

HISTORIC SCOTLAND

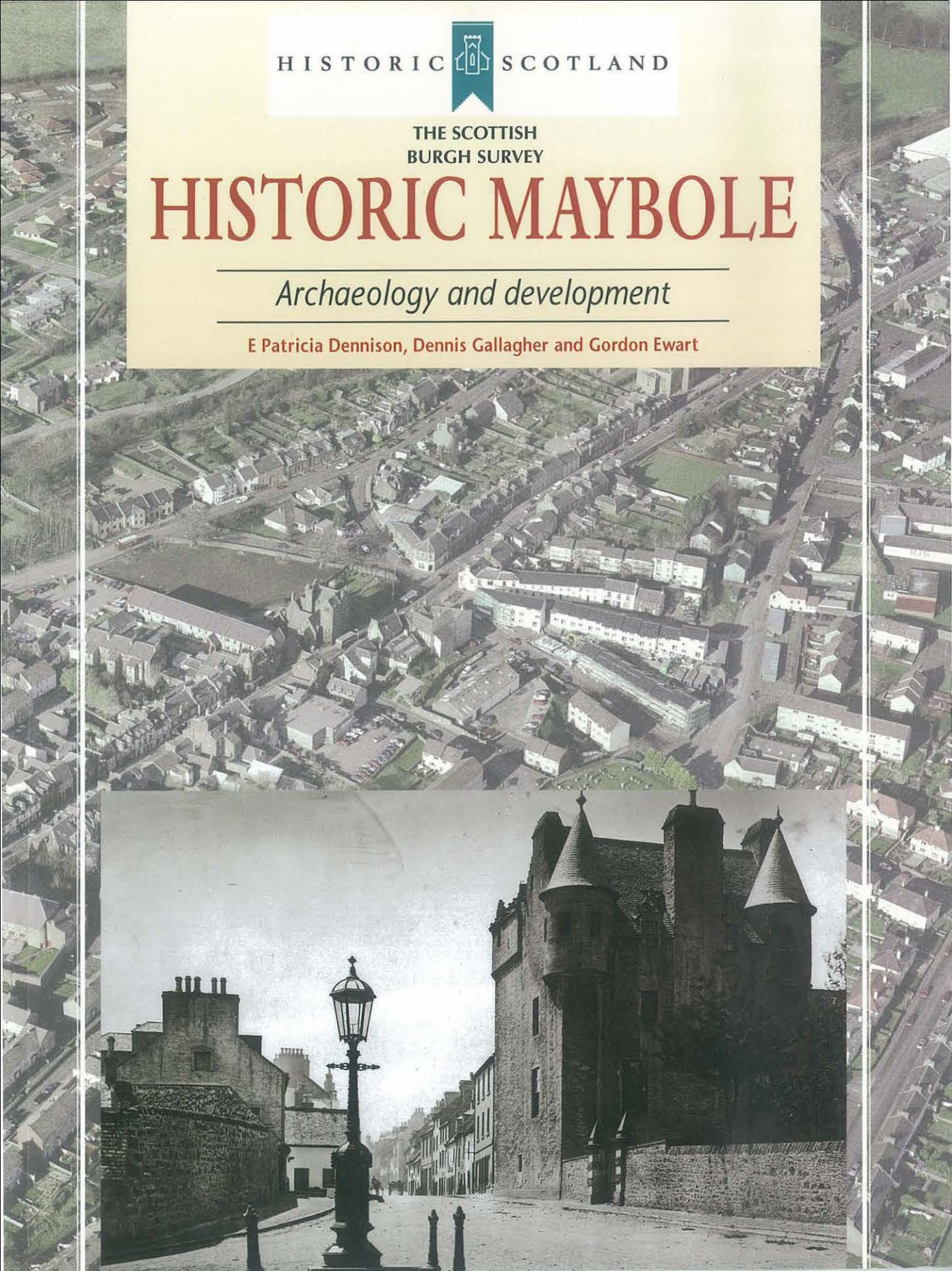


THE SCOTTISH
BURGH SURVEY

HISTORIC MAYBOLE

Archaeology and development

E Patricia Dennison, Dennis Gallagher and Gordon Ewart



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Published by
The Council for British Archaeology for Historic Scotland.
First published in 2005.

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue card for this book is available from the British Library

Edited by Martin Brann, Historic Scotland
Page design and typesetting by Carnegie Publishing Ltd.

Printing and Binding: Alden Press, Oxford

ISSN: 1-902771-51-6
ISBN: 1-902771-51-6
EAN: 978-1-902771-51-9

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Abbreviations

AGAA	<i>Ayrshire and Galloway Archaeological Association</i>
AANHS	<i>Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society</i>
APS	<i>The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland</i> , eds T Thomson and C Innes (Edinburgh, 1814–75)
Ayrshire Coll	<i>Collections of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society</i>
Ayr-Galloway Coll	<i>Archaeological and Historical Collections of Ayrshire and Galloway</i> (Ayrshire and Galloway Archaeological Association)
CECAS	City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service
CFA	CFA Archaeology, Ltd
DES	<i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i>
ER	<i>The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland</i> , 23 vols, eds J Stuart <i>et al.</i> (Edinburgh, 1878–)
MCM(1)	Maybole Council Minutes, 1721–1825
MCM(2)	Maybole Council Minutes, 1825–48
NAS	National Archives of Scotland
NMRS	National Monuments Record of Scotland
NSA	<i>The New Statistical Account of Scotland</i> (Edinburgh, 1845)
OSA	<i>The Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791–1799</i> , ed. Sir John Sinclair. New Edition, eds I R Grant and D J Withrington (Wakefield, 1973), East Lothian
Proc Soc Antiq Scot	<i>The Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland</i>
RCAHMS	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
RMS	<i>The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland</i> , 11 vols, eds J M Thomson <i>et al.</i> (Edinburgh, 1882–1914)
RPC	<i>The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland</i> , eds J H Burton <i>et al.</i> (Edinburgh, 1877–)
RRS	<i>Regesta Regum Scottorum</i> , 1153–1406, eds G W S Barrow <i>et al.</i> (Edinburgh, 1960–)
SBS	Scottish Burgh Survey
SHS	Scottish History Society
SUAT	Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust (SUAT Ltd.)
TA	<i>Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland</i> , eds T Dickson <i>et al.</i> (Edinburgh, 1877–)

Acknowledgements

We are particularly grateful to many people who have a close knowledge of Maybole and who have been prepared to offer their time to check meticulously drafts of this Survey and offer guidance. Such important local input has been invaluable. Any remaining errors are, of course, the responsibility of the authors. We would like to thank local councillors, community councillors, local historians and members of Maybole Historical Society. In particular we wish to mention J Murray Cook, Dave Killicoat, David Hunter, David Kiltie, Helen McAdam and Rob Close.

We are grateful to RCAHMS and the National Monuments Record of Scotland, the National Archives of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland (George IV Bridge and Causewayside) for their able assistance. In particular, we would like to thank Geoffrey Stell of RCAHMS for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for historic Maybole and advising on the text. We would also like to thank the staff of Historic Scotland and the Museum of Scotland for their willing cooperation.

Ian Johnson and John Thorburn of South Ayrshire Council have kindly assisted us with this Survey. We are also very grateful to Dr Stuart Eydmann and Professor Bob Morris for their advice on the text.

This Survey would not have been possible without the research into local and national records of Laura Stewart, Dr Winifred Coutts and Dr Martin Rorke. We are greatly indebted to them. We would also like to thank Duncan McAra for his careful copy-editing. Figures 17, 26 and 30 are by Andrew Hollinrake, to whom we are grateful. Headland Archaeology Ltd produced the colour broadsheet.

Research for this Survey was conducted in the winter of 2002/03 by the Centre for Scottish Urban History at the University of Edinburgh and Kirkdale Archaeology. The Survey of historic Maybole was entirely funded by Historic Scotland. Historic Scotland acknowledges the generous contribution of South Ayrshire Council towards the cost of publication.

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of a 12-week training program on the physical and psychological characteristics of young women. The subjects were 15 young women (mean age 20.5 years) who were divided into two groups: a control group (n=7) and an experimental group (n=8). The experimental group participated in a 12-week training program consisting of three sessions per week, each lasting 45 minutes. The control group did not participate in any training program. The physical characteristics measured were body mass index (BMI), body fat percentage, and heart rate (HR). The psychological characteristics measured were anxiety, depression, and self-esteem. The results showed that the experimental group had a significant decrease in BMI, body fat percentage, and HR compared to the control group. Additionally, the experimental group had a significant decrease in anxiety and depression, and a significant increase in self-esteem compared to the control group.

Keywords: young women, 12-week training program, physical characteristics, psychological characteristics.

1 *Use of the Burgh Survey*

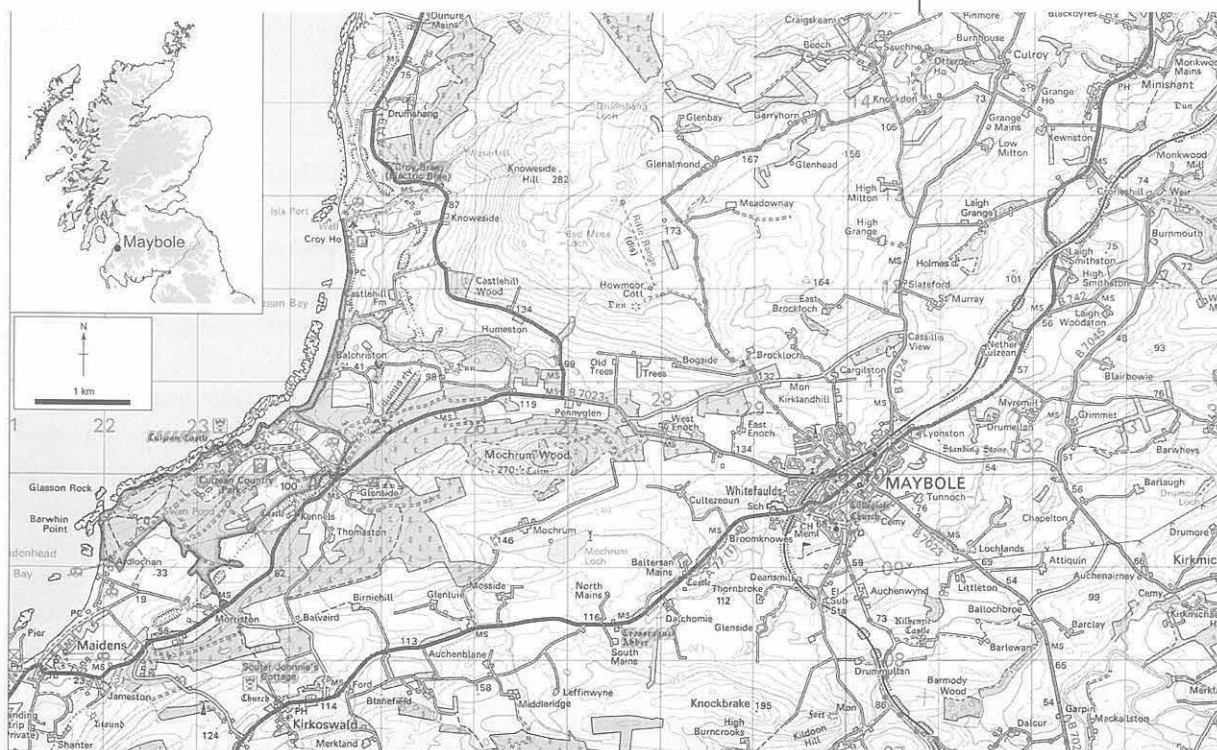
The third series of Burgh Surveys is intended both as a guide for the general reader to the rich history and archaeology of Scotland's historic burghs and to furnish local authorities with reliable information to help protect and manage the archaeology and historic environment of our urban centres. This Survey provides an accessible and broad ranging synthesis of existing knowledge on historic Maybole, as well as highlighting research areas that would benefit from more detailed analysis.

In its role as a tool for local authorities to use in the planning process, the first point of reference in this volume is the colour-coded town plan (**fig 30 and broadsheet**) which depicts the areas of prime archaeological interest. The general index will enable rapid access to information specific to a site, street or feature within the town.

Further information on the archaeological potential of a site or area within the town can be gleaned from local and national libraries and archives. The PASTMAP website (<http://www.PASTMAP.org.uk>) can also be consulted. This interactive website, supported jointly by Historic Scotland and The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, allows anyone with internet access to display and search data on Scotland's historic environment, and particularly the legally protected sites - scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings.

Both this Burgh Survey and the PASTMAP website provide information only. Where development is being considered, in all cases advice should be sought from the Local Authority planning department, and from their archaeological advisors: for Ayrshire the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (Charing Cross Complex, 20 India Street, Glasgow, G2 4PF; telephone: 0141 287 8333) should be contacted.

Historic Scotland (Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH; telephone 0131 668 8600) will be directly involved where the site or setting of a scheduled ancient monument is affected by a development proposal. All applications to the local planning authority for the alteration and extension of category A and B Listed Buildings, and all demolition applications within Conservation Areas, will also be notified to Historic Scotland.



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2 *Site and setting*

Geographical location

Maybole lies equidistant from the burghs of Ayr and Girvan. Unlike those burghs, Maybole does not lie on the coast but is 6 km inland. It is situated at a height of around 90 m above sea level on the northern slopes of the valleys drained by the upper reaches of the Water of Girvan and the River Doon. The land rises to the north-west, to Brown Carrick Hill, while to the south low undulating land extends to the scarp of the Southern Uplands near Straiton, some 8 km to the south-east (*fig 1*).

The area is rich in late medieval structural remains. The Abbey of Crossraguel lies 2 km to the south-west. The towers of Cassillis,¹ Auchendrane,² Dunure,³ Baltersan⁴ and Blairquhan⁵ all lie within an 8 km radius of the town and the tempestuous history of local rivalries and feuds influenced the development of the town by encouraging the building of substantial defensible townhouses in the new burgh. The castle (*figs 2, 26 & 29*) and the tolbooth, later to become the town hall (*figs 3, 27*) – the remnant of a former townhouse – survive today. These buildings and their associated lands both dominated the new burgh and restricted its development. The erection of Maybole as a burgh of barony in 1516⁶ gave extra commercial impetus to a settlement that already contained both a parish and collegiate church (*figs 14 & 15*). The town lost this status as a burgh of barony in 1857, when it became a police burgh.

Geology

South-west Scotland, like the rest of northern Britain, has a long and complex geological history with a wide variety of rocks and physical features reflecting this. Tectonic movements along two major dislocations of the earth's crust, the Southern Uplands Fault and the Highland Boundary Fault, have created three principal structural and physiographic divisions: the Highlands, the Midland Valley and the Southern Uplands.

The Midland Valley of Scotland, within which Maybole lies, is the name given to the relatively low-lying central part of Scotland between the Grampian Highlands and the Southern Uplands. It is defined geologically to the north by the Highland Boundary Fault, which extends from Stonehaven in the north-east to the Firth of Clyde at Helensburgh in the south-west. Its limit to the south is the Southern Uplands Fault, which lies parallel to the Highland Boundary Fault and extends from Dunbar to Loch Ryan. Although

FIGURE 1.

Location map: Maybole and surrounding area.

(© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Historic Scotland licence no. 100017509 [2005])



FIGURE 2
Maybole Castle, c 1880, by
George Washington Wilson.
(Reproduced by permission of
Ayr Public Library)

referred to as the Midland Valley, the region is more diverse than the name suggests. Much of it consists of farmland lying below c 180 m, but there are many areas of rough pasture and moorland.

In southern Lanarkshire and eastern Ayrshire, a large area of dissected high ground extends from around the hilltop at Tinto (707 m) south-west to New Cumnock and northwards towards Strathaven. Much of the rest of the Midland Valley consists of undulating lowland underlain by strata of Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous rocks. Within this undulating lowland landscape there are sharp irregularities of igneous rock, such as the volcanic plug of Mochrum Wood. Another area of igneous rock lies c 5 km north of Maybole, forming the mass of Brown Carrick Hill. Sedimentary rocks, such as the Old Red Sandstone on which Maybole stands, are generally softer than igneous rocks, so tend not to form prominent features on the landscape.

