

The Peel Park



Camphill House

The building on the right hand side as you leave the park was built by James Slimon, a local weaving mill owner, in the 1870s. The house was given to the town as a public library in 1929 by David Patrick, the Town Clerk, in memory of his brother, William, a local Free Church Minister. It continued in use as a library until 1994, when it was superseded by a new building at Kirkintilloch Cross.



Perry Bandstand

Category 'C' Listed Structure

Bailie David Perry, who later became Provost of Kirkintilloch, donated this bandstand in 1905. Like the Hudson Fountain, it was made by the town's Lion Foundry, which was famous for its ornamental ironwork.



Kirkintilloch War Memorial

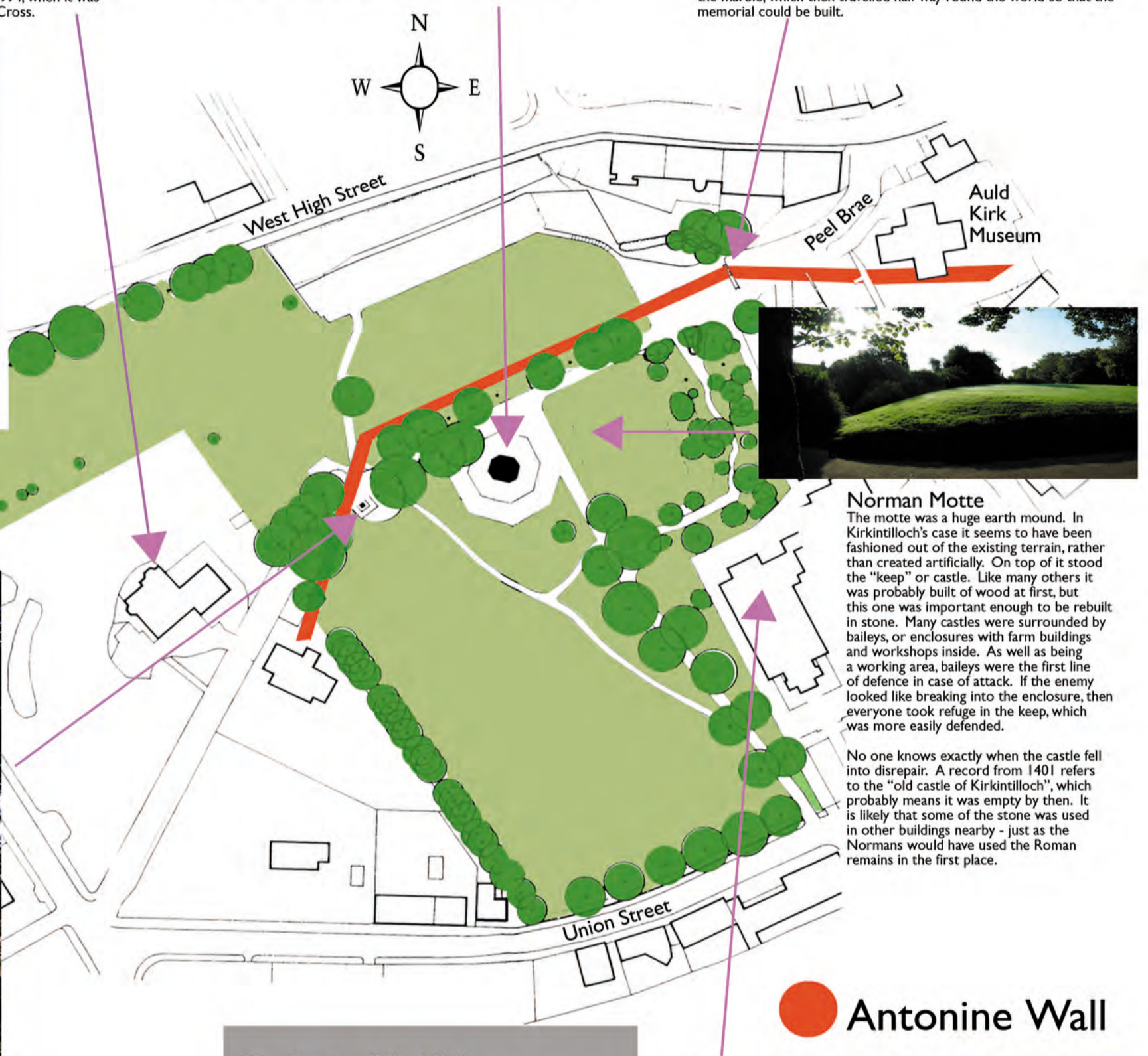
Category 'C' Listed Structure

The arched marble gateway is a tribute to local people who died in World Wars I and II. James Fletcher, originally from Kirkintilloch, became a leading industrialist in New Zealand. In 1925 he generously donated the marble, which then travelled half way round the world so that the memorial could be built.

Mediaeval Castle

The high mound on the east side of the park, near the War Memorial Gates, marks the site of a mediaeval castle built by the famous Comyn family, probably in the 12th or early 13th century. It guarded one of Scotland's first Burghs of Barony, a status accorded to Kirkintilloch in the year 1211. The significance of the Comyns is reflected in the thickness of the walls of the castle, which when excavated in 1899 were shown to be almost 4 metres wide.

During the Wars of Independence the castle was occupied by the English army, who rebuilt the wooden stockade or 'pele' around the perimeter. After the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) it seems likely that King Robert the Bruce would have ordered the castle to be dismantled, to prevent its reoccupation by the English.



Norman Motte

The motte was a huge earth mound. In Kirkintilloch's case it seems to have been fashioned out of the existing terrain, rather than created artificially. On top of it stood the "keep" or castle. Like many others it was probably built of wood at first, but this one was important enough to be rebuilt in stone. Many castles were surrounded by baileys, or enclosures with farm buildings and workshops inside. As well as being a working area, baileys were the first line of defence in case of attack. If the enemy looked like breaking into the enclosure, then everyone took refuge in the keep, which was more easily defended.

No one knows exactly when the castle fell into disrepair. A record from 1401 refers to the "old castle of Kirkintilloch", which probably means it was empty by then. It is likely that some of the stone was used in other buildings nearby - just as the Normans would have used the Roman remains in the first place.

Antonine Wall

The Route of the Wall

The Antonine Wall was built by the Romans around 142AD, during the reign of the emperor Antoninus Pius, to defend their territory to the south from North British tribes. It ran across central Scotland for a distance of 37 miles, from Old Kilpatrick to Bridgeness. The wall consisted of a rampart of turf set on a stone base, with a broad v-shaped ditch. The Military Way, a continuous road used for transporting soldiers and supplies, ran parallel with the Wall. Forts and fortlets were constructed along the line of the Wall to house the defending garrisons.



Hudson Fountain

Category 'C' Listed Structure

Bailie Robert Hudson, one of the founding members of the town's Lion Foundry, donated this fountain to the people of Kirkintilloch in 1905. The figure on top is said to represent Faustina, daughter of Emperor Antoninus Pius, after whom the Antonine Wall is named.



Church of Holy Family & St Ninians

Category 'B' Listed Building

Built in 1893, the church is one of a number designed by eminent architect Peter Paul Pugin, a member of the famous Pugin & Pugin firm, London. The architectural style has been described as a "free treatment English Decorated Gothic". A warm red Dumfries sandstone was the usual material adopted for the main fabric. Interiors were richly decorated, with many consistencies in the detail design.