

## 2. River Eden:

The River Eden is the longest river in Fife, but just how long seems to have been open to some debate between topographers. As I shall discuss later it was for long thought to begin with a name change, when it reached Strathmiglo. In the more recent past, as shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, the river's start-point was placed at the conjunction of the Carmore Burn and the Beatie Burn immediately south of a hamlet called Burnside. However, on present-day maps most of the course of the former is marked as a continuation of the River Eden including a stretch beside the M90, where a truncated Carmore Burn joins on its left bank. The source now has to be taken to be in a boggy field, west of the B996 road at the southern limit of Glenfarg; here, the stream emerges through a culvert from a building site, as shown in the photograph.



here, the stream emerges through a culvert from a building site, as shown in the photograph. The effect is to add approximately 3½km to the length of the river, an adjustment presumably included in the 48km which is normally quoted now. The extension also has the effect of moving the source of the river across the county boundary from Fife into Perthshire; it is at grid point, NO 136 099, just above the 140m contour. There is a sketch map of the course, showing also the location of watermills at the end of the account, presented as Table E1 on page 21.

Glenfarg is a pleasant small town which was transformed by the coming of the railway during the 1890s into a resort with 4 sizeable hotels; it was also on the shortest road from Edinburgh to Perth, a mixed blessing which brought trade but at the expense of traffic jams in later years. However, it lost its railway station in 1964, and in 1980 the M90 between Edinburgh and Perth was completed when the last section to be opened, by-passed the town; the grandest hotel is now closed and in danger of becoming an eyesore. I formed a jaundiced view of the place when a child in the 1950s. Plagued by car-sickness, trips from our home in Edinburgh to visit my grandparents in Wormit in north-east Fife were something of an ordeal. My parents regularly took a route via Glenfarg, but the fine scenery in the glen of the River Farg was lost on me, as the road through was narrow and twisting, and rare was the occasion when I got much further, without requiring the car to be stopped, not I should add, that other routes available then, were a lot better in that regard.

From its unglamorous beginning the small river flows south-east, gathering in small tributaries which increase the flow before it reaches Burnside, where it passes under the A91 road; the two keep fairly close company for the remainder of the river's course. As mentioned earlier the river meets a right bank tributary, the Beatie Burn here, and in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century there was a corn mill in the angle formed by the two streams. The mill drew water from a lade taken off the much smaller Beatie Burn rather than the river, for reasons which escape me. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century map indicates that the mill was disused by then though there are ruined buildings at the location in question which may have been associated with it. I shall discuss some of the watermills which survive in some form, as they are encountered; those by the river and its 2 largest tributaries are shown on a

map in Table E1 at the end of the account, while those on other tributaries are listed in Table E2. At Burnside, the River Eden, shown there in the photograph alongside, swings north-east and flows in a broad valley or strath with on its left, Pitmedden Forest, clothing the north-eastern foothills of the Ochil range; they are below 250m in height, but with enough tree cover to justify the name. Above the right bank is the higher range of Lomond Hills, which reach 522m, but are covered



with heather rather than trees. Falkland Palace which will be considered later, was used by Scottish Kings, up to and including King James VI, as a hunting lodge from where they chased and killed game on these hills; they are still a valuable leisure resource, though hiking and mountain biking are the common pursuits now. The valley floor is prime agricultural land with fields of wheat and especially barley.

Gateside is a few kilometres downstream from Burnside, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 2 corn mills at its east end, and a mill to the west called Edensbank Mill, which has had quite a complicated history. It began life as a lint mill which extracted the essential fibres from flax plants by rolling and beating them (retting and scutching), providing the raw material for the subsequent spinning and weaving processes that produced cloth. However, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century this business had ceased to be viable, and the mill was converted to producing the wooden bobbins and shuttles used in cloth manufacture. Water powered machines including a saw mill were employed in what remained a profitable enterprise until the late 1940s when the crucial Indian export market vanished. Production of wooden artefacts continues in a small way, but the mill buildings are also now home to a selection of other small businesses.

Corston Castle is near the right bank of the river, approximately 2½km downstream from Gateside, and can be seen from the A91. The ruined tower which is thought to date from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century was most likely a remodelling of an earlier building. Most of it collapsed in the 1880s leaving only the east wall rising to any height as shown in the photograph taken from a minor road to the south-west. Enough masonry survives to fix the dimensions of the rectangular building as 8.1 X 6.6m, with walls slightly over 1m thick; there were 3 storeys, conventionally laid out, with a storage basement below a hall, and private rooms. There may have been a courtyard containing ancillary buildings, and walled to aid defence, a barmkin, but no trace remains.



In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the estate of Corston was inherited by Sir John Ramsay, Lord Bothwell, a youthful favourite of King James III, fortunate to

survive a rebellion against the King at Lauder in 1482, but his luck ran out when he forfeited his estates and title in the aftermath of the Battle of Sauchieburn and the King's murder in 1488. Ramsay was not alone in holding King James IV, only 15 years old at the time, largely responsible, but he stood out in refusing to swear allegiance to the new King and went into exile in England. His career over the next decade was murky, and downright treasonous in Scottish eyes, but he probably had little alternative to making himself useful to the English King, Henry VII, to avoid being returned to Scotland to face likely execution. However in 1497, he made his peace with the Scottish King and during the remainder of the reign held positions of growing importance; he was the Ambassador who negotiated the marriage in 1503, between King James IV and Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII. He received lands, though not including Corston, and the restoration of a barony for his services. He died with the King at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, when he must have been close to 50 years old and could presumably have avoided the fight. It seems that his loyalty once given could be depended on and the bad press he has received from Scottish historians has perhaps been rather overdone. Later Ramsays recovered possession of Corston Castle and held it until it passed to the Colquhoun family in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, but its history thereafter is rather obscure, and it may have ceased to be inhabited a long time before it collapsed.

A short distance downstream is the small town of Strathmiglo, on the left bank. The name is explained in part by the fact that before the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the stretch of the river between Burnside and Strathmiglo was named the Water of Miglo, so it was only downstream from the town that the River Eden came into being. The word 'Miglo' was Pictish like many place-names in Fife, with its first syllable meaning muddy, or boggy, a reference no doubt to the surrounds of the stream along this part of its course. The name Eden,



which has been given to 5 rivers in the United Kingdom, may have a similar meaning though there is no consensus amongst etymologists. Strathmiglo is a town with approximately 1000 inhabitants, though there were half as many again in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when employment was provided by 2 corn-mills, a bleachfield and 2 linen weaving factories, one of which, Skene Works had power looms from 1850. The latter was on the right bank of the river, in part of the town called 'Cash Feus' accessed by the well-formed early 19<sup>th</sup> century bridge, with its 3 decorative arch rings, on California Road, shown in the photograph, above. There is a metering station here and the mean flow rate along the growing river is 0.52m<sup>3</sup>/s, or more intelligibly perhaps, 6860 gallons/minute.

Otherwise, Strathmiglo dates as a settlement from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. There was a collegiate church before the Reformation, but no trace of that church or college buildings remains on the site now occupied by the Town Hall, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The present church also dates from then, though there is part of a 9<sup>th</sup> century Pictish stone at the gate of the cemetery surrounding it. The town became a burgh of barony in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but lost most of the associated privileges, 2 centuries later. Individually, the town buildings are not

especially distinguished, but they are varied and make a pleasant overall impression, especially now that the town has been bypassed and is relatively quiet. A further 3½km downstream, on the left bank is the hamlet of Dunshalt; the name is curious; according to some it derives from an almost forgotten Danish (Viking) foray, more than a millennium ago. Its recorded history is as a linen weaver's settlement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with handlooms in cottages, then from 1875 as housing a factory with power looms, and a bleachfield beside the river. The death of that industry in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century has halved the population to c250, and its remaining inhabitants have to look for work elsewhere.