For much of the last two million years northern Britain has been repeatedly buried under an ice-cap hundreds of metres thick, the last of which melted as

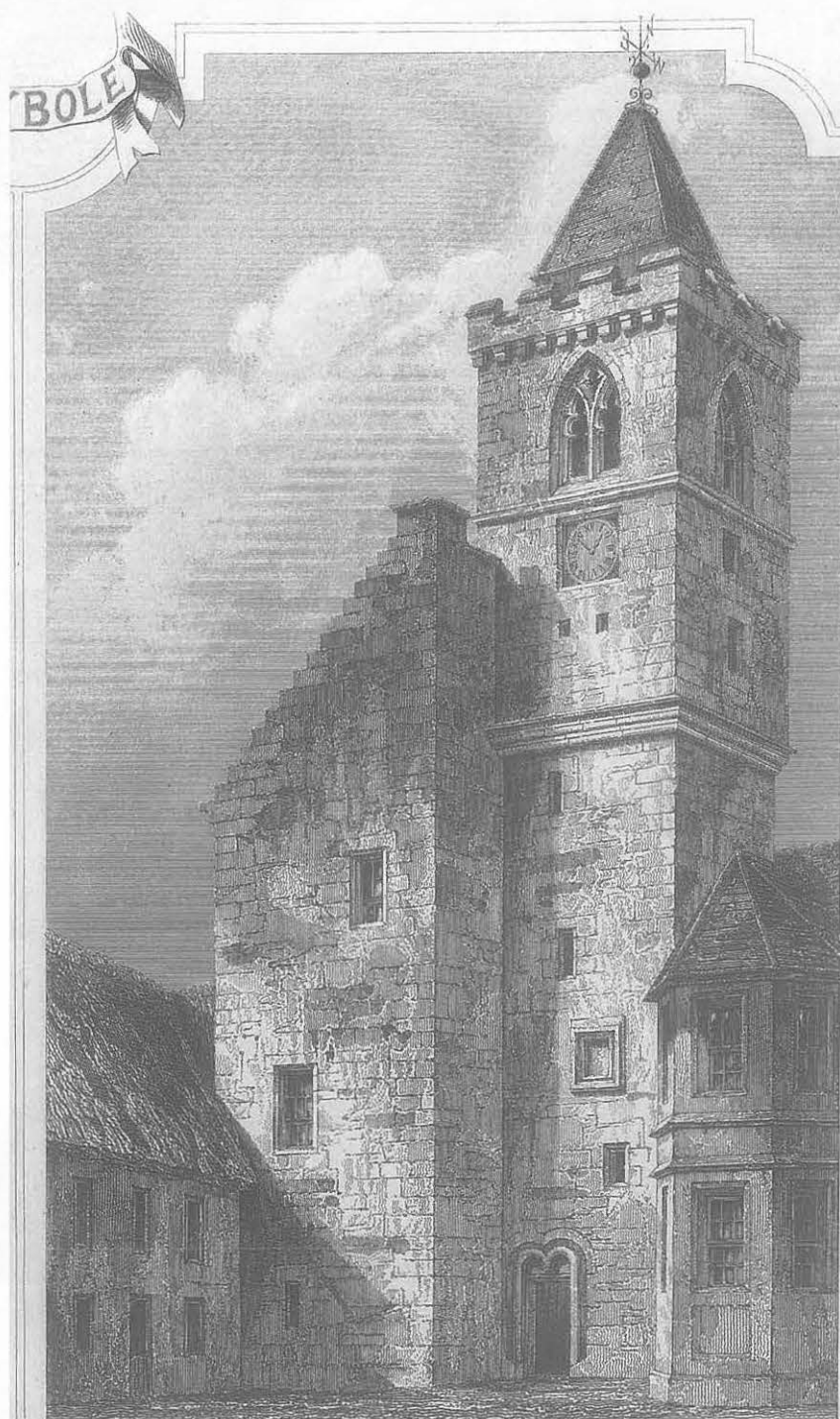
recently as 15,000 years ago. During each successive Ice Age in Scotland, ice built up in the Highlands and Southern Uplands before flowing across the country. The tremendous weight and power of the ice-caps eroded the softer sedimentary rock, leaving harder, mainly volcanic, rock as hills. Glacial till, commonly known as boulder clay, a mixture of tough clay, ground-down mudstone and siltstone, together with the remains of boulders, sandstones and limestones, was deposited by the ice.

FIGURE 3

Maybole tolbooth (later the town hall), c 1800.

(By courtesy of RCAHMS;

© Crown copyright RCAHMS)



Warmer spells between each Ice Age allowed the ice to melt and the ice-cap to recede thereby producing vast quantities of melt-water which cut new valleys and gorges, and transported glacial debris. Coarser materials, carried from the Southern Uplands, were deposited as mounds and terraces of sands and gravels. Maybole is situated on a small area of this glacial moraine in contrast to the boulder clay which predominates in the surrounding countryside.

Soils

The soil of Maybole itself, and most of the adjacent land, is a freely drained moraine derived from sandstone, with the exception of the lower land to the south of the town, where fluvioglacial sands and gravels and alluvial soils predominate. In this latter area the hummocky moraine landscape can lead to problems of drainage in hollows.

Climate and land use

The climate of Ayrshire ranges from fairly warm to cool and wet, with an average rainfall of 1,250 to 1,500 mm per annum.⁷ The rain, which contributes to the greenery of the Ayrshire landscape, may be expected throughout the year. While the months from April to July can be drier, August is often wet. The prevailing wind is a warm south-westerly, and the sea, which keeps the area cool in summer, has a similar modifying effect in providing Ayrshire with mild winters – so mild indeed that palm trees grow at sheltered spots along the coast.⁸ The land is capable of producing a narrow range of crops and is suitable for enterprises based primarily on grassland with some arable crops (eg barley, oats, forage crops). Yields of arable crops are variable because of soil, wetness and climatic factors; yields of grass are often high but difficulties of production or utilisation may be encountered. Limitations, such as wetness, occasional flooding, and shallow or stony soils restrict the choice of crops and demand careful management.⁹ On the lowlands, however, where there is less rain and a longer growing season, generations of liming and draining and hard work by Ayrshire farmers have made Ayrshire a noted agricultural region.¹⁰

Topography and physical setting of the burgh

The relationship between local topography and the morphology of the medieval burgh is important for this study as it highlights the impact of the physical environment on the first settlement, and the constraints it imposed on the subsequent development of the burgh. The existence of a plentiful water supply in the form of profuse springs, in particular the Welltrees Spout

FIGURE 4
Aerial view of Maybole.
(By courtesy of RCAHMS;
© Crown copyright RCAHMS)



and My Lord's Well, encouraged settlement. Also, it may help to pinpoint the original nucleus of settlement (fig 17). The physical setting was succinctly summarised by William Abercrombie (Abercummie), the minister at Maybole in the late seventeenth century:

This Towne of Mayboll stands upon an ascending ground from East to West, and lyes open to the South, It hath one principal street declining towards the East. It is pretty well fenced from the North by a higher ridge of hills that lyes above it at a small distance northward.¹¹

The town witnessed moderate prosperity in the nineteenth century, first with textile manufacture and then with the leather industry. The Glasgow and South-Western Railway, opened in 1857–60, aided the growth of this latter industry; today the main A77 Glasgow to Stranraer road passes through the town (fig 1).

Sources of evidence

There has been an extensive use of manuscript and printed primary sources in the writing of this Survey, at both local and national levels, as is indicated in the Bibliography. Maybole is fortunate in having the description of the

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FIGURE 5

A detail of J Blaeu's map of
Carrieta Borealis, 1654,
showing Maybole.
(Reproduced by permission of
the Trustees of the
National Library
of Scotland)

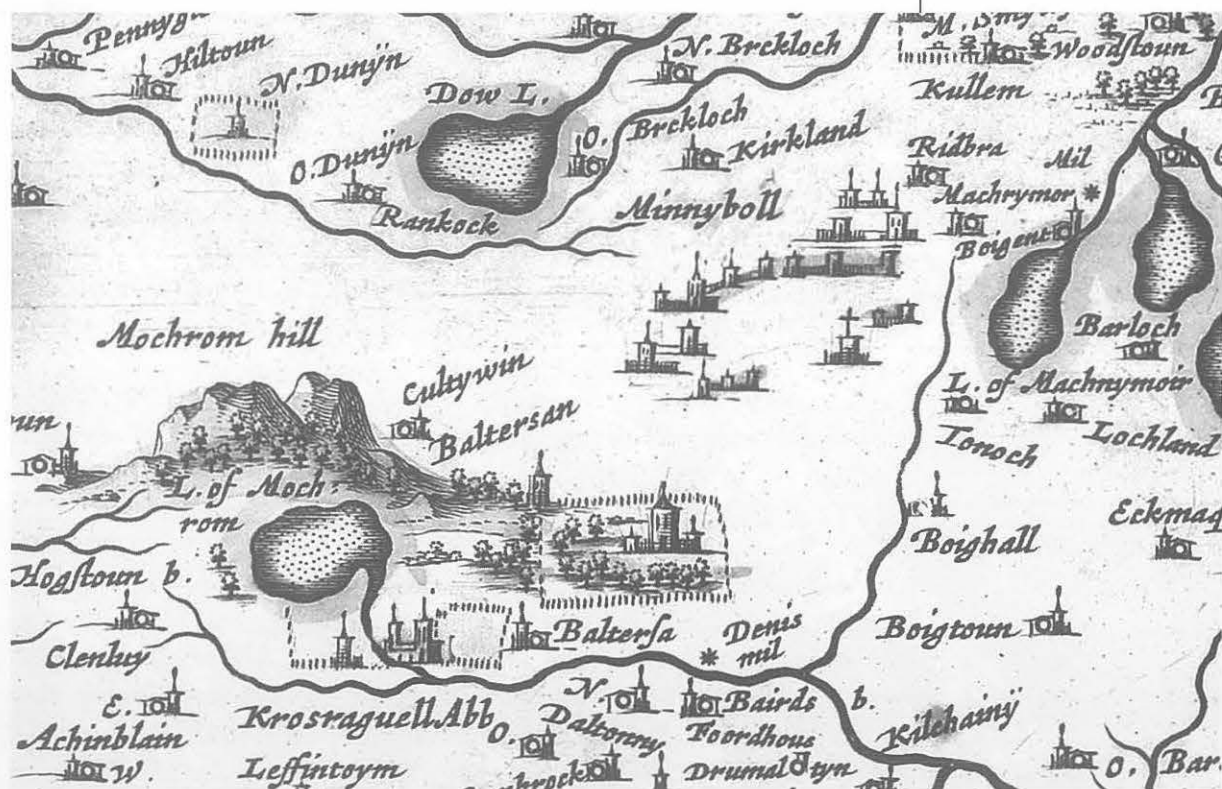
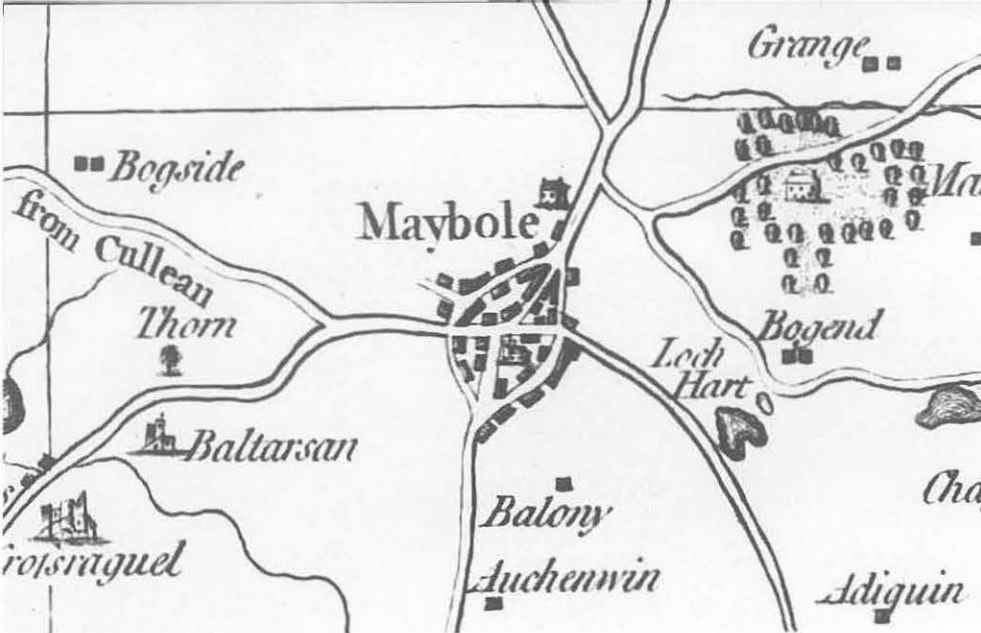




FIGURE 6
Extract from William Roy's
Military Survey of Scotland,
1747-55.
(By permission of the British
Library; sheet 3, section 7/2)

burgh written by its minister, William Abercrombie. This affords a rare insight into the topography of a late seventeenth-century town; and gives clues to the town's earlier development. A number of other useful sources were consulted. The census of 1841 was overviewed, for example, giving an insight into the predominant occupations in the town. But further research than was possible for this Survey might produce a detailed assessment of where individual families lived and whether their location within the town was determined by their principal employment.

Numerous secondary sources were also consulted. Maybole has an excellent community website, produced by Rich Pettit with numerous contributions from members of Maybole Historical Society and ex-patriots throughout the world (www.maybole.org/history), which gives ready access to a variety of potential source material. The West Parish Monthly Letter produced in the 1880s and 1890s and many other publications by Rev Roderick Lawson offer interesting highlights of life in Maybole and a few hints at the topography of the town. Time precluded a thorough assessment of these and of full use of Ayrshire Archives. The early twentieth-century Official Guides to Maybole are a fascinating resource. While intended to be, in effect, tourist guides to the town, the advertisements included offer a good



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FIGURE 7

A detail from Andrew Armstrong's *A New Map of Ayrshire*, 1775. (Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

insight into the economy, and for the purposes of this Survey, the built environment of early twentieth-century Maybole. Photographs of demolished buildings in the burgh are invaluable.¹² There exists also a comprehensive, two-volume report completed by Ivie Cooper for the then Maybole Town Council prior to redevelopment of the town in the late 1960s. This deserves close examination. A study of Maybole that was of wider scope

FIGURE 8

A detail from John Thomson's *Ayrshire*, 1828. (Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



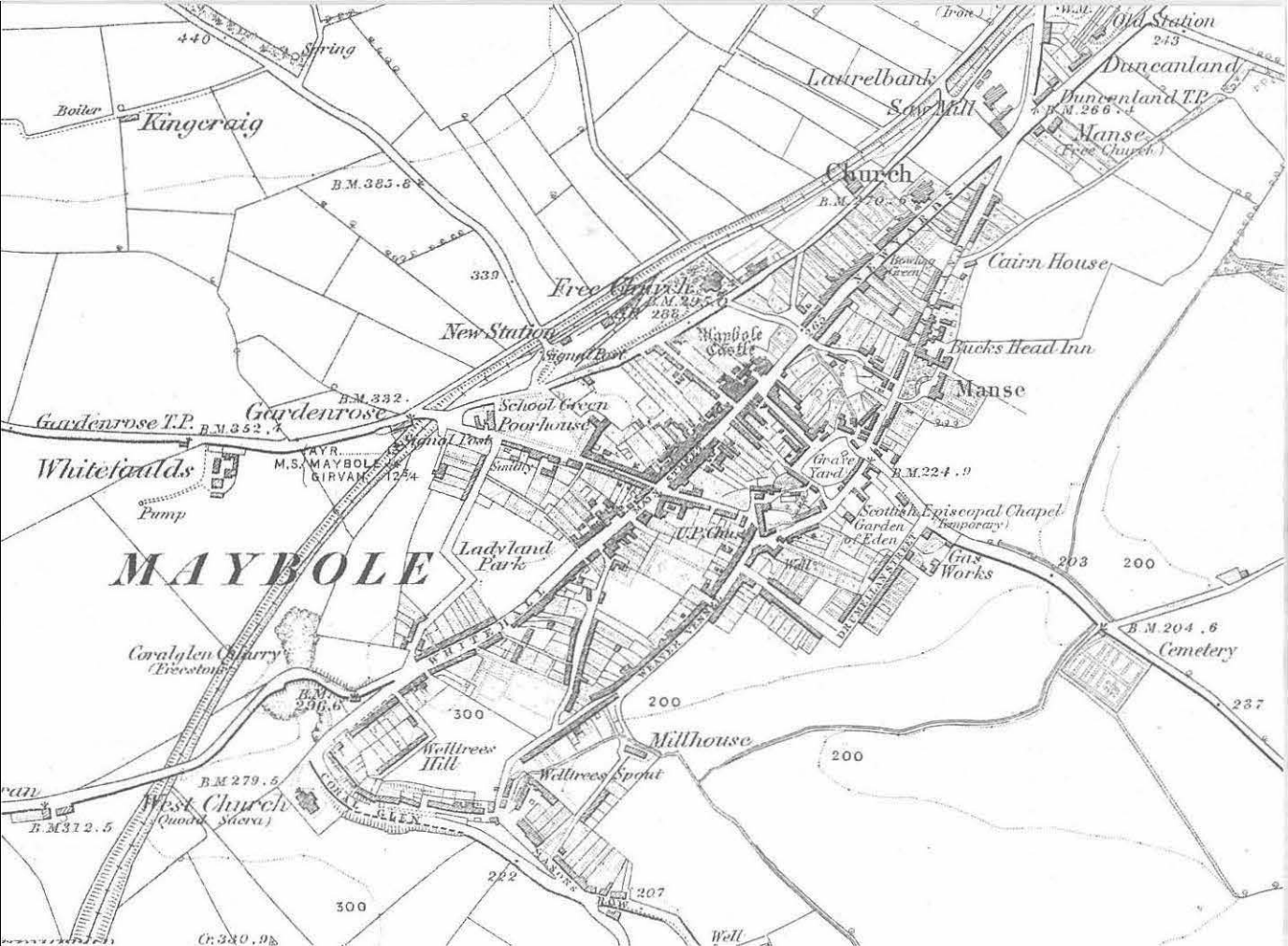


FIGURE 9
Maybole in 1857, as depicted
on the Ordnance Survey 1st
Edition map, 1:10,560 scale.

and afforded more time for research would benefit from greater assessment of these sources.

Time did not allow other avenues. Church records were not assessed; newspapers were not consulted; private papers of local families (other than the Kennedy of Dalquharran papers) were not accessed; and industrial and merchants' records were not studied. These, particularly the records of local industries, might give a clear insight into the layout of the factories and workshops associated with the Maybole cotton-weaving and shoe-making industries. William Niven was a business man in Maybole and later a banker, dying in 1841; time, regrettably, did not permit research into his bundle of letters among the Hamilton of Pinmore papers in the National Archives of Scotland. These, too, would merit perusal in a more detailed assessment of Maybole.

