

### 3. Antiquities in Eastern Renfrewshire

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This is a personal view of the antiquities of the former Eastwood District area, edited from a much wider list of landscape features compiled over the 1966 - 1983 period. Although the author moved south in 1975, he took it upon himself to update and circulate this list to the relevant Council authorities from that year onwards. The overall work was not confined by political boundaries and similar lists were made up for surrounding areas such as East Kilbride.

This list has drawn on official sources, but the intention was to indicate the extent and potential of local heritage beyond those monuments which are already officially protected. Such heritage may not otherwise be recognised because it is tentative, has not been assessed by official sources, or has simply lain undiscovered.

This version of the work is a record of how it stood in 1983. Some notes [in square brackets] have been added with obvious additions, but the list is a record of the situation 20 years ago, not a comprehensive update.

This major piece of work demonstrates the advantages of combining historical research with fieldwork, and often challenges accepted traditions.

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The sites are classified in four groupings: officially verified (V), probable but unconfirmed (P), uncertain (U) and speculative (S). A small part of Busby is included, lying officially in S. Lanarkshire, but during the 18<sup>th</sup> century was part of Williamwood Estate, and is now administered by East Renfrewshire. The part of Cathcart now in Glasgow is excluded.

#### 1. Cairns, Barrows, Tumuli etc.

Ure's History (1793) provides a detailed account of the destruction of many cairns on Cathkin Braes and around E Kilbride. The same process in the E of Renfrewshire also destroyed a number of cairns, but unfortunately little of this is documented, and only a few remains survive.

**Scott's Tourie** NS 567507, Eaglesham (V) (Figure 3). Cairn shown by Ainslie (1789), was destroyed around 1845 by farmer John Scott of E Revoch, for building stone, and contained urns containing calcined bones. The residual mound, mostly natural rock, is 27m across by c.1m high.

**E Revoch** NS 565504, Eaglesham (V) (Figure 3). Cairn 30m across, identified on Ainslie Farm Plan 49 (1789). Opened by Scott around 1845, contained 7 cists, calcined bones and sticks. Low profile mound was ploughed and re-seeded in the mid-1970s, and is correctly designated site of cairn.

**Ballageich** NS 537500, Eaglesham (V). Shown as cairn on Ainslie's Farm Plan 61 (1789),

passed unnoticed until 1954, when recorded by O.S., assessed by RCAHMS in 1964. A low, flattish mound, under grass, it is 22 by 24m across, up to 1m high.

**Crosslees** NS 564529, Eaglesham (V). Shown as "Mount" on Ainslie (1789), but destroyed when Humbie Road was straightened in 1825. Taylor (1831) described an immense cairn of stones and urns of cremated bones were found beside a stone cist (confused with Deil's Wood, below). Slab which covered cist is rough hewn, 109cm square, and 30cm thick, and is built into dyke on N side of road, close to original centre of the cairn. A bench mark has been inscribed on it. By 1856 the first O.S. six-inch plan shows it as the site of a small cairn on the SW side of the road, and it is in these terms that the cairn is nowadays described, but it was almost certainly at least 25 m across. D&E 79.

**W Revoch** NS 557505, Eaglesham (P) (Figure 3). Shown as cairn on Ainslie Farm plan 50 (1789), was located at the then highest point on the farm, but Garret Law was later incorporated, making it difficult to locate the cairn until 1979. 21m across, with scatter of spoil to S, and extensively quarried, to ground level in places, but part stands to 1m high. Appears to have been enclosed in a drystone revetment, enabling steep sides. D&E 79.

**Garret Law** NS 555507, Eaglesham (P) (Figure 3). Almost indistinguishable from rounded profile on summit of this prominent hill, cairn was identified in 1979 from sinuous robber trench extending 11m in from SE side, 2 to 3m wide, with spoil piled to the outside of the cairn. Perimeter outline of the cairn is nevertheless clear, 18.5m across, 1.5m high. D&E 79.

**N Kirktonmoor** NS 554515, Eaglesham (P). Identified on Ainslie Farm plan 52 (1789), and first interpreted by the writer as an enigmatic mound with foundations on top. Research in 1980 led to discovery of cairn 26m across, surviving to over 2m high, encroached by cutting of field boundaries on E and N, leaving only a faint outline, but remainder, contained by a close-fitting wall, is substantial. Summit has been levelled to provide a platform 15 by 17m, against the NW edge, on which is part of a rectangular foundation 12 by 10m, and also possible remains of a corn-drying kiln. D&E 73, 80.

**Deil's Wood** (Castlehill Plantation) NS 557536, Eaglesham (P). Controversial largely earthen mound, originally mapped as tumulus, but OSA changed to motte in 1954, and back to tumulus in 1964. Local confusion with burial at Crosslees (see above). Plantation shown by Ainslie, (1789) but no reference to mound. Farmer at Crosslees, told OSA that around 1900 the son of the laird dug into the top of the mound, looking for gold. Several pits, corresponding to this story, are still evident in the top of the mound, which is otherwise very uniform and sharp in profile, 24m across, and over 3m high. As a barrow, it would be the only intact example in the area, but it is so well-preserved that author doubts this. Nor does it seem a good site for a motte, though it might be a barrow re-utilised as a motte. It may also be quite recent.

**Castlehill (Mearns)** NS 485544 (P). The name appears on Ainslie (1796), a location which produced both a possible motte, and the apparent remains, on an elevation N of Straun Hill, of a large cairn. The remains are 30 to 40m across, with a large quarry pit intruding to the centre of the mound from the W side. Within the remainder are six small hollows produced by quarrying. Further confused because S part is very much lower than on the N, the cairn being on a slope. D&E 75.

**Harelea** NS 520534, Mearns (P). Originally Harelaw Hill, with possible remains of a barrow 18.5 to 20m across, with spoil scattered to S and E. D&E 75, 83.

**Malletsheugh** NS 528555, Mearns (P). A regular mound, 17m diameter, 1.5m high, on a flattish rock outcrop, at the edge of steep ground, probable barrow. D&E 78.

**Kirktonmoor** NS 552512, Eaglesham (U). Circular mound, 23m across, 2m high, origin uncertain, but may be cairn. D&E 79.

**Mains** NS 587521, Eaglesham (U). Shown on Ainslie (1789) as cairn, but now a low mound, 15m across, 1.25m high, inside confluence. D&E 79.

**Longwood** NS 544523, Eaglesham (U). Mound 24m across, 1.5m high, in NE corner of Longwood, with two rectangular blocks of stone set in S side. Subsidence suggests a passage continuing into the centre of the mound. The stones have notches cut in the inside edge, as if to support covering stones. Traces of an encircling ditch at a distance, and

possibly a broad outer bank at 20 to 25m from the mound. D&E 68, 74.