A few hundred metres downstream, the river is joined by a right bank tributary, the Falkland Burn which forms only 2km south of the river, but has collected water from the Lomond Hills by way of numerous joining streams. One of the latter, the Maspie Burn flows through the village of Falkland, which is 5km south-east of Strathmiglo. The village is dominated by the palace in grounds stretching north from its centre, but there are other fine old buildings. The palace began life as a Royal hunting lodge, perhaps in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and a castle stood there by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but did not survive the Wars of Scottish Independence, leaving only traces of 2 round towers in gardens to the north of the palace. Presumably a castle of some description was rebuilt, because David, Duke of Rothesay, heir to the Scottish throne, was confined and died unexpectedly here in 1402. Sir Walter Scott was in no doubt, that Robert Stewart, Earl of Fife and Duke of Albany arranged the murder of his nephew, judging by his account in the novel 'The Fair Maid of Perth'. Certainly, the property at Falkland belonged to Albany, and the victim had proved a serious threat to his virtual hegemony under a cipher of a King, Robert III. However, Rothesay had made many other enemies because of his violent and unstable temperament, so there may well have been a wide conspiracy to dispose of him. Events thereafter favoured Albany, he was cleared by the Scottish peers, and the new heir aged 12, later King James I, was captured by an English ship in 1406, en route for safe-keeping in France. The countries were not officially at war, so he should not have been held, but his retention was expedient for the insecure English King, Henry IV, and Albany, by then Regent for King James, was happy to prolong negotiations. The Duke was single-minded, ruthless and acquisitive, dominating 2 kings and acting for a 3<sup>rd</sup>, over a period of 50 years, but as a surrogate, he always had to focus on maintaining his authority. If he had become king he may well have proved the effective ruler, Scotland lacked between King Robert the Bruce and King James VI. King James I was eventually freed in 1424, 4 years after Albany's death at the age of 80 and took bloody revenge on Albany's progeny, but alienated many others, which led to his own murder at Perth in 1437.

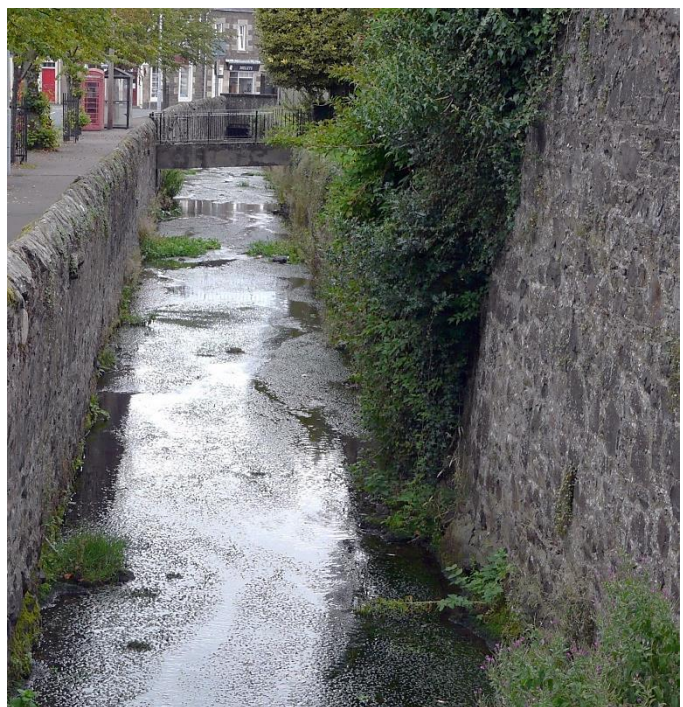
In spite of its grim association, later Scottish Kings began to redevelop the site in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century, though the palace to be seen now was built largely for King James V, in the first 20 years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The mansion comprised a south range, which included the gatehouse and a chapel, an east range which included Royal accommodation, and a north range, now vanished which included a great hall. The photograph shows the intersection of the south range, and the ruined east range (left),



viewed from the north-west. A west range would have followed but for the King's death. Thereafter, the palace was used occasionally by King James VI, a keen hunter, but in 1650 Cromwellian soldiers burnt part of it and decay followed until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the Marquis of Bute purchased it and stabilised the buildings. The south range survives almost complete, but only one wall of the east range stands; the building is now looked after by the National Trust for Scotland, though some of their initiatives as regards presentation are questionable, in my eyes, not least the creation of pastiches of Royal chambers.

It must have been with mixed feelings that the people of Falkland viewed the closure of a large factory in the south of the village in 2011 and its demolition a few years later. The red brick and later concrete buildings erected after 1892 were uncompromisingly functional, and totally out of keeping with a heritage village, yet the production of linoleum, and then paper bags which took place there, provided employment for 200 people. New houses are to be built on the site, and if care is not taken with their numbers and design, the character of the village may be threatened more than it ever was by the factory. Time will tell. The village lacks any trace of an old parish church, presumably the present mid-19<sup>th</sup> century building had a predecessor, but at least from the outside, it does not greatly impress. However, there are a substantial number of striking buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, of which I will mention the earliest, namely, the thatched Moncrief House, the Falkland Arms Hotel, and the Stag Inn; descriptions can be found in Gifford's, Pevsner Architectural Guide for Fife. Falkland was a linen weaving centre, and weaver's cottages and a factory building which housed looms still stand in roads named for a mill near the town centre.

A few hundred metres downstream from where it receives the Falkland Burn, the River Eden is joined by the Auchtermuchty Burn, this time on its left bank. The small stream and its tributaries drain the aforementioned Pitmedden Forest, then it flows mainly south through the centre of the small town of Auchtermuchty, as shown in the photograph before swinging east just short of its confluence with the River Eden. In my childhood days the town was noted for two things, first as an infallible test for English-ness, because those from south of the border were supposed to be unable to pronounce the Scottish 'ch' as in loch, and secondly as the home of the renowned Scottish band-leader, accordionist, and composer of dance music, Sir Jimmy Shand, of whom there is now a



statue. In fact, it is an old place which achieved burgh status in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, though its oldest building MacDuff's House set in a gated courtyard, dates from nearly a century later. Otherwise there are a number of well-formed 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, including the church which is thought to occupy the site of a 14<sup>th</sup> century predecessor; the access bridge over the burn is shown in the photograph. There are also records of a mill on the Glassart Burn, north-west of the town, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but much more recently, in the 19<sup>th</sup>

century, a corn mill, 2 saw mills, a bleachfield, a linen weaving factory, and 2 foundries were all within the confines of the town, powered by its burn. For all that its population was only c 2000, it was a mini-industrial centre then.

It would be difficult to pretend that the next stretch of the River Eden holds great interest, as it flows gently through the wide flat valley, now called Stratheden, studded with ponds and small lochs, especially on the left bank. For a stretch the vista is no longer of corn fields, but of a patchwork of woods, some large, some small, interspersed with cultivated fields. It collects a left bank tributary, the Collessie Burn, which is shown on maps old and new, to be fed by many drainage ditches, some laid out in rectangular patterns, and right bank tributaries, the Freuchy and Kettle Burns which connect with similar networks. If the River Eden does indeed derive its name from being a boggy stream, this stretch must have conformed to that description, before drainage measures were put in place, probably 2 or 3 centuries ago. The river moves between the small towns of Kingskettle, on the right bank, and Ladybank on the left, which are similar in size, age, and general slightly gloomy appearance. The former, is sometimes called just 'Kettle' a corruption of battle in Gaelic, though information as to when and where it was fought, possibly between Scots and Danes, more than a thousand years ago has been lost. The town of population c1500 is pleasant enough with a mix of buildings, the oldest dating to c1800, but they are functional rather than anything more. Ladybank was originally 'Our Ladybog', so named because lay brothers from Lindores Abbey, to the north-west used to go there to cut peat in medieval times; confirmation of the nature of the surroundings then. Again, the buildings are fairly plain, though nearby is an excellent heath-land golf-course, rightly acclaimed as one of the best of its type in the country. I remember finding it all too easy to get into the heather alongside the fairways, and not quite so easy to get out of it. Ladybank is also an important railway junction. The station opened in 1847; the track coming north from Kirkcaldy divides here with one arm heading north-west to Perth, and the other, north-east to Cupar, Leuchars and Dundee, the latter being part of the main line from Edinburgh to Aberdeen.

