OFFICIAL GUIDE

Caerlaverock Castle

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	Weekdays	*Sundays*
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OCTOBER TO MARCH	9.30 am—4 pm	2 pm—4 pm

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FRONT COVER:
The cover device is from the heraldic plaque over the entrance (*see page* 12).

Caerlaverock Castle

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HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
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SUMMARY

Famous for its siege in 1300, Caerlaverock Castle illustrates to the full the frequent fluctuations in the fortunes of the English and the Scots during their centuries of conflict in the later Middle Ages. Five times besieged, it changed hands many times and at least once was almost razed to the ground. Yet it remains today one of the most impressive castles of Britain, its plan decided in the thirteenth century, with battlements added in the fifteenth, and the whole girt by moats which were intended to keep attackers at bay. Internally the accommodation was not vast, but it exhibits various styles, which were in keeping with their times and the changing ideas of the noble lords of the castle.

HISTORY

The capture of William the Lion at Alnwick in 1174 and the subsequent Treaty of Falaise between him and the English King, Henry II, ushered in over a century of peace between the realms of England and Scotland. There were some disputes but no war and both kingdoms profited accordingly, particularly the Scottish, which as a result of the battle of Largs in 1265 was enabled to acquire and annex the kingdom of the Isles (Hebrides).

The death of Alexander III of Scotland in 1286 and still more the death, four years later, of his successor, the Maid of Norway, almost inevitably led to troubles which had a lasting effect upon the affairs of the kingdom. There were many competitors for the throne. The English King, Edward I, claimed the overlordship of Scotland, a matter which had never been clearly defined, and by that right assumed the position of judge between the claimants. He pronounced in favour of John Balliol, who by the strict rules of primogeniture was the rightful heir, but who at the same time was willing to acknowledge the English king as his suzerain.

Balliol became king of Scotland in 1292, and reigned for three and a half years. Almost at once he was at loggerheads with his overlord, and before long, renouncing his allegiance, he concluded an alliance with France, by this act setting Scotland on a policy which she was to follow for a very long time. The Scots raided England in 1295–96 with the result that in 1296 Edward I led an English army northwards past Berwick, where he massacred the inhabitants for the insults they hurled at him, and on to Dunbar where he defeated the Scots. Balliol submitted and was imprisoned, Edward proceeded north as far as Aberdeen and Banff, made himself master of all Scottish castles, and left the country under military rule.

But the Scots refused to submit to this treatment. They found a leader in Sir William Wallace, who by the spring of 1297 had gathered round himself a guerilla band. A few months later at Stirling Bridge, he inflicted a crushing defeat upon the English army, the remnants of which retreated to Berwick. Wallace thereupon governed the country in the name of John Balliol. In 1299 Edward led an English army into Scotland and defeated Wallace at Falkirk but was unable to repeat his reduction of the whole country. There was perpetual

war between English and Scots with frequent English expeditions into Scotland, which culminated in that of 1303–04, led by Edward in person. By July, 1304, Scotland lay at his mercy; Wallace was captured and put to death.

The country now comprised within Dumfriesshire lay astride one of the natural highways into Scotland in medieval times, when transport by water was often more convenient than carriage by land. There is no doubt that Caerlaverock Castle, situated close to the shore of Solway, owes its existence to the fact that it guarded a landing-place of those coming from Cumberland or further afield. Certainly there are accounts of its use in this manner at a later time and a suggestion that the Romans also used this route. It is also clear that the Scots were not united in opposition to the English and that there were those who favoured the cause of Edward I. Such a one was Sir Richard Siward, a Scot in English service, who in 1298 began the castle of Tibbers, also in Dumfriesshire. There was certainly a castle at Caerlaverock in 1299 and it is reasonable to suggest, as it is not heard of before that date, that, like Tibbers Castle, it is a product of the troublous years after 1290. It cannot be stated for certain by which side in the conflict it was built, but its situation strongly suggests its construction as an English bridgehead for the invasion of Scotland.

If that was its original purpose, it must quickly have fallen into Scottish hands for in the year 1300 Caerlaverock Castle suddenly comes into the full glare of publicity in the relation of one of the most interesting episodes which has been related of any medieval castle in Britain. This is the siege by the English king, Edward I, in 1300. It is not that the siege itself was a protracted one or that it was full of incident, but it is famous because there has been preserved a rhyming account of it in French. Translated, part of this runs as follows:

'Caerlaverock was so strong a castle that it feared no siege before the King came there, for it would never have had to surrender, provided that it was well supplied, when the need arose, with men, engines and provisions. In shape it was like a shield, for it had but three sides round it, with a tower at each corner, but one of them was a double one, so high, so long and so wide, that the gate was underneath it, well made and strong, with a drawbridge and a sufficiency of other defences. And it had good walls, and good ditches filled right up to the brim with water. And I think you will never see a more finely situated castle, for on the one side can be seen the Irish Sea, towards the west, and to the north the fair moorland, surrounded by an arm of the sea, so that no creature born can approach it on two sides, without putting himself in danger of the sea. On the south side it is not easy, for there are many places difficult to get through

because of woods and marshes and ditches hollowed out by sea where it meets the river.'

With this account in mind, a glance at the plan or at the castle itself will show that the description given fits perfectly the shape of the present structure. It is three-sided in the shape of a shield of 1300 with a tower at each angle save that at the north there are two towers flanking the gateway. There is a wet moat and away to the south are several natural gullies, now grown over with trees. There can be no doubt that the castle of 1300 was on the present site and in the shape of the existing building.