**Mearns Law** On summit, at NS 507534, 507535 and 505533 possible small cairns or barrows (U).

**Comrigs** NS 562518, Eaglesham (U). 10m across. D&E 82.

**Park** NS 571506, Eaglesham (S). 22m across. D&E 74.

**Picketlaw** NS 572511, Eaglesham (S). 15m across, on a quarried knoll, possibly erroneous. D&E, 79.

**Upper Pollok** NS 520571, Mearns (S). 24m across. D&E 77.

**Netherplace Works** NS 522558, Mearns (S). At E end of works, in field, 24m across much reduced outline, modern drain across. D&E 78.

**Netherplace I** NS 524558, Mearns (S). Prominent rocky knoll. 10m across. D&E 78.

**Netherplace II** NS 522556, Mearns (S). 15m across. D&E 78.

**Ryat Linn** NS 525575, Mearns (S). 14m across. D&E 77.

## 2. Other Prehistoric Burials

**Overlee** Site of, NS 576572 (V). Cist containing urn filled with ashes, found in 1808; urn now with Glasgow Museums.

## 3. Prehistoric Rock Carvings

**Rouken Glen** NS 547577, Eastwood (V). Stone surface visible from adjacent railway, 1.5m long, up to 0.9m wide, it features at least 4 cups, some uncertain markings, a cup 7cm across is linked by a channel to one quarter circle ring groove 1.5cm wide, at a radius of 7cm.

**Deaconsbank Dovecot** NS 546578, Mearns (V). Until 1973 cup and double ring formerly associated with this stone had been covered by turf. Another cup and 2 rings (semi-circle), the original 25cm across overall, was found in 1977. There are a number of cups and part rings. D&E 73, 77.

**Cleuch** NS 559574, Eastwood (V). Covered by turf, and exact location known to only a few. Not seen by writer.

**Carlin Craigs** NS 547521, Eaglesham (V). 19 cups on a plan kept by Glasgow Museum. Dubious other forms.

**Brownmuir Holding** NS 572517, Eaglesham (P). c.20 cups and some 'basin' shapes on sloping rock, behind Montgomery Street.

## 4. Iron Age/ Dark Age fortifications

**Dunwan Hill** NS 546488, Eaglesham (V). Top of glacially-sculptured basalt intrusion features remains of a rampart up to 4m thick. Area enclosed is a rounded triangle, entered from tail of hill on SW. Possible wall remains reported mid-way on the slopes of the hill, and remains of massive wall forming horseshoe round base. Uncertain whether wall is an original feature, but foundations overlying the remains on N were shown on Ainslie Farm Plan 66 (1789), and on the E, a massive fragment of the wall appears to have served to divide 18<sup>th</sup> century arable from pasture on the hill. For this reason it was not dismantled to the extent of the remaining circuit. The wall across the SW approach is a mediaeval boundary bank (Auchenhood, see later). Description of fort in R.W. Feachem's *The North Britons* (1966). Surface traces of circular huts were noted within the fort.

**Duncarnock Hill** NS 501559, Mearns (V). In the writers opinion, the original enclosure was defended by a large, partly free-standing rampart, across SW approach, with walls circuiting the edge of the crags on N and E, and crossing open ground on the S. At the SE angle are traces of original entrance. At a later date, the defences on the S were drawn back to a new wall-head, skirting the edge of the level summit. This drystone-faced wall is fronted by a terrace of varying width, faced with large stones, which the writer believes is an earlier, dismantled wall. The original entrance is blocked by the terrace and the drystone wall, and a new entrance appears to have been constructed near the gap between the two summits, approached by a graded, zig-zag track on the eastern slopes. In the gap are traces of walls

and buildings, but more significantly, and missed by other observers, there are traces of foundations of a building 16 by 12.5m, with annexes, defended by a ditch against the crags in the gap, which may be mediaeval (see later).

The only material evidence of the age of the fort is a piece of Damonian pottery (Newall, 1958) and in writer's view, the simple oval enclosure is the Damonian fort, while the present wall is much later, perhaps mediaeval. D&E 77, 78 [also 83, 85].

**Busby Glen** NS 579567 E. Kilbride (V) (Figure 10). First noted by the writer, and confirmed and surveyed by RCAHMS in 1975, this is a promontory site formed by an arc of rampart 4m thick, 32 m long, 17m from the tip of the promontory, which has been reduced by blasting to widen river at cotton mill in gorge below. Rampart was faced with large stones, probably the foundation for a drystone wall: a few of these grounders are in situ. Some rectilinear outlines within. D&E 1972, 74. Plan and description in RCAHMS.

**Mearns Law** NS 504532 Mearns (P). Lies within former Common of Mearns, pattern of enclosures has remained unchanged since end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. Across the SW approach is possible earthen rampart, traceable for up to 180m, and up to 1.5m high on downslope side. Possible entrance gap is at present a drain used to empty a lochan on the summit in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some traces of walling on eastern slopes of the hill were interpreted as a continuation of the defences, but these are uncertain, though would almost certainly have been quarried for stones in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area enclosed is approximately 22 acres. RCAHMS visited site in August 1979, at writers request, considered the earthwork to represent the remains of a boundary-bank rather than a defensive work, and could find no evidence of the wall on the E. However, knowledge of the enclosure patterns in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the previous history of the area as common land, would tend to discount the boundary bank idea. The Law, with its steep, craggy NE and W flanks, is an admirable position for a fort. D&E 75, 83.

### 5. Small Enclosures – Iron age to Mediaeval

This is a difficult subject, because there is no supporting information from which to draw conclusions. The enclosures range from probable defended homesteads to features which may be no more than stock enclosures, but have characteristics suggesting antiquity. Classification into probable and uncertain has been discarded in this section, and instead divided it into categories of enclosure: Circular and defensive (CD), circular (C) and others (O).

**Bonnytonmoor** NS 541522, Eaglesham (CD). Enclosure in very depleted condition. Traces of turf banked rectangular enclosures, possibly stock pens, overlying the E perimeter, and a large turf and stone bank forms a D-shaped enclosure round the N and W. Enclosure occupies free-standing eminence on edge of a gully, in a potentially defensible position. The wall has almost disappeared on the NE except for some irregular, grass-covered outlines, but at least some structural features can be determined on the W and S. This suggests a wall of rubble, with inner and outer facings, and a cavity within the thickness, from 6 to 8m broad. The enclosed space is about 12m diameter. A gap in the N might be the entrance, but features on the S suggest a passage with side guard chambers within the wall thickness. Glasgow University Dept. of Archaeology suggest a rotary mill for crushing stone, on account of the many quarries in the area, but writer prefers interpretation as a galleried dun or fortified homestead, despite its location. D&E 1968, 74.