A further 2½km downstream on the right bank is Pitlessie, skirted by the river which has grown considerably by accretion of the streams mentioned, as shown in the photograph, which looks upstream. The village was depicted by Sir David Wilkie in a famous painting of a cattle fair held there. Wilkie was born in the manse of Culps parish church in 1785, c1½km east of Pitlessie, and began his education in its village school. He moved to London in 1805, having already received acclaim for the above-mentioned painting and others; remarkably, by 1811 at the age of 26, he had been elected to the Royal Academy. He was



noted for portraiture, and what were termed vernacular paintings showing 'ordinary' people going about their business. However, after a trip to Italy and Spain in the mid-1820s, he began to paint more formal scenes in a grander style. Opinions of those qualified to judge such matters are mixed as to whether this represented a

step forward. Nonetheless, in 1830 he became Painter in Ordinary to the King, in succession to Sir Thomas Lawrence, and in 1836 he was knighted. He embarked on a voyage to the Middle East in 1840, and completed his last paintings there, but on the return journey he died at sea near Gibraltar in June 1841. In retrospect, the fact that J. W. M. Turner chose to paint his burial at sea in tribute is as great an accolade as any he received. As often happens, his reputation dipped after his death, but in recent years there has been a strong revival, in my untutored opinion, well-merited.

Like many Fife villages, Pitlessie probably had more than the present population of 300, a century ago, because there were 2 large employers. Priestfield Maltings was on the eastern outskirts, where its buildings are now converted to flats; the retention of the louvres of the grain-drying loft contributes to a surprisingly attractive building. A spur from a short railway built in the 1870s to connect Cults and Pitlessie Lime Works to the main Edinburgh/Aberdeen line served the maltings until its closure in 1947. The Lime Works, sited on Cults Hill, 2km south-east of Pitlessie, was a large enterprise which may have existed in some form in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and continued in production until a few years ago. Quarrying ceased in the 1960s, but limestone was brought in from Cumbria to feed kilns, and supply a brick-making factory, for half a century after that. I believe the old workings are now of interest to adventurers, and there are some interesting photographs on the web. I have a tenuous association with Pitlessie, because my father most likely started school there, during the later years of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, while his father was serving on the Western Front. That school is still in use, and it seems that it was rebuilt on or near the site of its predecessor in 1911, as it happens, the year of my father's birth. At that time the family lived in a hamlet called Jennystown, c1.5km north-west of Pitlessie, across the River Eden, towards the village of Bow of Fife.

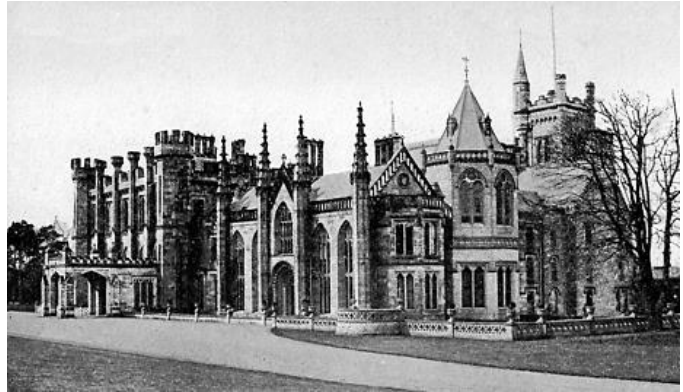
The River Eden meanders immediately downstream of Pitlessie, twisting and actually turning westwards for a short distance, before resuming a north-easterly course. Here it is joined by another small left bank tributary, the Rankeilour Burn which in its lower reaches, powers 3 mills, one, the interestingly named Daft corn mill, all by way of long lades and mill ponds. The upper part of its course is called Fernie Burn, and near to its source it passes through the grounds of Fernie Castle. The Earls of Fife had a castle here in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, but the Fernie family seem to have been the owners from the late-15<sup>th</sup> century, and the tower house which survives as part of the



present building appeared soon afterwards. It passed into the hands of the Balfour family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, remaining with them until it became a hotel in the 1960s. The early-16<sup>th</sup> century tower house is not prominent in the photograph, taken from the south-east, the ivy covered 3-storey main block being largely hidden behind the tree, but the south-protruding 4-storey wing can be seen on the far left, with its later 'toy-castle' entrance. The Balfours extended the castle to the east and built the round tower at that end of the building in the 17<sup>th</sup>

century, and since then it has been much expanded to the north, with a late-20<sup>th</sup> century circular ballroom, the latest addition. In the early 1980s, the hotel/castle was put up for sale and an entrepreneurial friend of mine from the north of England became interested. I arranged to visit with him, since he thought that my knowledge of the area might help him in his valuation, but shortly before we were due to go, he got news that the vendors had accepted a 'knock-out' bid and withdrawn the property from the market.

The next place encountered is on the left bank of the River Eden, the village of Springfield. It was founded in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to house linen weavers supplied with yarn by 2 flax mills, Hospital Mill and Russell Mill, respectively on the west and east sides of the village. The former was founded in c1730, and had a role in training the 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish apprentices in the techniques of flax retting, scutching and spinning, developed on the



continent, and is still shown as a mill on recent maps though its function will certainly have changed; the latter was founded in 1818 and closed in 1935. Across the river from Springfield is Crawford Priory, never a religious establishment, it began life as a fairly modest house built by the 21<sup>st</sup> Earl of Crawford in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, but was transformed by his descendants over the next century into the mock-Gothic castle shown on the left in the old postcard. Later owners included Earls of Glasgow and Lords Cults, and it was further expanded and remodelled but it ceased to be inhabited in 1968, and is now a derelict shell. My great-grandfather was born in Springfield in the 1830s, he was ploughman, in the days of horse power, a skilled but hardly well-paid job, yet he and his wife somehow brought up 19 children, the great majority reaching adulthood. I believe two were over 100 when they died, and my grandfather, the 17<sup>th</sup> child, lived in full possession of his faculties to within a few weeks of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The river valley changes character near Springfield, narrowing with low hills rising from each bank, as it flows towards Cupar, another 4km downstream. There was a corn mill at the south-western edge of the erstwhile county town in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the surviving buildings have been converted into housing. Although Cupar is an old town, there are only 2 buildings, which can be confidently assigned to much before 1800. The 13<sup>th</sup> century castle of the Earls of Fife, which may have been occupied by later Sheriffs of Fife, is long gone, with only street names left to show where it stood. The medieval town which was the venue for a meeting of the embryonic Scottish parliament in 1276 and became a burgh not long afterwards, lay west of the castle, between the River Eden and a tributary, Lady Burn, to the north. The only medieval survivals are parts of the Old Parish Church built in 1415, namely the tower, topped by a 17<sup>th</sup> century spire, and a nave arcade built into the late-18<sup>th</sup> century session house which adjoins the present church. A 17<sup>th</sup> century villa, called Preston Lodge is on the north side of the main east/west road through the town, Bonnygate; it was originally built as a 3-storey, U-plan block, but in the 1690s was expanded and given a new northern entrance. According to Gifford it retains many 17<sup>th</sup> century features inside and outside. Cupar has a population of c9000, and was the county town of Fife for centuries until recently; the town also lost its grain and livestock market in the 1990s, but remains the bustling centre of the surrounding rural area.