Furthermore there are still in the castle some remains of the structure which stood in 1300. These are to be found in the gate-house, in the outside of the western tower up to within twelve courses of the parapet and in the ragged masonry in the interior at the base of the eastern tower. The lowest part of Murdoch's Tower also is probably of this date and the first few courses of the curtain from this tower northwards to within about 6·1 m (20 feet) of the gate-house. The work of this period is carried out in good ashlar of a kind which is frequently seen at this time elsewhere.

A comparison of the plan disclosed by these earliest masonry remains at Caerlaverock with the plan of Tibbers Castle, already mentioned, which is recorded as having been begun in 1298, shows similarity of their round towers and other features. There seems, therefore, every reason for concluding that considerable portions still stand of the first Caerlaverock Castle, which was built between 1290 and 1300 and was besieged by the English king in person in the latter year.

Caerlaverock remained an English stronghold until 1312, by which time Edward I, the Hammer of the Scots, had died and been succeeded by his son, a weaker man, Edward II. The keeper of the castle for the English in that year was Sir Eustace Maxwell, a man who contrived to be true to the policy of those who live between the hammer and the anvil of two warring peoples—he had the best from both sides. In 1312 he obtained from the English king the remission of a debt of £22 which was due from him; no doubt Edward II considered this a good investment to secure his loyalty. Almost at once Sir Eustace declared for Robert Bruce, the King of Scots. He was besieged in the castle, but held out. After the raising of the siege, however, he dismantled the castle in keeping with Bruce's policy of denying the enemy any stronghold which might be useful to him in a later campaign. Not long afterwards King Robert forgave him a debt of £32 and gave him a charter of an annual rent 'for demolishing the castle of Caerlaverock'. Some such statement about demolition in the Middle Ages meant little enough, but in view

of Bruce's known policy it is clear that the words in this case were strictly true, and that the paucity of the remains of the castle of 1300 is due to this demolition of *c* 1312.

The accession of Edward III to the English throne in 1327 and still more the English victory at Halidon Hill in 1333 ushered in another period of strife in the Lowlands of Scotland. In 1347, the year after the English victory over the Scots at Neville's Cross and over their French allies at Crecy, Herbert of Maxwell delivered hostages at the castle after submitting to the English king. In return he received letters of protection to himself and to his men and to the castle, with its armour, victuals and other goods and cattle which were in it. Clearly by this time the castle was again in existence as a fortification and as a dwelling, but how long it had been so it is impossible to determine. To this period belongs a great deal of the present castle. The work is in ashlar, but is not quite so finely jointed as is the first period masonry. Murdoch's Tower, but not its battlements, with probably the south-east tower and the curtain between them, are in this style; so is the west curtain for 6·1 m (20 feet) south of the gatehouse up to a considerable height. Here the curtain rests on a chamfered plinth, which is wider and not so well made as the plinth of the rest of the curtain, over which it is built. A similar plinth runs the full length of the east curtain, indicating that this also is second period work. There is similar masonry in the east tower of the gatehouse, the first 1·5 to 1·8 m (5 or 6 feet) where it adjoins the curtain. This fact alone shows the thoroughness of the earlier dismantling of the castle, which caused this half of the gatehouse to be rebuilt from the ground in the later period. It also shows that much of the new tower of this period was later razed or fell. It is at least clear from this evidence and from the curtains that the destruction of 1312 had been most effective.

In 1355 or 1356 Roger Kirkpatrick reduced the whole of Nithsdale to the allegiance of the Scottish crown once more and captured the castles of Dalswinton and Caerlaverock by 'force and valour and demolished them to the ground'. So says the chronicler: *vi et virtute cepit et ad solum prostravit.* This sounds very definite and one would accept the statement literally, were it not for another entry in the same chronicle under the following year, 1357, which relates that the same Roger was killed by James Lindsay 'at the castle of Caerlaverock'. Lindsay was Kirkpatrick's guest and after the fell deed that night he left the castle. It is exceedingly difficult to reconcile these two statements except by suggesting that the castle was indeed partially demolished, but not until after the death of Roger Kirkpatrick.

The masonry of the castle shows signs of such a partial destruction

in the west curtain where much of the existing masonry is of still later type. There may have been demolition elsewhere, such as in the south curtain, which is now so ruined that no evidence is available. It is also possible that the eastern tower of the gatehouse was demolished at this time, since the existing walling is of later date, but it is just as likely that it fell while the castle was deserted.

Such a desertion of the castle is suggested by the absence of any historical record of its use from this time for at least two generations, and also by the existence a short way to the south of another fortified medieval site. This lies in the marshes not far beyond the outer moat of the castle. It is a lozenge-shaped masonry structure, surrounded by a moat. It has not been fully excavated and nothing is known for certain as to its date and purpose. In type, however, it plainly belongs to the later Middle Ages and it seems to fall into a place as the residence of the lords of Caerlaverock after their main stronghold had been made unusable.

Murdoch's Tower is said to take its name from Murdoch, Duke of Albany, who is stated to have been confined within it in 1425. If this statement is correct, clearly Caerlaverock Castle was by then once more in commission as a residence and a fortification. The central part of the west curtain has much coursed rubble work, in which the stones are nearly square, and there is similar masonry in the western tower of the gatehouse above the first period work and below that which can be certainly attributed to the middle of the fifteenth century. This type of masonry is known elsewhere in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. At Caerlaverock it occurs significantly in the west curtain, where it seems to fill the breach made in the demolition of *c* 1357, and it may reasonably be attributed to a rebuilding early in the fifteenth century.