There is no surviving map of the Maybole area among the late sixteenth-century manuscript maps by Timothy Pont that are preserved in the National Library of Scotland. The earliest depiction of the burgh is that on the manuscript map of Cunningham by Robert Gordon, drawn c 1636–52.¹³ The

FIGURE 11
High Street, looking east,
2002



FIGURE 12
The Black House.
(By courtesy of Maybole
Historical Society)

An archaeological excavation (**fig 26**) to the south of School Vennel (NS 299 099) did little to elucidate the early development of the burgh, as it was outside the historic core. At the eastern extremity of the burgh, a watching brief within the tenement plot bounding the south-east side of the Carnegie Library, no 1 High Street (NS 3020 0999) revealed remains of a later nineteenth-century frontage building.¹⁵ Small-scale development of areas of the High Street has taken place in recent years, notably that of Crosne Street



in the backlands to the north. Opportunities for future research may be presented by the refurbishment of individual eighteenth- and nineteenth-century properties within the High Street. For example, at the time of writing in 2002 nos 52–54 High Street (fig 11) were not in use; investigation prior to development could provide both standing building and below-ground evidence for previous occupation of that section of the High Street frontage. Likewise, an empty burgage plot on the south side of the High Street planted as a garden by Kyle and Carrick District Council, may also preserve archaeological evidence of former use of this plot. The closes off the High Street are also archaeologically sensitive and any development of these areas should be preceded by archaeological investigation of both standing buildings and below-ground archaeology. South of the burgage plots of the High Street is a landscaped area around the collegiate church (figs 14 & 15), including the sites of the Black House (fig 12) and the adjacent Abbot's House (fig 13). This area was the core of medieval Maybole and as such is highly archaeologically sensitive.

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FIGURE 13
Abbot's House.
(By courtesy of Maybole
Historical Society)



Notes

- 1 R Close, *Ayrshire & Arran: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* (Edinburgh, 1992), 158
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- 13 NLS Adv MS 70.2.10 (Gordon 59)
- 14 NLS Adv MS 70.2.11 (Adair 11)
- 15 T Addyman, (2002), Carnegie Library, Maybole, South Ayrshire (Maybole parish), watching brief, DES, 89

3 *History and archaeology*

Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the historic core of Maybole. An introduction to the prehistoric, Roman and early historic development of the area has, therefore, been included to provide a broader framework within which to study the origins of the medieval burgh.

Prehistory

The earliest settlement of Scotland occurred around 7000 BC, when much of the country was covered in dense woodland which supported a rich variety of game, particularly red deer. The few Mesolithic (literally meaning Middle Stone Age) settlements known in Scotland tend to be found along the coastline and river banks. These communities were 'hunter-gatherers' who ate fish and shellfish, followed herds of woodland game through the seasons, and supplemented their diet with wild plants and berries. Their semi-nomadic existence has left few archaeological traces, although shell middens and flint tools are common finds along former rivers and coastlines.

Around 3500 BC (Neolithic/New Stone Age), people began to live a more settled existence, partly in response to changes in the climate. Large areas of woodland were cleared by burning and trees were cut down with stone tools, livestock was kept and land farmed for crops. Ritual played an important role in the lives of these early farming groups, particularly in their treatment of the dead, who were buried in monumental tombs. These communal stone-built chambered cairns or barrows constructed of wood and turf sometimes contained large numbers of burials. Few have been identified in Ayrshire, but a good example of a chambered tomb can be seen at Balmalloch (NX 264 845),¹ south-east of Girvan. There is considerable regional variation in the types and styles of these monuments, no doubt reflecting regional traditions and, perhaps, the origins of the peoples who built and used them.² These tombs may also have become a focus for ritual, perhaps with elaborate ceremonies being performed there to commemorate ancestors. A standing stone at Lyonston (NS 3099 1039), 1 km to the east of Maybole, may have been erected as a similar focus for burial rituals. Artefacts include a stone axe-hammer found in 1857 during a temporary draining of the Heart Loch (NS 313 096), 2 km south-east of Maybole.³

By about 2500 BC (Bronze Age), changes in society were gradually taking place. The tradition of monumental tombs containing large numbers of burials waned in favour of a new trend for single grave burials. A food vessel, found near Maybole during the nineteenth century, would have been from

such a burial.⁴ Bronze Age people also developed metalworking, new styles of pottery and unenclosed settlements. A late Bronze Age socketed axe was found at an unknown location near Maybole before 1880,⁵ and another at Auchendrane⁶ (NS 33 15), 6 km north-east of Maybole. A hoard of the same period was discovered on the farm of Dalduff,⁷ near Crosshill, in 1846 (NS 3204 0697). This consisted of remains of a pot with the remains of two swords placed over its mouth. Inside the pot were nine socketed axes, and the remains of a cauldron – all evidence of this new technology.

Considerable changes in technology and in society took place at the end of the Bronze Age, around 600 BC. Iron tools and, increasingly, weapons begin to appear in the archaeological record. Despite the abundance of evidence for monuments and rich burials in the Neolithic and Bronze Age, knowledge of the subsistence base which supported these societies, and the settlements in which they lived, is rather poor. By the late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age, however, settlements begin to dominate the archaeological landscape. Numerous fortified settlements, ranging from large hillforts to enclosed villages and isolated single-family dwellings, are known. Less defensive types of settlement also existed, but the remains from this period may reflect a more competitive society, in which groups perhaps fought over natural resources. The impression is that there was a move away from large monuments that served the community in the second and third millennium BC, towards settlements indicative of tribal division.

The later prehistoric and Roman periods

It was this fragmented society which the Romans encountered in the first century AD. They promptly established a network of fortifications and communications throughout southern Scotland which ensured their effective control of the native tribes. According to Ptolemy, the classical geographer writing in the second century AD, Ayrshire was then in the domain of the Damnonii tribe.⁸ Evidence for settlement of this period is found near Maybole, at the hillfort at Kildoon (NS 299 074), 2.5 km to the south of Maybole, and a dun, a smaller fortified settlement, at Castle Knoll, locally known as Dunean (NS 2770 1180), 3 km north-west of the town. The scatter of small lochs through the landscape to the south and west of Maybole provided potential sites for crannogs, or lake dwellings, such as at Lochspouts (NS 288 058) which was discovered when the loch was drained in the nineteenth century to make a reservoir for the town.⁹

Little is known about Roman activity in Ayrshire during this period, and few sites have been identified. Temporary camps at Girvan would seem to have acted as a base for naval manoeuvres by Agricola in his campaigns in the late first century AD, while the large fort at Loudoun Hill, in the north of Ayrshire also dates from this period.¹⁰

Each year, aerial photographic reconnaissance and field surveys are revealing new sites of all periods. Further research will almost certainly shed further light on Roman Ayrshire, and lead to a better understanding of the prehistoric period in general.

The early historic and early medieval periods

Maybole first appears in documentary sources in the twelfth century, but evidence from these sources may be used to indicate the nature of its earlier settlement. The earliest recorded form of the place name is *Meibothel*, possibly derived from the Old English *maege-botl*: maiden's hall.¹¹ This, and the dedication of the parish church to the great Northumbrian saint, St Cuthbert, suggests that Maybole, like Whithorn, was an Anglian settlement created during the period of Northumbrian supremacy of the area, which lasted from the mid-seventh to the tenth century. Maybole seems likely to have been prominent in the early ecclesiastical organisation of Ayrshire, acting as a 'mother church' with subordinate churches at Auchendrane and Kirkbride, which became separate parishes after the Reformation.¹²

A reliable water supply was always necessary for a growing urban population and Maybole was particularly well favoured with this resource. The most copious was Welltrees Spout (NS 2995 0959), described in the late seventeenth century as 'so very plenteous that falling in severall mouths through rock and stone it would be accounted a rich treasure to the Capitall city of the nation'.¹³ It was calculated that this flowed at the rate of one gallon per second.¹⁴ The castle was supplied by a well or spring known as My Lord's Well (NS 3018 1003) situated at the junction of the present Cassillis Road and St Cuthbert's Road.¹⁵ This had an outflow in the later St Cuthbert's Road, known as St Cuthbert's Well. Some wells in the hinterland of the burgh formerly had a ritual significance for the local population. St Helen's Well (NS 3132 1342) near Low Milton, 4 km north of Maybole, for example, was frequented in the post-medieval period. William Abercrombie, the local minister in the late seventeenth century, stated that it was much frequented by those seeking cures for 'unthriving children, to which at the change of the quarter, especially at May-day there is a great resort of people from all quarters, and at a good distance'.¹⁶ According to Abercrombie, this well was also known as St Anthony's or St Emus Well.

The later medieval period

In 1193, Duncan, Earl of Carrick granted 'the lands of Meibothelbeg and Bethoc in Carric', including the church dedicated to St Cuthbert at Maybole, to the monks of Melrose. It appears that this is the first written reference to Maybole,¹⁷ although all indications are that Maybole was already a settlement of some antiquity (*see* p 11). By 1216, the church had been granted to the Cistercian nunnery at North Berwick,¹⁸ and throughout the pre-Reformation period the teinds of the parish were divided between the collegiate church of the Virgin Mary and St Anne in Glasgow and the nunnery at North Berwick.¹⁹ Maybole had two chapels dependent on its parish church, but deputising curates, rather than resident priests, probably served them.²⁰ The illegitimate son of Gilbert Kennedy, 1st Lord Kennedy was legitimised as 'rectoris de Maybole' in 1508, but whether he was resident or absent is unclear.²¹

The medieval parish church, demolished after its replacement in 1808, was

FIGURE 14
The collegiate church,
Maybole, from F Grose, *The
Antiquities of Scotland*
(London, 1789–91).

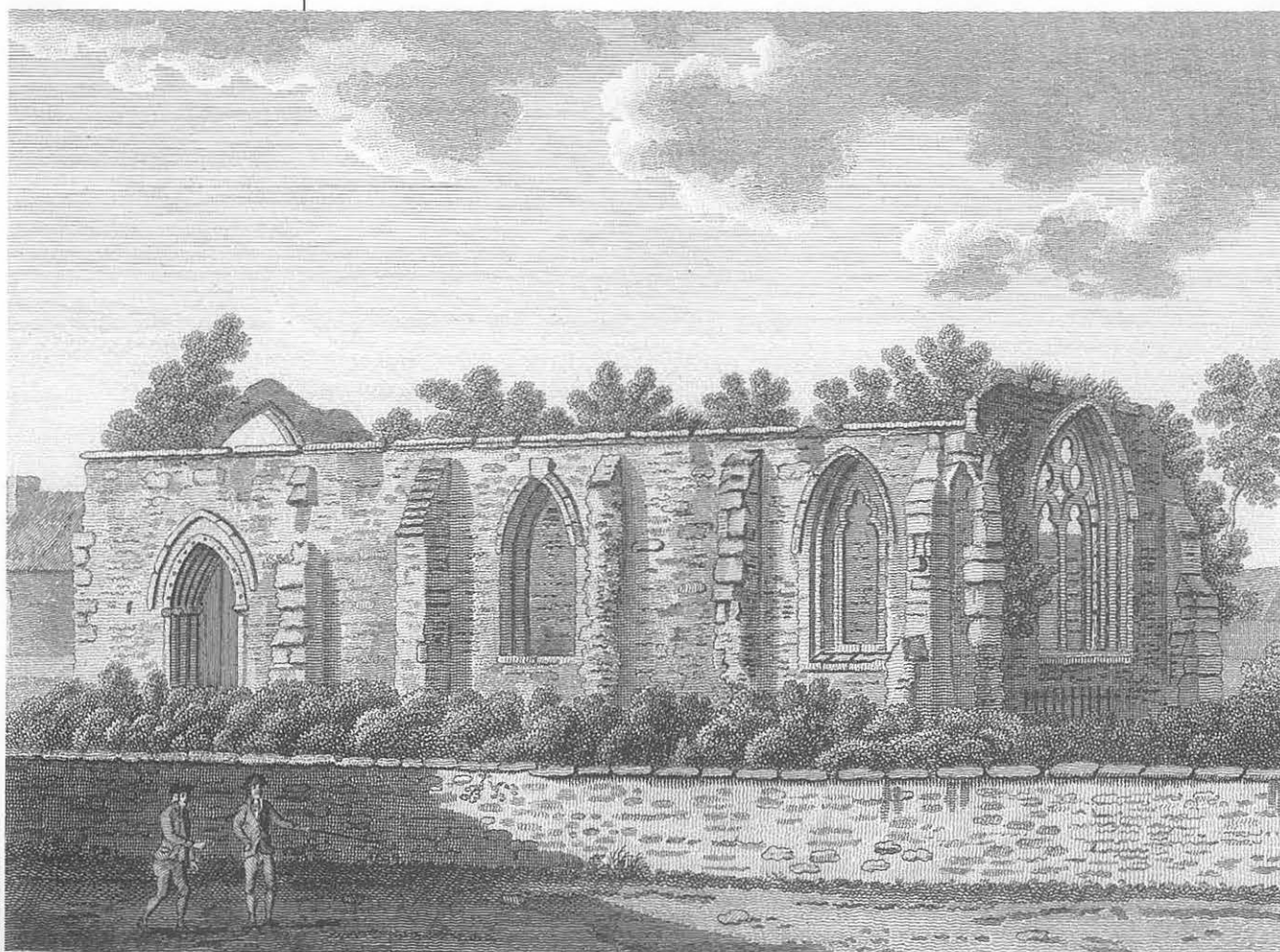




FIGURE 15
Remains of the collegiate
church, 2002.

16.7 m (53 ft) in length and 7.3 m (24 ft) wide.²² The churchyard (fig 26) that stands to the north of Abbot Street is the site of this church. There is no trace of the church visible above ground within the present churchyard, although the location of the surviving foundations was recorded during refurbishment works in 1924.²³ An undecorated stone preserved in the churchyard is identifiable as a font, however. The irregular boundary of the present churchyard (Category C(S)-listed) may reflect its earlier perimeter, although kirkyard boundaries often change, due to encroachment for secular use, and it is quite possible that medieval burials might be found beyond its present boundaries. Today, the oldest surviving building in Maybole is the ruined collegiate church (Category A-listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument) (figs 14 & 15). A chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was founded in 1371 by Sir John Kennedy of Dunure. This was confirmed by King Robert II (1371–90).²⁴ A college was formally established in the chapel in 1382, served by a provost, two chaplains and a clerk.²⁵ The chapel received several endowments. In 1385, for example, the chaplains were granted by Robert II the ten pound land of Nether Glen App.²⁶ Similar rents of much of the surrounding lands, means that most of the land on which the town of Maybole now sits once sustained the collegiate church of St Mary.²⁷ A fourth chaplainry was endowed in 1451.²⁸ Egidia Blair, the widow of James Kennedy of Row, provided funds for a fifth prebend in 1516.²⁹ By the late nineteenth

century, the church windows had been built up, although tracery remains to this day, and the Holy Water font, with the sedilia and the piscina, remain in the right-hand wall. On the north side of the church is a seventeenth-century sacristy and burial vault, with the Kennedy crest surviving above the entrance to the latter.³⁰

There is a reference in 1577 to lands called the *Mason dew*, which refers to a medieval hospital, connected with the collegiate church. The location of this building is uncertain but it was possibly in the area of Welltrees.³¹ An area (NS 3025 0985) known as the Garden of Eden (**fig 26**) lay to the south-east of the old kirkyard, between Abbot Street and Drumellan Street (NS 3025 0985). Names associated with Paradise were commonly used for monastic gardens and it is possible that this area was formerly an enclosed garden, belonging either to the collegiate church or to the manse of the parish church.

Nearby were the houses of the clergy who served the collegiate church.³² John Knox's House (**fig 26**) (NS 3004 0987) was said to be the site of the residence of the provost of the collegiate church and the site of the famous debate between Knox and the Abbot of Crossraguel in 1562 (*see p 26*).³³ In the mid-nineteenth century this building, then known as the Red Lion Inn (**fig 10**), is recorded as having small windows, an external stair and a thatched roof.³⁴ A two-storey house known as the Black House (**fig 12**) (NS 3012 0983) stood at the corner of Kirk Port and Abbot Street. This house, which is

FIGURE 16
Weaver Vennel.
(By courtesy of Maybole
Historical Society)



recorded in a sasine of 1612,³⁵ was said to be the house of one of the prebendaries who served the collegiate church.³⁶ Another of the houses connected with the collegiate church was known as James Gray's house,³⁷ the location of which has not been identified.

The nucleus of the medieval settlement lay around the parish church and the collegiate church. The present line of Abbot Street and Ladywell Road (formerly known as Weaver Vennel (fig 16)) was a principal thoroughfare. The nature of the settlement associated with the parish church is unknown, although it would include, at the least, a priest's house and its land. This latter, now known as Glebe Park, lay to the east of the church. The settlement may have extended westwards as far as the important water source of the Ladywell (NS 3000 0960) and the nearby Welltrees Spout (fig 26) (NS 2995 0959). Many of these wells were to provide the water necessary for the developments of tanneries and the associated leather industry and even in pre-Reformation times Maybole was already established as an important leather-working centre.³⁸

The sixteenth century

Maybole received a significant economic boost in 1516 when John, Duke of Albany, in the name of James V (1513–42) granted to the provost and prebendaries of the collegiate church at Maybole a charter of erection of a burgh of barony, with Gilbert, Earl of Cassillis, as its superior.³⁹ This was the first burgh in the large district of Carrick. That the charter took immediate effect is established by a surviving 1520 land grant dealing with subjects lying in *burgo de Mabile*. Maybole's burgesses were entitled to their own council and were granted the right to draw up a leet from which to choose their own magistrates, although the Earl of Cassillis made the final selection. They were, moreover, given free power to sell all common merchandise, and bakers, brewers, fleshers, fishmongers and tradesmen were allowed to set up business.⁴⁰ It was to have a market every Thursday, which had the potential to attract many from the surrounding rural areas. By the time of the Reformation in 1560, Maybole was described as an established small market town, with some local trade and a few crafts, or trades.⁴¹ That it was proving relatively successful economically is indicated in the *Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs* of 1590, where complaint was made by Ayr that Maybole was attracting neighbours to its market, to the detriment of Ayr's trade.⁴² The market cross, where all commercial transactions took place, stood in the High Street as a symbol of the burgh's status in the realm.⁴³ It was removed in 1773, as it was obstructing traffic. The head was then built into the inner gate of the 'castle' (see p 32).