Hill of Tarvit is 3km south of Cupar, above the right bank of the River Eden, and is the site of 2 contrasting buildings, on opposite sides of the A916. Scotstarvit Tower is furthest west, and was built in c1500 by a family called Inglis. It is an austere ill-lit building, L-shaped in plan, with a small wing housing a spiral stair; my photograph is a view from the north-east. The main block is aligned north-east/south-west and is of 6 storeys including an attic within a parapet walk; 2 of the storeys are vaulted. It was considerably altered by its owner in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Sir John Scott, a prominent lawyer, and author of a satirical work, 'The Staggering State of Scots Statesmen for 100 Years viz. 1550 – 1650'; understandably perhaps, the monograph was not published until some time after its author's death. The estate passed in 1696 to the Wemyss family, who soon built a much more comfortable mansion to the east of the tower, Wemyss Hall. The tower ceased to be



occupied but was preserved in reasonable condition, as it still is, inside and outside. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the hall was comprehensively remodelled in Queen Anne revivalist style by Sir Robert Lorimer, for a Dundee jute-merchant called Frederick Sharp who had purchased the property; an early 17<sup>th</sup> century chimney piece from the nearby tower was incorporated. The mansion, which then took the name Hill of Tarvit, is now in the hands of the National Trust for Scotland, and the buildings and gardens are open to the public.

I shall now leave the river and continue southwards along the A916, to meet up with some of the streams which amalgamate to form one of two largest tributaries of the River Eden, the Ceres Water. The first of them is encountered 3km further south at the hamlet of Craigothie, and is an 8km long burn, named appropriately enough for the said hamlet. The photograph does not depict the only crossing in the village, but it is certainly the most eye-catching, with the water-splash ford alongside a hump-backed footbridge dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Close to the crossing, the burn



powered a corn mill at that time. Also nearby is an even smaller settlement, called Chance Inn. The name was originally 'Change Inn', and relates to the period, 200 or more years ago when coaches posted this way between Kirkcaldy and St. Andrews, and changed horses at the hostelry.

The Craigrothie Burn begins life on the south slope of Cults Hill, on the other side of the summit from the Lime Works mentioned earlier, and flows east into Clatto Reservoir, built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to serve Cupar, but no longer an active water supply. The emerging stream heads north-east towards Craigrothie, but before getting there it passes the ruin of Struthers Castle above its right bank. The castle was owned by two powerful families, first the Keiths, and then the Lindsays of the Byres who became Earls of Lindsay, and of Crawford. There was a castle here as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but it was destroyed at an unknown



date, and the ruins shown in the photograph probably date at earliest from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They are hard to interpret, even by experts in such matters, but may be the remains of an L-shaped tower house in a courtyard with ancillary buildings though there is no sign of a defensive barmkin wall. The castle was deserted in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the scanty nature of the ruins suggests that it was quarried. The name 'Struthers' apparently means a rise between 2 streams, and east of the castle is the unusually named Glassy How Burn, which follows a roughly parallel course to the Craigrothie Burn, before joining with the Craighall Burn at Teassesmill, just south of Ceres to form the Ceres Burn. The Craighall Burn arrives there by flowing a few kilometres west from the hamlet of Peat Inn, which comprises a hotel with a highly rated restaurant, and a few houses; the name must relate to its location on land described as a moss. 19<sup>th</sup> century maps indicate that there was a bleachfield in Teassesmill, and a mill is shown in an 18<sup>th</sup> century map but not later.

Ceres has a population of only c1000, but attracts attention for a number of reasons. It is unusual amongst Scottish villages in having a well-defined village green, called Bow Butts, which is the location each June for Highland Games, which are claimed to have been held in some form since the year of the Battle of Bannockburn, 1314. Whatever the truth of that, the village is certainly old and it became a burgh of barony in 1620, though it was always overshadowed by Cupar. To the south of the green the small 17<sup>th</sup> century bridge, known as the "Bishop Bridge", crosses the Ceres Burn; it is shown in the photograph.



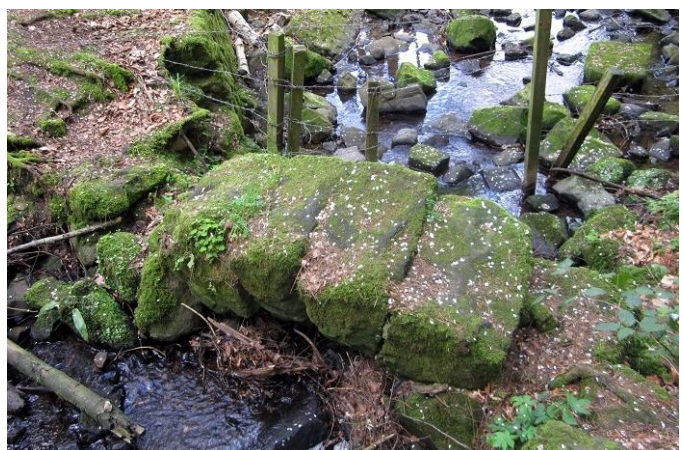
A single rubble-built segmental arch with a span of 8m carries a humped, cobbled roadway of width, 1.8m, perhaps just wide enough for a horse drawn coach, though it would certainly have been tight. The faces are decorated with the double-chamfered arch rings, made of dressed voussoirs, more usually found on medieval bridges, and prominent in the photograph. The bridge's name derives from the fact that in early May 1679, Archbishop Sharp squeezed across in his coach and then paused in the village, before

continuing his journey towards St. Andrews. The 66 year-old Archbishop was intercepted by a group of local Covenanters, dragged from his coach and murdered in front of his daughter on lonely Magus Muir, a few kilometres short of his destination, His death was one bloody incident amongst many in the bitter struggle during the reigns of Kings Charles II and James VII, between Presbyterians and Episcopalians, in which the latter used military and judicial power to suppress the former who responded with atrocities and revolts. Sharp was a specially controversial figure because he was seen as a turncoat, having held appointments as a moderate Presbyterian in the 1640s and 1650s, before, in 1661, he accepted the Archbishopric of St. Andrews and Primacy of the restored Episcopalian Church in Scotland. The group responsible for the murder had assembled to assassinate the Sheriff of Cupar, when the greater prize appeared. Their leader, David Hackston of Rathillet, (a village to be encountered later) stood aloof from the actual deed because he had had a personal dispute with the Archbishop. Presumably, he felt his conduct honourable, but I don't think many saw it that way; after his capture by the authorities a year later, he was barbarously executed in Edinburgh.

Otherwise, Ceres is made up of an attractive mix of houses, with build-dates ranging from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including an old Tolbooth which now contains a Folk Museum. A medieval church was replaced in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by a rather undistinguished building, though a late-16<sup>th</sup> century vault of the Lindsay family still stands beside it. Ceres Mills are just outside the village to the north-east, and according to old maps, both corn and linen were processed here. A kilometre downstream is the small village of Pitscottie where there was a flax spinning mill in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This is the start point for distinctive Dura Den, through which the Ceres Burn flows swiftly towards its junction with the River Eden. Now the glen is picturesque with woods, and waterfalls, but here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 2 more flax spinning mills and a barley mill at Blebo, a flax mill at Yoolfield, and a saw mill at Kemback, so it was a small pocket of industry. Some ruined buildings remain while others have been converted into fine dwellings. The upper photograph shows a waterfall beside the road through the glen; it is on a small tributary of the Ceres Burn. Recent dry weather makes it less impressive than when I have viewed it in the past.



Just upstream, 18<sup>th</sup> century maps suggest that a bridge took a track over the tributary. Now a ford, a little further upstream, is the main means of passage, but beside it is the unusual small bridge, shown in the lower photograph which would have allowed pedestrians to cross dry-shod, possibly on their way to the local church. It is almost impossible to date such



artefacts, but the wear on the stones would suggest that they were walked on in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or even earlier. Perhaps a hand rail was provided then, or else the bridge was wider, because many large, shaped blocks are scattered around in the stream.