A historian of the Maxwell family attributes the completion of the bartizan of Caerlaverock to Robert, second Lord Maxwell, who succeeded his father Herbert, the first Lord, in 1452, and lived until 1488. This attribution is in perfect accord with the final medieval additions to the castle, which are of fifteenth-century character. These include the bold machicolated parapets on the gatehouse, with the topmost courses of fine ashlar masonry in regular courses below them, and the parapet on Murdoch's Tower. At the same time additions were made both to the front and to the rear of the gatehouse, in order to increase the defensive power of the gate itself and also to increase the accommodation in the building behind it.

This addition had the effect of turning the gatehouse into the equivalent of many tower-houses which were erected elsewhere in Scotland in this and the succeeding centuries. Whereas in England by this time there were many manor-houses, which had the bare

minimum of defences, if any, with elaborate domestic quarters at ground level, centred upon a hall, flanked by solar, chapel and kitchen, in Scotland owing to the comparative insecurity of the times these quarters had of necessity to be built upwards in a tower-house, with kitchen below hall, and with solar at a still higher level.

At Caerlaverock it is true that from the first the gatehouse had up to a point served just such a purpose. A guard-chamber on each side flanked the actual entrance passage, and on the first floor there was one great chamber approached only by an external stair to a doorway which is still partly preserved at the west end of the south wall. There were also rooms in the towers at this level, and probably another range of rooms on a second floor, since the main chamber had a vault, the cut-off springers of which can still be seen. Such a plan is found in many English castles of the time of Edward I, and indicates that the lord of the castle or his constable had his quarters at the most vulnerable point of the enciente, the entrance, which he could thus command and defend precisely as he wished. Since his apartments were approached only by an external stair, probably of wood, which could be removed, he could hold out, even if the gateway were forced and the enemy gained possession of the courtyard of the castle.

By the time this work had been done at the gatehouse or very soon afterwards there was other accommodation in the courtyard in the form of a range of buildings beside the west curtain. The rooms in this block contain fireplaces and windows of late fifteenth-century style and formed a range of accommodation for guests, there being six or seven separate rooms, each with a fireplace, often ornamental and one or more windows.

During the conflicts of the sixteenth century the castle figures once more as an object of contention between English and Scots. James V was at the castle in 1542, but in 1545 it was surrendered by negotiation to Henry VIII of England. It was later besieged and recovered by the Scots. In 1570 the English under the Earl of Sussex were harrying the district; they besieged, took and 'threw down' the castle. There is now no evidence in the structure of this demolition, which must, however, have been comparatively slight. In 1593 repairs were once more in hand since the Lord Maxwell was then recorded as making 'great fortifications and has many men working at his house five miles from Dumfries'. It is probable that work of this time included the wide-mouthed gunports, visible in the gatehouse, which have all plainly been inserted into earlier masonry. They are typical of the Scots method of using cannon in castles. In spite of the work undertaken by this Lord Maxwell, in 1607

Caerlaverock Castle could be described by an antiquary as 'a weak house of the Barons of Maxwell'.

The accession of James VI to the English throne as James I brought peace to the harried border counties. At Caerlaverock Castle this tranquility in due course led to the erection of a fine new block of buildings beside the east curtain, as different as possible from all but one of the earlier structures which were dictated by military necessity. These buildings were erected by Robert Maxwell, the first Earl of Nithsdale, and were described in 1640 as 'that dainty fabrick off his new lodging'. The period of this structure is clearly indicated by the date 1634 on a window-head which has been found during the work of consolidation of the castle. It is a notable range of buildings in Renaissance style, embellished with much fine detail, which repays close study.

The rupture of the truce between King Charles I and the Covenanters in 1640 caused the King to warn the Earl of Nithsdale, one of his staunch supporters, that he should 'look to himself'. The Earl accordingly garrisoned Caerlaverock Castle with 200 soldiers and before long was besieged by an army of the Estates under the command of Lt. Col. John Home. A summons to surrender in the early days of the siege was not complied with, but after thirteen weeks' investment with vigorous bombardment affairs reached a critical stage. It proved impossible to relieve the garrison and eventually, with the King's permission, Nithsdale capitulated on the 29th September, 1640. The terms of surrender were easy.

Inventories taken at the time of the surrender or soon afterwards give details of the furnishings, which enable one to recreate in imagination what was the original appearance of the great buildings beside the south and east curtains. The Earl's effects included five beds, two of silk and three of cloth, each supplied with five curtains, massive silk fringes of half-a-quarter deep, and a counterpane tester of the same stuff, all laid with braid, silk lace, and a small fringe about; with chairs and stools answerable, laid with lace and fringe: with feather-bed and bolster, blankets and rug, pillars and bedsteads of timber answerable; every bed with the furniture estimated at £110 sterling. There were ten lesser beds, worth £15 each, and twenty servants' beds at £7 each, forty carpets at forty shillings each, the furniture of a drawing-room of silver cloth, consisting of a couch-bed and great chair, six other chairs, and six stools, all garnished with silk and silver fringes, estimated at £100 sterling. There was a library of books, which had cost the Earl £200, as well as trunks full of sheets, pillowcases, table cloths, napkins, and towels. All these things Col. Home was accused of impounding. He claimed he had acted under orders from the Committee of Estates in Edinburgh