The power to feu lands in *perticatas burgales* was conceded to the provost of the collegiate church of Maybole, with consent of the Earl of Cassillis. This

meant that the formal laying out of the burgh in burgage plots, or tofts, by officials called liners, could get underway. On these burgage plots the townspeople built their houses. Although Maybole is now renowned for its extant castle and tolbooth, both the homes of local gentry (figs 2 & 3), the townspeople lived in much more modest housing.⁴⁴

There was at this point a deliberate extension of Maybole to the north of the medieval settlement, with the creation of a planned burgh on the axis of the present High Street (figs 17 & 21). Modern-day Maybole reflects the dual nature of the settlement. The focus of the early settlement was to the south

FIGURE 17
Development of Maybole.
(© Crown copyright. All rights
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no. 100017509 [2005])

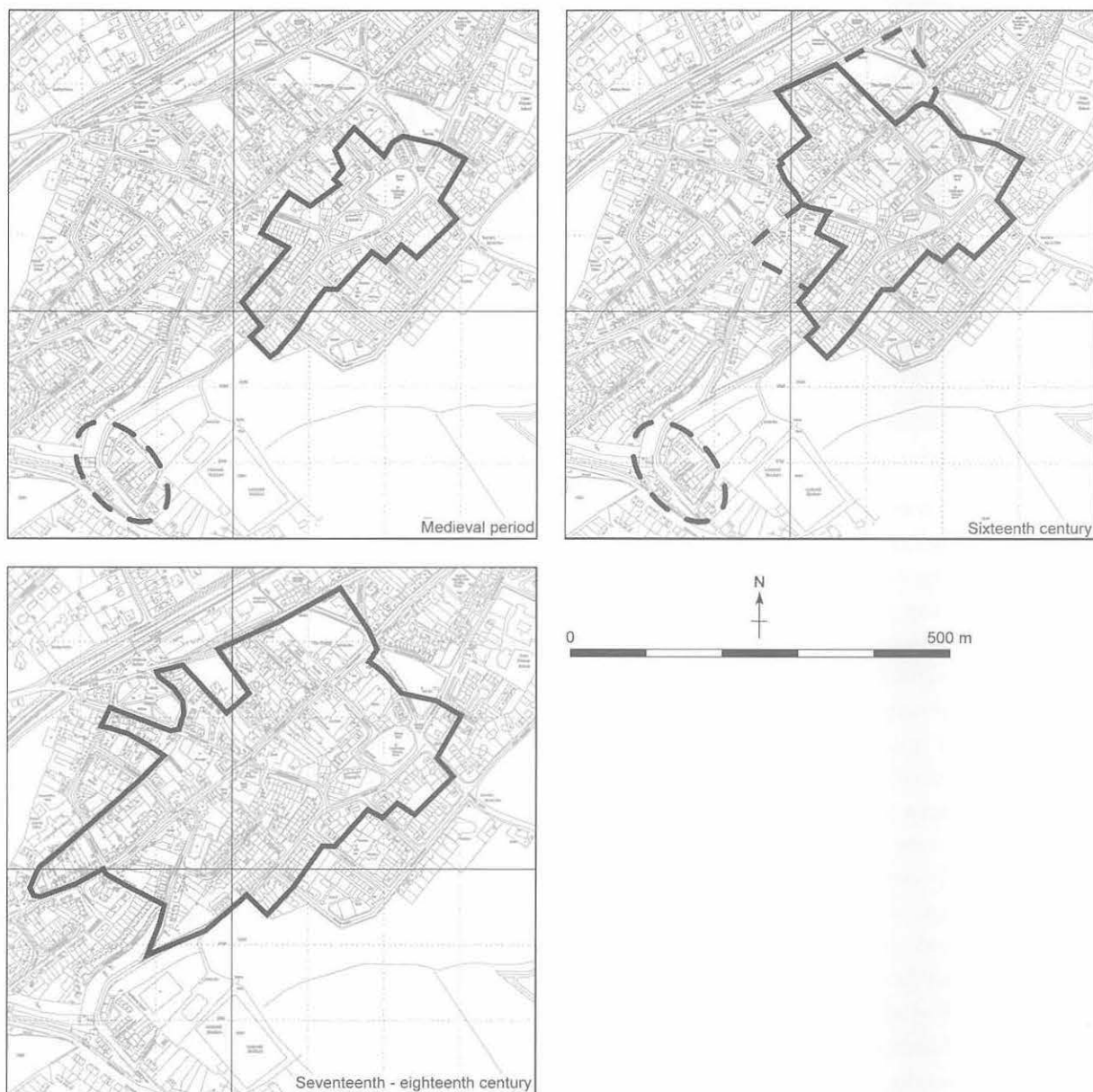




FIGURE 18

30 Kirkwynd, 1971.

(By courtesy of RCAHMS;

© Crown copyright RCAHMS)

of the present town centre, around the parish church, which lay within the old kirkyard (fig 17), and the adjacent collegiate church. Associated settlement lay along the line of the present Ladywell Road and Abbot Street. Kirkwynd (figs 18 & 19) may also date from the medieval period. The creation of a new burgh in the early sixteenth century resulted in a second focus of settlement, representing commercial rather than ecclesiastical interests, with the High Street as its principal thoroughfare. The long property boundaries which survive behind much of the High Street preserve the lines of the burghage plots. These individual plots survive particularly well on the north side of the High Street, and a section still remains on the south side. Both are protected by being within the Conservation Area. Buildings situated in the burgh were almost certainly constructed on the site of, or directly over, the remains of earlier buildings, a sequence, in some cases, possibly going back to the medieval period and continuing up to the present day. Although no opportunity has been taken to examine archaeologically any of the street frontages in Maybole, evidence of earlier structures may be expected to survive, sealed beneath eighteenth- or nineteenth-century buildings along the High Street and the vennels and streets leading off.

The size of the new burgh was restricted by two castles and their associated lands: the present castle to the north-east and another castle, later the tolbooth, to the south-west (figs 3, 27 & 29). The castle (NS 3013 1002, Category A-listed) was originally a townhouse of the Earls of Cassillis (figs 2 & 29); it may be identified with the 'new house of Maybole' mentioned in a document of 1545.⁴⁵ It is an L-shaped tower of four storeys and garret, with large circular turrets corbelled out at its north and east angles. A stair-wing projects to the south-west, the corbelled top floor of which has an elaborate oriel window which overlooks the High Street. A later two-storey addition extends to the north-west. Maybole Castle was extended in the sixteenth century. The date of origin of the tower is disputed; it may have been constructed by Gilbert, third Earl of Cassillis, in c 1540. Above the doorway is a square recess where a coat of arms was formerly displayed.⁴⁶ In 1584, the property was described as the 'tower, manor place and fortalice in Mayboyle'.⁴⁷ The castle did not always stand as an isolated tower; it is probable that it was within a walled enclosure or barmkin, along with other ancillary ranges. Barns and other service buildings existed until the first years of the nineteenth century, in the area of the present St Cuthbert's Road and Barns Road. These were removed when the present Cassillis Road (fig 22), formerly known as New Yards, was created.

Maybole Castle was not the only prestigious building in the town. There were twenty-eight winter residences of the local gentry in Maybole at this time.⁴⁸ Clearly this was a town of some importance in the locality. The records reveal that there was considerable rivalry and even bloodshed within the town. This may, perhaps, be accounted for by the presence of so many gentry families, at least during the winter months. In 1571, for example, the Earl of Cassillis complained to the Laird of Grange that his men 'continue to destroy the principal houses within this town, and raise the same, and "garnish" my place with men of war to take up my living, oppress my tenants and "wrak" the country'.⁴⁹

In 1587, there was a complaint by Robert Campbell, Carrick pursuivant, that, while he was in Maybole, executing the King's letters obtained at the instance of Captain Patrick Cranstoun against Thomas Kennedy of Culyeane, tutor of Cassillis, Dean Gilbert Kennedy, and certain others, David Home in Pennycleuch, 'immediatlie eftir the charge gevin be the said complenare to the said dane Gilbert, within the College kirkyaird of Mayboill, maist cruellie and unmercifullie invadit and persewit the said complenare of his lyffe, straik him behind his bak with ane hacquebute upoun the heid, to the effusioun of his blude in grite quantitie, quhairthrow he lay bedfast the sapce of ane moneth thairefter, in perrell and dangear of his lyffe'. The defender was pronounced a rebel for failure to appear before the Lords of Privy Council.⁵⁰

On 9 February 1598, Thomas Kennedy of Culyeane, tutor of Cassillis, handed over a copy of the letters raised by 'John Mure of Auchindrane,

Matthew Stewart of Dunduff, and Alexander Kennedy, servitor to Gilbert Kennedy of Bargany' which demanded Thomas Kennedy's appearance before the privy council for 'his allegeit persute and invasioun of thame within the toun of Mayboill, undir silence of nicht upoun the [blank] day of Januair last, schuting of pistollettis at thame, and seiking of thame upoun the morne thaireftir at the place of Auchindrane to have slane thame'.⁵¹ Kennedy, however, had an opposing complaint. He claimed that 'John Mure of Auchindrane, Matthew Dunduff of that Ilk, *alias* Stewart, Alexander Kennedy, son of Hew Kennedy of Craigneill', servitor to Gilbert Kennedy of Bargany, and others of Bargany's household 'upoun ane lurking haitrent and deidlie malice borne aganis the said complenar causles' did, on 3 January, come to the town of Maybole 'bodin in feir of weir', and 'undir silence of nicht ... eftir thay had stellit thair horssis ... thay darnit betuix twa hedgeis, awaiting for the said complenaris slauchter, and to have mordreist him be way of hamesuckin, brigancie and umbessettinghis gait and way, of foirthocht felony, procogitat malice, conspyrit and divisit murthour'. They had then 'maist cruellie invadit and persewit him with drawne swerdis to the kirkyaird of Mayboill, quhair thay wald not have failed to have slane him, gif, be the providence of God and darknes of the nicht, the said complenair had not bene separat fra thame and eschaiped thair cruell handis'.⁵² Such wrangling and bloodshed continued between rival factions until well into the seventeenth century.⁵³

The Reformation was to impact on the town, but it seems that it was only with reluctance that the townspeople adopted Protestantism. In December 1560, there was a complaint made at the first meeting of the General Assembly that the Mass was still in use by 'the parochiners of Mayboill'.⁵⁴ Quentin Kennedy, Abbot of Crossraguel and author of an orthodox theological tract on the eucharist, even challenged John Knox in 1562 to debate with him in Maybole.⁵⁵ Two years later, 200 Catholics were reported to have gathered in the collegiate church, part of an organised Easter celebration of the Mass which extended from Paisley to Whithorn.⁵⁶ Their leaders were punished and from this point the building gradually fell into disrepair. The sole function of it thereafter was to serve as the burial place for the Kennedys.⁵⁷ With secularisation, the land on which Maybole was built, which had been gifted to the collegiate church, was returned to the Kennedys, the superiors of Maybole.⁵⁸ And in 1565, the monies of the kirks of Maybole, pertaining to the Abbey of North Berwick, were granted to William Cunningham, son of Robert Cunningham, the queen's page and servant.⁵⁹ There were sufficient funds, however, to provide for a student at Glasgow University out of the prebendary of the vicarage of Maybole in 1578.⁶⁰

The seventeenth century

A late seventeenth-century description of Maybole by the then minister, William Abercrombie,⁶¹ captures the essentials of its topography:

It hath one principall street with houses on both sides built of free stone and it is beautified with the situation of two Castles one at each end of this street ... There be four lanes which passe from the principall street. One is called the back Vennall which is steep declining to the southeast, and leads to a lower street, which is far longer than the high chiefe street, and it runs from the Kirkland to the Weltrees in which there have been many pretty buildings belonging to the severall Gentry of the countrey who were wont to resort hither in winter and divert themselves in converse together at their owne houses. It was once the principall street of the towne, but many of these houses being decayed and ruined, it has lost much of its ancient beautie. Just opposit to this Venall there is another that leads North West from the chief street to the Green which is a pleasant plott of ground enclosed round with an Earthen wall wherein they were wont to play at football but now at the Gowffe and Bypasse bowls. At the Eastend of the principall street are two other lanes, the one called the fore Venall carryes northward, the other further East upon the chiefe street passes to the south East, and is called the Kirk Venall and is the great resort of the people from the town to the church. The houses of this towne on both sides of the street, have severall gardens belonging to them, and in the lower street there be some pretty orchards that yield store of good fruit.

The earliest depictions of Maybole are those produced by James Gordon in c 1636–52 and Blaeu's map of Carrick,⁶² published in 1654 (fig 5), where it is shown as a linear settlement with towers at each end and a church, or possibly two, to the south. This latter representation probably reflects a, now lost, perhaps more detailed drawing of the burgh, possibly by the late sixteenth-century cartographer, Timothy Pont. J Adair's map of 1685 highlights the church and a large building, probably the tolbooth.

In October 1674, the town council purchased the former townhouse of the lairds of Blairquhan and its adjacent land for use as a tolbooth (NS 3001 0986; Category B-listed (figs 3 & 26)).⁶³ This was described as 'that toure house in Mayboill ... commonlie called Blaiquhanes Place' with its contents 'within the toure yeat [tower doorway] thair of except beds and chimneys'. The surviving part of the original building is rectangular in plan with a stair tower/steeple projecting to the north-east. The main block is now two-storeyed, and gabled to the south-west, but early views show an additional storey covered with a lean-to roof, which has left scars on the steeple. The original tolbooth bell, dated by an inscription to 1696, is preserved in the

council chamber. The frontage of the High Street adjoining the tolbooth was occupied until 1967 by the building known as the Spooncreel (fig 3). This appears from early drawings to have been a building of late seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century date; it may have been preceded by more temporary booths, as in the case of the former Luckenbooths, adjacent to St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.

The tolbooth, like the castle, probably would have stood in its own walled grounds, along with various service buildings and gardens; the adjacent close was included in the sale of 1674. Land to the south of the tolbooth survived as open space into the second half of the nineteenth century, when it was known as Jail Park.⁶⁴ Maybole was sufficiently important for it to become the venue for all the head courts of the bailiership of Carrick in 1639.⁶⁵ By 1688, in addition to the bailies, the burgh had the services of a deacon convener, a town clerk and town officers. Dispute arose between the Earl of Cassillis and the town, over the former's right to nominate the two bailies. The contest was settled at the Privy Council and was resolved in favour of the Earl.⁶⁶

The tolbooth not only housed the meetings of the town officials, but also functioned as the town jail. It was here, also, that the town weights were kept, for use at the town's market and fairs. An Act of Parliament in favour of the Earl of Cassillis in 1672 granted biannual fairs at Maybole on the last Tuesdays of October and April.⁶⁷

It is likely that the High Street was expanded to the west, along the present Whitehall, after the town acquired the land of the Blairquhan town house. The 12 m (40 ft) burgage plots on the north side of Whitehall to the west of the tolbooth are wider than those of the High Street. It is possible that Whitehall as a road was not created until this date. The road to the north was approximately via the present Barns Road and Barns Terrace. Prestigious townhouses continued to be erected by the local gentry, who resided in the burgh during the winter. Abercrombie relates how there were several of these on the lower street of the burgh, which lead from 'the Welltrees to the Kirkland'. Remnants may survive hidden behind later remodelling of buildings, as was the case of no 30 Kirkwynd (NS 303 099), where the remains of a former town house dating from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century were concealed by an undistinguished exterior of late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century date.

Investigation of no 30 Kirkwynd during its demolition in 1971 revealed early features, including a massive corbelled fireplace and a window in the gable wall, in positions unrelated to later floor levels (figs 18 & 19).⁶⁸ Number 6 Kirkwynd, one of the other surviving houses in the same street, is another earlier house that was remodelled in the nineteenth century with the addition of new windows and dormers. Over the door is a setting for an armorial plaque or inscription of possible early seventeenth-century date. The inhabitants of these townhouses, mostly members of the Kennedy family, had



FIGURE 19
Remains of fireplace, 30
Kirkwynd, 1971.
(By courtesy of RCAHMS;
© Crown copyright RCAHMS)

their principal residences a short distance from Maybole. The Earl of Cassillis, for example, lived, when not resident at Maybole Castle, at Cassillis House,⁶⁹ 5 km to the north-east of Maybole. The lairds of Blairquhan, whose castle was later the tolbooth, had a country home⁷⁰ situated 8 km to the south-east, and no 30 Kirkwynd was a home of Kennedy of Knockdon, who had property 4 km to the north of the burgh.

In 1691, parliament levied a tax of fourteen shillings on every hearth in Scotland. All hearths were to be recorded by the sub-collectors. Most of the records are extant and offer an important insight into individual towns and

The upkeep of the town's wells remained a constant task. On 25 October 1736, for example, there were 'complaints by several of the Inhabitants ... [that] severall of the Inhabitants yr abusing the watter that runs from the well called my Lords well to abbots place by washing cloaths, yearn and oysr abuses the said places.' John Girvan, a merchant of Maybole was appointed to oversee the supply.⁸⁸ Such measures continued throughout the century; 8 September 1778, for example, marking the employment of a mason, John Galt arching over a well and flagging with stones around it.⁸⁹ Concerns to encourage cleanliness in the town were shown in other rulings of the council. On 26 October 1782, for example, it was noted that '... the Inconveniency that is Consequent of the Inhabitants laying down their Dung in Several parts of the By Streets and Inlets to the Toun and particularly upon Several parts Round the Balgreen of Maybole ... being ane Nuisance and Strictly prohibited by act of Parliament ... Inhabitants with carts [were] to Immediately Employ the Same for carrying off the said Nuisance.'⁹⁰

The built fabric of the town was also of concern to the council. On 6 July 1731, for example, it was decided that the roadways were in need of repair. The council, therefore, ruled that 'the haille Inhabitants within the said toun come out provided with their horse cart sleds spadis shovels picks mattocks and such other Instruments as shall be Required six dayes yearly ay and while these high streets avenues and Inletts be repaired the three days in June or July and three in October att the option of the said magistrats and work att the said high streets ... from Six in the morning to six at even ... under penalty ...' ⁹¹ Twelve years later, paving of the main street was under way. Townspeople were appointed 'to look out where stones for that purpose may be had ... and when the stones are found they appoint and ordain the Inhabitants of Mayboill to go and Gather the stones in heaps and those who have horses to lead the said stones with same for laying the same as they be ordered by the magistrats or overseers appointed by them for the space of three days In June and three days after harvest ay and while their be as many Gathered and led as will Calsay the said street.'⁹² Another thirty years would elapse before the Foul Vennel, now called Castle Street, was similarly upgraded.⁹³

A significant change to the street scene came in 1773. The council deemed that 'the Cross of Mayboill as it stands at present Is an obstruction and Hinderance to Coaches and carradges as they pass and Repassis along the street Therefore They unanimously ... are of the opinion that the same should be taken away.'⁹⁴ Communications were further improved with the building of turnpike roads. Following the Ayr Road Act of 1774, Maybole became a hub in a network of new roads that created the basis of the present routes. Three different roads connected the town with Girvan, and other roads continued north to Ayr and Dalrymple.⁹⁵ This changed the emphasis within the town, which functioned very much as a through route.