**Black Craigs** NS 499522, Mearns (CD). On a promontory of Crow Hill, a ravine and steep slopes, a circular enclosure 25m over 3 to 4m wall. Possible entrance on NW leads into an oval annexe. The remains are slight, but make optimum use of the space available. The circular enclosure is delimited on S, E and NE by steep slopes dropping 4m to a ditch and bank, almost motte-like in appearance. Possible homestead dun. D&E 75.

**Crow Hill** NS 498520, Mearns (C). As this is on Mearns Muir, it may be a stock enclosure: 15m diameter over 2m turf and stone wall. D&E 75.

**Byreside Hill** NS 514526, Mearns (C). On a small terrace, two adjacent circles, each 15m across, over walls of about 1m, swelling to 2.5m on either side of the entrance gaps. Faint

circle 18m across on a terrace 25m uphill. D&E 75.

**Barrance Hill** NS 511532, Mearns (& see below) (C). A circular enclosure 19m across, over banks 4m broad, entrance passage extended through a mound for 15m length. In the opinion of RCAHMS, is not of any great age, however, writer believes mediaeval. D&E 75.

**N Kirktonmoor** NS 554516, Eaglesham (C). Shown on Ainslie Farm Plan 52 (1789), identified in key as a "stell", this is evidently a stock enclosure, but comprises rather ragged rubble wall remains encircling a slightly rising area. Some features identified on the Ainslie plans in this way indicate disused features for which an origin is assigned.

**Carrot Burn** NS 565474, Eaglesham (C). Circle 16m across, over wall 3.3m thick, which comprises an outer and inner structure of turf. F. Newall D&E 76.

**Picketlaw** NS 568509, Eaglesham (O). Clearly with defensive or at least protective intention, these remains are atop a precipitous craggy knoll 8m high, with marshy ground surrounding it. The usable area is very restricted, 9m at the widest, 28m long. On the northern slopes are remains of an inner and outer defensive wall, about 2m apart, 2 to 3m broad, while along the cliff edge on the S is a wall 1m thick. At the E end is a small triangular division. Against the S wall is an irregular subrectangular outline 13 by 6m, overlain by an oval hut 4 by 5m. Possibly dark age or early mediaeval, but whether fort or refuge is uncertain. D&E 79.

**Comrigs** NS 563520, Eaglesham (O). On a prominent, tabular ridge, bounded by crags 5m high, a marginal wall 2 to 3m thick can be traced, forming an oval enclosure overall 24m E to W by 39m. At the N end is a sub-circular foundation, 5m diameter over 1 to 1.5m wall. D&E 74.

**Blackwoodhill** NS 542485, Eaglesham (O). On an eminence, a rectangular enclosure containing a rectangular foundation in one corner, possibly 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Faulds** NS 508544 Mearns (O). On a rocky prominence, vestiges of an oval enclosure 18 by 35m, containing a rectangular foundation 7 by 16m. D&E 75.

**Cairn Hill** NS 484509 Mearns (O). Enigmatic 5-sided enclosure, 30m long, 26m widest, sides slightly bowed and entered on E. Rock outcrops within site which is slightly elevated. D&E 75.

**Cairn Hill** NS 574470, Eaglesham (O). A mound within a rubble enclosure, with a modern cairn on the mound. The multi-sided appearance is due the remains of a rectilinear enclosure or building, incorporated in the present wall.

## 6. Rectilinear remains other than enclosures

**The Ridge** NS 520535, Mearns (U). SE of The Ridge, an artificial platform projects from the slope, but is partly covered by a raised garden and a boundary wall. It appears to have been constructed for a large timber building, and may have related to other features on the ridge, now lost. The platform is at least 21m long and 13m wide. A bank skirts the three open sides, 2.7m broad, except on SW, up to 4m. The platform is 2 to 3m high. Possibly Dark age or mediaeval, unless it relates to the more recent building on The Ridge.

**Barrance Hill** NS 511532, Mearns (U). In addition to the circular enclosure already described, there are very sparse traces of a rectangular enclosure 48 by 33m, with rounded corners. Most of the evidence is at either end, and suggests 'rooms' either side of entranceways. The walls appear to be about 3m thick. A more recent explanation would post-date the enclosure of the Common of Mearns in 1799, and there is nothing to indicate this. RCAHMS consider it related to cultivation, but writer can see no evidence of this. D&E 75,79.

**Mearns Law** NS 506534, Mearns (U). Within the possible hillfort, some very faint foundations, which were originally discovered in favourable lighting conditions. They comprise a sub-rectangular longhouse, rounded at SW end, 28m long, 6.5 to 7.5m wide, and includes within it a small rectangular hut, possibly later. Across the end is a rectangular foundation 18m long, then the line of the longhouse is continued by the rectilinear feature, which is also overlain by a later hut. D&E 79

**Logan Burn** Eaglesham, NS 584485 (U). In several respects similar to the enclosure at The

Ridge, this feature sits in a ravine, in a spur formed by river erosion at the brink of a waterfall. A broad ditch or former water-course separates it from the valley side. The foundation measures 15 by 11m over walls 2m thick on the long sides, 4m thick, to over 1m high on the end walls. It would therefore appear to have been a building. D&E 79.

### 7. Roundhouse platforms &c.

**Burnhouse** NS 553548, Mearns (extant). A roundhouse platform 9m across, built partly into the slope, and partly on a raised half-moon projecting from the slope. It is contained within an annular bank. A second platform to E has a less substantial enclosure, and is on two levels. There are other trace features on the crown of the ridge. The platforms are probably for circular wooden houses of Dark age date. D&E 79.

**Overlee** NS 5757 Cathcart (site of). Described in NSA, there were 42 "weems" or "underground houses" found on the farm of Overlee, in the preparation of the site for a quarry, around 1810 to 1815. All the remains were destroyed and the site lost. Attempts to find them have been confused by coal working on farm, eg circular platform at NS 579575, an old shaft. Likely that the square cells were part of larger structures, perhaps storage pits in roundhouse platforms. The cist may be that from which an urn was recovered in 1808 (see Other Prehistoric Burials) or may point to the approximate location, by association. They were presumably bronze age to iron age, and would have been important had they survived. [Subsequent source identifies site at Overlee farm, which was relocated to its present site around time of find].

### 8. Mediaeval Defensive Works – Mottes

**Polnoon** NS 585513 Eaglesham (V). The motte, on which a late 14<sup>th</sup> century castle was constructed, is possibly a late 12<sup>th</sup> early 13<sup>th</sup> century mound raised for a timber castle. It is situated on a promontory, in a strong natural defensive with a filled-in ditch across the line of approach. It appears to have measured 30 by 22m at the base, 18 by 10m on top, and was at least 4m high [Plan in EDHH].