The ruin of Kemback Old Parish Church sits on a small plateau above the right bank of the burn. Shown in the photograph, it was built to a T-plan with sandstone rubble in 1582, one of the first post-Reformation churches in Scotland. A substantial renovation took place in 1760, when rather unattractive rectangular windows, still visible in the ruin, were installed. However, it was occupied only for another 50 years before a new



church was built further up the bank, probably to house a growing congregation working in the mills, which were starting up at that time. Now the new church is redundant, and may follow its predecessor into ruin, because, in response to the decline in church attendance, the parish has been amalgamated with Ceres. The Ceres Burn flows for less than 6km from its formation to where it meets the right bank of the River Eden, but its attractiveness and interest are the equal of many far lengthier streams. The course of the River Eden east from Cupar for 4km to the junction is through a widening valley, passing remnants of no less than 7 mills, mainly grinding corn. Just downstream of the junction is a gauging station which records the mean water flow rate as 4.08m<sup>3</sup>/s or 54040 gallons/minute, a nearly 8-fold increase on the reading at Strathmiglo.

The river has reached Dairsie, of which the outlier was another corn mill on the left bank, which however had ceased operating before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most striking buildings associated with the village, also known as Osnaburgh, are beside the river, but houses now stretch along the A91, some distance above the left bank. Dairsie Bridge, shown in the photograph, is one of the finest unaltered ancient bridges in Scotland; it carries a minor road over the River



Eden, just south of Dairsie castle and an old church. The arms and initials of James Beaton, Archbishop of St Andrews are visible on a panel on the east face, and it may have been built at his instigation during his episcopate from 1522-1538. However, there is evidence of an earlier bridge at Dairsie; one summer day in 1496, as the king journeyed from St Andrew's to Stirling, he passed over it, and the Lord High Treasurer of the day records the sum of 8d as given 'to ane pur wif at the brig of Dersie as the king raid by'. It is a coursed rubble bridge of three arches, all different in shape and span; the southernmost is segmental, the central one is semi-circular, and the northern flood arch is smaller and slightly pointed. It is tempting to suggest that the bridge referred to by the Lord High Treasurer might survive in one or more of these arches. The carriageway is 3.4m wide, and there is one triangular refuge in the upstream parapet. Each arch has 4 heavy ribs in the

soffits, of which the outer two are chamfered, and double chamfered arch rings made from dressed voussoirs, all classic features of medieval bridges.

Dairsie Castle is above the left bank of the River Eden upstream of the bridge and 1½km south of the village of Dairsie. The castle dates from around 1300, and was built for Bishop Lamberton of St. Andrews, a heroic figure of the Scottish Wars of Independence; a Scottish Parliament was held there in 1335. It remained a clerical residence until sold to a family called Learmonth in 1517, and they largely rebuilt it. The castle remained in their hands until acquired by Archbishop Spottiswoode in 1616.



He is an important if highly controversial figure in 17<sup>th</sup> century Scottish ecclesiastical history; born in 1565 in Mid Calder, west of Edinburgh, he succeeded his father as Presbyterian minister of the church there, but built a career on gaining and keeping the favour of King James VI, and later King Charles I, which meant embracing the concept of Episcopalianism. He sought compromise between the religious factions, but was viewed as a turncoat, so his efforts to mediate with Presbyterians were scorned. Nonetheless, he prospered under the Stuart Kings until the Covenanters gained sway and he had to flee to England, shortly before his death, in 1639. His royalist progeny suffered executions and exactions during the Civil War and Interregnum, and the family never really recovered. Thereafter, the property passed through many hands, decayed, and was used as a quarry, until it reached the ruined state shown in the upper photograph. In the 1990s it was rebuilt, but no effort seems to have been made to preserve any of its original form, so it is now best regarded as a mock-castle, pleasant to look at and no doubt live in, but not a historic building.

Immediately north-east of the castle is the old parish church of St. Mary, built by direction of Archbishop Spottiswoode in 1621. Stylistically it mixes Gothic and classical features; it is a buttressed ashlar-built rectangular box; the large 3-light windows with traceried heads dominate the side views, as shown in the photograph. There is no proper tower or steeple, but at the south-west corner, there is a distinctive 2-stage octagonal belfry, with a balustraded parapet topped by a small windowed spire. The church is now redundant, but should be preserved both for its unusual features and as a reminder of its founder, and the difficult times he lived through.



Attention has already been drawn to the distance between these buildings and the present village, and the explanation is that they were at one time separate communities. Probably, there were dwellings in medieval

times around the castle, and this was the original village. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century a separate hamlet called Dairsiemuir to its north-east grew as weavers cottages were built, and an adjacent hamlet of Osnaburgh sprang up. The latter also comprised weaver's cottages, and took its name from a coarse linen fabric, associated with the German town of Osnabruck, but also a speciality in north-east Fife. After the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843, a Free Church was located in the twin hamlets, and in 1868 a school was built there. Coupled with the decline of the old village, the growth of Dairsiemuir and Osnaburgh led to the name, Dairsie, passing to them by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Downstream of the bridge and the other old buildings there, the river swings north-east towards the present village, and here Lydax Mill produced linen yarn needed by the local weavers; according to 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, there were also 3 corn mills on this stretch of the river.

The river makes a tight loop to its left, 2km further downstream, and here on the right bank is found the last water driven mill along the river, Nydie Mill which is marked as a corn mill on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. A mill here is referenced as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, though judging by the many good photographs on a 'Derelict Places' website, the remains present now, which include the intact mill lade are of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rather than much older. It is suggested that from this point onwards, the River Eden is sometimes tidal, with the mill weir preventing passage of salt water any further upstream. Another 1km downstream on the left bank is Clayton House, a large, rather plain residence built in c1800, but now converted to flats and almost surrounded by fixed caravans. Beyond this, the River Eden widens into an estuary more than 100m wide, and reaches Guardbridge (originally Gair Bridge) on the left bank, where it is crossed by 2 road bridges, one old, one relatively new, and the scant remains of a railway bridge.

Guardbridge Old Bridge was bypassed upstream in the late 1930s, by a 3-span bridge of contemporary design, a nice structure but on a line unfortunately close to its predecessor. Until then, the Old Bridge had coped with the transition from horse-drawn coaches, carts and pedestrians, to buses, heavy lorries and cars on the A91, crossing the estuary of the River Eden to and from St. Andrews, albeit that it was a bottleneck. Its construction is attributed to Bishop Wardlaw, founder of St. Andrews University, and dated to 1419. The photograph of the upstream face was



taken from the east (right) bank. There are 6 arches, and it is thought that the 4 to the west are original, while the other two are later, with the most easterly being smaller than the others which are around 12m in span. The bridge has not been widened, so 3.75m was the original carriageway width. The soffits are un-ribbed, and there is no chamfering of the plain flush single arch rings, unexpected in a bridge of its age. It has been repaired frequently, firstly in the 1530s under the authority of Archbishop James Beaton, probable builder of Dairsie Bridge, and thereafter in 1601, 1678-86, 1786 and 1802. Patching is evident in many places, and this along with the near-ashlar fabric and the lack of embellishment make it difficult to appreciate that the structure really is 600 years old, but there are written records aplenty to confirm this.

The story of the railway bridge, which until 1969 carried the branch line from St. Andrews to Leuchars across the River Eden estuary, is also interesting. The line was opened in 1852; the engineer was Thomas Bouch, starting his career as a builder of low-cost railway lines. The bridge across the River Eden had 9 spans, each of length, 9.6m, and standing 4.8m above the river bed, and was built of wood. From the date of its opening, there seem to have been concerns about the robustness of it and a similar smaller structure crossing the tidal Motray Water, which joins the left bank of the Eden estuary downstream, not least because to save money, Bouch had not treated the wood with preservative. However, the bridges had given service for almost the 30 years planned for them, when in December 1879 the Tay Bridge, also engineered by Bouch, collapsed. The disaster no doubt accelerated the replacement of the 2 bridges on the St. Andrews branch line with more conventional iron and stone viaducts, which took place in 1889; the one over the River Eden also had 9 spans, so may have reused pier foundations of its predecessor. Eventually, competition from road transport led to the closure of the railway in 1969, and the bridge across the River Eden was demolished. In a strange parallel to what can be seen in the Firth of Tay of the infamous bridge designed by Bouch, the stumps of the viaduct piers still survive above water here, just downstream of the Old Bridge.

