

Ancient Monuments in Ayrshire

Towards the end of 1953 the Secretary of the Society received a request from the Ministry of Works, seeking the assistance of the Society and its members in keeping a watchful eye on scheduled ancient Monuments in Ayrshire. What is required can best be explained by quoting extracts from the official communication:—

“When the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act was before Parliament in July of this year some concern was expressed about the adequacy of the inspection of Monuments which have been scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts by the Ministry of Works as worthy of preservation in the national interest.

“It should be explained that when a Monument is scheduled a Statutory notice is served by the Minister of Works on the owner and also the occupier (if any), and that thereafter no works of demolition, removal or repair of any part of the Monument, or any alteration or addition to the Monument, should be carried out unless due notice has first been given. Scheduling does not involve any change in ownership. It is only when the Ministry of Works accepts guardianship of a Monument that it assumes financial responsibility for its preservation.

“The Ministry has a limited Inspectorial staff which visits scheduled Monuments as often as possible. There are, however, some two thousand of these Monuments in Scotland and it is impossible for the Ministry's staff, with its other duties, to inspect all of them with any frequency. It was suggested in Parliament that the Ministry might seek the help of the various Archaeological, Antiquarian, etc., Societies in Scotland, which include in their activities an interest in Ancient Monuments.

“The Ministry would value the co-operation of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in this matter. All that would be expected would be that the members of the Society would, as occasion offered, identify or visit the scheduled Monuments and report anything of interest, and in particular anything adversely affecting a Monument to the Ministry.”

An up-to-date list of scheduled Monuments is appended. Members of the Society will, no doubt, be acquainted with those in their own localities. If any particular Monument, either now or in the future, appears to be threatened or to require inspection, the Secretary of the Society should be advised. In cases of emergency, where urgent action may be necessary, members should communicate at once with the Ministry of Works, Scottish Headquarters, 122 George Street, Edinburgh, 2. (Telegraphic Address: Travaux, Edinburgh, Telex.).

LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.

<i>Name of Monument.</i>	<i>Parish.</i>	<i>6 Inch O.S. Sheet Reference.</i>	<i>Grid Reference.</i>
Alloway, Auld Brig o' Doon.	Ayr and Maybole.	XXXIX N.W.	333178
Alloway Kirk, Ayr ...	Ayr.	XXXIII S.W.	332181
Ardstinchar Castle ...	Ballantrae.	LXV S.E.	089825
Auchans, near Dundonald.	Dundonald.	XXII N.W.	355347
Ayr, Auld Brig o' Ayr	Ayr.	XXXIII N.W.	338222
Ayr Citadel, parts of...	Ayr.	XXXIII N.W.	333225
Busbie Castle (now demolished).	Kilmaurs.	XVII. S.E.	397391
Cairn, Cuff Hill Plantation, near Gateside.	Beith.	VIII N.E.	386552
Clonbeith Castle ...	Kilwinning.	XII S.W.	339455
Craigie Castle ...	Craigie.	XXIII S.W.	408318
Cumnock Market Cross	Old Cumnock.	XXXV S.E.	568202
Dalquharran Castle, New Dailly.	Dailly.	L S.E.	273019
Fairlie Castle ...	Largs.	VI N.E.	213548
Fairlie, Sculptured Recumbent Monument, Largs.	Largs.	VI N.E.	210545
Glengarnock Castle ...	Kilbirnie.	IV S.E.	309574
Greenan Castle ...	Maybole.	XXXIII S.W.	312194
Irvine, House in the Seagate.	Irvine.	XVII S.W.	320388
Kemplaw, Vitrified Fort, near Dundonald	Dundonald.	XXII S.W.	359337
Kennedy Monument, Ballantrae.	Ballantrae.	LXV S.E.	083825
Kilmaurs Tolbooth ...	Kilmaurs.	XVIII N.W.	412413
Kilwinning Abbey ...	Kilwinning.	XVI N.E.	304433
Kirkhill Castle ...	Colmonell.	LXVI N.W.	145864

<i>Name of Monument.</i>	<i>Parish.</i>	<i>6 Inch O.S. Sheet Reference.</i>	<i>Grid Reference</i>
Kilwinning Market Cross.	Kilwinning.	XVI N.E.	304434
Knockdolian Castle ...	Colmonell.	LXVI N.W.	093857
Knock Jargon, Cairn and Fort, West Kilbride.	Ardrossan.	XI N.W. and S.W.	236474
Law Castle... ..	Kilbride.	X N.E.	214483
Mauchline Castle (Abbot Hunter's Tower).	Mauchline.	XXVIII N.E.	498273
Newmilns Tower ...	Loudoun.	XIX S.W.	536374
Portincross Castle ...	West Kilbride.	X N.E.	176489
Prestwick Market Cross	Prestwick.	XXVII S.W.	352262
Southannan Mansion-house.	West Kilbride.	VI N.E. and S.E.	218538
Wardlaw Hill, Northern Earthworks, S.W. of Harpencroft.	Dundonald.	XX S.W. and S.E.	359328
Wardlaw Hill, Southern Earthworks, near Loans.	Dundonald.	XXII S.W. and S.E.	361326

In addition to the scheduled ancient Monuments, there are six Guardianship Monuments in Ayrshire. These being in the Ministry's charge are under active supervision. The Ministry will issue on request free passes to members of the Society individually or in parties wishing to visit such of these Monuments as make a charge for admission.

LIST OF GUARDIANSHIP MONUMENTS.

Crossraguel Abbey ...	Kirkoswald.	XLIV S.E.	276084
Dundonald Castle ...	Dundonald.	XXII N.E.	363346
Largs, Skelmorlie Aisle	Largs.	VI N.E.	205595
Loch Doon Castle ...	Straiton.	LVIII N.E. and S.E.	484950
Maybole Collegiate Church.	Maybole.	XLIV N.E.	302099
Rowallan Castle ...	Dreghorn.	XVIII N.W.	435424