Throughout this century the council took care of public buildings. The records indicate that concerns were raised and money disbursed to maintain the church porch, the town's clock, the schoolhouse and the tolbooth.⁹⁶ Interestingly, the records of 14 January 1798 reveal an innovation within the town. The tolbooth housed not only a court room, but also a 'dancers room' with windows that were to be glassed and framed.⁹⁷ Proposals were also put forward to rebuild the parish church on Ballgreen; although this did not eventuate.⁹⁸ The minister at the end of the century dismissed the church as an unsuitable structure.⁹⁹ He also had scant regard for the school, which he described as 'an old mean thatched house, very unsuitable to the eminent characters, which, at different times, have been educated in it.'¹⁰⁰

Supervision of the state of private houses was undertaken as well. On 28 September 1751, for example, the council confirmed that 'the north west Gavele of the house belonging to John Cochran merchant in mayboill which fronts the street Is In a tottering condition and hath a burst Chimney head upon It and that some of the Inhabitants may suffer Iniurie the same should fall or the Chimney head take fire which may be of dangerous Consequence if ather should happen.' Four masons were appointed to inspect and report back to the council.¹⁰¹

Many vernacular buildings of late eighteenth-century or early nineteenth-century date survive within the historic core of Maybole. Usually harled and with painted window margins, and sometimes distinguished with nepus gables, they form a distinctive feature in the present townscape. A number appearing to date from the eighteenth century, or an even earlier date, can be identified, although others may survive disguised by later remodelling. Buildings of eighteenth-century date include the Welltrees Inn in Welltrees Street,¹⁰² no 2 School Vennel (fig 20), no 82 High Street, no 2 Greenside and no 33 Castle Street (all Category C(S)-listed).

Visitors to the town were generally complimentary. Robert Heron, for example, writing in 1792 commented as follows:

We passed close to the town of May or Minni-bole. It is a place of considerable antiquity; is finely situate on rising ground; has in it a number of good houses; and may contain a good many hundreds of inhabitants. The woollen manufacture has been long prosecuted in this country. Plaidings and coarse flannels are stuffs chiefly wrought.¹⁰³

Throughout the eighteenth century the town was dominated by weaving. Cotton looms were introduced by Irish immigrants at the end of the century, and handloom weaving would eventually die out with the introduction of powerlooms.¹⁰⁴ Weaving was also sustained by the copious supply of water necessary for the carding process. In 1792, there were almost eighty looms active in Maybole, producing woollen cloth for blankets and two dozen cotton looms employing over 300 people.¹⁰⁵ This industrial activity was



FIGURE 20.
2 School Vennel, 2002

reflected in the street name Weaver Vennel (fig 16), renamed in the twentieth century as Ladywell Road. The influx of outsiders could also create problems. On 15 June 1790, a complaint was made against one James Kelly for 'his having committed a breach of the laws ... by setting of a house or houses to Irregular persons ... without having a Certificate from the magistrate for the said persons being admitted into the said town.' They had 'become a perfect nuisance to their neighbourhood by keeping very Irregular conduct in their houses'. Two years later there were further complaints. It was claimed that on 13 August 1792 'Several householders in the Town ... gives ludging ... to vagrants and randy beggars who makes it their business to Begg ... drink what they have extorted in Charity and afterwards goes throw the streets Blasfaming and Cursing and swearing to the Disturbance of the Inhabitants.' It was ruled that if anyone harboured such people they would be fined.¹⁰⁶

The town also continued to serve as an important market, the demand for agricultural products acting as a stimulus to the production potential of its hinterland. A late eighteenth-century observer remarked that 'from Maybole to Ayr, the industrious hand of improved husbandry is visible. Much land is inclosed with ditch and hedge' and the farmers boosted the fertility of their

soil with dung from the town.¹⁰⁷ To assist its role as a market town a slaughterhouse with cattle yards was built in 1790;¹⁰⁸ and the council records reveal that further improvements, such as a wall around the yard, were effected in 1795.¹⁰⁹

The nineteenth century

The nineteenth century witnessed a development of the areas to the north of the High Street and a subsequent decline in those to the south. A new road to Ayr was created;¹¹⁰ and Cassillis Road, formerly called New Yards, was formed through the site of the stack yards of the castle creating a direct link between the High Street (**fig 21**) and the terminus of the toll road at Duncanland toll.¹¹¹ The road was created after 1805, when the Earl of Cassillis agreed to the demolition of outbuildings associated with the castle. Fashionable houses of early to mid-nineteenth-century date, some with fine details such as Venetian windows and scrolled skewputts, survive to bear witness to the popularity of this street, such as nos 14–26 (**fig 22**) (nos 16–18 Category B-listed, the others Category C(S)-listed). Much of the credit for the improvements to these roads goes to William Niven, a local business man and later banker (1759–1841), who also built himself a house on the south side of High Street.¹¹² Other thoroughfares were constructed in the town, such as

FIGURE 21
High Street, c 1930.
(Reproduced by permission of
Carnegie Library, Ayr)



Crossraguel Abbey itself also received attention. The *Old Statistical Account* noted in 1794 that it was preserved with great care and attention, the tenants not being allowed to take any of the stones for use elsewhere.¹²⁴ The nineteenth century would also see measures to ensure its preservation.¹²⁵ It stands now as one of the most complete ruins of a Scottish monastery in the care of Historic Scotland.

Weaving continued to be the staple industry in the burgh during the first half of the nineteenth century, with much of the yarn supplied by Glasgow merchants.¹²⁶ This early part of the nineteenth century was possibly 'the most flourishing period in the town's history'; the population nearly doubled due to an influx of Irish weavers. The burgh population, it was estimated, rose from about 600 in the 1770s to 1200 in c 1800, to 4100 in 1861, to 4500 in 1881, peaking at 5900 in 1901.¹²⁷ The 1841 census highlights the occupations in the town and the importance of weaving. Two streets may be taken as samples: School Street and Post Office Street. In the former resided 135 persons; 44 were fifteen years or younger and not specified as employed, although some children were employed from age eleven and twelve. Of the remaining 91, some of whom were too old to work, sixteen were employed as cotton handloom weavers and seven as muslin sewers. Interestingly, 34 of the residents were shoemakers or shoebinders. Of 108 residents in Post Office Street, 45 were fifteen years or under and not employed. Of the 63 adults, including the aged not working, nine were cotton handloom weavers, three were muslin sewers and one a wheel spinner. Six were employed as shoemakers. It would seem that already shoemaking was beginning to have an impact on the town (*see p 39*).¹²⁸

There were, in the town, in the first half of the century, three hotels (King's Arms, Sun Inn and Dunnering Inn), twelve public houses, thirty ale-houses, twelve carpenters, three chemists, four blacksmiths, two watchmakers, four bakers, eleven shoemakers, two dyers, five butchers, nine drapers, sixteen milliners, one ladies' staymaker, one wigmaker, six doctors, eleven tailors, thirteen general merchants, four nailmakers, three tinsmiths and six lawyers – which gives a reflection of the priorities of the town.¹²⁹ There was also a post office in the town from at least 1837.¹³⁰

The social conditions of the weavers, however, gradually declined in the nineteenth century, faced, as they were, with growing competition from mechanised looms. Families often lived in two rooms, one of which was occupied by the loom, resulting in cramped conditions in the single remaining room.¹³¹ Former weavers' cottages are still a feature of the townscape; one-storey buildings with, at times, two or more windows lighting the weaving room.¹³² The plight of the weavers was such that in 1849 the council was prompted to make provision for the unemployed. They were to be paid to break stones for the new roads.¹³³

The surplus of labour following the decline of weaving was one of the

factors that encouraged the development of the leather industry in the town after c 1850. Both shoemaking and tanning were carried out in small-scale units during the early nineteenth century, the tanneries being sited by water sources, such as at St Cuthbert's Road, formerly Smithy Brae (NS 3023 1002).¹³⁴ These sites formed the basis for the post-1850 expansion of the industry, an expansion that transformed the appearance of the burgh with the erection of large factories that specialised in the production of heavy working boots called 'Maybole tacketties' which were used extensively in the construction industry and by agricultural labourers.¹³⁵ The industry flourished in the late nineteenth century when ten factories employed 1500 persons and sold one million shoes per year; the population of the town rose to 5500 in 1891, boosted by a large Irish immigrant population.¹³⁶ The industry reached its peak with the expansion of the Lorne factory by Thomas Aitken Gray in 1881 which, by 1883, had a work force of 283 men. These shoe factories dominated both the economy and the urban topography of the town in the late nineteenth century. The factory of Charles Crawford was in Kirkwynd (fig 28), within the heart of the historic burgh (NS 3017 0997). The St Cuthbert's factory of James Ramsay occupied the angle between the present St Cuthbert's Street and St Cuthbert's Road (NS 3025 1000).¹³⁷ Further east was the Townend factory¹³⁸ of John Lees & Co (NS 3044 1033). This continued until a disastrous fire in 1962. A smaller factory, formerly that of McGarvie and Co, survives in Society Street, a two-storey building with an eight bay frontage to the street (NS 3018 0976). This building started life in the late nineteenth century as a lemonade factory, using water from artesian wells. William Boyd had a factory at St Helen's; J M Rennie was established in the Greenside; G Dick in Ladyland; and there was a Maybole Shoe Factory in Drumellan Street. The largest boot factory in Maybole was the former Ladywell factory of John Gray and Co (fig 24), to the south-west of the town, which developed on the site of a former mill (NS 2980 0958).¹³⁹ The tannery section of this factory continued in operation until 1969, the last in the burgh. In 1881 Thomas Gray started a rapid expansion of the Lorne boot factory¹⁴⁰ which was situated on the northern part of the present Manse Street (NS 3020 0983). This included the digging of 95 new tanning pits.¹⁴¹ Gray's confidence proved ill-founded, however, and his business failed in 1894. Over-specialisation and changing fashions in footwear resulted in a recession in the town and the closure of many of the boot factories in the early twentieth century.

The sites of these factories are interesting as evidence of an important episode in the history of the burgh. However, their construction, which on some sites included the excavation of deep tanning pits, is likely to have destroyed much of the archaeological evidence for earlier activities on the sites, including evidence for the earlier tanning industry in the burgh.

Another successful local enterprise was the agricultural implements factory founded by Alexander Jack, who came to Maybole in 1852.¹⁴² The factory at

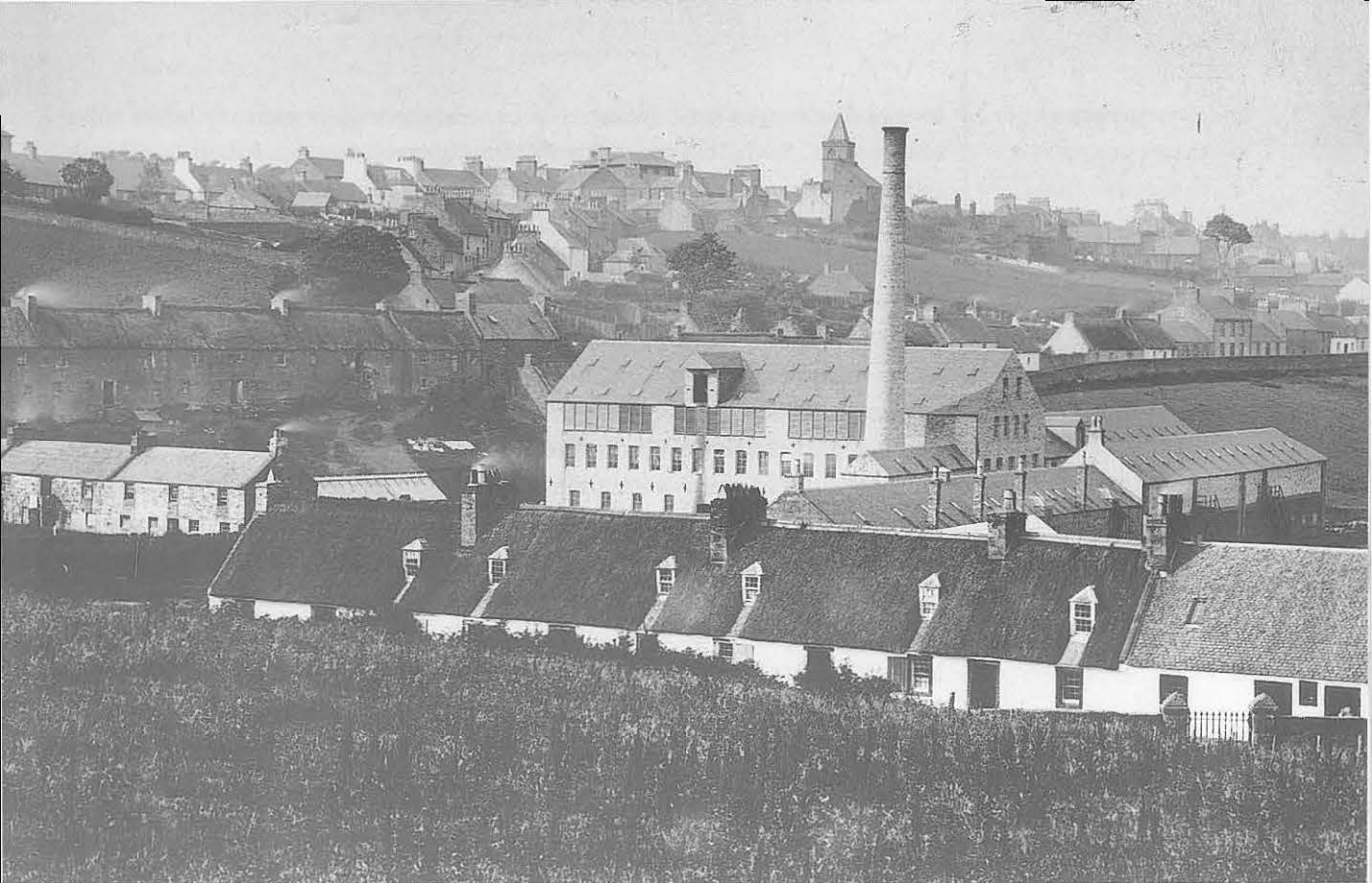


FIGURE 24
Ladywell factory from the
south-east, c 1880.
(Reproduced by permission of
Ayr Public Library)

Townend is now used by the International Packaging Corporation. On the street frontage there is a two-storey office building with round-headed windows on the ground floor; to the rear there is a mill with a brick chimney stack (NS 3040 1030).

The growing prosperity of the town was reflected in new public amenities and buildings. The council records indicate that, in 1808, fourteen lamps, or thereby, were to be set up 'for lighting of the streets' and a 'scaffinger' was to be appointed for sweeping the streets.¹⁴³ Wisely, the council decided on 12 December 1809 that the fleshers (butchers) should wash the market once a week.¹⁴⁴ The advent of gas lighting led to the opening of the Maybole Gas Company at Dangartland in 1834.¹⁴⁵ The minute books of the council give a clear indication of the efforts made to maintain and upgrade the built environment throughout this period. The accounts for 1825 to 1826 are relatively typical, showing repairs to wells and the tolbooth. Funds were also raised for 'a pair granet pillars for entrance into Ballgreen (£1 18s) and fencing Ballgreen at a cost of 14s 6d'.¹⁴⁶ The collegiate church was also cause for concern. On 26 July 1827 it was minuted that the Fiscals for the burgh had 'used every endeavor to protect the ruins of the old Collegiate Church (figs 14 & 15) from dilapidation and the Burying ground within and around the same from nuisances ... and been unable to protect it effectually'. They

requested that the heritors and magistrates enclose it 'with a stone and lime wall with a gate'. This was agreed and a subscription raised the funds.¹⁴⁷ On 5 January 1832, it is recorded that improvements around the college church were made at a cost of £57 12s 5d. The year's accounts indicate that a further £11 14s 11d was spent on the college church and its environs. As well as the usual expenses on lighting, wells and road upkeep, the parish church repairs cost £14 14s, a lock for the jail door was 3s 6d and putting up a new weather cock on the town house cost 7s.¹⁴⁸ In 1833, the burgh's property was itemised. This consisted of the townhouse, which was comprised of a court-house, a jail and a cellar; a flesh market and slaughter house; the Ballgreen (fig 26) which was used for cattle shows and other exhibitions; a small piece of ground at the Spout of Welltrees; and a front pew in the gallery of the parish church which was occupied by the magistrates and council.¹⁴⁹ The accounts for 1837–38 reveal a humane face of the council. It was decided that the schoolboys were to have the use of Ballgreen as a playground.¹⁵⁰ One matter that dominates the council minutes in the late 1840s was the importance of ensuring that the railway came to the town by a branch line.

The Royal Bank of Scotland chose an Italianate style in 1857 for its new branch at no 2 Whitehall, designed by Peddie & Kinnear¹⁵¹ (Category B-listed)

FIGURE 25
Royal Bank of Scotland,
Whitehall, 2002.



