

PERAMBULATION OF LINLITHGOW'S MARCHES

You are invited to take part in the first of what is hoped will be an annual civic walk or 'Perambulation' to inspect old town boundaries or 'marches'.

This will commence at 7pm on Wednesday 11 June 2014 and will take about two hours. The meeting point will be the broad pavement in front of St. Ninian's Craigmalen Church, Falkirk Road.

BACKGROUND

Linlithgow is one of Scotland's most ancient Royal Burghs. Its first charter was granted by King David I in the 1130s. A tradition dating back to the 16th century is the annual Riding of the Marches, which takes place on the first Tuesday after the second Thursday in June, involving the inspection of the extremities of the burgh's one-time interests at Linlithgow Bridge and at the port of Blackness. Both locations were marked by Linlithgow Deacons Court with special march or boundary stones in 2013.

The 'Perambulation of the Marches' complements the official Riding of the Marches, giving citizens and visitors the opportunity to walk the route of a recorded boundary (or 'marches') of the Royal Burgh – in this case the 'Parliamentary Boundary' as established by the Representation of the People (Scotland) Act 1832. After the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892, this also became the boundary of Linlithgow Town Council's jurisdiction.

THE WALK

The walk is 4 miles (6.5 km) long, and passes by seven out of eight march stones (one original and seven replicas, installed in 2014) marking the old boundary, as well as many features of historical or architectural interest, listed in this leaflet. The lettering 'LPB' on the stones probably stands for 'Linlithgow Parliamentary Burgh'.

The 'Perambulation of the Marches' starts officially at march stone No. 1 in Falkirk Road, just to the west of St Ninian's Craigmalen Church. The walk then proceeds in a clockwise direction round the route as shown on the map inside this leaflet. This direction of travel is strongly recommended for safety reasons, whether on 11 June or if you would like to follow the route at any other time.



WHAT THE PROJECT HAS ENTAILED

Over the past year, the 'Perambulation' route and event have been promoted by Linlithgow Civic Trust, the idea being to establish an extra 'Marches event', similar to that held in Lanark, whereby residents and visitors go round town boundaries on foot sometime before Marches Day. It is designed to allow wider participation in actual boundary checking by

the local community and visitors, encourage people to explore less well-known parts of Linlithgow and discover more about its heritage, promote the health benefits of walking and support tourism and local businesses.

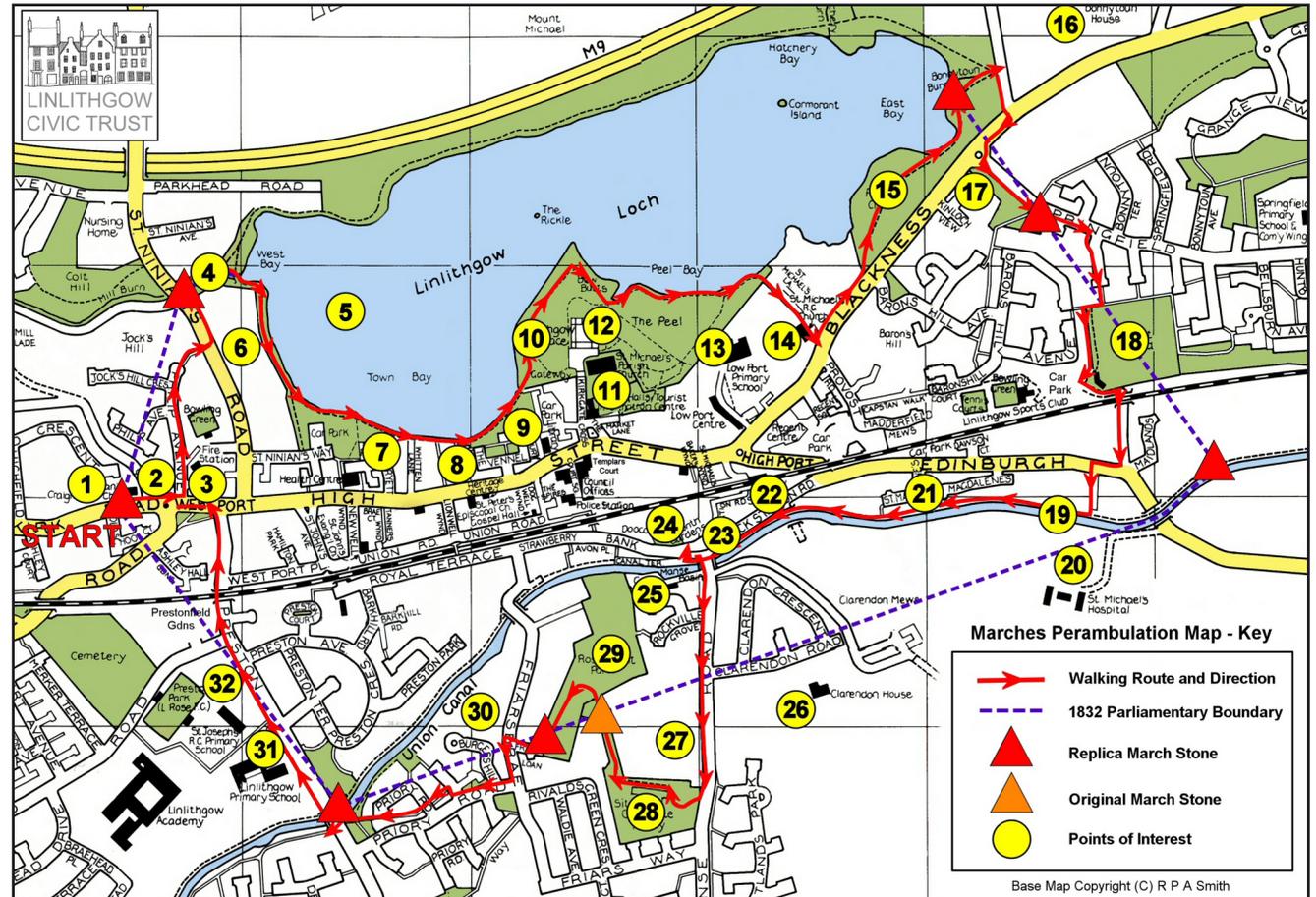
As well as providing new march stones, the project has included footpath improvements, an interpretation board and publicity material including a smartphone 'app'. 75% of the funding has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a substantial contribution from the Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group and generous donations from Linlithgow Civic Trust, Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Pride & Passion Linlithgow, councillors' disbursements, Linlithgow Heritage Trust, and Linlithgow Round Table.