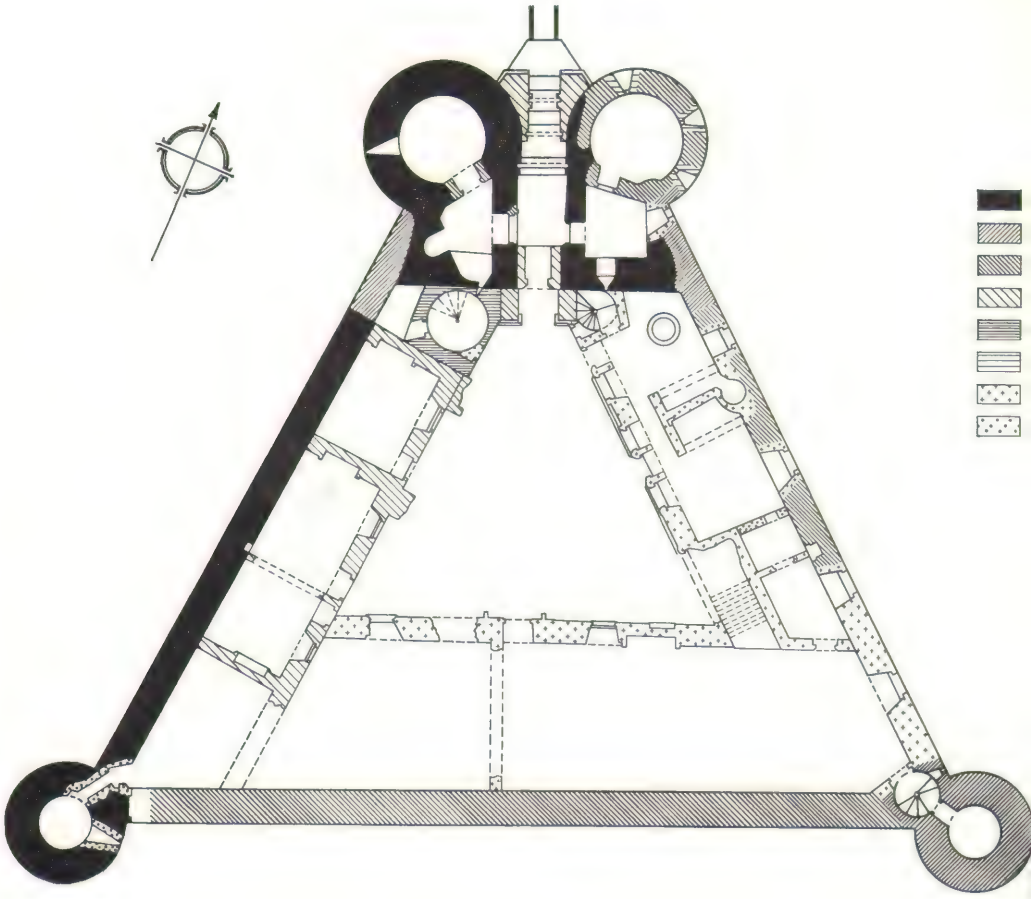
1 Caerlaverock Castle — the entrance

2 From the air the plan of the castle and the massive outer earthworks are well displayed

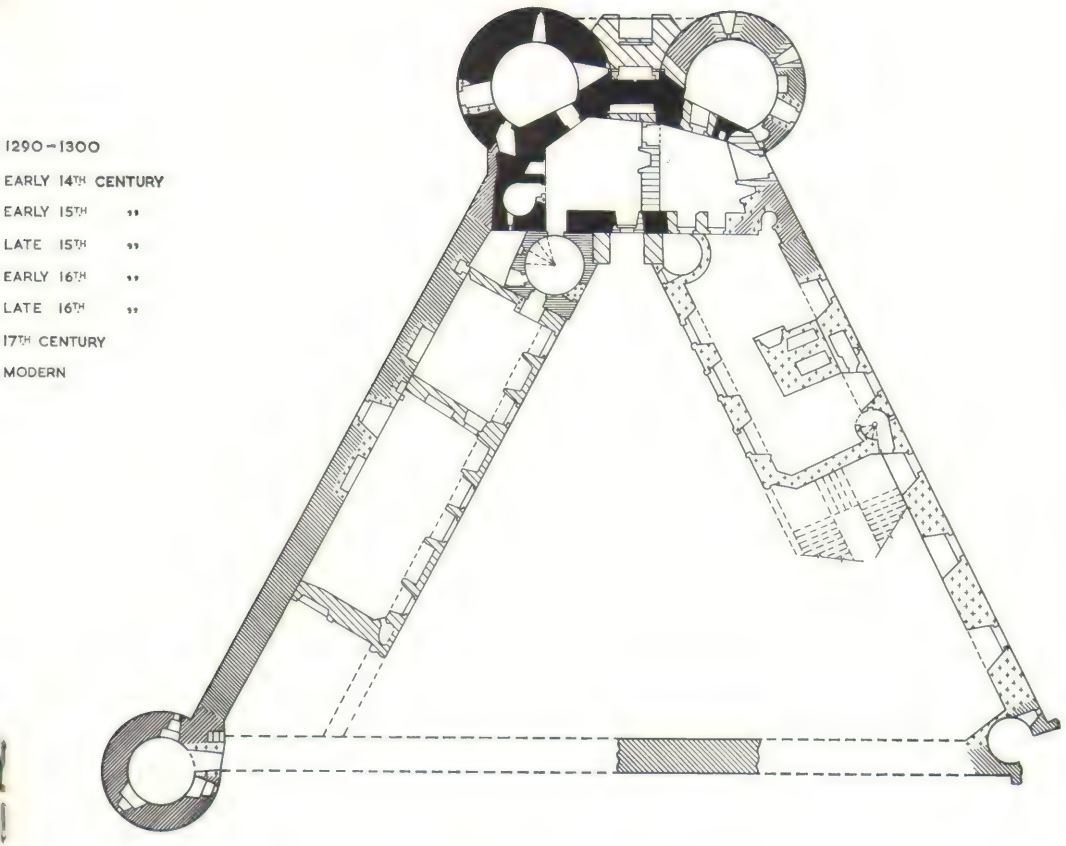
3 Caerlaverock as it may have been — a reconstruction drawing by Alan Sorrell