**Castle Hill** (Busby) NS 589562, East Kilbride (V). Ure p.164 recalls remains of old castle called 'The Piel' predecessor of the nearby tower house. Top roughly oval in shape 28 x 18 metres. Essentially a natural mound, the south-west side of which has been built out to support part of the castle. The only remains lie scattered on this aspect. A boundary wall runs along the east side. Access appears to have been by a series of terraces on north-west.

**Barrance Farm** NS 560558, Mearns (P). In a former loch, at the N end, a comma-shaped mound 50m across and 2m high. Possibly related to site of Aldton of Mearns. D&E 1982. [Further unpub. paper 2002; under threat by housing development 2003]. See Figure 2A.

**Moat Hill** NS 571519 Eaglesham (P). Shown on Ainslie Plan 1 (1789) as a mound detached from the valley side by a semi-circular ditch, and named 'Moat Hill'. Similarly depicted, without name, on Roy's map. Ditch no longer evident, but mound was evidently built on an angle protruding into the valley, and dropping steeply on the E, and such a ditch is clearly feasible (The Tor at Torrance, E Kilbride and Greenlees Hill near Cambuslang are mottes constructed in the same manner). About 5m on the SE has been cut away in the construction of the gable of the adjacent cotton mill. The mound is oval, originally 31 by 24m base, 20 by 16m top, and 2 to 3m high, but appears very much higher viewed from the E. A possibly later rectangular mound had been built on top, 1.5m high, top 12 by 10m. Mr Talbot at Glasgow University suggested that there was a small bailey mound on the N, but author is certain that this is effect of a modern path. The former ditch would preclude this. Very wary of identifying it as a motte, it has been much altered, not least by the cotton mill, and the lade immediately on the S, that fed the wheel. Nevertheless, it has never been confirmed, and to writer's knowledge has only been proposed in print in entry to D&E 1982. May have been site of the first wooden castle of the Montgomeries in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

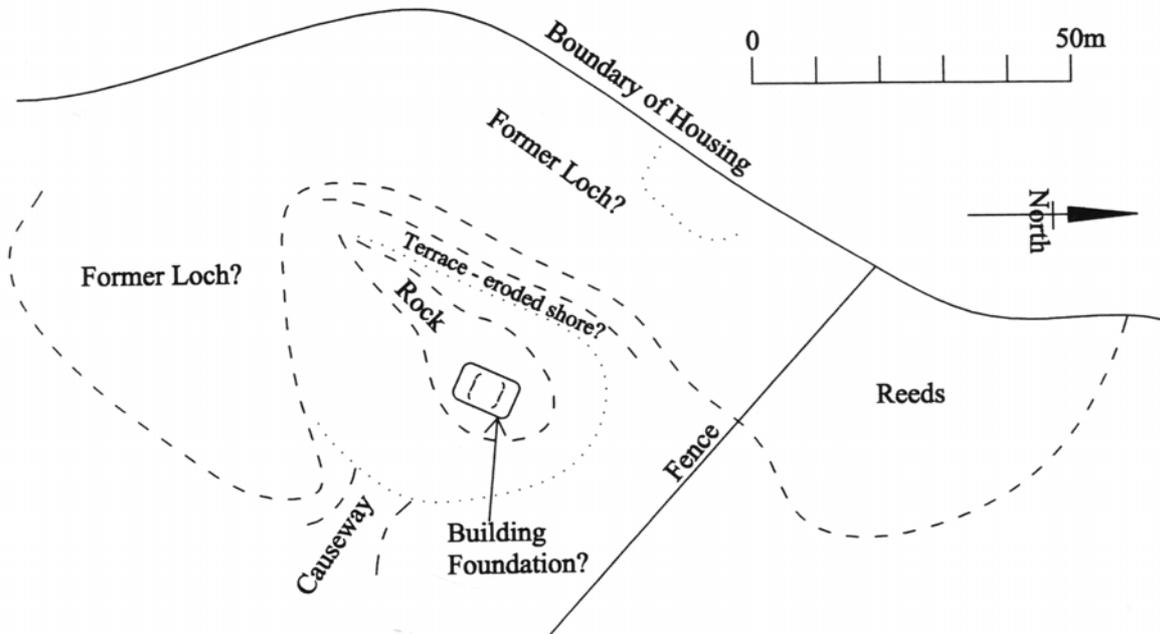


Figure 2A: Barrance, Mearns

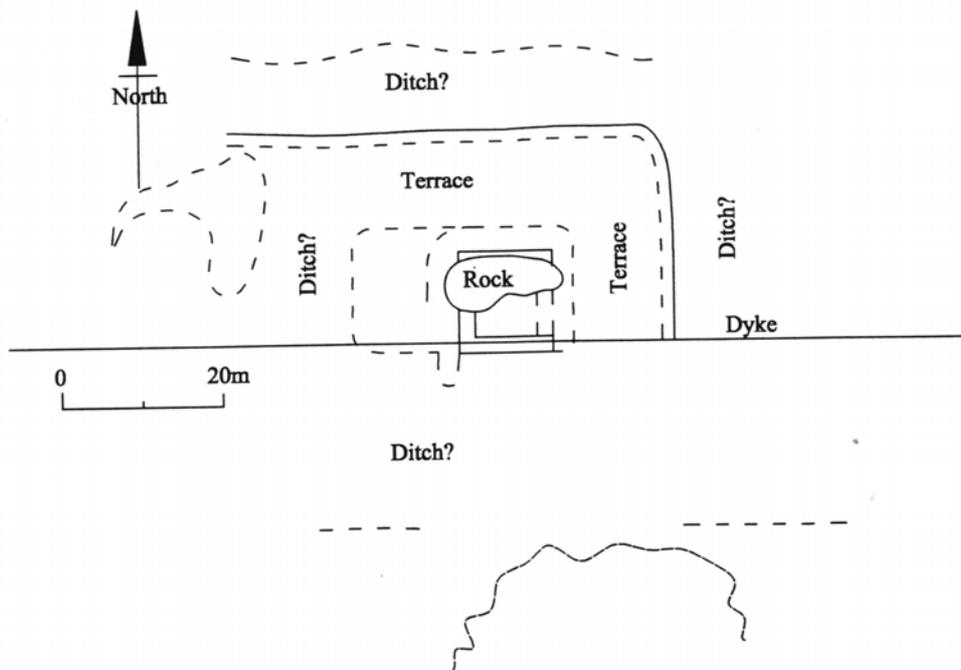


Figure 2B: Langrig, Mearns

Figure 2

**Kittoch Glen, Busby** NS 581570, East Kilbride (P). On easternmost of three spine-like promontories, formerly bounded by gullies, of which one is now part filled by tipping. Stony bank 5m broad extant for 13m across neck of promontory, and ditch 10 metres long, 2 metres deep cuts across tip of promontory. Between these is low, boat-shaped building platform 36 x 10.5 metres, raised at each end. Probable site of a defended timber longhouse or hall, of dark age to early mediaeval date, but no archaeological verification. Discovered by writer, D&E 74 p.46.

