

CAN YOU DIG IT?

PROJECTS 2020



Yes we can!



MY GALLOWAY CARSPHAIRN

Carsphairn is a picturesque village that is steeped in history. From prehistoric burial cairns, through the 'Killing Times' and the Covenanters, right up to lead mining in the 19th century – you can understand why it has its own heritage centre!

As a result, Canmore has a few great entries in this area but they could always do with some additional knowledge and images. Here are some that stood out to us, but do check out Canmore in case there are others that you can add to.

Woodhead Lead Mine

Canmore ID: 63884

Hidden from view to the west of Carsphairn sit the remains of the lead mine and 'model' village at Woodhead.

Built in the 1830s, the mine remained in operation until the 1870s, although people continued to live on the site for some decades after.

This extensive site has the ruins of industrial buildings, chimneys, flues, miners' cottages and even a school.

There are aerial images of the site on Canmore but that's all. Why not spend an afternoon wandering around the ruins of this extensive site and take some more detailed photographs of what remains? Or maybe you've been there in the past and can upload photographs to show how it's changed over time?

Does anyone know any interesting facts or stories that they could share?

From the late 18th to the 19th centuries, the lead mines of Dumfries & Galloway were the source of almost all Scottish lead production – surely they deserve a bit more attention in the national record?

Carsphairn Parish Church and Churchyard

Canmore ID: 209090 and 209091

There's a lovely black and white photograph of the church and a couple of the gravestones, but that's all.

Does anyone know when the church was built? Has it been altered or extended in any way?

Do you have any photographs, or are you able to take some, so that we can see the church from different angles?

And we know that there's more to see in that churchyard... is there anything there that reflects Carsphairn's historical links to the Covenanters?

Carsphairn Primary School & Schoolhouse

Canmore ID: 205111 and 205112

At the centre of the village sits Carsphairn Primary School.

We've heard that there has been a school here for nearly 300 years, but that can't be right - 300 years of stories and images and not a single bit of information in the national record?!

Is there something you can add?

Prehistoric burial sites at Lagwine Cairn and Cairn Avel

Canmore ID: 63880 and 63868

Descriptions of these sites are given but there's no photographs for us to look at.

Now these sites are old – really old. The round cairn at Lagwine is of a type that dates to the Bronze Age (2,500 BC to 800 BC), while the long cairn at Cairn Avel is even older, being of Neolithic type (4,100 BC to 2,500 BC).

These burial sites can vary in their complexity from a single individual to rituals of collective burial with a complex structural history.

If you get a chance to look for them, you should spot them easily enough – they're large stone heaps ranging from 50 to 118 feet in length and between 4 to 10 feet high! Some photos would be a great addition to the national historic record.

Salutation Hotel

Canmore ID: 244753

Along the main street in Carsphairn there is an entry marking the spot of the Salutation Hotel and someone's already kindly contributed a great photo which, going by the vehicle parked in front, was not taken recently!

Now we're pretty certain this hotel isn't still open, but does anyone know if the building itself still stands – possibly converted for another purpose? Does anyone have any other old photographs of the hotel that they could add or perhaps a more recent one of how it looks now?

When was the hotel built and do you know anything about its history? Seems a shame not to have that information included...

Braidenoch Hill Cross Slabs

Canmore ID: 63877 and 319600

Fancy a walk?

On the southwest slope of Braidenoch Hill south of Carsphairn lie two slabs that bear incised crosses.

Canmore has detailed descriptions for these cross-slabs but not a single photograph.

Early medieval in date, these slabs are around 1,000 years old - not too shabby.

They're legally protected right where they sit as, although they appear to be abandoned in the middle of nowhere, their location could be significant. Some of these stones marked significant points in the landscape – boundaries, routeways, ancestral burial grounds and so on – while many stood outside churches or monasteries.

So while they're amazing features in their own right, these stones could also point to a significance at this location that has been lost in the intervening centuries.

Drumjohn Power Station and Pipeline

Canmore ID: 276257 and 276236

Alongside every ancient burial cairn, Canmore also lists modern heritage sites, such as the power station at Drumjohn built in 1984.

This small power station was a late addition to the Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme – does anyone have any photographs that they could share?

The pipeline even has its own entry – assuming it's a bit bigger than your average pipe then?

PRO TIP!



You can also search the Canmore database using **pastmap.org.uk** – an interactive map that allows you to zoom into your chosen area and see all the Canmore sites, with direct links to each entry. You can also look at other sites in your area such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and known Battlefields.

New Sites: What you can't do in MyCanmore is add new sites, but if there are any that you would like documented, you could upload their images to Canmore entry ID: 209088, Carsphairn General, and include a description. The general record itself is also very sparse so if you do have any photographs of the village then feel free to add them!

ANY QUESTIONS ?

If you have any questions about this project, just email helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk or get in touch with us through the Can You Dig It Facebook or Twitter accounts (@GGLPArchaeology).

You can also let us know how you get on – do share with us through email or on social media what you've managed to find. We're always interested and love a good photograph! Email us or tag us with @GGLPArchaeology in your post or tweet.

So do take part if you can – it's a great way to preserve your knowledge and enrich the national record for the area. It's time to let the world know how great our heritage is!