Proceeding downstream, on the left bank, there stands an array of buildings which have in succession housed a whisky distillery, a paper mill, and now a brewery. The closure in 2008 of the modern paper mill, which had employed over 600 in the 1950s, and still provided work for nearly half that number, was a real blow to the area. However, Eden Brewery took over the site and has branched out by opening a distillery, with gin the product rather than whisky. Immediately downstream, the Motray Water joins the estuary. It can be regarded as comfortably the largest tributary of the River Eden with a length of 21km, and a mean water flow rate near its mouth of  $0.58\text{m}^3/\text{s}$  or 7680 gallons/minute, though an alternative view would be that as it joins a salt water estuary, it is not really a tributary. Anyway, I hold the former opinion, and shall track it from its source just south of the hamlet of Moonzie, on the northern slopes of Mount Hill, c4km north-west of Cupar; the National Grid Point is NO 338 169.

On top of Mount Hill which is 221m high, is a column 29m high, which was erected as a memorial to John, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Hopetoun, a few years after his death in 1823 by the townsfolk of Cupar. As might be guessed from the photograph, it is prominent viewed from most directions, just like its near twin of almost identical height, in the Garleton Hills near Haddington; in this case the tenants of the Earl's estates in East Lothian were credited with raising the monument. General Sir



John Hope, as he was before receiving a title, and then inheriting his earldom, was a distinguished soldier during the wars with France between 1793 and 1815, serving successfully in Egypt and under Moore and Wellington in Spain. There is also a fine statue in Edinburgh's St. Andrew Square, so although most would not rate his contribution greater than those of such other Scottish soldiers of the period as Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Sir John Moore, and Lord Lyndoch, he certainly has the edge as regards memorial stonework.

From its source, the Motray Water accompanies the A92 road in a north-east direction past the hamlets of Luthrie and Rathillet, the latter encountered earlier as the home of David Hackston, leader of the group of Covenanters who murdered Archbishop Sharp. There was a mill, manor house, church, manse, and school here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but now there is only a very small cluster of houses, bypassed by the main road. A few kilometres downstream is the small village of Kilmany, still possessed of a whitewashed 18<sup>th</sup> century church, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site of a corn mill and a saw mill; traces of the mill lade are still visible. In 1997, a statue was erected of the great motor racing driver, Jim Clark, more often associated with the town of Duns in the Scottish Borders, where his family farmed, but Kilmany was his birthplace. Moving on downstream, at Easter Kinnear, on the left bank of the stream is a lump of masonry which is all that remains of the tower of the Kinnear family, said to have been occupied for several centuries.

Somewhat further from the right bank is the far more impressive though rather inaccessible ruin of Cruvie Castle, now in South Straiton farm steading. The castle, in the form of an L-shaped tower, viewed from the north in the photograph, may have been built by the Sandilands family of Mid Calder, in c1510, though it could be a few decades older. Its situation and 2.6m thick walls suggest a serious defensive function, as does the



1<sup>st</sup> floor entrance with storerooms on the ground floor, reachable only from above. The lay-out was conventional with a main hall and bedrooms above, though its ruined state gives no clue as to its original height. It passed to local families of Ramseys and Carnegies later in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but beyond that, little seems to be known. Certainly it was ruinous by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and my guess based on its condition would be that it ceased to be inhabited, at least a century earlier.

I referred earlier to my childhood journeys in my parents' car during the 1950s to visit my grandparents, and the final stretch was along the A92, with the Motray Water in attendance on the right, before we turned left at St. Fort onto the B946, and passed Sandford House on the left, later to be a hotel owned by my cousin and her husband. A little further on, and we reached the block of farm cottages where an aunt and uncle lived, and then opposite a smooth little hill which was probably once a castle motte, we turned into Newton Farm Steading to the cottage where my grandparents lived. Once there, my brother and I enjoyed the visit, with often a walk up the nearby hill watching my grandfather's dog chasing rabbits, occasionally catching one for the pot, and a tour of the farm buildings where there were cattle and other things to see. However, the journey there from Edinburgh often took more than 3 hours, especially in summer when queues for the ferry across the Firth of Forth were long, and my car sickness had usually demanded at least a couple of stops; now with bridges over the water, and far better roads, an hour suffices for the journey, though sadly I have little cause to make it. I was well aware of the Motray Water in those days because following it was one of the distractions with which my parents attempted to keep my mind off how I was feeling, and I even knew its name though probably little else about it.

I am not sure that I realised that after 'seeing us' to the end of our journey, the Motray Water veered away from the A92 to the south east towards the hamlet of St. Michaels. Just to the north was Brackmont Mill which probably ground corn, but the site is now well-known because many Neolithic objects have been recovered during excavations there. The stream skirts a golf course named for the hamlet, of which my memories, stemming from playing badly there in my late teens, are not favourable. Mostly on the side of a hill, hemmed in by a road, luck probably played a significant part in performing well there, and I am afraid I was easily put off by bad breaks at that time. I can safely say that although there were only 9 holes, I never completed a round without having lost my temper, usually more than once. I went back some years later when a scratch golfer of a little repute, and still found it an irritating course. So it is with no little pleasure that I can record that the air of sanctity conferred by its name is entirely bogus. It seems that the hamlet had acquired the name 'Michael's' from the owner of the local hostelry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the prefix was added ironically and stuck.

The photograph looks upstream as the Motray Water leaves the south of St. Michaels. Another mill complex, appropriately named Milton, was a little downstream, and corn was ground and wood sawn there. The Motray Water passes just to the west of Leuchars, known of course for the airfield and by some accounts for being the sunniest place in Scotland, not perhaps a great accolade, but the small town is of interest for other reasons. Vestigial remains of Leuchars Castle are north of the town, on the opposite (east) side of the A916 from the St. Michaels Golf Course, in the form of a ruined dovecot, and a truncated motte. The first castle, perhaps a timber and earthworks structure was in existence in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century, and was probably destroyed by Scots forces in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was rebuilt in stone by English



occupying forces in the mid-1330s, but destroyed again by the Scots soon afterwards. It was again rebuilt in the late-16<sup>th</sup> century by the then owners of the estate, the Ramseys, probably as a fortified mansion, and the dovecot dates from a century later. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was acquired by the Carnegie, Earls of Southesk, who themselves became Dukes of Fife in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the castle had been deserted long before that, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The township of Leuchars, (the name derives from a word for rushes, presumably a reference to its location near the estuary of the River Eden) must have grown up alongside the first castle, and the clinching evidence for that is the ancient parish church which sits above the main street.

St Athernase Church was probably founded in the 1180s by Robert de Quinci, a Norman who had already built the nearby castle, and its income was granted to the Augustinian Priory of St. Andrews. It was dedicated to St Athernase in 1244; he was thought to have been an associate of St Columba, who spent his later life in Fife. As originally constructed the church comprised the chancel in the middle of the photograph, with, to its east (right), the spectacular apse, but with a low roof in place of the tower. To the west of the chancel was a nave, lower but longer than the chancel itself, with a tower at its west end. Structural problems or



lack of maintenance led to the collapse or demolition of the west tower some time before 1638, when repairs included the removal of the apse roof and its replacement with a stone tower to house a bell. More neglect was followed by another bout of repairs in 1745, during which the original stone tower over the apse was replaced with the present belfry which may be incongruous but somehow fits well.