**Castlehill** NS 485542, Mearns (U). A high mound with a square top, in which small trenches have been cut. (Welsh, unpubl.)

**Castlehill** NS 557533, Eaglesham (U). Adjoining the late 18<sup>th</sup> century site of Castlehill Farm, a mound rising partly from a promontory, with a semi-natural ditch on S. D&E 78.

**Deils Wood** NS 557536, Eaglesham (see Barrows and Cairns) (U).

**Picketlaw** NS 563513, Eaglesham (U). A quarried natural mound evidently modified for a possible building on the top. D&E 74.

### 9. Mediaeval Defensive Works – Tower-houses & c.

Research into the mediaeval remains in Eastwood is much in need, but the only investigations have been at Mearns. Polnoon and Upper Pollok are documented, but the remainder, with the exception of Lee and Woodfarm, were first reported by the writer. The problem is not the lack of castles but the lack of both documentary evidence and present knowledge. The impression has long been that there were only three castles in the district, Mearns, Upper Pollok and Polnoon, while Eastwood and Cathcart parishes were represented by Lower Pollok and Cathcart Castle, now in Glasgow. However, one castle to each estate (in fact rather less) does not account for more than five centuries from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>. In adjacent East Kilbride parish, eleven extant towers or remains, plus at least four mottes, account for at least six estates, at various times in the area's history. Mearns alone had six divisions (Fingalton, Upper Pollok, Mearns, and churchlands belonging to Paisley Abbey and the Preceptory of Torpichen in the main). This section, and the preceding section on mottes goes some way to filling the gap.

**Mearns** NS 552553 (extant). Two charters refer to its construction; in 1440 and 1449. The lower 3m of the tower are in rough masonry, the upper in ashlar, so perhaps in the interval it was attacked, and had to be rebuilt. The castle was sold in 1648-9, via Nether Pollok, to Stewart of Blackhall. By 1695 it was in ruins, and appears to have remained so until about 1840, when it was renovated and given a flat roof (NSA). In more recent times it was used as a scout hall: thus fleur de Lys on lintel of a fireplace in upper room. In the early 1970s tower was converted to part of Maxwell Mearns Church.

The castle mound was enclosed by a curtain wall, containing subsidiary buildings, and fragments of these were revealed by excavations in 1970, prior to the building of the church. This also revealed that the uneven rock surface had been built up to a level with masonry, possibly indicating an earlier building. However the pottery reported was late 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century, with a few sherds which might predate 1449 but could not be confirmed (Interim report by Eric Talbot, June 1970). This supports writers view that the castle dates from 1440, and did not have a predecessor on this site. The Interim Report also mentions the personal marks of four masons on the castle. [See related paper on Aldton, unpub. 2000]

**Polnoon** NS 58505132 Eaglesham (V). The castle represented today by a few foundations and scattered ruins was built in 1388. Little else is known except that it was an empty shell by 1710, and little different from its present state by 1800. Various features: steps, a door, a coat-of-arms, as well as masonry were removed and utilised elsewhere. In writers interpretation, it was an L-plan tower, built astride the earlier motte, which was too small for the size of building attempted, and would probably not have supported stone walls. Consequently the main tower rose from a rock ledge at the base of the motte on the W, while the E wall, including the jamb or smaller wing, rose from a ledge 2m up from the side of the motte. The S end of the jamb also appears to have risen from the base of the motte, whereas the angle (re-entrant) and N wall of the tower were built on the motte. There were

several phases of curtain wall round the base of the motte, probably containing ranges, but only one of these is extant; a line of foundations on the S, extending E of the walls, probably as a gatehouse. The tower appears to have collapsed inwards, leaving massive fragments on the motte, and others scattered downhill. In fact, what is classed as remains is quite substantial, and does not justify years of neglect. OSA Card, but interpretation by writer.

**Upper Pollok** NS 524569 Mearns (V). It is not certain how far back there was a castle on this site, and if the lands were subordinate to Mearns from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, it may only have been invested with a tower-house when the castle of Mearns moved from Langrig (supposed site) to its present site in 1440. Nevertheless, Crawford, writing in 1710, mentions its "handsome old tower, according to the ordinary model, with a large battlement" which was demolished in 1686, to make way for the new mansion, completed by 1693. Remnants of the tower, including the spiral stair, were incorporated in the building. Destroyed by fire 1882, rebuilt 1886 - 1892, demolished again 1947. In the mid-1970s a new house was built on the site, incorporating part of the foundation of the mediaeval tower house, and a fragment of the mansion wall.

The defences of the castle were largely natural. Two deep ravines curve round from either side of the SW approach, and probably extended across this side as a ditch. The northern arc of the Castle Hill is steep and craggy. In early 1970s site was very overgrown, with many foundations visible, and a short flight of stone steps in situ. [GUARD report 2000, Castle Hill redeveloped and landscaped by private builder 2003; additional moated site to east, reported D&E 1985 p.44, destroyed by new rugby pitches 1990's].

**Langrig** NS 53285458 Mearns (V) (Figure 2B). Foundations of a probable tower-house on a rocky promontory, shaped and augmented as a motte, together with some other remains. Possibly the "new manor" of Mearns, mentioned in a Paisley Abbey charter c.1300. Placenames suggest that a piece of land mentioned in the charter was around Mearnskirck, and the new manor appears to have been W of this.

The remains of the tower, which was 12m square over 2m walls, was built on an outcrop of rock, but the site had been levelled to form a motte, 27m long and 16m wide, with the tower at the SE end. There appears to have been an enclosure, part of which is evident at the NW end. Protruding mid-way on the SW flank is a 5 by 4m extension. The defences on this side are slight: a shallow ditch 25m wide, which separate the motte from raised ground at the summit of the ridge. The extension was probably a bridgehead and entrance. On the remaining aspects, the motte drops 2m to a level shelf, then round the N and E a further 2 to 3m. On NW a ditch separates the motte from another rocky knoll.

On the summit of the ridge, a rectangular foundation was noted in 1982, and there are circular platforms in the slopes to the E. At NS 531545, at the SW end of the ridge, 200m from the tower, there are further foundations overlain by a recent enclosure. This is a crag-bound area 30 by 55m, with a few fragments of a massive wall across the N approach. Remains of a long rectangular foundation on W side of this enclosure. D&E 75, and recent. See Figure 2B.

