GENERAL (inc Newmilns/Darvel, &c)

2SA, [March 1842], 845 — 1829 survey by Robert Aitken of Beith, published by Ballantyne, Edinburgh.
Population (parish): 1255, 1494; 1791, 2308; 1801, 2503; 1811, 3170; 1821, 3741; 1831, 3959; 1841, 4444. In 1841 Newmilns 1988, Darvel 1360.
Improvements made by John, Lord Loudoun, †1782. Built bridge over Irvine - roads - planted 1000000 trees. New farm houses in recent years. New tile works at Darvel. Handloom weaving principal industry - 878 in Darvel and Newmilns. Small woollen mill established 1804.
Workable coal found lately.

Groome, 1884 560 — Agric improvements from 1731 by John, earl of Loudoun, succ in 1731. Extensive coal works - excellent and abundant limestone.
Population (parish): 1861, 4840; 1871, 5585; 1881, 5239.

ESTATES

FARMS

ALTON MUIRHOUSE
ALTON, ALTON TOWNHEAD AND COLLIERS PARK [see also ALTON VILLAGE, below]
CO3/12/3/40 HwC 24.7.1919 — Site for roadman's cottage at Alton Bridge approved.
BANKHEAD
CO3/12/3/38 NBC 2.5.1913 — Cottage, B, for Burnbank & Grougar Coal Co Ltd.
BOGHALL [Not in 1892-93 VR]
AA, Th 5.9.1839, 1c — For sale by roup in Strathaven, Th 19.9.1839. c.33A. Prop: James Montgomerie.
BROCKLEES
BROOMHILL, 590385, south
List 13 — Similar to [East] Glaister; dated 1847. B.
BROWNHILL
BURNBANK
BURNFOOT
BYRE OF BANKHEAD
CLEARMOUNT AND MAYFIELD
CRAWLAW AND PART CROSSHOUSE
DORRAN
ACC Planning, B571 — October 1956. 4A Dorran bungalow, Crawlaw, for J Hammond.
CRONAN
DALWHATSWOOD
List 9 — Late 18th Century farmhouse; 1 storey; limewashed; 2 flat projecting bow windows, centre pilastered doorway; painted stone dressings - large farm buildings to rear.
GM, W 19.12.1787, 401b — To let, the remainder of the tack of Dalwhatswood and Heads, as set to late James Arnot. D is c.70A, and has 'a commodious mansion house.'
AA,, CO 3/18/2/ 4 — B4968. Farmhouse, for Mrs Howie, Alexander Dunlop, undated, approved 18.6.1960.
DYKEHEAD, 604381
DYKEHEAD COTTAGE
ACC, PHSC 7.7.1931 — R.W. Alterations, DC, Darvel, for Robert Paterson.
DYKES

EAST FOULPAPPLE
EAST GLAISTER, 587382 [VR 1892/93 has Glaister]
List 12 East Glaister. An estate farm similar to others in the area; harled, painted stone dressings; centre house has dormers and projecting stone gabled porch, attic window, corner skews, ball finial - flanking byres have flat stone gables, round stone finial, courtyard to rear. B.
Site Visit 11.5.1997 East Glaister. Biggish with substantial wings. It seems to me to be rather more substantial than the other farms in the area.
EAST HEADS
EAST HUNGRYHILL
EAST LOUDOUNHILL, 599379 Not in VR 1892/93
EAST NEWTON
List 5 Similar to West Newton (q.v.). C
FEOCH AND HIGH BRAIDLEY
GAMESLAND
GATESIDE AND BANKHEAD
CO3/12/3/35 NBC 1.5.1903 Repairs, Gateside Farm, for Loudoun estate; Robert Hendrie.
ACC Planning, A1032 May 1949. Alterations, Gateside Farm, Galston, for Thomas Loudon (Dykescroft). **J C Rowell**, Moscow, architect.
GATESIDE GREENS BELLS KITE AND BENTLAND
GLAISTER See East Glaister, West Glaister
GREENBANK AND EAST DOBBIELAND
KWP 14.3.1863, 5f Bankhead Estate being sold. Farms include Greenbank, where the buildings are "of a superior description, having been erected, and sometime occupied, by the late proprietor".
CO3/12/3/43 NBC 22.7.1927 House, G Belt, for William Morton.
GREENHILL
HENRYTON
List 11 Small creamwashed farm; centre 2 storey has prjecting stone gabled porch topped by ball finial; 1 storey supporting wings and yard to rear. C.
HIGH BOWHILL
HIGH CARLINGCRAIG
HIGH HAPTON
HIGH OVERMUIR
HIGHSIDE, 587399
AA, Th 2.10.1851, 1b Hieside. To let (prop John Morton, cattle dealer).
HILLHEAD, not in VR 1892/93
COTTAGES (GOWANBANK)
ACC Planning, A3376 March 1951. Two semi-detached ag.workers cottages, H, Darvel, for J F Morton Lrd. **Alexander Dunlop**. *VR 54/55 has 2h, Gowanbank.
HOLE
HOWLETBURN [Not in 1892/93 VR]
CO3/12/3/36 NBC 9.6.1905 House, H, Earl of Loudoun.
HYNDBERRYBANK [Not in 1892/93 VR]
LIMEKILNS
Mair, PHN, 3 Dated 1774.
KNEVOCKLAW
LADYTON
AA, Th 30.7.1840, 1g For sale. c.55A. "The present buildings are adapted for a farmer, but afford an excellent site for a handsome house."
CO3/12/3/37 NBC 23.9.1910 Cottage, L, for J R Dempster.
LAIGH HAPTON
IWN, 27.5.1932, 3d Gutted by fire, last Wednesday: "Low Hapton"
LEELOAN
LITTLE GLEN