4 Murdoch's Tower

CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE

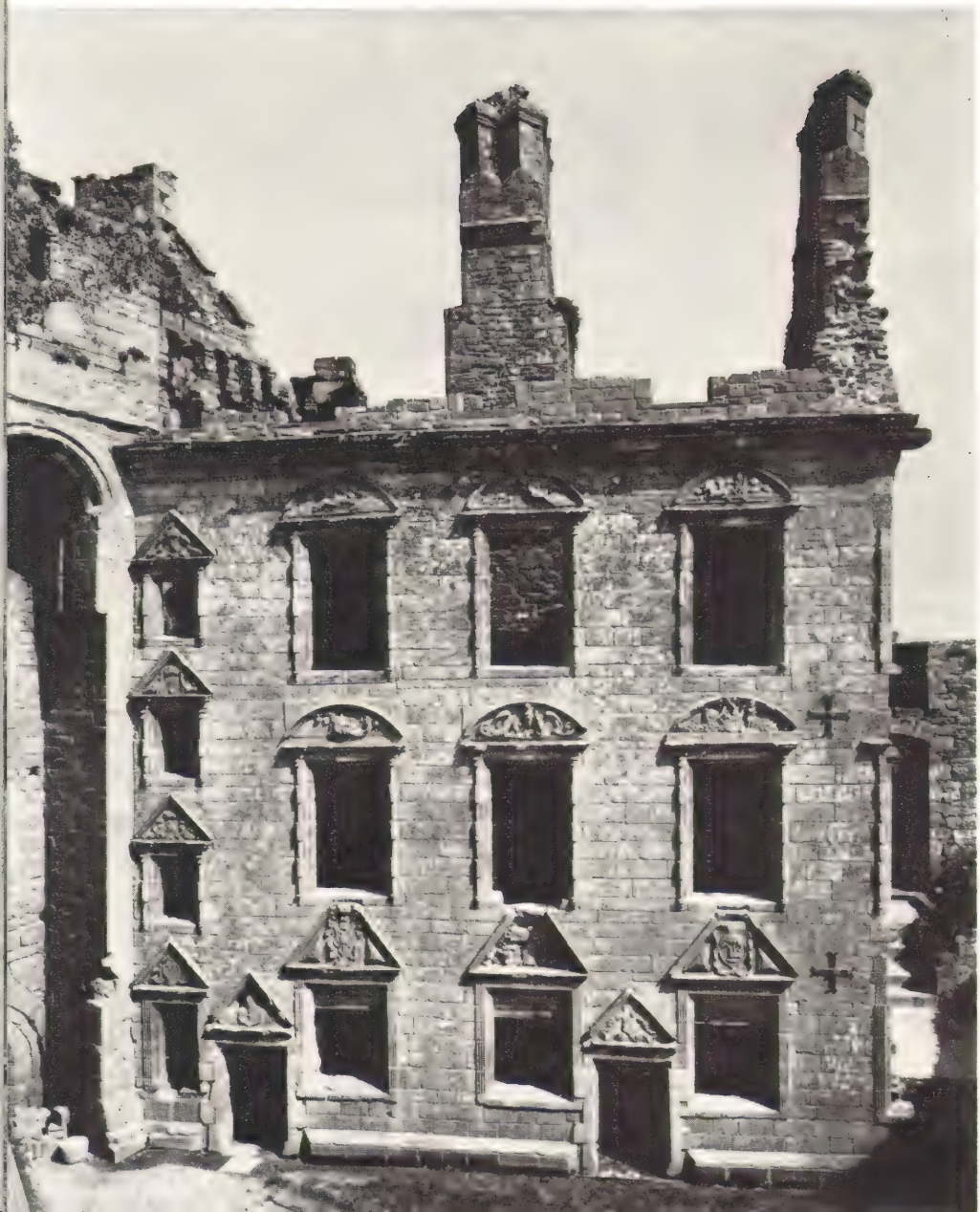


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

5 The remarkable Renaissance mansion



6 A detail of one of the carvings which depicts two crows pecking out the eyes of a man

7 The west curtain wall

8 The courtyard ranges from the south, Murdoch's Tower on the left

because certain of the Earl's men had broken their parole, given at the time of the surrender, that they would not again take up arms for the King. It is doubtful whether this accusation was a true one, but it nevertheless led, not only to the sequestration of the property already mentioned, but also to the partial destruction of the castle in order that it might be made untenable as a fortress and useless as a residence.

Thereafter the castle has remained a ruin with some repairs done by the owners of the property, to obviate further disintegration. The number of dates from 1775 onwards cut on the walling of the first floor of the Gatehouse shows that it has been a place of resort for its own sake from the Romantic Era down to the present day. It has passed by inheritance through the family of Herries to the present Duke of Norfolk, the sixteenth, who placed it in the guardianship of the then Ministry of Works in 1946.

DESCRIPTION

The castle can be approached only from the north. Here is a rectangular outer courtyard on the slope of the hill. At its north-eastern corner this is entered by a round-arched stone gateway of uncertain date and there is a low bank round the courtyard, which suggests that it may once have been defended. There are no certain traces either of siege works or of outer defences of the time of the siege of 1640.

