Semple Stories, Lochwinnoch's Glories

Walk 1 – The Calder Weave

Castle Semple, Calder Street, Bridgend, Burnfoot, Newton of Barr, Calderhaugh, Main Street, Castle Semple

Route Map

Calder Street

- Welcome to the ‘New Town’ of Lochwinnoch conservation area which, is a well preserved planned industrial village which was laid out by a local laird in 1788. It lies between the original settlement at East End and the River Calder. Designated in 1972, the conservation area contains 29 listed buildings.
- The archway with the black doors used to be a horse-drawn cab company.
- The Manders family used to be own and manage a cinema where the black and white building is today and just behind that was the cooperage yard.

Conservation Area

The Horse-drawn Hackney Company (1)

Mander’s Cinema (2)

Vacant cinema just behind car park (2)

Calder Street cont.

- One of the former police stations stood at 29, Calder Street (3). The building was torn down and never replaced which is why there is no number 29. If you look carefully, you can just make out the outline of the building against the gable end of number 31.
- 50, Calder Street is significant for two reasons, it is the end of the conservation area – notice the change in building styles – and this was one of several Co-Operative buildings in the village (4).
- House building in the 1960 turned up a worn bronze coin, minted at Rome. Found by Master Thomas Brown the coin is now in the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University (5).
- Lochwinnoch Primary School. Originally the Public School, was opened 1905 (6).

Looking down Calder Street from Braehead.

Looking towards Bridgend (4)

Bridgend (7)

- The Bridgend Bridge's proper name is Regent Moray Bridge it's over 350 years old and at one time the only way in and out the village. A bridging point since 1525 and widened in 1814.
- Upstream is the Bridgend weir (8 – not shown on map) - Built during Lochwinnoch's industrial development in late 18th or early 19th century. Unusually semi-circular in design. Lade on E bank still visible, but is now dry, sluice is silted up.
- 1696 marriage date stone in last cottage over the bridge.
- Follow the road to the left, back down the Calder.

The Regent Moray Bridge/Bridgend Bridge (7)

Bridgend Weir/Calder Glen Falls (8)

Burnfoot Road

- The road splits at the golf club, take the left-hand road.
- Old buildings on left are what remains of the Burnfoot Silk Printing Works and bleachfields (9). The factory closed in 1985.
- Further down, Burnfoot Cottage is shown on Roys map of Lowland Scotland 1752-1755 (10).
- Being aware of traffic, continue along this road until you come to a road junction and turn left.

Burnfoot Silk Printing Works (9)

Newton of Barr

- As the name suggests, this is a new town and once quite separate from Lochwinnoch.
- These houses were once all weavers cottages (11) – a job for men.
- At the traffic light, the white building was the former smithy or blacksmith shop (12). Members of this family still live in Lochwinnoch and have the surname Smith!
- Turn left into Main Street and the village.

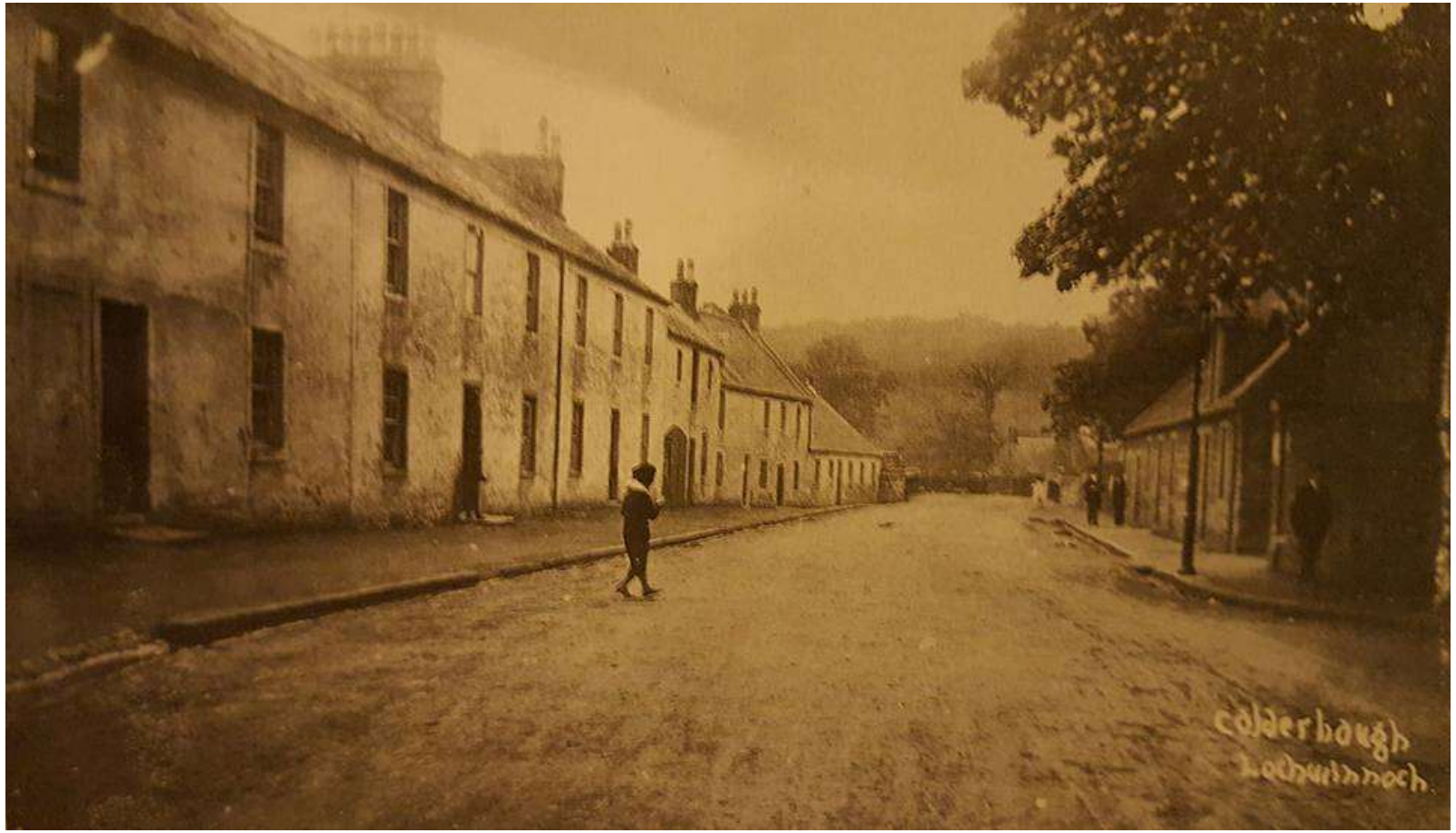
Looking towards Burnfoot Road (12)

Caulderhaugh/Main Street

- On General Roy's map of mid 1700's, Calderhall is shown as a settlement separate from Lochwinnoch (13).
- The silk works, Joseph Johnstone's Viewfield cabinet and chair works (later became a cooperage), James Hunter's Calder cabinet works and others all used to occupy land to the left (14).
- 45, Main Street used to be another smithy but has been demolished (15).
- The rear of Lade Court, there used to be a cabinet works (16).

General Roy's Map of Lowland Scotland (13)

Looking back to Calderhaugh from the Brown Bull (17)



Main Street/The Cross

- The McKillop Institute, built 1930 and named after its benefactor, Robert McKillop (18). Born in 1854 in one of the many buildings demolished to clear the site for the village hall. McKillop made his money as a merchant in Dumbarton.

The McKillop Institute/Cross (18)