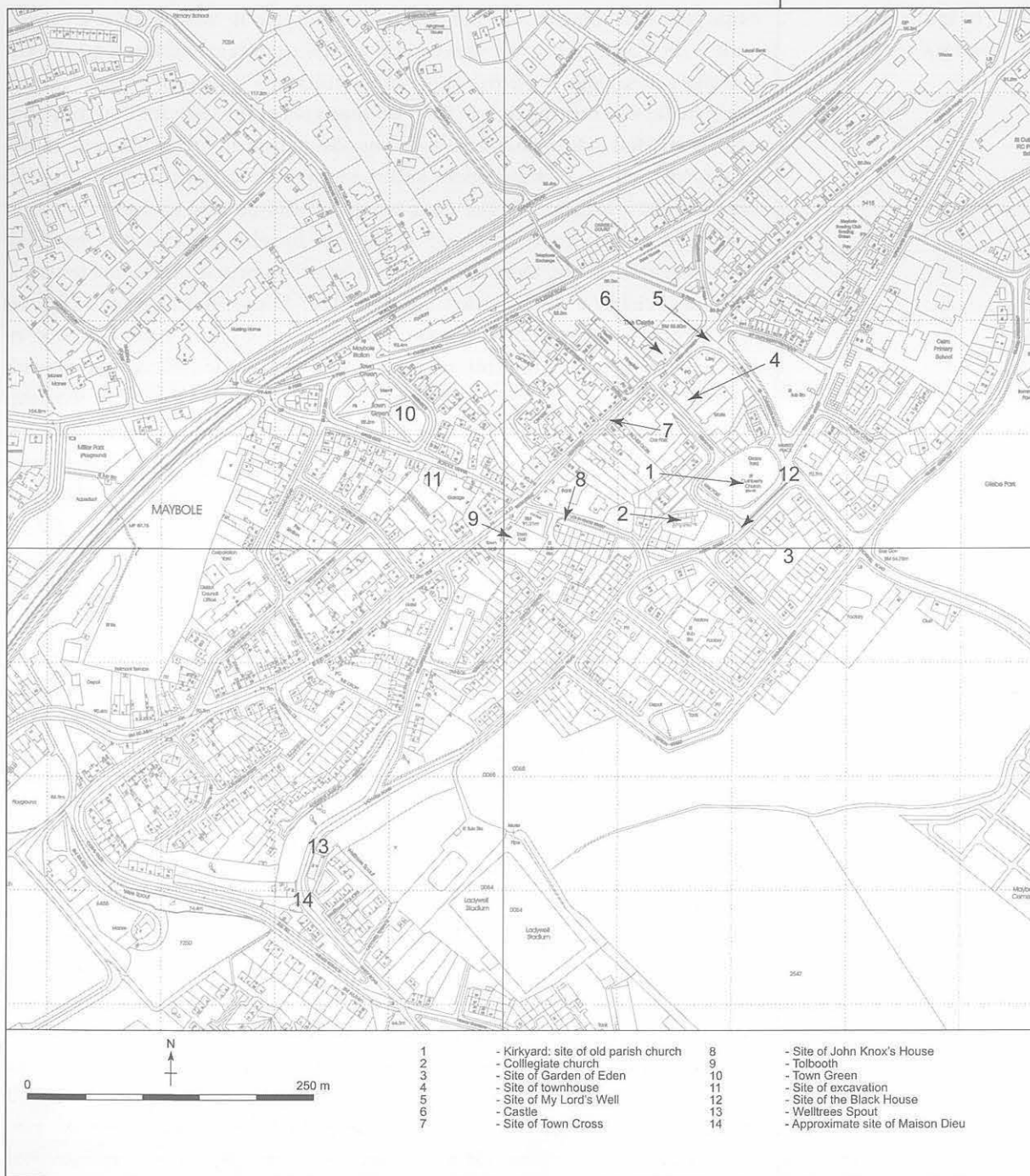


FIGURE 26
 Locations mentioned in text.
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(fig 25). In 1876, all the local schools were closed and Ladyland Public School was opened in their place.¹⁵² The Roman Catholic church of Our Lady and St Cuthbert (Category B-listed) was opened on Allan's Hill in 1878 and a Roman Catholic school shortly later.¹⁵³ The tolbooth was extended with the building of a Town Hall in Scots baronial style, in 1887, at a cost of £2,000, the architect being R S Ingram of Kilmarnock (Category B-listed). This still stands today with only minor alterations (fig 27).¹⁵⁴ By the late nineteenth century, the town had a poorhouse which accommodated forty-eight destitute persons. After the First World War, this was converted into the District Offices and Labour Exchange.¹⁵⁵ The Town Green (fig 26) (Ballgreen) was given a new appearance in 1894 when trees were planted and new paths and railings were put in place.¹⁵⁶ The minister, Roderick Lawson, praised the efforts of the townspeople in the *West Parish Monthly Letter* and commented on how the whole area was surrounded with a fringe of trees and an iron railing. He also pondered on Abercrombie's description of the area 200 years earlier, where, the latter said football was once played, but then golf and bowls were preferred. Lawson thought it suitable for bowls and football, 'but the scope for golf must have been limited'.¹⁵⁷

The burgh witnessed much rebuilding of private housing in the nineteenth century. Homes were not only rebuilt anew, but in many cases existing structures were extended. This is particularly noticeable in Kirkland Street where a number of single-storey weavers' cottages have been heightened and combined in a variety of ways.

The later nineteenth century also saw the renaming of many of the streets in the burgh, a move prompted by the minister, Roderick Lawson, whose proposals combined a nineteenth century romanticism of history with a degree of folk etymology.¹⁵⁸ New Yards was changed to Cassillis Road (fig 22), Kildoup to Welltrees Street, Smithy Brae to St Cuthbert's Road and Dangartland became Drumellan Street. Three of the four vennels leading off the High Street were renamed: Back Vennel (fig 10) became Red Lion Brae and then John Knox Street; Kirk Vennel is now Kirkwynd (fig 28); Fore Vennel, later 'foul' Vennel, then Post Vennel, is now named Castle Street.¹⁵⁹ Abbot Street was later named after the abbots of Crossraguel, who reputedly had a townhouse there, near the Black House (fig 12). This latter was one of the oldest buildings in Maybole until its demolition in 1967; it was so called because it was thought to have been occupied by Dominicans. Cargill Avenue and Road remember Donald Cargill, the Covenanting preacher. Ladywell Road, as previously mentioned, was known until 1952 as Weaver Vennel (fig 16) because of the numbers of weavers residing there. St Cuthbert's Road and Street were named after the patron saint of the town; as the keepers of his body, the monks of Lindisfarne supposedly rested in the Maybole area when fleeing the Danes. School Vennel led from the top of High Street to Ballgreen where the town school was sited in the seventeenth century.

Society Street takes its name from Maybole Benevolent Society which set up a house in 1824 for 'workpeople and their families'.¹⁶⁰ Whitehall is said to take its name from Carmelite Friars who were thought to have owned a house near or on site of the present bank.

The twentieth century

Civic pride continued to be expressed architecturally with the erection of new public buildings in the vicinity of the castle. The Carnegie Free Public Library (Category C(S) listed) was built in 1906 to a design by James Carrick, its Scottish Renaissance style intended to harmonise with the castle.¹⁶¹ The post office at no 3 High Street (Category C(S) listed) was opened in 1912, its Jacobean detail and crow-stepped gables adding to the period appearance of that part of the town.¹⁶² The Carrick Academy replaced the Ladyland School which had been destroyed by fire in 1919.

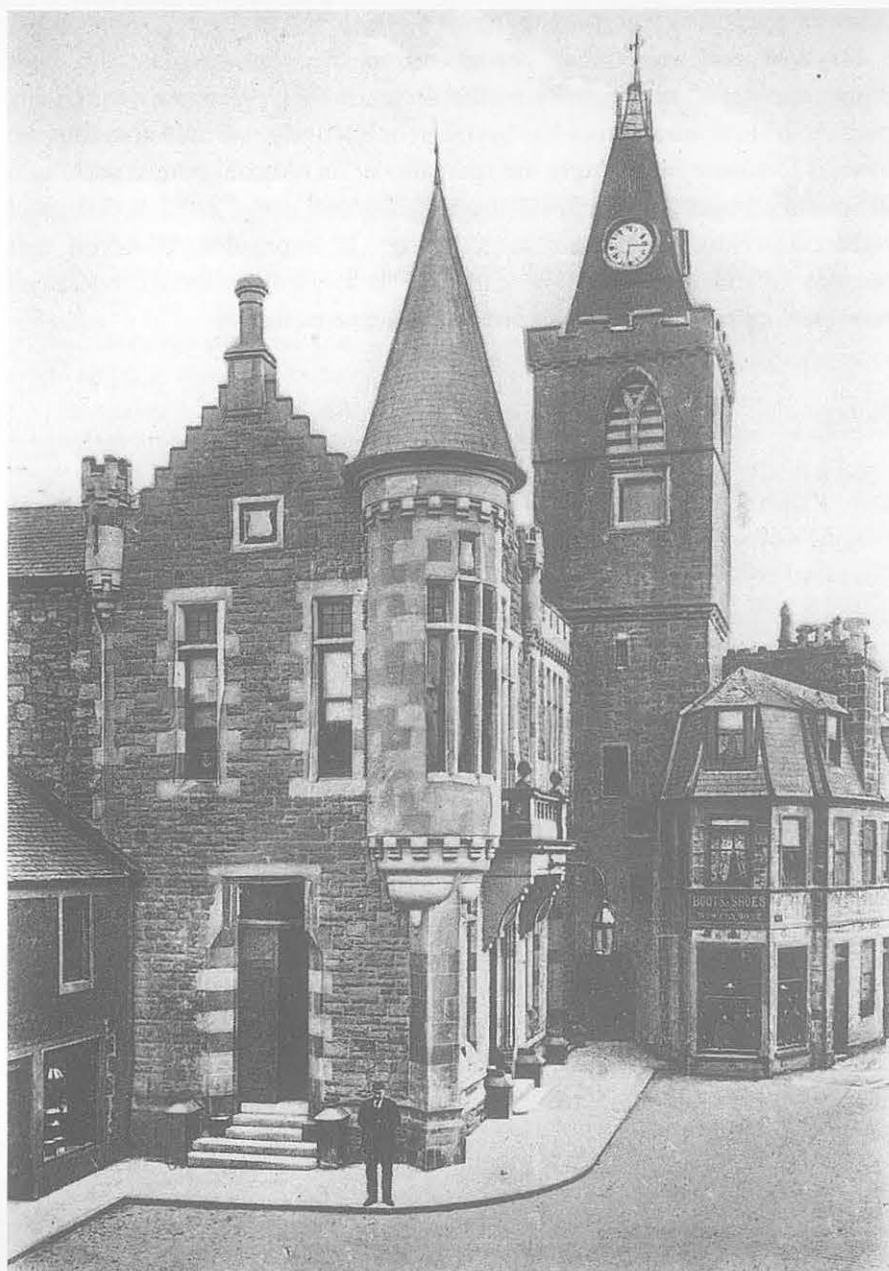
The decline in local shoe manufacturing continued, although in the first decade of the century over 1200 hands were employed producing over 18,000 boots and shoes per week.¹⁶³ The Ladywell factory of John Gray & Co was soon to close; the factory building was demolished and only the tannery continued. This led to a substantial decline in the population of the town.¹⁶⁴ The Townend factory of Lees & Co continued, the company diversifying its products, until the disastrous fire in June 1962. The smaller company of McCreath & Co continued in business until 1968. Their buildings survive at no 4 Society Street (NS 3018 0976).

The official guides to Maybole of 1912, approved by the town council, indicate the amenities the town had to offer. Golf at Auchenwynd, bowling at Cassillis Road, angling, the Carrick Cinema House in Culzean Road and billiards on the ground floor of the Carnegie Library.¹⁶⁵ The guides also carried advertisements for local stores. These give a fascinating insight into the goods on sale and style of shops in the earlier part of the twentieth century. Andrew Turnbull, for example, had a butcher shop at no 69 High Street. As well as 'home-killed beef, mutton, lamb and veal', he offered for sale 'pickled tongues, corned beef, salt rounds'. 'A trial [was] solicited.'¹⁶⁶ The changes in the food retail trade have had an impact on Maybole. The Carrick Provident Cooperative Society, dated 1931, occupied extensive premises at nos 19–25 Whitehall, extending back to Welltrees Street, its front decorated with a relief depicting blind justice. The buildings are now disused. A more recent development in the retail trade is the opening of the supermarket at no 19 High Street.

The twentieth century saw the replacement of much of the older housing in Maybole. More than one hundred houses were demolished in the period between 1918 and 1939 and 318 new houses were built, mostly by the council.¹⁶⁷ The funding for early schemes was generous, permitting

ornamentation, although from the late 1920s budgets became tighter.¹⁶⁸ There was an increasing demand for housing on the more fashionable north side of the town and a subsequent decline along the former Weaver Vennel (fig 16) (now Ladywell Road/Abbot Street) where extensive demolition and partial redevelopment took place in the late 1960s. The town has since expanded to the north with new housing north of the railway at Gardenrose, after reliance on limited local water supplies from reservoirs at Glenside Farm

FIGURE 27
Maybole town hall, c 1920,
extended from the tolbooth.
(By courtesy of RCAHMS; ©
Crown copyright RCAHMS)



and Lochspouts Farm proved unwise when supplies failed in the drought of October 1933; the burgh became connected to the Ayr County water main in the 1940s.¹⁶⁹

In 1950 the Third Statistical Account was prepared by the Rev Alexander Williamson. After the prosperity of the late nineteenth century, decline of shoe manufacture created unemployment. Williamson stated that there were 1250 houses in Maybole, of which 40 were villas, 115 cottages, 32 terraces, with the rest being tenements. By 1971, the council had built 1000 houses; overcrowding in the 1940s had meant that around 20 per cent of Scottish councils' properties had more than one family living in them.

Maybole has seen great changes over the centuries, in the built environment and dramatically in the focus of the settlement. Regrettably much of historic importance has been lost in relatively recent history; but the town is fortunate in retaining the remnants of its old collegiate church, two of its very important medieval townhouses and many listed buildings of eighteenth-century and later date (fig 27). It is possible, however, that remains of much more of the early burgh are still preserved, concealed behind more modern frontages and below ground (fig 30).

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4 *The archaeological potential of Maybole*

The consultation draft of the *South Ayrshire Local Plan*, published in 1999, delineates the historic burgh of Maybole, drawing its boundaries to include the burgage plots on each side of the High Street, with Barns Terrace as its northern limit and a southern extension to Abbot Road to include the collegiate church (figs 14 & 15) and the old kirkyard. Much of this area, with the marked exception of the collegiate church and the kirkyard is designated as a Conservation Area.¹

The existence of two tower-houses within the burgh, the castle (figs 2 & 29) and the tolbooth (figs 3 & 27), and the survival of a major townhouse in the Kirkwynd (figs 18, 19 & 28), hidden beneath later remodellings, must make the examination of the archaeology of any standing building of earlier than c 1850 a priority. This latter house may have been a tower-house in its original form, standing within an urban street context, rather than the isolated towers that are the popular image of the genre today. Tower-houses were a prominent part of the Ayrshire post-medieval townscape. Others survive as Loudoun Hall in Ayr, Barr Castle at Galston, and Newmilns Tower in Newmilns.² Further south, Maclellan's Castle, Kirkcudbright, is a notable example of what has been termed 'urban strongholds', as was the now

FIGURE 28
Kirkwynd, 2002.



demolished Maxwell's Castle in Dumfries.³ These defensible houses protected the inhabitants of a prospering burgh from the threat posed by the turbulent events of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. As well as having the utilitarian virtue of defence, they made an architectural statement on the status of the owner. These urban towers are a phenomenon not confined to south-west Scotland; they can be noted throughout Europe, for example, from the tower-houses within the walls of post-medieval Carrickfergus to the tall towers of the houses of medieval Siena.

Some other properties in Maybole have been altered so that their earlier date is difficult to recognise beneath later remodelling. During the course of the nineteenth century, the now demolished John Knox's House in John Knox Street had its windows changed, a forestair removed and the thatching replaced with slate to give a nineteenth-century appearance to a building that may have dated from the sixteenth century. Similarly, the house at *no* 6 Kirkwynd shows evidence of earlier blocked windows partly obscured by nineteenth-century dormers. Earlier structures also may survive incorporated in the existing buildings of the High Street, for example, an earlier phase of building is visible in the side gable of *no* 26 High Street.

There has been no excavation of a street frontage in Maybole but recent excavations in comparable burghs elsewhere have shown that these areas are normally the most rewarding areas to investigate, and evidence of earlier buildings may survive sealed beneath the eighteenth- or nineteenth-century standing buildings. Excavations have also shown that the widths and alignments of the main street in burghs have changed over the centuries, sometimes considerably. Earlier cobbled street surfaces and contemporary buildings may be preserved up to 3 or 4 metres behind the line of modern street frontages. Therefore, the site of any proposed development or ground disturbance along the pre-nineteenth-century street frontages (**fig 11**) must be accorded a high archaeological priority, and arrangements should be made for the site to be assessed, monitored and, if necessary, excavated in advance of the development scheme. Similarly, any proposed ground disturbance of the streets themselves (for instance, for essential repairs, access to services, or environmental improvements) should also be monitored routinely.

The surviving walls of burgage plots can follow the lines of property boundaries that date from the foundation of the burgh. Surviving archaeological deposits in backlands may include medieval garden soils, rubbish pits or middens, all of which provide evidence for the date and nature of early land use as well as the work of craftsmen and those engaged in small-scale urban industries. Particularly rich archaeological deposits may exist behind the revetment walls bounding the southern end of the burgage plots on the south side of the High Street (**fig 10**). Areas of waste ground behind frontages also may yield this sort of information, and should therefore be routinely assessed archaeologically in advance of any proposed ground disturbance.



FIGURE 29
Maybole Castle and paddock,
2002.