The Linlithgow Ramblers are also involved in the organisation of this walk and are running a longer version (13 miles – 21 km) round by Blackness on Wednesday 25 June, meeting at The Cross at 9am. For details of this particular walk, please contact walk leader Sandy Janas on 01506 670893.

PLACES OF INTEREST ON THE ROUTE

(as numbered on map)

1. **St Ninian's Craigmalen Parish Church** – Dates from 1874; elegant broach spire.
2. **Longcroft Hall** – Built as an infant school in 1869, used as Linlithgow Academy from 1894 until 1902, currently used as a church hall.
3. **West Port** – Once the site of Linlithgow's western town gateway, featuring Katie Wearie's tree and the new sundial sculpture created by Tim Chalk.
4. **Mill Lade** – Water outlet from Linlithgow Loch which once supplied Lochmill, one of two major local paper mills which no longer exist.
5. **Linlithgow Loch** – Sits in the pre-glacial valley of the River Avon. Provides a delightful setting for the town plus opportunities for fishing, sailing and bird-watching.
6. **Lady's Park and Calf Lea** – Ground at west end of the loch protected from development by a trust. Currently used for grazing.
7. **Water Yett Community Garden** – Beautiful floral displays created and maintained by local residents in an entirely voluntary capacity.
8. **Serpentine Flower Bed with St Peter's Episcopal Church** beyond, on the opposite side of the High Street, built in 1928 in very unusual Byzantine style.
9. **The Vennel** – Flats in striking but unfortunate 1960s architectural style, their design 'watered down' during more recent refurbishment.
10. **The Peel** – Open parkland round Linlithgow Palace, one of two royal parks in Scotland.



11. **St. Michael's Parish Church** – One of Britain's finest parish churches, dedicated in 1242 and rebuilt in the 15th century. The striking aluminium 'spire' dates from 1964.
12. **Linlithgow Palace** – Replacing a royal manor house first established in the 12th century, the present building was started in 1425 and was the birthplace of King James V (1512) and Mary, Queen of Scots (1542).
13. **Low Port Primary School** – Dating from 1902, the former home of Linlithgow Academy.
14. **St. Michael's RC Church & Presbytery** – Gothic buildings dating from 1887, by renowned church architects, Pugin and Pugin.
15. **Fiddlers Croft** – Effectively an eastern extension of The Peel, protected from development and affording wonderful views of Linlithgow Loch.
16. **Bonnyton House** – A large Tudor-style villa of circa 1840, possibly designed by Thomas Hamilton.

- 17. Kinloch View Retirement Housing** – Well-designed McCarthy & Stone development.
- 18. Cricket Ground** – Home of the West Lothian County Cricket Club since 1930.
- 19. Union Canal** – A ‘contour’ canal with no locks, opened in 1822, closed in 1933, and restored to its former glory by the Lottery-funded Millennium Link project.
- 20. St Michael’s Hospital** (on opposite side of canal) – Here was situated the 19th century Linlithgow Combination Poorhouse, finally demolished in 1968.
- 21. St Magdalene’s Distillery** – Within the modern ‘St Magdalene’s’ development there still remain some of the buildings where production of single malt whisky ceased in 1983.
- 22. Linlithgow Railway Station** – Dating from 1842, this well-preserved original station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway is thought to have been the first railway station in the world to be photographed.
- 23. Town Wall** – Parts of the 17th century town wall are thought to remain along the north sides of Back Station Road and Strawberry Bank.
- 24. Ross Doocot** – 16th century doocot (370 nesting boxes) in attractive garden setting.
- 25. Canal Basin** – Home to the Canal Museum (in former stables) and Tearoom operated by the very active Linlithgow Union Canal Society. Note the old stone railway sleepers forming the coping of the northern quay edge.
- 26 and 27. Clarendon House and Nether Parkley** – Mansion houses to east and west of Manse Road, hidden from view, dating from 1820 and 1881 respectively.
- 28. Carmelite Friary** – Scant remains of friary, founded in 1401 using a pre-existing 13th-century chapel as the nave of the priory church.
- 29. Rosemount Park and Friars’ Well** – This park, which is one of Linlithgow’s hidden gems, contains the ‘fountainhead’ of the Cross Well, once used by the friars.
- 30. Rivaldsgreen House** – Mansion house, now subdivided, dating from around 1840.
- 31. Linlithgow and St. Joseph’s Primary Schools** – Housed in modern 1960s buildings.
- 32. Prefabs in Preston Road** – The four small bungalows beyond the school entrances are actually well-disguised prefabs, ‘temporary’ houses built after World War II.

Those who return to the starting point at West Port on 11 June will receive a certificate marking completion of the entire Perambulation route. We hope that you will take part, enjoy the walk and discover of all of the march stones!

Production of this leaflet was mainly funded by Linlithgow Round Table. 75% of the Perambulation project’s total costs were funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



ROUNDTABLE



LOTTERY FUNDED



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