**Cleuch** NS 559575 Eastwood (P). On an elevated promontory, forward of the steep escarpment on Cathcart Castle golf course. The site is known locally as the Druid's Temple, and has also been described as a "Roman Camp". Writer always wary that should turn out to have a more recent explanation, but by appearances, it is a very well sited castle. The level summit of the knoll is roughly circular, 22m across. It drops steeply 2m on the S, 3 to 4m on the W, and about 6m on the N downslope side. Around the S arc, and in places on the N and NE are lengths of an enclosing bank, and there appear to have been works across the entrance on the E. Within the area is a very substantial foundation 10 by 9m, with a possible extension N, over walls 2 m thick. These lands were acquired by the Earl of Eglinton early in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, possibly through a marriage with a Maxwell of Pollok. The castle is likely to predate this. D&E 77.

**Housecraigs** NS 567560 Mearns (P). Comprises a rectangular mound 18 by 11m on the edge of the crags, on which are fragmentary foundations with walls 1.5 to 2m thick. Ranged against defensive walls along the crags to N, part of a two roomed foundation 15m long,

which may have been part timbered, such as a range within a curtain wall. Both buildings appear to be contained within a sub-rectangular enclosure 43 by 15m, with an annexe to S, and ditches across the N and S ends. The summit of the hill measures 80 by 30m. Rock outcrops and uneven ground make interpretation very difficult. D&E 81.

In the writer's view, this is a possible site for the old castle of Mearns, prior to 1300, possibly postdating the possible motte at Barrance, but this can only be speculation. Strang (1939) cites a reference to Chalmers' Caledonia 1887 (which this writer has not checked) claiming that Edward I was at Mairnes on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1301, during the siege at Bothwell. The NSA refers to a Glasgow charter that John Petit of Mearns swore fealty to Edward in 1296, so this is not impossible. The implication is of a castle adequate in size for such a visit to be justified.

**Duncarnock** NS 50105592 Mearns (P). Close to the N edge of the S summit, within the fort, are fragmentary foundations, defended on the S by a broad shallow ditch. Like Housecraig, it is possible that the features are more recent, such as a farmstead, but the plan is unusual. The main building was 11 by 14m over 1.5m walls, but the W wall is 5m wide, containing two small chambers 2 by 5 and 2 by 2.5m internally, the smaller entered from an annexe on the W, 6 by 11m over 1.5m walls. Blaeu's Map of Renfrewshire, 1654, shows buildings on Duncarnock Hill. Duncarnock lies within the property of Fingalton, 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century, although it is adjacent to the property of Glanderstoun, where there was formerly a tower-house, according to Crawford (1710). D&E 77. [Plan in EDHH].

**Woodfarm** NS 552589 Eastwood (U). The promontory within a tight bend in the stream has been suggested as the site for a castle of Giffnock, formerly a farm. Apart from suitability, there is no evidence to confirm or dispute this. However, it lay within the forest of Eastwood, cleared for cultivation around 1820, and this might discount it.

**Lee** NS 5767 5858 Cathcart [now verified]. The site of the castle of Lee, predating the mansion of Williamwood, which was removed to permit ploughing early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. [Site discovered 1984 in Beechgrove Park, Netherlee, D&E 1985 p.44 & EDHH].

## 10. Boundary banks and other linear works

**Upper Pollok** NS 524569 Mearns. Around the foot of the Castle Hill on the N and E, remains of a large bank, possibly a park boundary of the mansion. D&E 77.

**Auchenhood** NS 5448 Eaglesham. The boundary of Auchenhood, an estate within the Barony of Eaglesham reunited with the Barony in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Traced, with reference to Ainslie (1789), fragments were noted from NS 548487 to 549484, across the SW approach to Dunwan hillfort, and between NS 546491 and 548492. D&E 75.

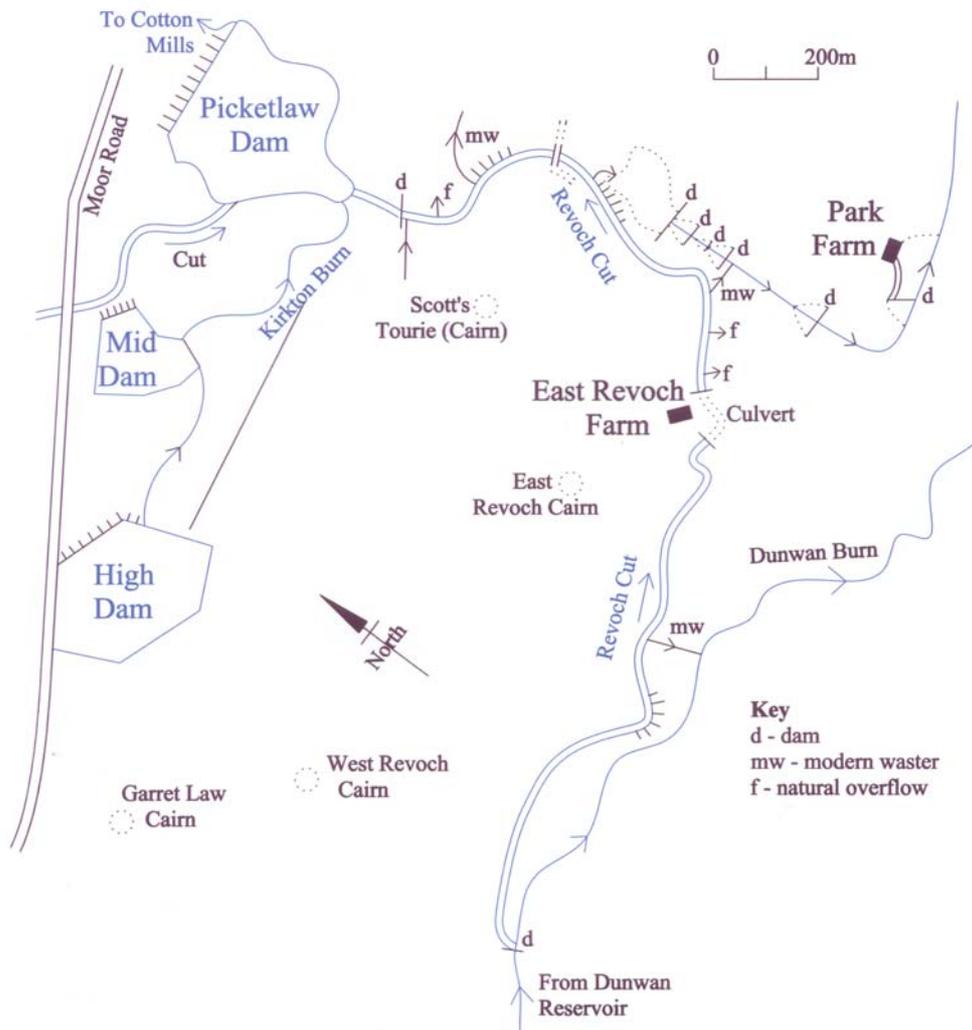
**Langrig** NS 534546 Mearns. Tentatively, this might record the boundary between Mearns and Upper Pollok; it is oddly constructed for a field boundary. It comprises either a double row of large boulders, or boulders alternating flush with one side or the other, with a high incidence of through stones. Writer, 1982.

