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Annan, Dumfries and Galloway

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 54.983°N 3.266°W﻿ / ﻿54.983°N 3.266°W﻿ / 54.983; -3.266﻿ / 54.983; -3.266

The former **royal burgh** of Annan (**Gaelic**: *Anainn*) is a well-built town, red **sandstone** being the material mainly used. Among its public buildings is Annan Academy of which the writer **Thomas Carlyle** was a pupil, a **Georgian** building now known as "Bridge House". The **Town Hall**, built in **Victorian** style in 1878, uses the local sandstone. Annan also features a Historic Resources Centre. In Port Street, some of the windows remain blocked up to avoid paying the **window tax**.

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Geography and administration [edit]

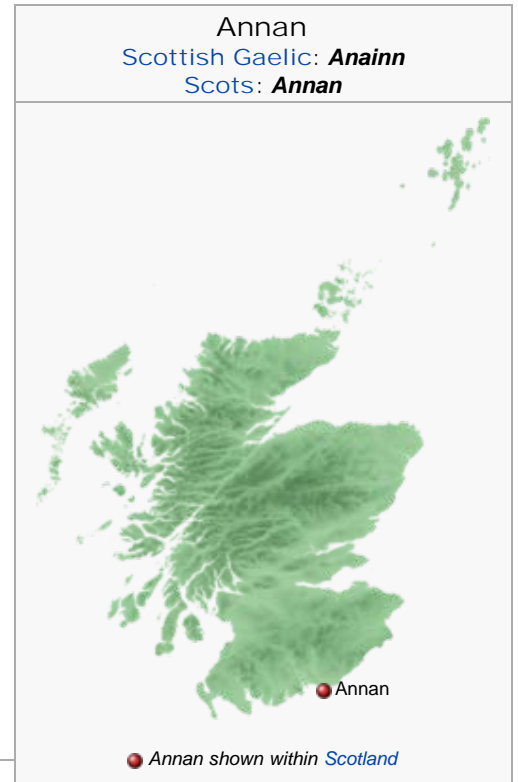


Annan River road bridge

Annan stands on the **River Annan** nearly 2 miles from its mouth, 15 miles from **Dumfries**, in the region of **Dumfries and Galloway** on the **Solway Firth** in the south of **Scotland**. **Eastriggs** is about 3 miles to the east

and **Gretna** is about 8 miles to the east.

Annan Bridge, a stone bridge of three arches, built between 1824 and 1827, carries road traffic over the River Annan. It was designed by **Robert Stevenson** and built by John Lowry. There is also a railway bridge and a nearby pedestrian bridge over the River Annan, and the town is served by **Annan railway station**. The train turntable was designed and developed in Annan, it can be seen today in the York Railway Museum.



Population	8,389 ^[1] (2001 Census) est. 8,480 ^[2] (2006)
OS grid reference	 NY194669
Council area	Dumfries and Galloway
Lieutenancy area	Dumfriesshire
Country	Scotland
Sovereign state	United Kingdom
Post town	ANNAN
Postcode district	DG12
Dialling code	01461
Police	Dumfries and Galloway
Fire	Dumfries and Galloway
Ambulance	Scottish
EU Parliament	Scotland
UK Parliament	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
Scottish Parliament	Dumfries

List of places: **UK** • **Scotland** •

History

[\[edit\]](#)

Roman remains exist in the neighbourhood.

Annan Castle formed the original home of the 'de Brus' family, later known as the "Bruces", lords of Annandale, which most famously produced **Robert the Bruce**. The **Balliols** and the **Douglasses** were also more or less closely associated with Annan. During the period of the Border lawlessness the inhabitants suffered repeatedly at the hands of moss-troopers and through the feuds of rival families, in addition to the losses caused by the **Scottish Wars of Independence**. It was at Annan in December 1332 that Bruce supporters overwhelmed Balliol's forces to bring about the end of the first invasion of Scotland in the **Second War of Scottish Independence**.

Annan served as a **maritime** town whose shipbuilding yards built many **clippers** and other boats. A **cairn** on the jetty commemorates **Robert Burns**, who worked as an exciseman here in the 1790s. Although the port is now mainly dry, a few stranded boats remain.

Annan Academy has a history that goes back to the 17th century; its current buildings include modern 1960s built buildings and older buildings on St John's Road.

In early 2009 the oldest building on the high street was demolished despite being protected under Historic Scotland rules^[*citation needed*].

Other notable people

[\[edit\]](#)

- Andy Aitken** - professional footballer best known for his long service with **Queen of the South F.C.**^[3]
- Edward Irving** - a native of the town; there is a statue of him in the grounds of Annan Old Parish Church. The statue was relocated from outside the town hall in the 1960s.
- Ashley Jensen** - the **actress** is best known for her roles in **Extras** and **Ugly Betty**.
- Robert Murray M'Cheyne** - another notable Scottish preacher, was ordained by the Annan Presbytery.
- David Payne** (1843-1894) - Landscape artist.
- Jim Wallace**, **MSP** for **Orkney** - Annan is the birthplace of politician .
- Jack Wright (greyhound trainer)** - **coursing** enthusiast, who lived at Watchhall and father of **Hardy Wright**.
- Hardy Wright** - greyhound trainer who lived initially at Watchhall, responsible for bringing the Barbican Cup (**coursing**) to Scotland for the first time.

Distillery

[\[edit\]](#)

There are plans to re-open the **distillery** in Annan which last produced a **Lowland Malt** 90 years ago although this is still in early stages. ^[4]

Churches

[\[edit\]](#)

Annan is served by several churches of different denominations, including:

- Annan Old Parish Church, High Street (**Church of Scotland**) ^[1]
- St. Andrew's Parish Church, Bank Street (Church of Scotland) ^[2]
- Annan URC, Station Road (**United Reformed Church**)
- St. John's Church, St. John's Road (**Scottish Episcopal Church**)
- St. Columba's Church, 40 Scotts Street (**Catholic Church**)
- Baptist Church, Downie's Wynd

There is also a local interchurch group, known as Annandale Churches Together. ^[3]

Landmarks

[\[edit\]](#)

Just outside the town, the **Chapelcross nuclear power station** has now shut down and is decommissioning. The four cooling towers were demolished in 2007.

Nearby, [John Maxwell](#), 4th [Lord Herries](#), built [Hoddom Castle](#) (*circa* 1552 - 1565).



High Street



Chapelcross power station
(now partially demolished)



[Annan Academy](#) (old
buildings)



War memorial, High Street

See also

[[edit](#)]

- [List of places in Dumfries and Galloway](#)
- [Annan Rugby Club](#)
- [Annan Athletic F.C.](#)

References

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ <http://www.scrol.gov.uk/scrol/browser/profile.jsp?profile=Population&mainArea=annan&mainLevel=Locality>
 - ↑ <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data>
 - ↑ [Andy Aitken in the Queen of the South club history](#)
 - ↑ [A Sleeping Beauty Awakens, Annandale Distillery](#)
- *This article incorporates text from the [Encyclopædia Britannica, Eleventh Edition](#), a publication now in the [public domain](#).*
 - Ordnance Survey Explorer Map (number 323) - 1:25,000 scale (2.5 inches to 1 mile)

External links

[[edit](#)]

- [Annan Online](#)
- [Annan Academy Website](#)
- [Annan Juvenile Pipes & Drums](#)
- [Local Authority website](#)

Categories: [Annandale and Eskdale](#) | [Ports and harbours of Scotland](#) | [Royal burghs](#) | [Towns in Dumfries and Galloway](#)

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