LOCHFIELD, 582416 AND MUIRHEAD
List 19 L. Small courtyard type farm; walled garden in front; granite stone with inscription "Sir Alexander Fleming, Discoverer of Penicillin, was born here at Lochfield, 6th August 1881." C.
Ruined House at 583409
LONGGREEN
LOUDOUN MAINS
List 10 Mains. A Loudoun estate farmhouse similar to West and East Newton. 1 storey and dormers; centre projecting gabled feature has pointed Gothic window in attic ; range of byres form L-shape group.
CO3/12/3/43 NBC 16.9.1927 House, LM, for -- Hodge.
GILLBANK, 530389
LOUDOUN MILL AND WEST FOULPAPPLE
LOUDOUNHILL. 595379
List 16 Dated 1863. Courtyard type farm - centre 2 storey house creamwashed; door set in vermiculated masonry with small pointed Gothic window above. Projecting byres, grey harling, possibly of earlier date. Painted stone figure on gables associated with Covenanting era. NSA, V, 836-37 & 843. C.
CO3/12/3/42 NBC 23.3.1923 Cottage, L, for - Alston.
LOUDOUN HILL GOLF CLUB
CO3/12/3/38 NBC 23.8.1912 Club house; William Smith, Darvel.
KS, 19.1.1924, 2a To be meeting in Darvel Town Hall to consider re-opening of LHGC. To be a very sporting 9-hole course, with a good clubhouse, and situated in ideal surroundings, with bracing and invigorating air.
KS, Sa 22.3.1924, 3c Work proceeding. Should open in a fortnight or so.
LOUDOUNKIRK
AA, Th 22.2.1838, 1e To sell, four penny Templeland at Loudoun Kirk, property of John Roxborough, c.2A, 'adjoining the romantic ruins of Loudoun Kirk'.
LOW BOWHILL, 525391
LOW BRAIDLEY
LOW CARLINCRAIG
EAC Planning, 11/0331/PP proposed alterations and extension. **Architecture & Design Matters**, Dunlop.
LOW OVERMUIR
MEIKLE GLEN
CO3/12/3/36 NBC 31.3.1905 Alterations, for Thomas Cunningham.
MOSSIDE, 612393
NETHER NEWTON
COTTAGE
ACC Planning, 1041 July 1938.
NEW INTAX
NEWLANDS, 602377 HILL BOGHALL &C
HOLMSIDE, 599376
MAYDEW, 597375
RYEYARD, 596375, n.b., south of the river
NORTH HUNGRYHILL [Not in 1892/93 VR]
CO3/12/3/37 NBC 14.8.1908 Alterations, for Robert Hendrie
OVER POLBAITH AND HILL
PASSFORD, 589376
POLBAITH
QUARTERHOUSE
REDDING
RIVERSIDE POULTRY FARM, Darvel, not in Vr 92/93
COTTAGE

ACC Planning, A3995 — September 1951. Cottage, RPF; James Hay & Steel, for William Boyd. Superseded by B6855.

SKELLYHILL
TEMPLEHILL
TOWNHEAD AND PARKHOUSE
UNDERHILL AND PART BLACKHILL
UNDERLAW, 592387 AND TONGUE

List 14 — Underlaw. Similar features to [East] Glaister and Broomhill. large courtyard in front; centre creamwashed, byres limewashed. B.

TONGUE, 596384
UNDERLAW COTTAGES, 590385 north

ACC Planning, 1662 — May 1939. Two houses, U, for James Currie

WATERSIDE AND PART BROOMMILL

List 7 — W. An estate farm, circa 1820 (Scored through, and replaced with 1854); ashlar; centre 2 storey house; supporting 1 storey byres with hipped gabled end pavilions forming symmetrical facade; courtyard to rear - a good classical composition. B.