There are two moats surrounding the castle. These are narrow on the north, where they were crossed by bridges, but widen out along the east and west sides and form considerable expanses of water beside the south curtain. There is a low bank along the outer side of the outer moat, which was designed merely to retain the water. Between the two moats there is a much larger bank. The irregularities of this bank form no definite pattern and it does not seem that they have any defensive purpose. They are likely to be the product of several clearances of the moats.

A general view of the castle walls, as also of the structural history which they proclaim, may be obtained by walking anti-clockwise on the bank between the two moats. The *western side* of the castle is the most complicated, but also the most revealing of all. The lower two-thirds of the western tower of the gatehouse is built of finely jointed ashlar, often but not always long and low in the course. The lowest courses of Murdoch's Tower seem to be in the same style, and both towers have or have had a bulbous batter at the base, but no plinth. The curtain between these towers has two plinths, one above the other. The lower is of ashlar with a nicely chamfered top and a splay below water level to a total depth of ·76 m (2 feet 6 inches), but it does not occur for 6·1 m (20 feet) south of the gatehouse. All this work is characteristic of masonry of *c* 1300, and is taken to be part of the castle besieged in that year and overthrown *c* 1312. The upper plinth runs the full length of the west curtain, oversailing the lower plinth by two courses, the upper one steeply chamfered. In the gap between the gatehouse tower and the end of the earlier plinth the later plinth has below it a vertical face. Above it to a considerable height is masonry not unlike that of the gatehouse adjacent, but it is not so well dressed or so closely jointed. Similar

masonry is seen also in Murdoch's Tower except at its summit, for 1·8 m (6 feet) north of the tower, and throughout the curtain between these two up to ·9 to 1·2 m (3 to 4 feet) above the plinth. This seems certainly to be the walling of the second castle, which was partially thrown down by 1357 or soon afterwards.

The main part of this curtain is of larger and rougher character, dressed rubble which is coursed, but the courses are 'wavy'. This work rests against and over that which was last mentioned and may be ascribed to an early fifteenth-century rebuilding. Similar masonry is visible in the upper part of the west gatehouse tower below the ashlar, which carries the machicolations. These machicolations and the few contemporary ashlar courses below them are continued over the curtain for a short distance, ending in a well-finished vertical face. The topmost masonry of the curtain, small and thin random rubble, is built against this face and must date from the sixteenth or seventeenth century, perhaps from the time of the siege of 1640.

The south curtain is ruined almost to its base; the present top three courses of ashlar were added during repair in order to support the original core behind them. To the left Murdoch's Tower stands up boldly with its base of late thirteenth-century date, the main masonry of the early fourteenth century, and machicolations of the later fifteenth. The openings in the wall of this tower have undergone various modifications, but there are a number of narrow slits with fish-tail lower ends, mostly now blocked. These are typical of the first half of the fourteenth century. Here they are associated with small rectangular windows, all apparently built at the same time. Similar combined windows and arrow-slits occur at Clifford's Tower, York Castle.

The masonry of the south curtain, so far as it can be seen, is of the type elsewhere ascribed to the early fifteenth-century rebuilding. It is apparent from the tuskers in this walling, which formerly engaged with that of the south-eastern tower, that the tower also was rebuilt at this period although it seems likely that, as in the case of Murdoch's Tower, its lowest courses are those of the late thirteenth century.

The east curtain is difficult to interpret. There is a widely splayed base, similar in style to the upper plinth of the west curtain and probably of the same period, the first half of the fourteenth century. Above this also there is much ashlar with rather wide joints, such as occurs at this time in the west curtain, but it is somewhat confused by the insertion of random rubble work along with the windows of the seventeenth-century building of Lord Nithsdale. Ashlar of the same sort occurs also for a few feet horizontally in the walling of the eastern tower of the gatehouse. The machicolated parapet of this tower, as in the case of the western tower, is continued over the east

curtain for a short distance. It oversails the fourteenth-century ashlar, but the rubble of the seventeenth-century house is built against it.

At all times before the seventeenth century *the gatehouse* both for defence and for accommodation was the most important part of the castle. It must always have been an imposing structure although in its present form it dates from the late fifteenth century when the machicolations were added, along with the masonry over the actual gate between the two towers. The caphouse at its summit is a still later addition and the wide-mouthed gunports are insertions of the late sixteenth century or later. As already mentioned, the lower two-thirds of the western tower dates from the late thirteenth century. There is a little similar masonry at the western side of the eastern tower but the remainder is later, built probably in the middle of the fourteenth century.

The gate was approached across a drawbridge. Originally this may have been of the kind more properly called a turning-bridge because it worked on a horizontal axle like a see-saw, but with the addition of extra masonry in the fifteenth century a true drawbridge superseded the earlier method. It seems to have been small and may have been raised by means of a chain passing through the small square hole high above the apex of the arch. Below this hole is a large sandstone plaque bearing the badge of the Maxwells, a hart couchant, flanked by foliage and four shields. The plaque has an escutcheon at each angle and these are connected by a floral enrichment of oak leaves wreathed. The escutcheons contain armorial bearings as under:

DEXTER CHIEF: The shield ensigned with a crown bears a lion rampant within a royal tressure for Scotland.

SINISTER CHIEF: A double-headed eagle displayed beneath an imperial crown—a charge first used by John, eighth Lord Maxwell, Earl of Morton.

DEXTER BASE: A saltire for Maxwell, impaling a bend between six cross-crosslets fitchy for Mar.

SINISTER BASE: A fess chequy surmounted of a bend engrailed, for Stewart of Dalswinton.

