been constructed in earth and timber. This can only be established, however, by archaeological investigation.

Today, the motte and bailey described on page 9, remains a prominent feature of the townscape. Scattered established trees occupy the sides and top of the motte, though the severely river damaged west side, and the south end of the bailey has undergone recent planting with fast growing birch and sycamore saplings. Additionally, some small terraces revetted by half logs have been created to retain soil for shrubs. The bailey is now an unplanted children's playpark and not currently threatened. The top of the motte, however, in addition to suffering disturbance from tree roots, also has deep gullies on the west side. Considering the damage already suffered, an examination of the remaining deposits may throw some light on the date and nature of early settlement on the motte. The bank and ditch which previously surrounded the east and south sides of the motte and bailey has now been almost totally destroyed by the construction of Moat House (NY 1924 6682) and Bruce Street, though one short stretch of earthwork survives at NY 192 668.

There are therefore, four basic questions to be answered in relation to this site. Firstly, to establish and confirm respectively the dates of initial development and abandonment; secondly, to identify the nature and sequence of buildings on the motte; thirdly, to establish the nature and disposition of occupation within the bailey, and lastly, to identify the course and extent of any outworks associated with the motte and bailey now absorbed into modern development.

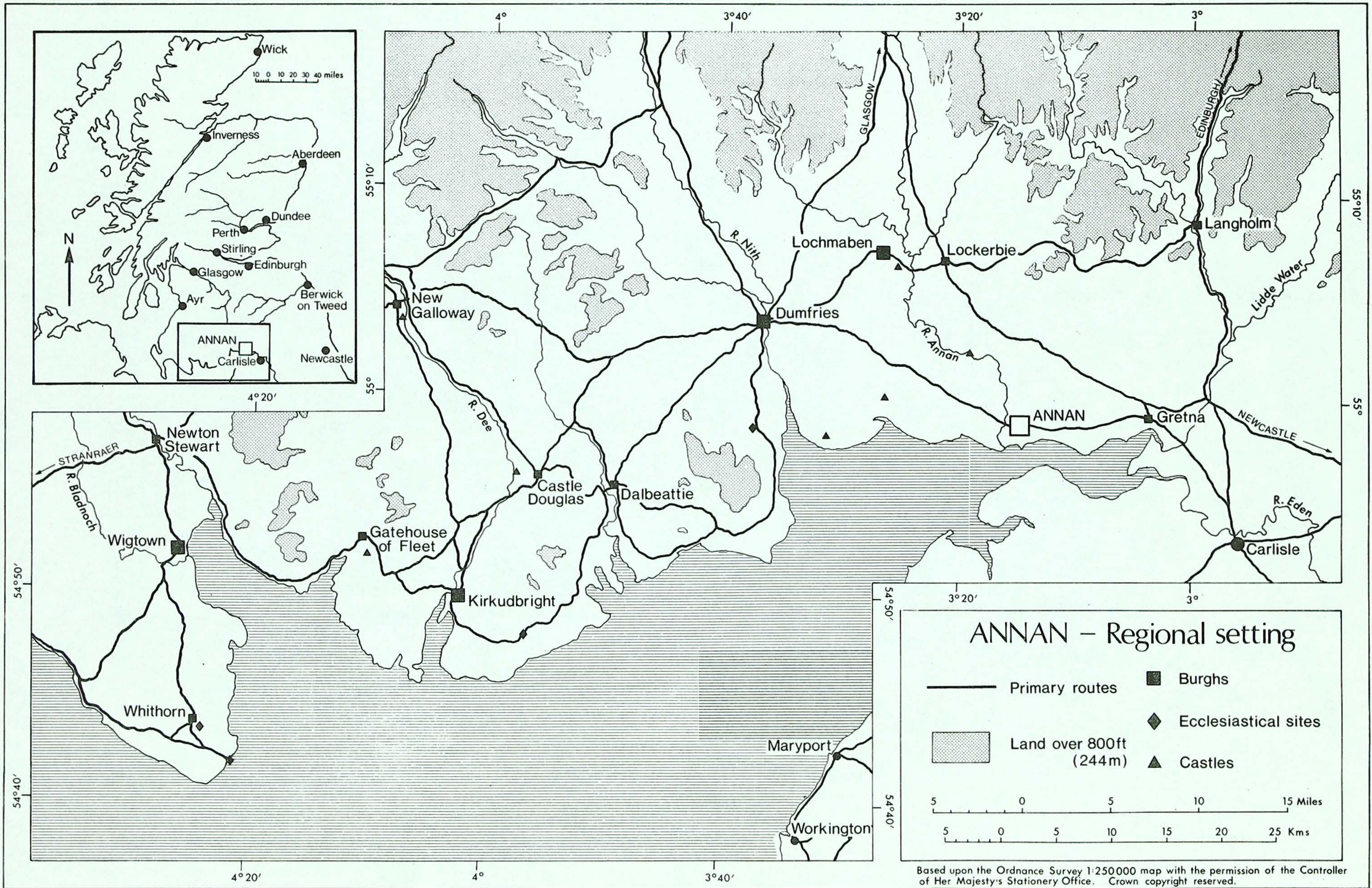
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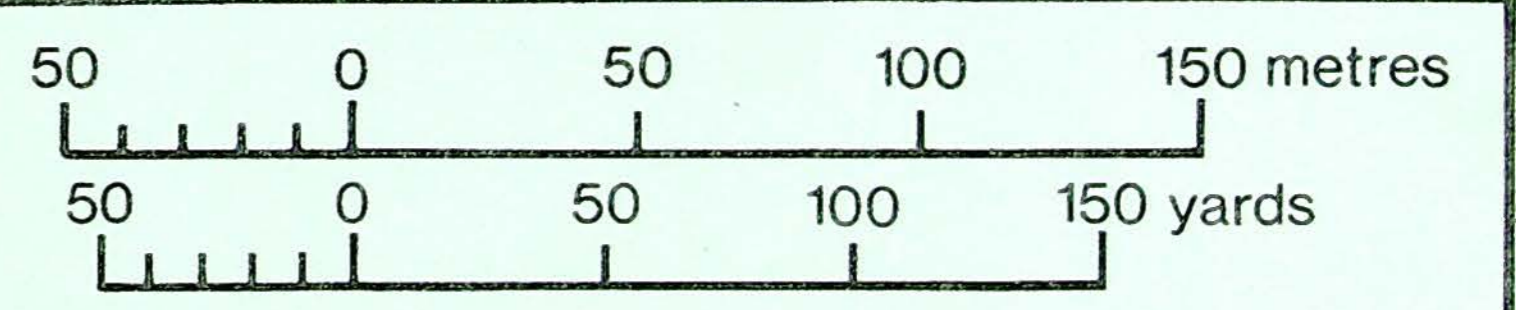
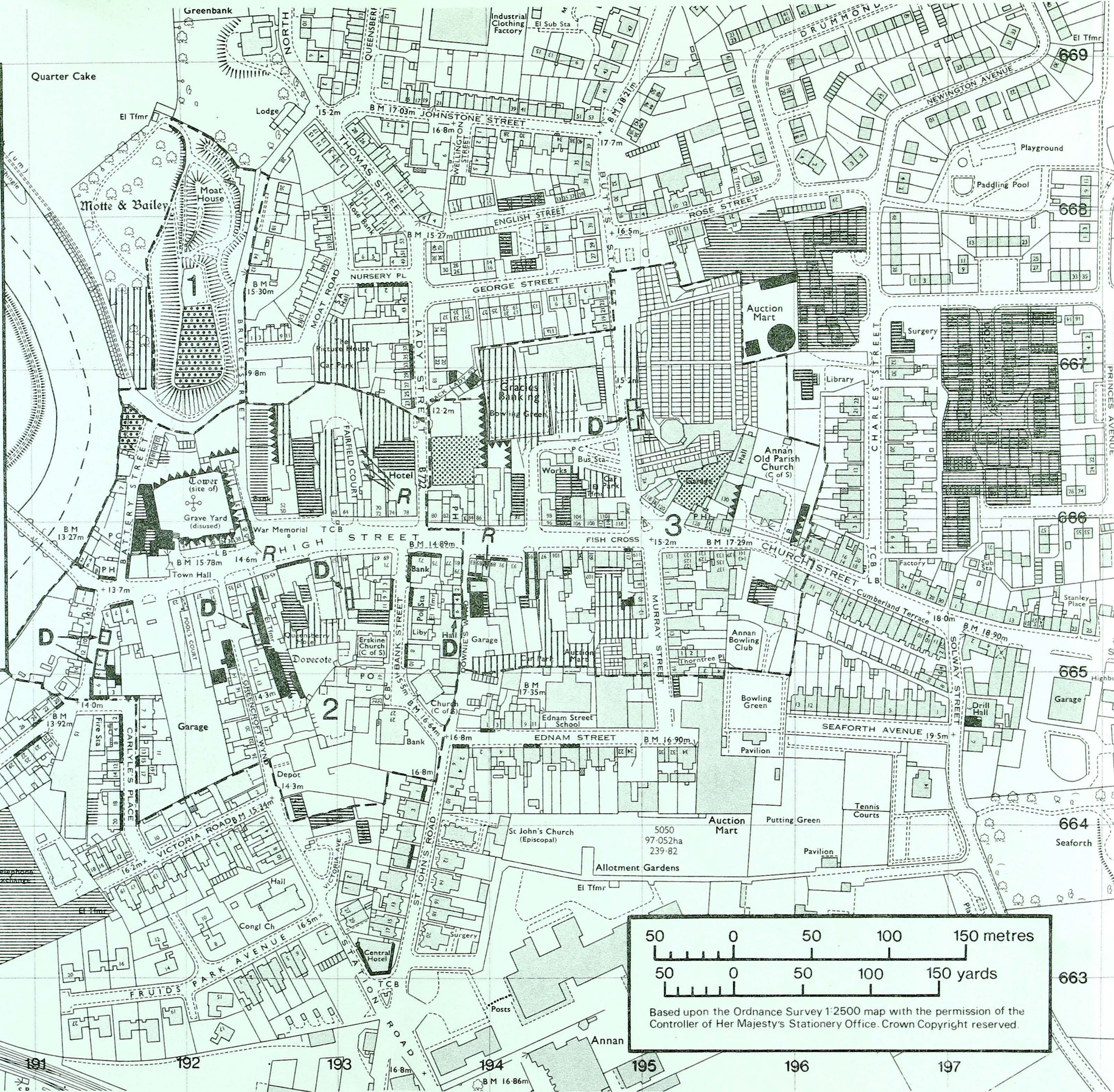
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O.S.	1899	25" Dumfries Sheet LXII, 8.
O.S.	1973	1:250,000, Solway Firth Sheet 8.
O.S.	1974	1:2500 Sheet NY 1866-1966.