WELLHILL
WEST DOBBIELAND

WEST GLAISTER, 582381 — [Not in VR 1892/93, except as Glaister]

Site Visit 11.5.1997 — West Glaister. Crowstepped and cottagey.

WEST HEADS

534388, Harlot Knowe

WEST HUNGRYHILL
WEST NEWTON

List 4 — Dated 1839; typical farmhouse originally on Loudoun estate - 1 storey range, courtyard to rear; centre projecting gabled porch, ball finial; flanking gabled byres form symmetrical facade C.

WHEATRIGGS
WINDSHIELDS, 586397
WINKINGFIELD, 608386

BURNRIG, 61433870, no access and on wrong side of Irvine, nearest farm is Drumboy, Avondale

WOODHEAD

List 6 — A Loudoun estate farm of c.1840; 1 storey, colour washed, stone dressings, gables topped by rows of square Tudor chimneys; symmetrical facade has supporting end gabled byres, courtyard to rear. B. [This has been crossed out, and the followed written on List: Demolished and Rebuilt. No Tudor Chimneys. Modern bow window facing south - rendered and concrete washed porch at rear.]

CO3/12/3/35 NBC 1.5.1903 — Additions, for Duke of Portland; J H Turner.

WRAES
YONDERCROFT, 596383

ALTON VILLAGE

1SA [1791]	VI, 438	"Auldton" village, with ruined castle.
2SA, 1845	851	24 families.
Imp Gaz, 1855	I, 39	Population of c.120.
ACC, PHC 5.1.1939, 96		D.O. 8 houses, Alton.

ARCHAEOLOGY

BANKHEAD FORT (CASTLE LOWRIE)

KS, Sa 6.7.1963, 6gh

AYRSHIRE IN THE IRON AGE. EXCAVATION OF HOMESTEAD NEAR DARVEL. A short distance to the north of Bankhead Farm, Darvel, on the east side of the valley of the Glen Water lies the site, known as Bankhead Fort, or, according to local tradition, 'Castle Lowrie'. Here a team of archaeologists have just completed a short season's work, which has thrown considerable light on the story of Ayrshire in the Iron Age.

The site, of an irregular circular plan 70 ft by 60 ft., is detached from the field on the easy side by a great ditch 54 ft wide and 8 ft deep, measured from the top of the 'fort' rampart. Its broom-covered sides fall steeply into deep gullies on the north and south and over 80 ft on the west to the river bed. The strategic value of the position, which affords a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside, is lessened by the fact that the field level is 8 ft above that of the 'fort.'

In the trenches cut, several facts were ascertained. Around the perimeter ran a rampart, now badly eroded, consisting of stones, gravel and earth. Behind this lay, all round the site, a shallow depression 6 ft wide and 1 ft deep. The original ground surface was of hard packed clay and gravel. On this surface had been erected two circular wooden huts, as was made clear by the discovery of the narrow trenches and holes in which all the wall-posts and roof supports had been set. Stratification and condition of the site indicate that the natives did not occupy their huts for very long. At least one of the huts was destroyed by fire.

Finds included fragments of iron and pottery and part of the upper stone of a rotary quern, used by the inhabitants for grinding their corn. A fragment of Roman Samian pottery indicates contact with the Romans and, when considered with the other finds, suggests a date in the late second century AD for the occupation of the site.

It has been shown, too, that the old derivation of the name Castle Lowrie from the existence of a stone and lime castle on the site is completely inaccurate. No stone building ever stood there.

The excavation was carried out by members of a University of Glasgow extra-mural class in archaeology (Kilmarnock F.E. Centre) and was directed by their tutor, Mr Thomas A. Hendry, Classics Master at Kilmarnock Academy.

CAIRN, 589388

CAIRN, 591389

LOUDOUN HILL ROMAN FORT

ACC, TPC 9.3.1948, 405

A.M. Rosie's report Letter from Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Ancient Monuments Board of Scotland recommend site of Roman fort be excavated by Ministry of Works under supervision of an expert Romanologist, to begin at end of March. Supervisor to be Dr St Joseph "who has already established by his work on the fort an understanding of its potentialities." According to Rosie Alexandra Transport Co Ltd have already carried out "certain works", but have ceased, while County Council ascertain from Ministry and Inspectorate what area should be "sterilised".

ACC, TPC 13.4.1948, 569

Agreement reached, after site meeting with [Stewart] Cruden, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and Miss Robertson, Glasgow University, "one of the party concerned in the previous investigation."

WALLACE'S KNOWE, 61143797

© Rob Close 2026