Within the first arch of the gateway is a portcullis slot and immediately behind it a rebate for the door. Then there is another pointed arch with a shovel-ended arrow-slit above. This was the front of the gateway in 1300. Behind is another portcullis slot, which was disused when the outer one was made in the fifteenth century, another arch (nearly flat and probably rebuilt) and a rebate for a door, which has been much altered by later additions.

The passage way is flanked by walls, which are substantially those of 1300, but at the inner end of the gateway the inner arch and adjacent walling are additions of a later period. Nevertheless the

original gatehouse, like most of its contemporaries, did have a door at this inner end.

Two-thirds of the way along the passage a door on either side admits to rooms which must have served as guard-chambers. The doorway to the right or west leads to an irregularly shaped room with a fireplace. The south wall of this room incorporates original work, ie, part of the south wall of the thirteenth-century gatehouse. A doorway in the northern apex leads to the lowest part of the western gatehouse tower, whence can be seen many of the surviving features of the late thirteenth-century castle. The general appearance of this drum tower is precisely that which might be expected in the year 1300; so is the ashlar masonry, often long and low in the course, as on the outer face of the tower. The rubble vault, of which there are remains, is an addition of a later date and it may well be that at first there was no door into the tower at ground level, access being through a trap door from the floor above. The level of this floor is indicated by beam holes and at a suitable height above this level there are the remains of three original windows. Each has a flat two-centred rear arch. One, to the west, has been enlarged on its south side, but the north side is original. Another, facing north, is of the same size as the last, but is filled with a later masonry blocking. The third window was more widely splayed, because it commanded the entrance; it is blocked by the fifteenth-century addition to the gatehouse. There is a contemporary doorway in the south-western corner of this room, which led to a garderobe in the thickness of the adjacent curtain, and another above it on the next floor. The beam holes of this second floor may be seen but it is difficult to be sure of the date of the masonry above this level. The ribbed vault at the summit of the tower is of the fifteenth century, as are the doorways between the tower and the main body of the gatehouse except the one at first floor level, which seems to be of the first period.

A doorway on the opposite side, ie the east, of the passage leads to another angular guard-chamber with a vaulted roof and so to the bottom of the eastern tower of the gatehouse. It is difficult here to disentangle the multitude of building periods, since the front of the tower has certainly collapsed and been rebuilt once, perhaps twice. A little masonry of the first period is visible near the doorway and as in the case of the western tower a vault has been inserted. There is one jamb of a thirteenth-century window recess at first floor level on the western side but all the other openings are of later date. The gunports, which here appear as small round holes, have plainly been inserted into already existing masonry which is mostly of the fifteenth century.

The inner end of the gateway and passage is flanked by tall but-

tresses, between which at a high level there is a moulded, segmental arch. Behind this is a machicolation to cover this end of the passage. Lower than the arch are two fifteenth-century windows, the upper one partly concealing the blocked remains of another of the thirteenth century. To the west is a tall stair tower, which was added late in the fifteenth century between the gatehouse and the building beside the west curtain. It provided new access to both buildings but its doorway at ground level is now blocked.

The range of buildings beside the west curtain dates from the time of the great rebuilding in the second half of the fifteenth century. Its southern end is ruinous but in the remaining portion there are three doorways which each lead to a single room with fireplace and window. The two southern rooms were divided only by a thin wall, of which little remains, but the wall between the northernmost and the middle room is of more solid construction. The fireplaces are decorated in contemporary style and the window openings have been constructed in a normal Scottish manner with glass in the upper half for which the grooves remain, and shutters in the lower half. The rooms on the first floor were similar, but the windows were much larger, being of two lights, and the rooms were intercommunicating. There is no indication that they could be reached from the rooms below; presumably access was from one or both ends of the building. There is no party wall between the two southern rooms on this floor, but the presence of two fireplaces suggests that there were two rooms, and the party wall will have been of wood.

The façade of this range of buildings must have presented a symmetrical appearance which may have owed something to the ideas of the Renaissance. In this respect it anticipated the symmetry of the seventeenth-century building, which it faces, but there is a radical difference in the planning of the two structures. In the fifteenth-century block there are many separate chimney stacks, one for every flue except that two flues exist in one of the stacks. In the seventeenth-century building there is one large central stack, containing eight flues, and only one other stack in the whole range. Nevertheless the planning of the fifteenth-century building is the more convenient of the two.

Murdoch's Tower has been somewhat altered on the side towards the courtyard during the past century by repairs designed to prevent it collapsing. It is, however, probable that, when first built, the ground floor of the tower was an unlighted store, to which access was obtained by a wooden stair down from the floor above. The present entrance and window at ground level are not old, at least in their present form. The first floor was approached by means of a short passage, now much altered, off the south curtain. The room on

this floor was lit by three openings of the type already mentioned, which have a small square window above and a long arrow-slit below, which ends in a fish-tail splay. The eastern window has been enlarged at a later date and the arrow-slits have been blocked, perhaps for the siege of 1640, when they had become useless and a source of danger. The second floor of the tower has a similar room with two such openings. It was entered by means of a door off the west curtain. The top floor belongs to the period of the machicolations, late fifteenth century, and was well lit by large windows. There was also a doorway which led from this floor to the block of buildings of the same period beside the west curtain. Nowhere in the tower is there a fireplace and it was clearly built for purely military purposes to flank the curtain, although its rooms must have later served for additional accommodation, when the apartments beside the west and south curtains had been built.