**Threeland** NS 5948 Eaglesham. Probably marking the limit of cultivation, except that there are farmsteads above it, and hut sites overlying it. It comprises a wide bank of turf extending from the Threeland Burn to the White Cart (Tors Burn). D&E 69,71.

**Browmuir Holding** NS 571514 Eaglesham. The hilltop is divided at the narrow point by remains of a bank up to 8m broad, possibly defensive. D&E 75.

## 11. Miscellaneous

It is difficult to draw a line across the timescale of this account, and another dealing with agriculture and industrial reform in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the properties, residences and associated monuments of the last 250 years. Some significant industrial monuments survive which have changed the landscape on a large scale, of which the Revoch Cut is a prime example.



**Figure 3: Revoch Cut, Eaglesham**

**Revoch Cut** Eaglesham (Figure 3). This 2.5km long aqueduct was constructed to carry water from an earlier Dunwan Dam to Picketlaw Dam, to power the Eaglesham cotton mills (see Journal Vol.7). A second cut fed Picketlaw from the headwaters of the Borland Burn 2km to the west through the farms of N and S Kirktonmoor. Two further reservoirs, Mid and High dams, fed Picketlaw via the Kirkton Burn. The water system is on a par with Robert Thom's works at Greenock and Bute, and probably earlier, yet is hardly remembered.

The Revoch Cut aqueduct follows the 220 metre contour from NS 557499 to NS 567511, where its course has been obstructed by a broad dam, abutting the drainage basin of the modern Picketlaw Reservoir. Channel width is 5 metres, except in steep ground, when it can narrow to 2m. It still carries water, gathered from small streams from land above, but there are several natural overflows and three modern wasters or diversions: NS 568508 (pipe inserted in bank); NS 569504 (drainage ditch); and NS 564501 (concrete mounted sluice gate). At East Revoch Farm the aqueduct passes underground into a culvert, visible on the surface as a low ridge (SSIA Dec 73/4).

**Park Farm Threshing Mill** (also Figure 3) was fed by a ladder of six small dams descending from the Revoch Cut at NS 571506. Park is one example of a large number of mills on farms powered by water wheels or horse power. The writer carried out a survey of many in the area (eg Eastwoodian, 1991).

**Eaglesham pre-1769 village** NS 572520 (Figure 4B). According to Roy the main village street underlies the present Montgomery Street, but an outlier on the N side of the burn, comprised a group of houses and garden plots which are still visible on the Orry. Six foundations were noted in December 1981, two with clear enclosed yards were on slight mounds, 20 by 18m, with foundation walls 2 to 4m broad. D&E 1982.

**Deaconsbank Dovecote** NS 546578 Eastwood. Suggested by OSA to be 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Memorial slabs and stones, Mearnskirk.** The main example is the inscribed grave slab, now propped against the church wall, which according to Scott was unearthed a few years before his book (1939). A cross and sword are inscribed, but possibly late mediaeval. There are a number of old graves, the earliest recognisable is 1674, followed by 1742, and a number from the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Two instances of paired identical stones.

**Memorial slabs and stones, Eaglesham** Fewer early stones with dates in the churchyard, compared to Mearnskirk, mostly late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although the present church is reputed to be on the site of an earlier church, the cemetery does not appear to bear evidence to this. There is a simple stone with carved symbols of shears and cloth, for a tailor, and a very elaborate grave for a carpenter, but the name is buried.

**Patterton, watchtower** NS 538576, Mearns. A small tower, possibly a folly, but about which little is known. Around base, a rockery with a well and a miniature bridge arch, and a semi-circle of marker stones.

**Millhouse Bridge** NS 602506, Eaglesham. Alleged pack-horse bridge, across the front of the weir. Although suitably narrow, and leading to a steep track behind the mill, unlikely to be of great age, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Nethercraig Bridge** NS 595512, Eaglesham. Footings of a bridge across the Cart, indicating a road to E Kilbride, extant to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Barcapel Cross** NS 545575 Mearns. Site of carved cross, now in Glasgow Museum.

**Pollokton, inscribed stone** NS 520563, Mearns. Incorporated in wall of house near road junction, inscribed cloth, shears and initials, trade-marks of a tailor.

**Aldton, rectangular mound** NS 553552, Mearns. Under ruins of Aldton Farm, and the junction of the road with the lane to Mearns Castle, a rectangular outline, raised, mostly rock (as an excavated silage pit shows), possibly for a mediaeval building.

**Millhouse, Polnoon Castle steps** (site of) NS 602506, Eaglesham. Steps, allegedly from Polnoon Castle, were seen in the cottage here by the writer, in the mid-60s, but were apparently taken out and destroyed in 1975.

**Cross-Keys, coat-of-arms** NS 573519, Eaglesham. Allegedly, the coat-of-arms here was taken from Polnoon Castle. However the features are very clear cut and unworn. There is another story suggesting that it was on Polnoon Lodge, but was later harled over (1807).

**Ross Mill** NS 555547 Eaglesham. The remains of this mill, which was in ruins by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, show several phases of construction, with buildings on different sites. There is a good plan of one phase in Ainslie's Farm Plan 14 (1789). It is an example of a mill of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century date (shown on Bleau's Map of Renfrewshire 1654). Although there are other mills dating back this far, they were re-used in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Enoch Linn, Mill** NS 579498, Eaglesham. A possible mill site, perhaps belonging to Auchenhood, below the bridge on the track leading to Nethererton Farm, comprises a dam (remains) and a lade, with the mill possibly sited on the steep slopes below. Uncertain. D&E 79.

**Pollok Mill** NS 511561, Mearns. Remains of the mill shown by Ainslie (1796) possibly the corn mill for Upper Pollok.

**Gateside Lint Mill** NS 576556, Cathcart (detached) (Figure 4A). Remains of early Lint Mill and lade, documented 1750's, shown by Ainslie (1796). Also Waulk Mill and lade on opposite bank. [SSIA 1974; See 'Robert Allason & Greenbank'].