The core of the earlier medieval settlement – the area around the old kirkyard (fig 10) and the collegiate church (figs 14 & 15) – remains uncovered by building development since clearances were effected in the 1960s. This area includes the possible sites of houses of the prebendaries, the priests connected with the collegiate church, such as the site of the Black House (fig 12) (NS 3012 0983) and which may contain archaeological evidence of the form of these houses and of the customs of the priests. The area in the vicinity of the former parish church and the collegiate church has considerable potential for the preservation of archaeological evidence of the both medieval and early post-medieval Maybole. Archaeological evidence may also survive of the settlement associated with the foundation of the original church in Maybole and the introduction of Christianity into the area in the seventh or eighth century. Investigation within the High Street could reveal details of the buildings, the economy and social life within the early burgh, while the areas of the castle and tolbooth have an archeological potential for revealing aspects of the higher status life of the inhabitants of those buildings. The paddock to the north of the castle (fig 29) has a high archaeological potential for the preservation of evidence for the service buildings and early gardens associated with the castle.

The range of sources of evidence consulted for this Burgh Survey have been discussed above (see p 9). A study of Maybole that was of wider scope and afforded more time for research than this present Survey might benefit from a deeper assessment of these sources. Future work might also consider other avenues of research offering greater insights into historic Maybole. Sources not accessed for this Survey will offer greater insights into historic Maybole. Ecclesiastical records, newspapers, the private papers of local families and industrial and merchants' records, for example, would prove a worthwhile source of information, leading to a greater understanding of this interesting historic town.

THE POTENTIAL OF MAYBOLE

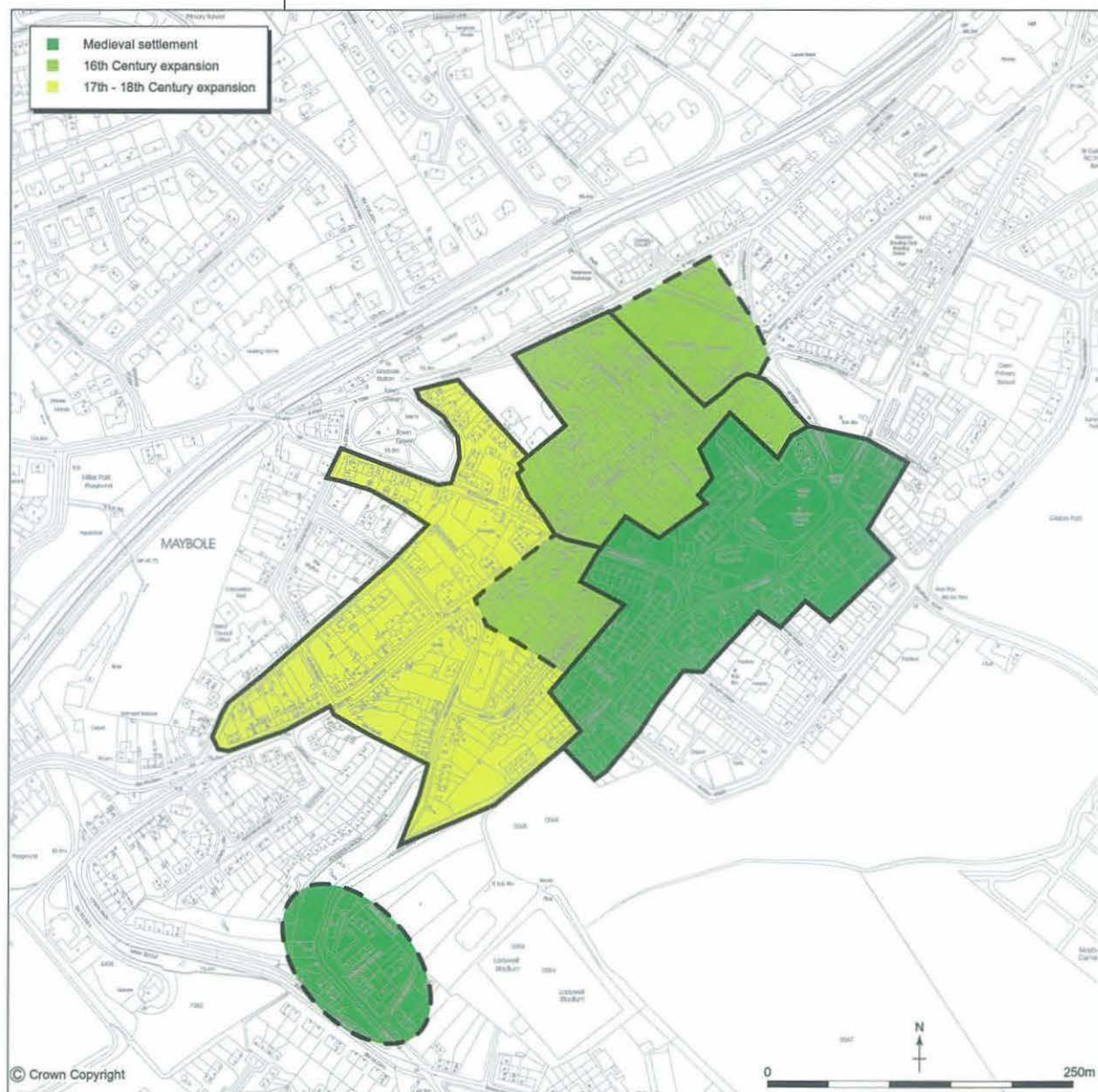
FIGURE 30

Colour-coded town plan
indicating areas of prime
archaeological interest.

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Notes

- 1 South Ayrshire Council (Ayr, 1999), Map 25
- 2 M C Davis, *The Castles and Mansions of Ayrshire* (Ardrishaig 1991), 321, 173 and 343
- 3 A M T Maxwell-Irving, *The Border Towers of Scotland: Their History and Architecture; The West March (Dumfriesshire & Eastern Galloway)* (Stirling, 2000), 17



Glossary of technical terms

backlands	The area to the rear of the burgage plot behind the dwelling house on the frontage. Originally intended for growing produce and keeping animals; the site of wells and midden heaps. Eventually housed working premises of craftsmen and poorer members of the burgh society.
boundaries	<i>see</i> burgage plot.
burgage plot	A division of land, often regular in size, having been measured out by liners, allocated to a burgess. Once built on, it contained the burgage house on the frontage (<i>see</i> frontage) and a backland (<i>see</i> backland). In time, with pressure for space, the plots were often subdivided – repletion. Plots were bounded by ditches, wattle fences or stone walls.
close	<i>see</i> vennel.
documentary sources	Written evidence, primary sources being the original documents.
feu	A perpetual lease at a fixed rent.
frontage	Front part of a burgage plot nearest the street, on which the dwelling was usually built.
gap sites	Burgage plots not built up or 'biggit' in a modern context, undeveloped space between two buildings.
hinterland	Rural area around a burgh, to which the burgh looked for economic and agricultural support; hinterland likewise dependent on burgh market.
midden	Refuse heap near dwelling.
nepus gable	A small gable carried up from the top of a front or back wall of a building and having a small dormer-like roof of its own.
prebend	The portion of the revenues of a collegiate church granted to a canon as his stipend.
prebendary	The holder of a prebend.
prehistory	Period of human history before the advent of writing.
tolbooth	The most important secular building; meeting place of the burgh council; collection post for market tolls; often housed town jail.
urban nucleus	Original site/s from which the town developed.
vennel	Alley; narrow lane.

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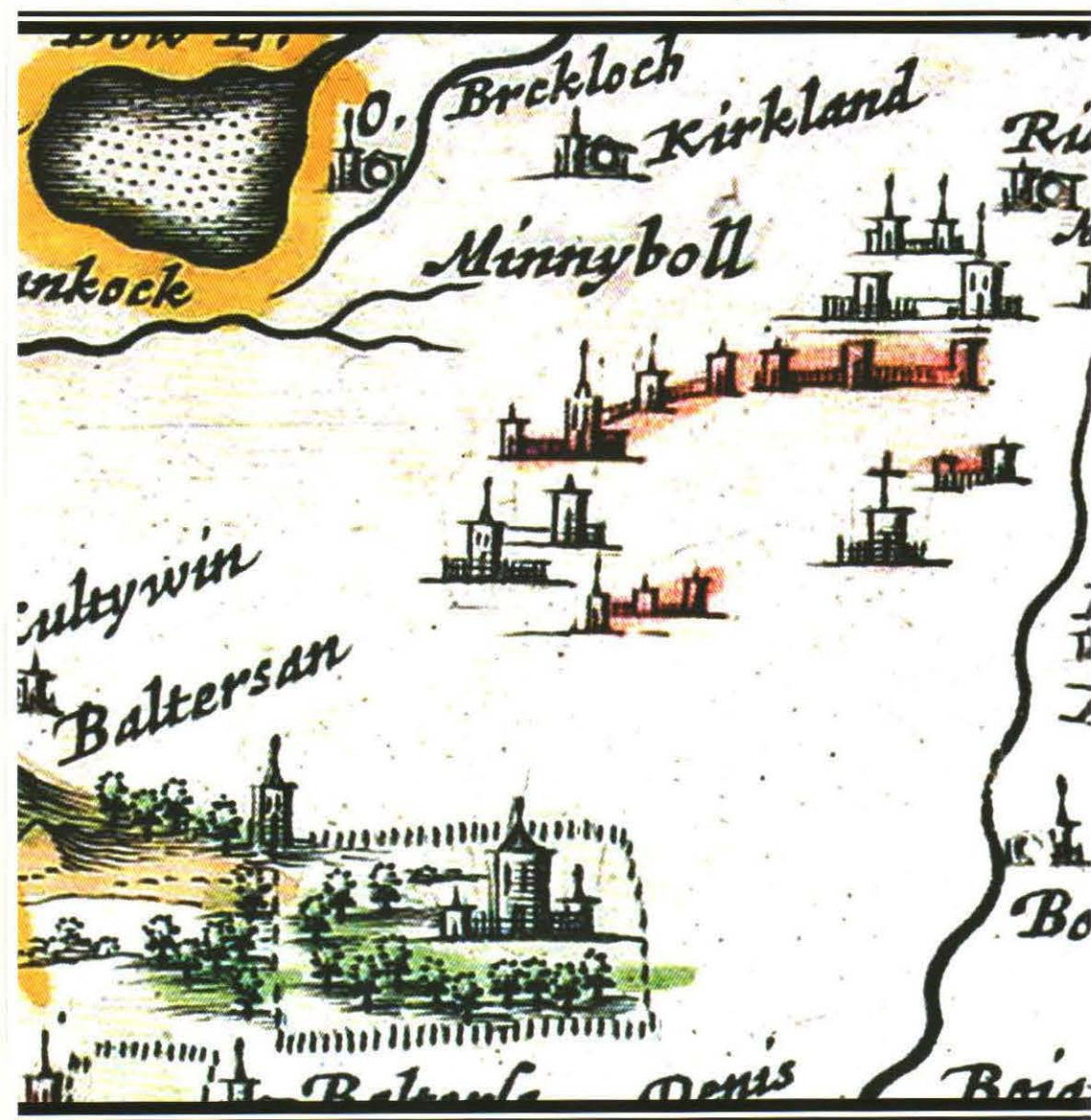
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Maybole

The Scottish Burgh Survey

MAYBOLE WAS FIRST RECORDED IN 1193 WHEN DUNCAN, *Earl of Carrick*, granted 'the lands of Meibothelbeg' including a church dedicated to *St Cuthbert*, to the monks of *Melrose*.

The place name Meibothel is possibly derived from the Old English mæge-boll meaning maiden's hall. This suggests that Maybole was an Anglian settlement created from the mid seventh to the tenth century when the area was part of the Northumbrian kingdom. The nature of the settlement associated with the church is unknown. It is likely that this early settlement was in the area around the old Kirkyard, which formed the nucleus of the later medieval settlement, containing both the parish and collegiate churches. The main street was on the present line of Abbot Street and Ladywell Road (formerly known as Weaver Vennel) and the settlement may have extended westwards as far as the Ladywell and the nearby Welltrees Spout. The town has good water sources and this was exploited in the development of industries, in particular tanneries and leather working. The town received an economic boost in 1516 when it was erected the first burgh of barony in the district of Carrick and so it became the pre-eminent town in this region. The burgesses were given free power to sell all common merchandise and a market was held every Thursday. Around this time there was a deliberate extension of Maybole to the north of the medieval settlement,



High Street, c 1930.
By courtesy of Carnegie Library, Ayr.



Weaver Vennel.
By courtesy of Maybole Historical Society.

with the creation of a planned town, and a new market place, around present High Street. The commercial focus shifted here with the frontage crowded with buildings and booths. To the rear were yards used for light industries or simple cultivation. The long property boundaries which survive behind much of the High Street preserve the lines of these burgage plots.

The boundaries of these properties remained more or less fixed over time and buildings were constructed directly over the remains of earlier buildings, a sequence, in some cases, going back to the medieval period and continuing up to the present day. It would seem that the wealth of the town increased after it became a burgh ; Maybole Castle, originally a townhouse of the Earls of Cassillis, was built in the 16th century. Besides the 'castle' there were 28 other residences of the gentry in the town, where they would stay over the winter. Remains of these important buildings are still preserved behind more modern facades.

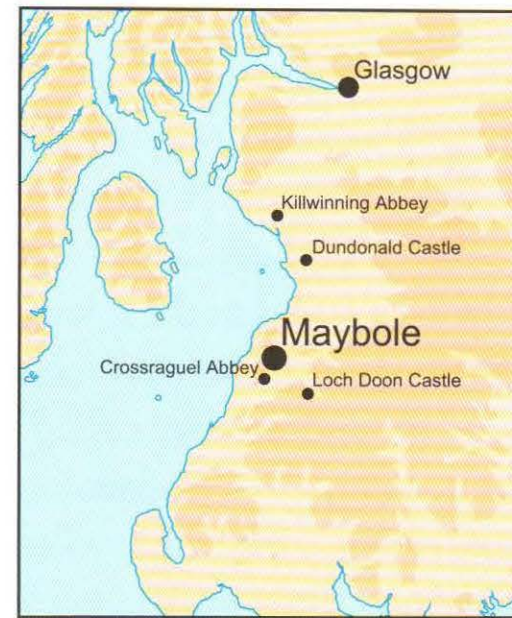
Maps produced by General W. Roy, compiled in 1747-55, give the first detailed plan of Maybole. A solid line of buildings is shown along Ladywell Road, turning north along John Knox Street to the High Street, and continuing along the High Street and down Kirkwynd. A few buildings are shown on Welltrees Street and also to the east of the 'castle'. The nineteenth century witnessed development of the areas to the north of High Street and a subsequent decline to the south. This development was underpinned by expansion of the town's traditional leather working industry, coupled with a growth in weaving. The population of the town grew quickly, particularly because of Irish immigration. The appearance of the burgh was transformed by the building of large factories that specialised in the production of heavy working boots called 'Maybole tacketties'. The twentieth century saw the replacement of much of the older housing in Maybole. More than 100 houses were demolished in the period 1918-1939, and 318 new houses were built. The funding for early schemes was generous, permitting ornamentation, although from the late 1920s budgets became tighter. There was an increasing demand for housing on the more fashionable north side of the town and a subsequent decline on the medieval axis of Weaver Vennel. This was renamed as Ladywell Road and Abbot Street in 1952 and, subsequently, in the late 1960s, there was extensive demolition and partial redevelopment. The town has since expanded to the north with new housing north of the railway at Gardenrose. Despite all this development Maybole retains much of its historic character and this is reflected in a rich architectural and archaeological heritage.



High Street, looking east, 2002.

Historic Maybole

This archaeological map and sketch of Maybole accompanies the Burgh Survey. The Scottish Burgh Survey project was established in the 1970s and has since produced detailed surveys of over 50 of Scotland's historic towns and cities. The primary objective is to identify areas of archaeological potential within the towns under study, to help assess the implications of development. The surveys also provide background information on the history and archaeology of each burgh. The Centre for Scottish Urban History at the University of Edinburgh and Kirkdale Archaeology produced the Maybole Burgh Survey for Historic Scotland.



Copies of the Maybole Burgh Survey book can be obtained from the publishers: Council for British Archaeology, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ (Distributed by Central Books, tel. 0845 4589910). Further information, particularly regarding legally protected sites, can be gleaned from the PAST MAP website (<http://www.PASTMAP.org.uk>). Where development is being considered, in all cases advice should be sought from South Ayrshire Council's advisers, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, Charing Cross Complex, 20 India Street, Glasgow, G2 4PF (tel. 0141 287 8333).

Historic Scotland acknowledges the generous contribution of South Ayrshire Council towards the printing costs.

Historic Scotland properties to visit near Maybole

Crossraguell Abbey – the most complete medieval monastery in Scotland. On A77 2 miles south of Maybole. Telephone 01655 883113.

Loch Doon Castle – a fine 14th-century castle which played an important part in the Wars of Independence. Signposted off A713, 2 miles south of Dalmellington.

Dundonald Castle – a mighty royal castle of the Stewarts. In the village of Dundonald 5 miles north of Ayr, on the A71. Telephone 01563 851489.

Kilwinning Abbey – the much reduced remains of this abbey stand in Kilwinning town centre.

Why not become a Friend of Historic Scotland? Membership allows you free access to explore 5000 years of Scotland's history, including such spectacular sites as Edinburgh, Stirling and Urquhart castles, and Iona Abbey. Phone 0131 668 8999 to find out more, or visit www.historic-scotland.gov.uk.