By 1843 a schism in the Church of Scotland had placed the old and dilapidated St Athernase Church at a disadvantage compared with the attractive new-built Free Kirk in the town. The response was to modernise St Athernase, but with the aim of spending as little as possible. For £200, quite a large sum then, the original nave was demolished, and a larger box-like replacement was erected; a less happy change than the belfry, appearance-wise. Worse, the new nave was slightly offset to the north of the original nave, and the chancel and apse were closed off from view. Though they were no longer part of the main church, work was done to conserve the ancient buildings instead of demolishing them, not always the way of the Victorians. The re-integration of the chancel and nave was carried out in 1914, when the external arcading was also restored. The interior is simple with few of the flourishes of the exterior, but the effect is atmospheric, if more or less impossible to convey in a photograph. It is worth stressing that the east end of the church is probably the finest Romanesque building in Scotland, and there are few if any finer in the whole United Kingdom.

There is another castle associated with Leuchars, Earls Hall Castle, just beyond the eastern edge of the town. Centred on the Z-shaped mansion shown in the photograph, it took a long time to build as it was founded in 1546 by Sir William Bruce and completed in 1617 by his great-grandson; it is unusual in retaining a barmkin wall with an entrance to a small courtyard within. The building was almost derelict by the time that Sir Robert Lorimer restored it in the 1890s, so contains much of his work. It is described fully by



Gifford, and along with its gardens is looked after by the National Trust for Scotland. Rather incongruously, the old castle now abuts Leuchars Airfield.

That airfield, to the east of the town, has its runway parallel to the north shore of the River Eden estuary. It had a rather stuttering start after a barrage balloon squadron of the Royal Engineers was based there in 1911. The runway was built in 1916, and the airfield was used for training during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, and in the inter-war years. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War imminent in 1938, the airfield was transferred to Coastal Command housing aircraft involved in anti-submarine patrols, right through the war and up until 1950. Then it transferred to Fighter Command and squadrons of fast jets beginning with the Gloster Meteor, and including the Gloster Javelin, the Hawker Hunter, the English Electric Lightning, the McDonnell Douglas Phantom, the Panavia Tornado, and the Eurofighter Typhoon, were based there, before its closure as an RAF base in 2015. Other units flew from the airfield in the period including air-sea rescue helicopters and University Air Squadrons. It is now an army base, with the runway maintained as an emergency fall-back; Leuchars and St. Andrews must be far quieter places than I remember from the 1980s and 1990s, when I was in the area quite often.

Inevitably, anything more said about Leuchars, which has a population of c3000, is something of an anti-climax; a grey little town with functional buildings of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The railway arrived in 1848, with a station almost a kilometre north of Leuchars Junction, which was eventually closed in 1967. The station at Leuchars Junction opened in 1878, on the main line to the north-east from Edinburgh; until the late 1960s, trains ran from there to Tayport and St. Andrews; now buses serve these towns, though campaigns have been mounted to re-open the line to the latter. That would be a major undertaking, given that, as noted earlier, the bridge over the River Eden has been demolished. There was a romanticism about the journey into the famous town by train, which I completed on a number of occasions, but as regards convenience and time, there would be little to gain, as there would inevitably be a change and wait at the junction, just as there now is for a bus.

Picking up the Motray Water again, to the south of Leuchars, it is joined on its right bank by its most substantial tributary, the Moonzie Burn, which rises close to the source of the Motray Water, beside the hamlet of Moonzie, which has a church of uncertain age. Its generally east-flowing course of 12½km, forms a rough triangle with the north-east and south-east legs of its parent's course. The striking ruin of Lordscairnie Castle is close to the nascent Moonzie Burn, at an isolated location, with only a few cottages on a minor road near to it. At one time the site is thought to have been largely



surrounded by a loch. The Lindsay family obtained the property in the early-14<sup>th</sup> century, but the present castle was probably built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century by a family member who much later became 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford. The family retained it, but ceased to live there in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although the castle was still

weather-proof at the end of that century when used for services by an Episcopal preacher. The 3-storey main block is large as such buildings go, with dimensions, 16.3 X 10.1m, and walls 1.7m thick; there is a stair turret in the northern corner. The layout was conventional, with a hall above a kitchen and store-rooms, and bedrooms in the top storey. The small round tower, to the left on the photograph taken from the north-east, is a survival from a barmkin wall which has otherwise disappeared. There was also a moat to complete the defences. The stream passes close by the north side of Dairsie village before reaching Moonzie Corn Mill, which operated through the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Moonzie Burn becomes tidal just before it joins the Motray Water, which continues east until it reaches the rather puzzling Inner Bridge, shown alongside; it is just off the A919, a short distance north of Guardbridge Old Bridge. It comprises 3 segmental arches, with the two to the north shallower and larger than that to the south. The official 'Canmore' description is at first sight,



strange because it talks of an 18<sup>th</sup> century bridge, but also of repairs to the 'Inner Brig' in 1598. Examination of the underside of the bridge (the soffits) shows that it has been substantially widened at the downstream face to reach the present 5m, and if this happened in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, features like the prominent keystones, at the crown of the arches on that face, would be explained. It would also not be unusual for the upstream face to have been given a similar pattern; other features like the rusticated parapets and railings, also shown in the photograph, were clearly added later. The massive pier in the centre of the photograph would have been unusual for the 18<sup>th</sup> century, so it may be that it relates to a narrow 16<sup>th</sup> century bridge, which could have been repaired in 1598, and may survive hidden at the core of the present bridge. There is little more to be said about the Motray Water which joins the River Eden estuary, a few hundred metres downstream.

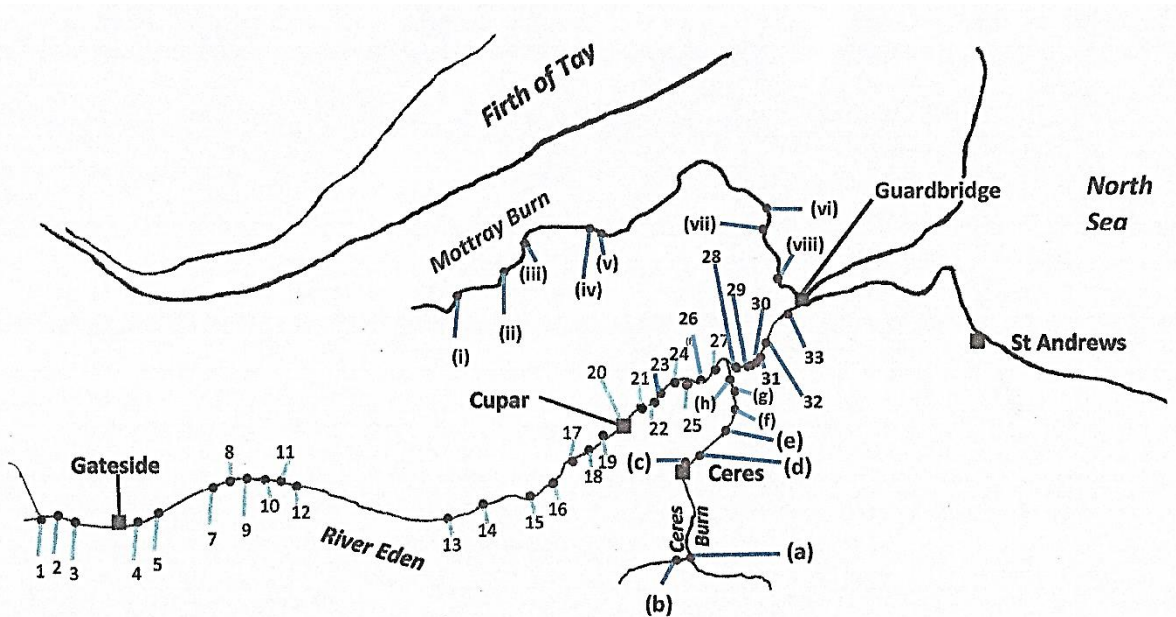
From here the River Eden flows eastwards through its estuary to meet the North Sea. On the north (left) bank it passes Leuchars Airfield, and reaches the southern limit of Tents Muir, a mainly forested wilderness, utilised by hikers and cyclists. On the south (right) bank is farmland, until just short of the mouth, a links-land point juts northwards. Here is sited the most famous golf course in the world, St. Andrews Old Course, along with 3 others of considerable merit. Play on each of them, begins near the centre of the town, in the case of the Old Course, in front of the iconic clubhouse of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, where even the most proficient of players feels a twinge of nervousness when teeing off for the first time, and progresses out to the River Eden estuary, a visible presence if not a great influence on play. St. Andrews is a remarkable place, a town with no more than 17000 residents, it was the ecclesiastical centre of Scotland for centuries and has the ruined cathedral and ancillary buildings which supported that status, together with the ruined castle in which the bishops/archbishops lived and in front of which martyrs were burnt. It houses the oldest university in Scotland founded in 1413, which still holds a very high place in world rankings, in spite of the fact that its student numbers, are relatively small by today's standards. I feel tempted to say much more about the town, but there