**Newmill Corn and Lint Mills** NS 579567, Mearns (Figure 10). The site later used for Busby old cotton mill was an early meal mill, with a lint mill added c.1750, both demolished 1778 (Ross 1883). In the site of the wheel of the cotton mill an old corn grinding stone has been used as part of the wall. [see EDHH].

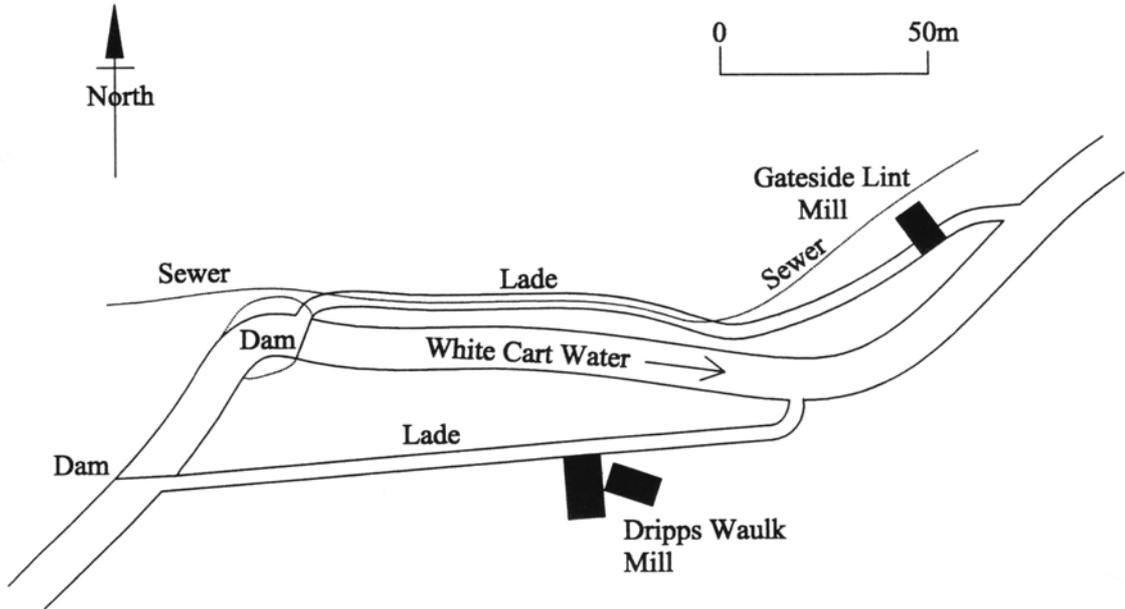


Figure 4A. Gateside Lint Mill & Dripps Wauk Mill

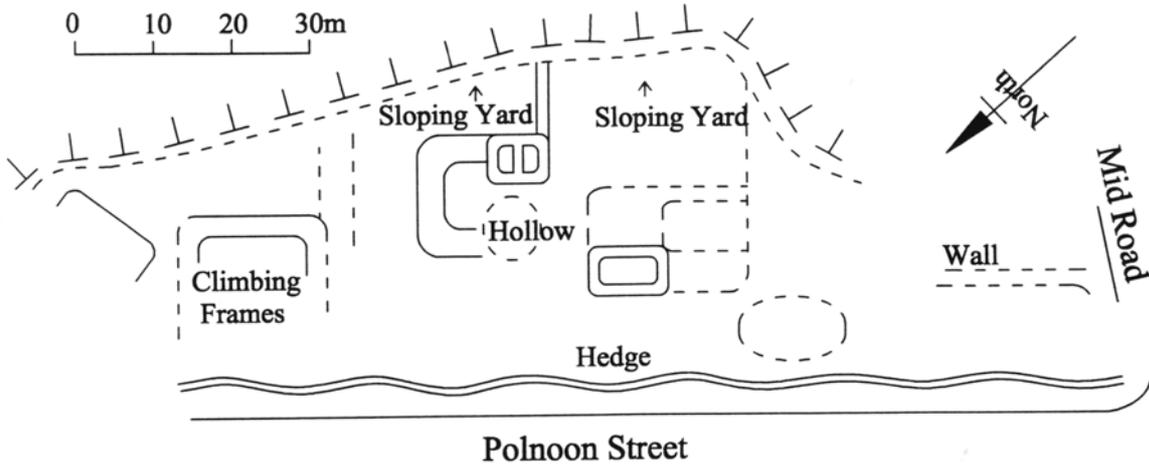


Figure 4B. Eaglesham pre-1769 Village

Figure 4

**Busby Glen Waulk Mill** NS 578 569, East Kilbride (Figure 10). Lade, mill and tailrace well preserved in plan (See also Ross, SSIA 1973).

**Kittoch Glen Mill, Busby** NS 583570, East Kilbride. In deep valley, low mound 15 x 6m half way along 100m long mill lade, footings of dam at E end. Lack of mapped evidence suggests early date. D&E 74.

The mills included above are examples to illustrate the number in existence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but the subject requires more extensive treatment, taking into account the development of the industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By virtue of their survival on the river banks within the built-up area, the mills represent some of the earliest building remains in the district. Surveys of many local industrial sites have also been published by the writer, including SSIA publications. For the larger sites such as hillforts, further details can be found in EDHH (1989).

## 12. Source Abbreviations and Bibliography

Ainslie (1789)	Farm Plans of the Barony of Eaglesham (1789)
Ainslie (1796)	Map of the County of Renfrew (1796)
Crawford (1710)	'A General Description of the Shire of Renfrew' by George Crawford, enlarged, revised and updated by Semple (1782) and Robertson (1818)
D&E	'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'. All entries by author unless noted.
Eastwoodian	'Horse and Water Power on Eaglesham Farms' Welsh, T.C. Welsh Eastwoodian Journal (Sept 1991)
OSA/ OSA Card	O.S. Archaeology Branch (Scotland) Card Index (used as general source for many sites).
Nisbet & Welsh	'Robert Allason & Greenbank', Eastwood District Libraries (1991)
NSA	New Statistical Account
RCAHMS	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland.
Ross	'Busby and its Neighbourhood', Rev. Wm. Ross (1883).
Roy (1747)	Military maps produced by Roy, dated 1747-55
Scott	'Old Days and Ways in Newton Mearns' (The Bi-Centenary of the Newton Church) 1939, Rev. A. Boyd Scott (1939).
SSIA	Scottish Society for Industrial Archaeology Newsletter (Early 1970's).
Strang (1939)	'A History of Mearns Parish', J. A. Strang 3 vols. (Unpublished, produced in London, as a thesis).
Taylor (1831)	'The Lavern Delineated', C. Taylor (1831).
Ure (1793)	'History of Rutherglen and East Kilbride', Ure (1793).
EDHH (1989)	'Eastwood District History and Heritage', T.C. Welsh Eastwood District Libraries (1989).