Map 1

ANNAN Map 2

- 1-3 Areas of Archaeological Interest
- Frontage of buildings with cellars
- ▨ Sites effectively re-developed
- ▩ Sites proposed for re-development
- ▧ Car parks
- Demolished property
- ▤ Public gardens
- ▦ Terracing
- D Derelict property
- R Renovated property



Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.

8651
235ha
58

669

668

667

666

665

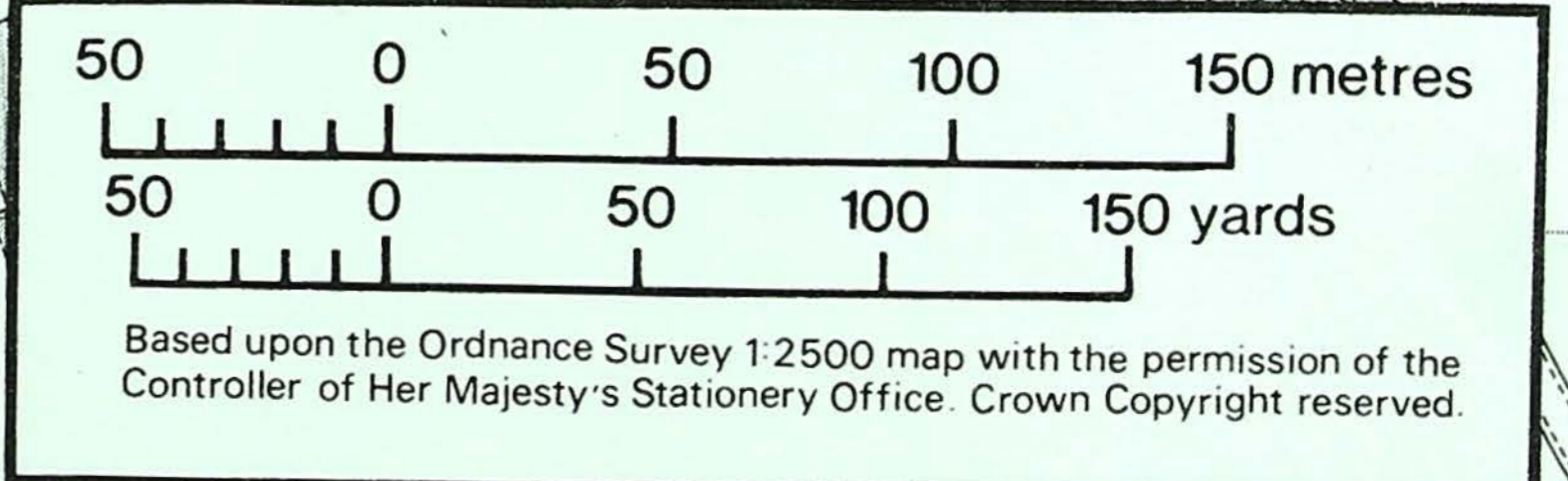
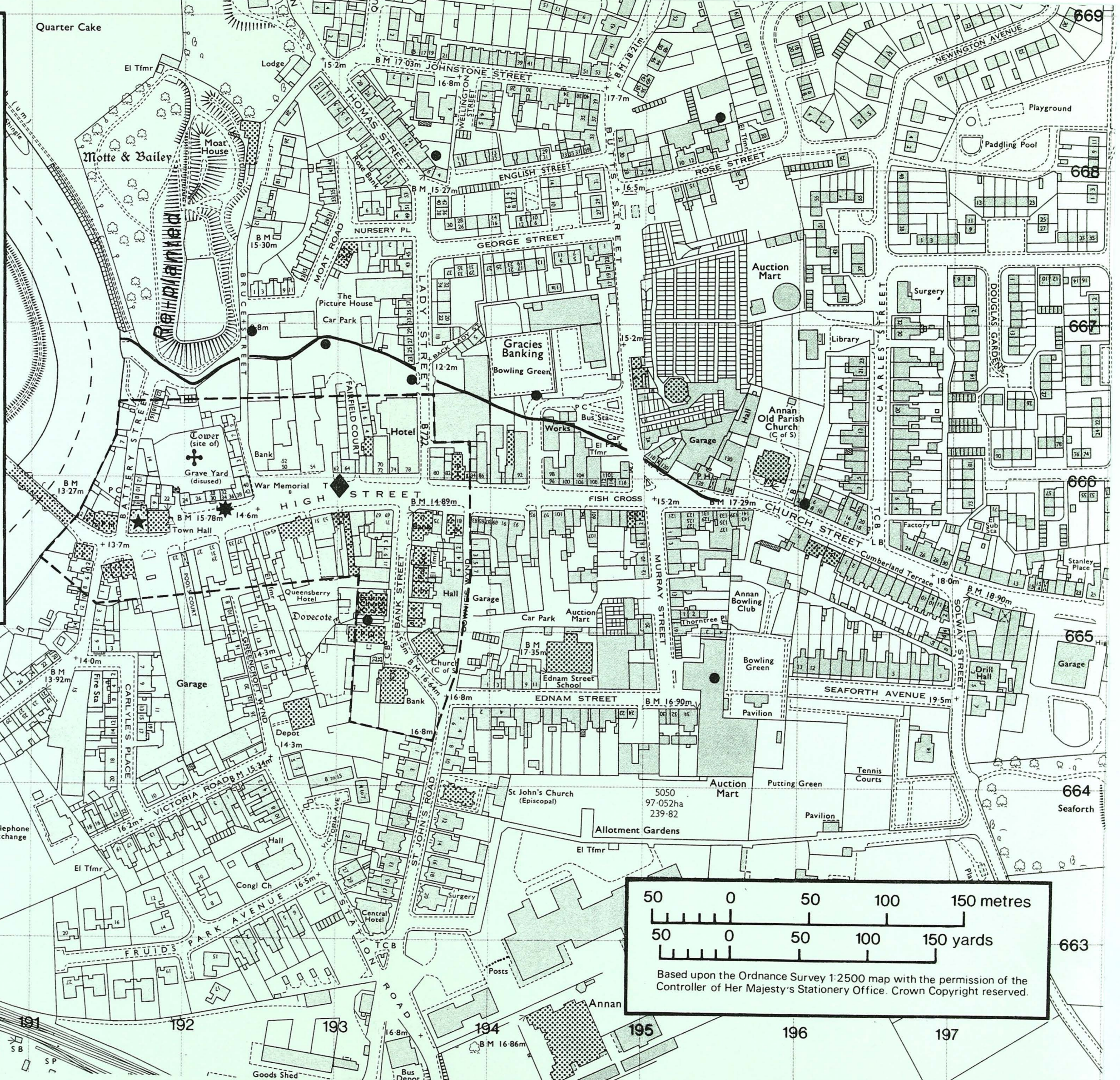
664

663

189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197

ANNAN Map 3

-  Boundary of Conservation Area
-  Listed buildings, all categories
-  Course of North Burn
-  Site of 18th century town house & jail, & early church
-  Site of Mercat Cross
-  Site of Fleshmarket
-  Site of well, 19th century or earlier



5
0ha
53

8651
235ha
58

189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197
 B M 15-83m
 B M 16-86m

669

668

667

666

665

664
Seaforth

663