is no shortage of such accounts, and the River Eden and its tributaries have not really been a great influence on the town's history. So I shall refrain.

Having completed the historical journey along the River Eden, there follows a sketch-map in Table E1, which shows the courses of the river and two of its main tributaries. I think my greatest surprise in producing this account concerned the large number of water mills along the river and its tributaries, shown in Tables E1 and E2; they are listed in order, beginning at the source. In a mixed rural area, with both arable farms and woodland, the existence of many corn mills and a few saw mills would be expected, but I have been surprised by the importance of the linen industry along the River Eden. I should acknowledge the absence of any discussion of the plants and other wild life found along the river and its associated streams. I am aware that salmon and sea trout are caught in the River Eden, but perhaps wrongly, I do not think that fishing has been a key influence on the history or economy of the river and its environs, and in any case do not have the knowledge of the pursuit to justify passages on the topic.

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**Table E1. Mills on the River Eden and its main tributaries**



**River Eden**

| MILL                     | TYPE          | MILL                    | TYPE          | MILL             | TYPE           |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 Burnside               | Corn          | 12 Dunshalt             | Bleachfield   | 23 Tailabout     | Flour          |
| 2 Gleneden               | Starch        | 13 Ramornie             | ?             | 24 New Mills (1) | Flour & Barley |
| 3 Barnaty                | Flour         | 14 Pitlessie            | Corn & Barley | 25 New Mills (2) | Flax Spinning  |
| 4 Edensbank              | Lint then Saw | 15 Cults (1)            | Wash Mill     | 26 New Mills (3) | Saw            |
| 5 Gleneden               | Barley        | 16 Cults (2)            | Corn & Flour  | 27 Rungay        | ?              |
| 6 Corston                | Corn, Wauk    | 17 Springfield Hospital | Flax Spinning | 28 Dairsie       | Corn           |
| 7 Strathmiglo West       | Corn          | 18 Springfield Russell  | Flax Spinning | 29 Lydox (1)     | Flax Spinning  |
| 8 Strathmiglo: Skene St. | Linen Weaving | 19 Tarvit               | Flax Spinning | 30 Lydox (2)     | Corn           |
| 9 Strathmiglo            | Bleachfield   | 20 Cupar                | See Note 1    | 31 Dron (1)      | Corn           |
| 10 Strathmiglo East      | Corn          | 21 Thomaston            | Corn & Flour  | 32 Dron (2)      | Threshing      |
| 11 Cash                  | Corn          | 22 Bullass Mill         | ?             | 33 Nydie         | Corn           |

Note 1: Flax, Spinning, Corn & Flour, 2 X Wash Mills, Snuff, Threshing

**Mottroy Water**

| Mill            | Type  |
|-----------------|-------|
| (i) Starr       | ?     |
| (ii) Rathillet  | Corn  |
| (iii) Sturton   | Corn  |
| (iv) Kilmany 1  | Corn  |
| (v) Kilmany 2   | Saw   |
| (vi) Brackmont  | Corn  |
| (vii) Southhead | Flour |
| (viii) Milton   | Saw   |

**Ceres Burn**

| Mill         | Type                      |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| a Teasses    | Corn                      |
| b St Ann's   | Bleachfield               |
| c Bridgend   | Bleachfield               |
| d Ceres      | Corn, lint                |
| e Pitscottie | Flax spinning             |
| f Blebo      | 2 X Flax spinning, Barley |
| g Yoolfield  | Flax spinning             |
| h Kemback    | Saw                       |

**Table E2. Mills on Lesser Tributaries of the River Eden**

Tributaries are ordered from the source of the river, tributaries of tributaries are ordered similarly. Left Bank tributaries are denoted (L), Right Bank tributaries, (R), Continuations, (cont.).

Colour code for mill type; **Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal, Barley**; **Textiles**; **Paper**; **Sawmills, Coopers**; **Foundries**; **Special inc. Snuff, Flint, Gunpowder**; **Unknown**:

| Tributary            | Parent Stream    | 1.            | 2.                | 3.                | 4.                | 5.       | 6.     |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Carmore B. (L)       | R. Eden          | Balcanquhal   |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Morton B. (L)        | R. Eden          | Pitlochie     | Edentown          |                   |                   |          |        |
| Falkland B. (R)      | R. Eden          | Falkland Lint |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Ballingall B. (L)    | Falkland B.      | Drumdreeel    | Woodmill          |                   |                   |          |        |
| Maspie B. (L)        | Falkland B.      | Falkland      |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Auchtermuchty B. (L) | R. Eden          | Readie        | Auchtermuchty (1) | Auchtermuchty (2) |                   |          |        |
| Pitcairnie B. (L)    | Auchtermuchty B. | Loch          | Lumquat           |                   |                   |          |        |
| Moss B. (R)          | R. Eden          | Lathirsk      |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Freuchie B. (R)      | R. Eden          | Kirkforther   | Forther           | Whole             | Channelhall (1&2) | Freuchie | Orchie |
| Kettle B. (R)        | R. Eden          | Kettle (1)    | Kettle (2)        |                   |                   |          |        |
| Rameldry B. (L)      | Kettle B.        | Rameldry (1)  | Rameldry (2)      |                   |                   |          |        |
| Rankeilour B. (L)    | R. Eden          | Daft          | Rankeilour Mains  | Peterhead         | Rankeilour        | Ballo    |        |
| Fernie B. (cont.)    | Rankeilour B.    | Connochy      | Fernie            |                   |                   |          |        |
| Kinloss B. (L)       | Lady B.          | Clink         |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Craigrothie B. (L)   | Ceres B.         | Craigrothie   | Baltilly          |                   |                   |          |        |
| Kinninmonth B. (R)   | Ceres B.         | Baldinny      |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Luthrie B. (L)       | Mottray W.       | Luthrie       |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Forret B. (R)        | Mottray W.       | Forret        |                   |                   |                   |          |        |
| Moonzie B. (R)       | Mottray W.       | Cairnie       | Fingus            | Menzies           | Moonzie           |          |        |

A total of 40 mills are in Table E2, of which 16 are corn mills, 5 are textile mills, 5 are saw mills, and 14 are of types not yet known, though a majority may be corn mills. All appear on maps dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century or later, so there are likely to be mills which operated earlier but became disused, which are not on the list.

To these, can be added the 49 mills in Table E1, of which 29 are corn mills, 21 are textile mills, 5 are saw mills, 1 is a snuff mill, and 4 are of types not yet known. (Some had more than one function in their lifetimes, hence the mismatch in numbers.)

So the totals for the Eden catchment are 89 mills, with 45 corn mills, 26 textile mills 10 saw mills, 1 snuff mill, and 19 of types as yet unknown.