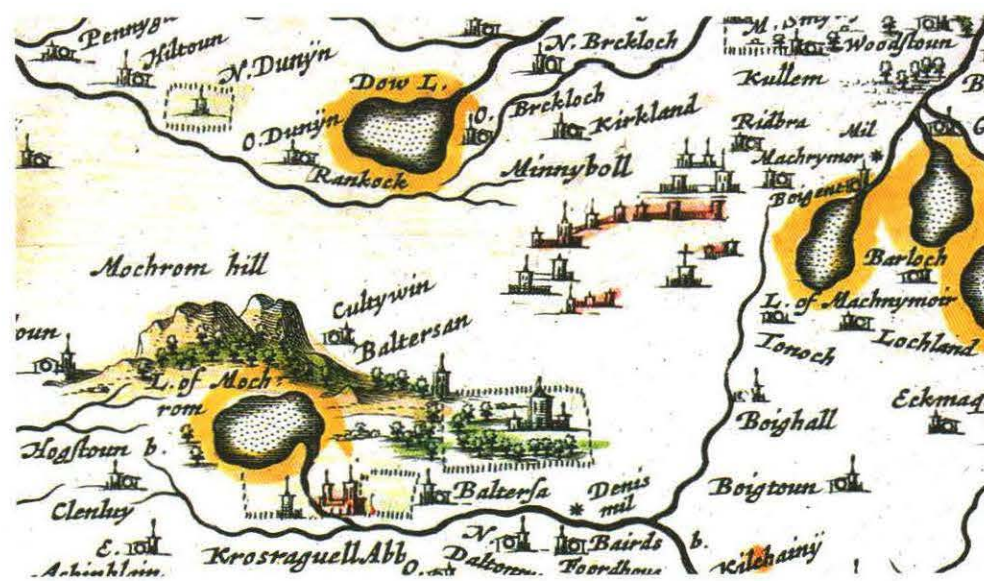
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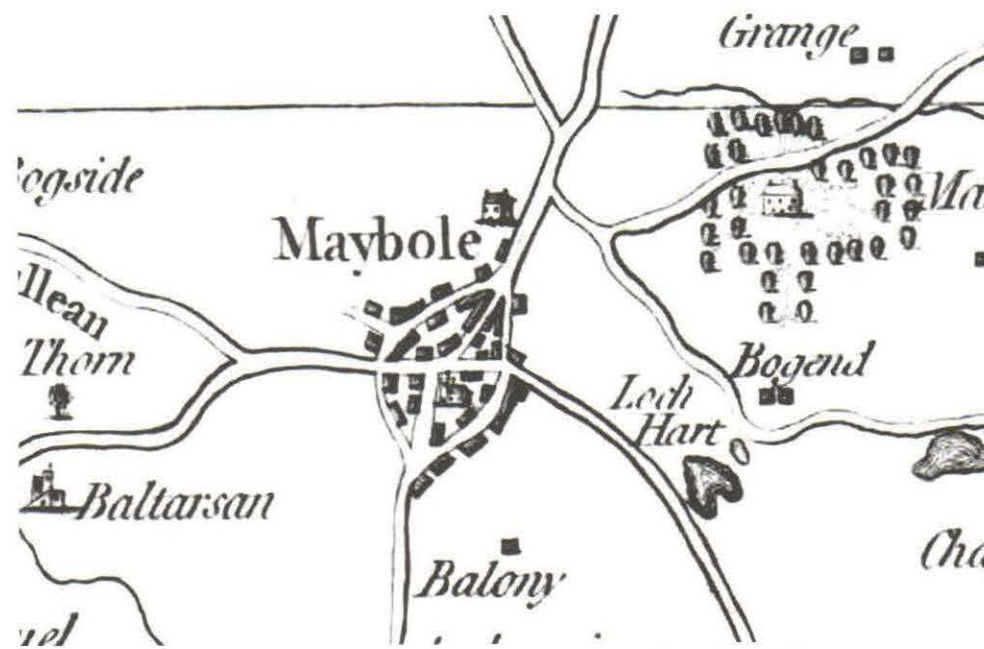
Abbot's House.
By courtesy of Maybole Historical Society.



Maybole town hall, c 1920.
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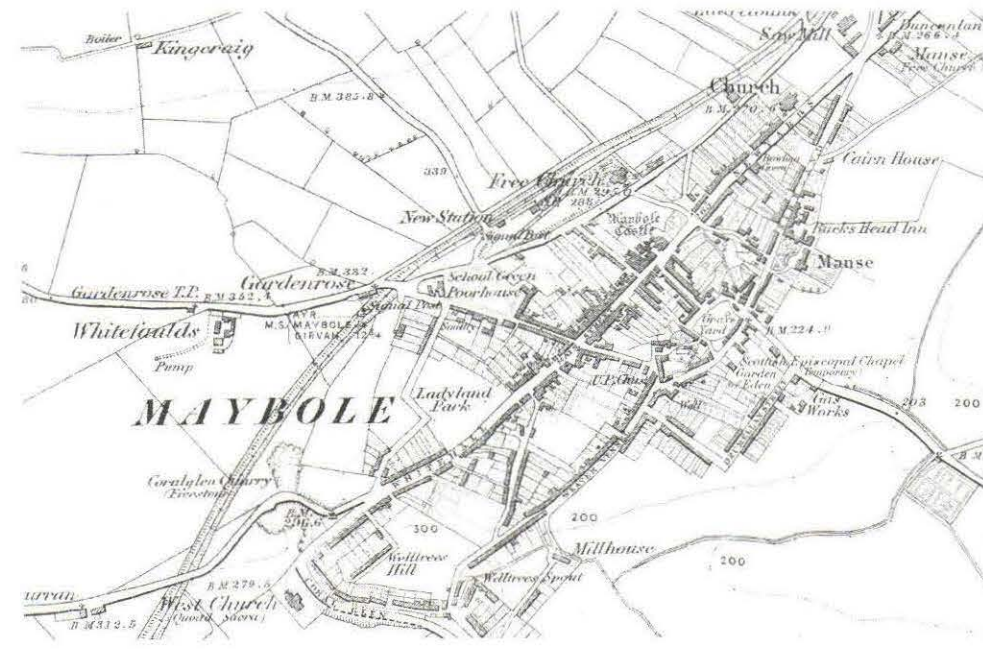
A detail of J. Blaeu's map of Carrieta Borealis, 1654, showing Maybole.
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.



A detail from Andrew Armstrong's A New Map of Ayrshire, 1775.
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Extract from William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55.
By permission of the British Library; Sheet 3, section 7/2.



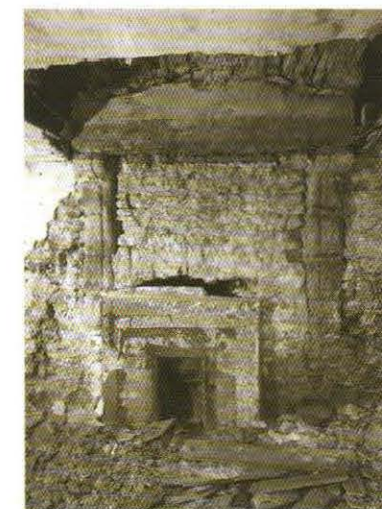
Maybole in 1857, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 6 inches to the mile.



30 Kirkwynd, 1971.
© Crown copyright, RCAHMS.



Royal Bank of Scotland, Whitehall, 2002.



Remains of fireplace, 30 Kirkwynd, 1971.
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2 School Vennel, 2002.



Maybole Castle and paddock, 2002.

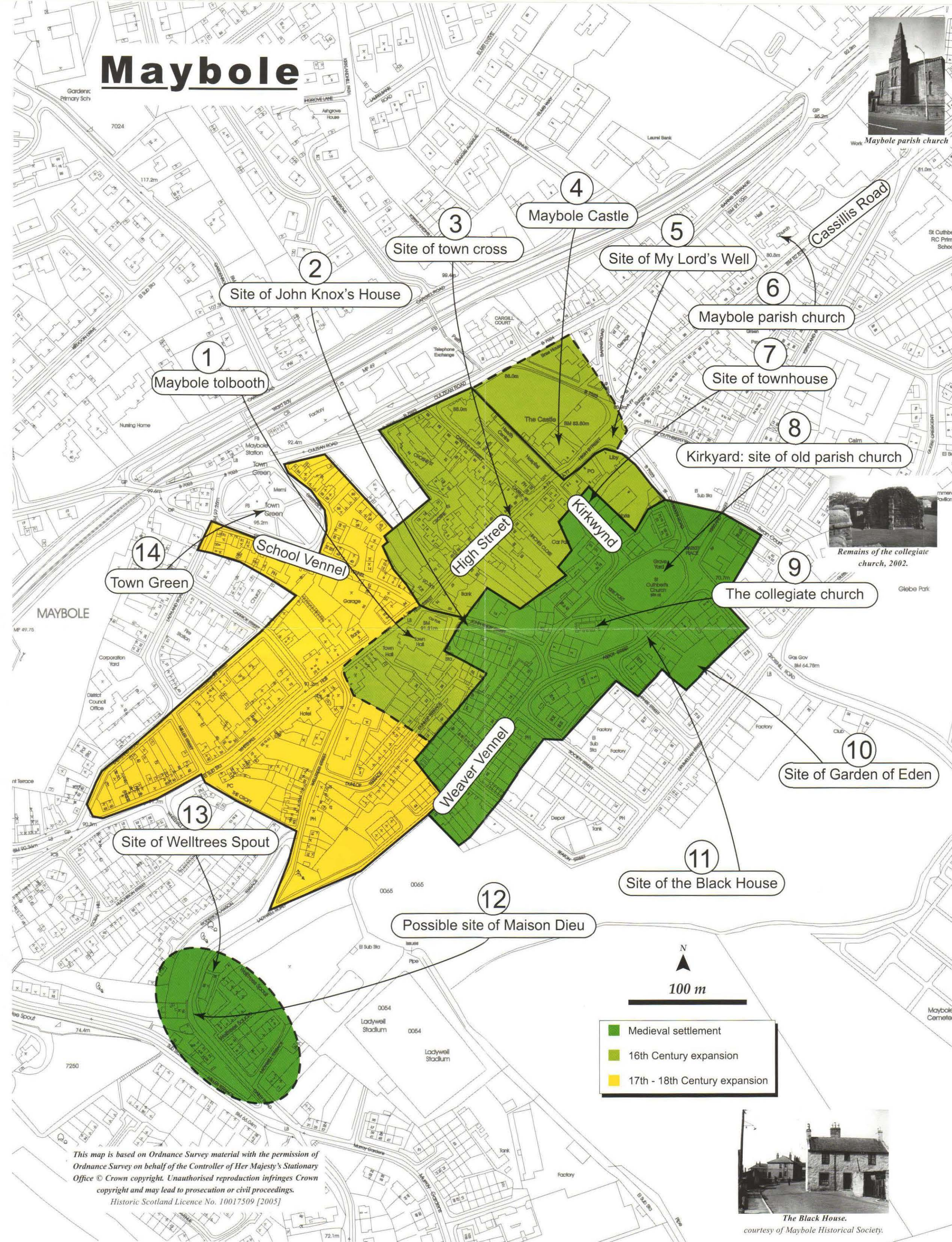


Ladywell factory from the south-east, c 1880.
Reproduced by permission of Ayr Public Library.

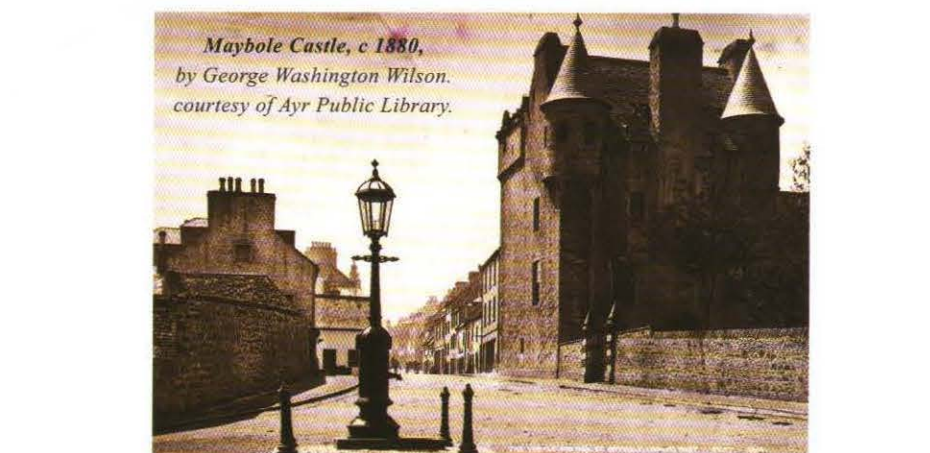
The map opposite shows the areas of prime archaeological interest in Maybole and is a useful guide to protecting and recording its historic remains as the town develops in the future. The core of the earlier medieval settlement – the area around the old collegiate church – remains undeveloped. Archaeological evidence of the settlement associated with the original church, possibly dating back to the 7th or 8th century, may survive. This area also includes the possible sites of houses of the college priests which may contain archaeological evidence of the form of these houses and of the lives of the priests. Investigation within the other parts of the medieval town, especially the High Street, could reveal details of the buildings, economy and social life within the early burgh. The areas around the castle and tolbooth might reveal aspects of the higher status lives of the inhabitants here. The existence of these high-status buildings makes the examination and recording of any standing buildings, earlier than 1850, a priority.



Aerial view of Maybole.
© Crown copyright, RCAHMS.



- 1. Maybole Tolbooth**
In October 1674 the town council purchased the former townhouse of the lairds of Blairquhan for use as a tolbooth. The tolbooth not only housed the meetings of the town officials but also functioned as the town jail.
- 2. Site of John Knox's House**
John Knox's House was said to be the site of the residence of the provost of the collegiate church, and the site of a famous debate between Knox and the Abbot of Crossraguel in 1562.
- 3. Site of town cross**
Maybole had a market every Thursday. The market cross stood in the High Street until removed in 1773, because it was impeding traffic.
- 4. Maybole Castle**
The 'castle' was originally a townhouse of the Earls of Cassillis and may have been constructed around 1540.



- 5. & 13. Site of My Lord's Well and Welltrees Spout**
The castle was supplied by a spring known as My Lord's Well (Site 5), which had an outflow in the later St Cuthbert's Road, known as St Cuthbert's Well. The most copious spring in Maybole was Welltrees Spout (Site 13).
- 6. New parish church**
The old parish church (8) was replaced in 1808 when a new one was constructed on Cassillis Road.

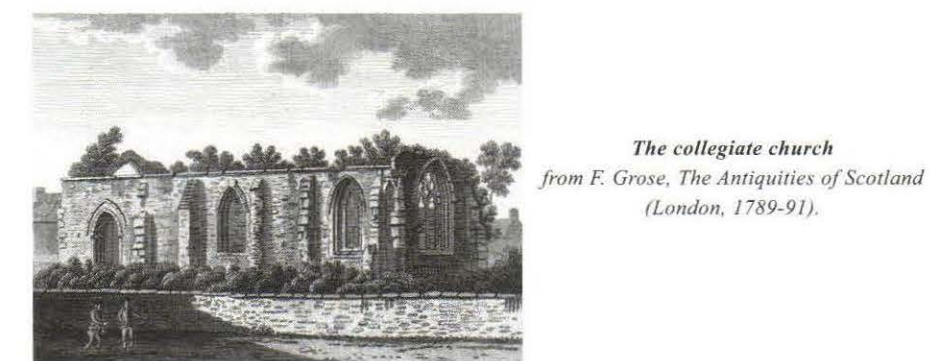
- 7. Site of townhouse**
Remnants of earlier buildings may survive hidden behind later remodellings, as was the case at no 30 Kirkwynd, where demolition exposed the remains of a former townhouse dating from the late 16th or early 17th century.
- 8. Kirkyard: site of the old parish church (St Cuthbert's)**
The medieval parish church stood in the churchyard to the north of Abbot Street. Unfortunately no trace of the church survives above ground. Kirkyard boundaries often change, and it is possible that burials might be found beyond the present graveyard.

- 9. The collegiate church**
The oldest surviving building in Maybole is the ruined collegiate church, established in 1382, within a chapel founded by the Kennedy family. The remains are now designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, in the care of Historic Scotland.

- 10. & 12. The Garden of Eden and the Maison Dieu**
An area known as the Garden of Eden (Site 10) lay to the south-east of the Old Kirkyard and may have been an enclosed garden associated with the church. The location of Maybole's Maison Dieu, or medieval hospital, is uncertain but is thought to have lain just outside the burgh in the area of Welltrees (Site 12).

- 11. Site of Black House and Abbot's House**
A two-storey house known as the Black House stood at the corner of Kirk Port and Abbot Street. This house, which was recorded in 1612, was said to be the dwelling of one of the prebendaries who served the collegiate church. Nearby, reputedly, stood the townhouse of the Abbot of Crossraguel.

- 14. Town Green**
The Town Green (or Ballgreen) was used for recreation in the post-medieval town and was the site of the town school in the 17th century.



The collegiate church
from F. Grose, *The Antiquities of Scotland*
(London, 1789-91).

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The Black House.
courtesy of Maybole Historical Society.

This Survey provides an accessible and broad-ranging synthesis of existing knowledge on historic Maybole, and will inform conservation guidance for future development.

The historic town of Maybole lies equidistant from the burghs of Ayr and Girvan in South Ayrshire. First appearing in the historical record in 1193, the dedication of its original parish church to St Cuthbert points to Maybole's earlier origin as an Anglian settlement.

The core of the medieval town grew up around the old kirkyard and the 14th-century collegiate church. Glimpses of the pattern of medieval settlement here, and along the High Street, are evident in the layout of the 18th- and 19th-century houses in the heart of the town.

Granted the status of a burgh in 1516, Maybole was a focal point of the economic life and society of Carrick. The later development of the medieval town was influenced by the tempestuous history of local rivalries and feuds – encouraging the building of defensible townhouses, such as the surviving castle and the tolbooth.

The volume also traces the industrial growth and thriving economic life of 19th-century Maybole, with new civic building, factory developments and residential expansion. The rapid changes of the last century are fully explored, and an evaluation made of the surviving evidence. The authors look at the archaeological potential of key sites in the town, to both direct more detailed research and help protect Maybole's heritage.

The book is part of the Scottish Burgh Survey – a series designed to identify the archaeological potential of Scotland's historic towns.

£9.50

HISTORIC SCOTLAND

THE SCOTTISH BURGH SURVEY

south
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COUNCIL



ISBN 1-902771-51-6
EAN 978-1-902771-51-9