The remainder of the internal buildings of the castle date from the time of the first Earl of Nithsdale, *c* 1634. The principal buildings, hall, solar and kitchen, were beside the south curtain, and of these but little remains, namely a finely decorated doorway typical of the period, with two windows or portions of windows on each side of it. Internally part of a great fireplace may be seen and at the eastern end a portion of stone cornice and a large window, one of a series inserted into the east curtain at this period.

At the south-eastern corner of the courtyard there is the base of the south-east tower, which in its present external appearance dates from the first half of the fourteenth century although in plan and perhaps in some detail it is original work of the late thirteenth century. Unlike Murdoch's Tower it has its own stair, the lower part of which remains and there is the base of the doorway into a room at the level of the courtyard. Below this level is an unlighted space, which could be used for storage and approached only from above by means of a wooden ladder, as has been suggested also in the case of Murdoch's Tower. There is no evidence that it was used as a prison or dungeon.

There was a grand stair from the hall to the apartments beside the east curtain but of this there are now but scanty remains, somewhat restored, apart from the wide archway at its base.

Nithsdale's apartments should be seen first from the outside. They display the exact symmetry which was one of the marks of Renaissance design and have craftsmanship of a high order. About one-third of the building has fallen since there was once another vertical row of large windows and still further south another vertical row of small windows. The triangular tympana over the smaller windows and the lowest tier of large windows contain heraldic

achievements or devices but the segmented tympana of the first and second floors have reliefs of scenes.

The basement of this building consists of a series of barrel-vaulted rooms, which served as a well-room in the north, with a well probably of thirteenth-century date, and a bakery, kitchen and servery successively as one comes nearer to the site of the hall, which lay in the building beside the south curtain. A wheel-stair led from the ground to the upper floors at the northern end of this building but this is now ruined and it is necessary to ascend by the modern version of the grand staircase. The first floor had two large apartments, lighted by windows on both sides. The fireplaces have projecting jambs shaped like consoles, as has the hall fireplace, already mentioned, but the rooms are awkward in shape because they had to be fitted round the central chimney stack. There were similar, if less ornate, pairs of rooms above on the second and third floors, their fireplaces being visible from below. Most of the rooms had garderobes or latrines.

The northern of these pairs of rooms on the first and second floors communicated with the rooms of the gatehouse. Here there are the complications of several periods and the original arrangements of one vaulted apartment can only be envisaged by imagining away the central party wall of rubble, which is not bonded into the main walls. The entrance to this apartment was through a doorway in the south-western angle, of which the pointed head is still preserved. The cut-off springers of the vaulting ribs show as funnel-shaped roughnesses in the ashlar walling of the south wall; they are not so clear, although they exist, in the north wall. The wide arch in the north wall spanned a recess, now blocked, from which the earliest portcullis was worked. The first floor rooms of the gatehouse towers were reached from this room by means of doorways of which the western remains. In the west wall there is a similar flat-headed doorway, now partly blocked. This led to a stair, now ruined, which gave access to the upper floors. Beside it is a double cupboard. The pointed arches in this building, made up of two stones, as also the corbels, date from the great fifteenth-century remodelling of the gatehouse when the early vault was removed and other floors were inserted, while the north to south party wall is a still larger insertion of the late sixteenth century.

GLOSSARY

Bailey Courtyard or Ward.

Ballista Machine, in the form of a very large bow, for the discharge of heavy arrows or stones.

Barbican An outward extension of a gateway.

Belfry A tall wooden tower, which could be moved up against the wall of castle or town in time of siege.

Bore A heavy pole with iron head, with which besiegers attacked the base of a wall.

Catapult A large stone-throwing engine.

Corbel A projection from a wall, intended to support a weight.

Crenellation Opening in the upper part of a parapet; a sign of fortification, eg a licence to crenellate was the equivalent of a permit to fortify a residence.

Curtain The wall enclosing a courtyard.

Donjon Great Tower or Keep. *NB*—The modern word dungeon is derived from donjon, but has a very different meaning.

Drawbridge A wooden bridge, which can be raised towards a gateway by means of chains or ropes attached to its outer end.

Embrasure A splayed opening in a wall for a window; also used as the equivalent of crenellation (see above).

Forebuilding An additional building against a Keep, in which is the stair to the doorway and sometimes a Chapel.

Garderobe Latrine.

Hall The principal room in a medieval house.

Hoards Also Hourds. Covered wooden galleries attached to the top of the external wall of a castle for defence of the base of the wall. They were supported on wooden brackets, the horizontal holes for which may sometimes be seen.

Keep Great Tower, or Donjon; normally used of eleventh- and twelfth-century buildings, but sometimes applied loosely to those of later date.

Machicolation An opening between corbels of a parapet or in a floor, such as a vault of a gateway, through which a garrison could assail besiegers with missiles.

Mangonel A stone-throwing engine.

Merlon Expanses of parapet wall between embrasures; sometimes pierced with slits.

Motte A castle mound of earth or turf. (Eleventh and twelfth centuries.)

Pent Also Pentise. Penthouse or lean-to.

Portcullis An iron-shod wooden grille suspended by chains in grooves in front of a gate, and let down to ground level in times of necessity.

Postern A back door.

Ram Battering-ram.

Sap Undermining of a wall, above or below ground.

Screens Wooden partition at the lower or kitchen end of a hall. Between it and the kitchen, etc, lay the screens passage.

Slit Arrow-slit; a narrow opening in a wall for discharge of arrows and admittance of light.

Solar A sitting-room, adjacent to the upper end of a hall.

Trebuchet A siege engine in the form of a giant sling.

Turning bridge A wooden bridge, pivoted on an axle and working like a see-saw, with a counterpoise weight attached to the end nearer the gateway.

Ward Courtyard or Bailey.

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