

# Directions

Start at the bend on Chestnut Crescent in the Barnago Housing Scheme in Dunipace. Here you can see the 400 year old **Spanish Chestnut Tree** behind which used to stand **Herbertshire Castle**. Looking from Chestnut Crescent at the tree you can see a path 50mts to your right going downhill. Follow this path to a foot bridge over the River Carron. The **Bathing Pool** was up-stream from the bridge. On the far side of the bridge was **Herbertshire Mill**. Carry on straight up Grove St. At the top turn left into Stripeside and cross over the Brewster Burn with the **Toll Bridge** on your left. On the left was the site of the **Lacquer Works**. A few metres further on at Nethermain Rd. turn right and after another fifty metres turn right again on to Castle Rankine Rd. If you look back at this point to the first house in **Temple Denny Rd** you can see its temple shaped windows. Carry on up Castle Rankine Rd for 100mts, past the Air Cadet headquarters and under the motorway. On your left is **Hall House** farm and **The Dog Track** used to be sited to the left of the farm. Turn immediately left after the motorway and carry on this road for 1.2 miles to the prisoner of war camp on your right, passing Castle Rankine House and the site of **Castle Rankine** after 0.8 of a mile. Half a mile further on, turn right at a junction and you will see a memorial chair. Carry on for 9 tenths of a mile and turn right sign posted for the pets hotel and the **Myot Hill** is obvious on your left. Follow this road for 1.7 miles back to the Cadet hall. You can now retrace your steps back to Chestnut Crescent.



**Hall House**



**Toll Bridge & Stripeside**



**Site of Herbertshire Mill**

At the Grove St side of the foot bridge over the Carron

This leaflet was edited by George Skelton and published by the Denny and Dunipace Heritage Society.  
The Society meets on the second Monday of each month in the Heritage Rooms at 13 Milton Row in Dunipace, 7.15pm.

# The George Skelton Heritage Trail No.5

From Herbertshire Castle to Iron Age Fort



HERBERTSHIRE CASTLE, DENNY

1. Herbertshire Castle
2. Spanish Chestnut Tree
3. Bathing Pool
4. Herbertshire Mill
5. Toll Bridge
6. Custom Hall Lacquer Works
7. Temple Denny
8. Hall House
9. Greyhound Track
10. Prisoner of War Camp
11. The Myot Hill Fort
12. Castle Rankine

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### **1. Herbertshire Castle**

The castle was possibly built for Herbert De Camera (1200 AD) who was the High Chamberlain of Scotland.

*For more info on the castle see Heritage Trail No. 1*

### **2. Spanish Chestnut Tree**

This tree has been verified as being between 300 and 400 years old. It was very fashionable for the owners of large houses in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to plant Spanish chestnuts so it may well be that it is 400 years old. At the time of writing this leaflet, the Heritage Society was trying to have the tree protected.



### **3. Bathing Pool**

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century the castle was used as a hunting lodge and it is thought that royals of the Stewart dynasty visited the castle. The Bathing Pool was popular with female visitors to the castle. The pool is 100 mts upstream from the motorway flyover.

### **4. Herbertshire Mill**

The mill was one of several mills sited by the river. The mills had various purposes. Some were paper mills. Others were, like this one, wool mills and some were corn grinding mills. The Carron was highly rated because of the purity of its water.

### **5. Toll Bridge**

In days gone by, businessmen carrying goods or livestock over the bridge had to pay a toll as the name suggests. Farmers used to drive their animals to the Tryst Fair in Stenhousemuir, over the bridge. Drovers used the sheep fanks at Fankerton to pen their animals over night to stop them wandering off. From the bridge they would proceed over the Drove Loan.

### **6. Lacquer Works**

The Lacquer Works were situated on the left as you approach the Toll Bridge. It was a success for a number of years until new methods made it uneconomical.

### **7. Temple Denny**

The Knights Templar, who were said to be mercenary soldiers, were banned from most countries in Europe but not Scotland. They settled in this area of Denny and the area of Dryburgh south west of the Parish Church. From the turn into Castle Rankine Rd look back to the first house in Temple Denny Rd and you will see the window housings are shaped like those on temples. Legend says they fought at Bannockburn.

### **8. Hall House**

This farm house is the oldest building in the burgh and dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was once owned by Tam Johnston the famous diarist.

### **9. Greyhound Track**

The owners of Hall House ran a very successful dog racing stadium for many years between the house and the Castle Rankine burn. There were always lots of stories of race fixing such as giving the dog a huge meal before a race to make sure it lost.

### **11. Prisoner of War Camp**

The camp was locally known as the Tally Camp and built for 750 Italian POWs. It changed to housing German prisoners and is said to have been a denazification centre. Illustrations by Otto Laub which were drawn on the walls of the camp are displayed in the Smith Institute in Stirling.

### **12. The Myot Hill Fort**

The Myot Hill is named after a tribe called the Maeatae. They were fierce warriors who were paid money by the Romans not to attack the Antonine Wall. The fort on top dates back to the Iron Age and could be 3000 years old.

### **13. Castle Rankine**

The ancient site of the castle above Smithyhall. During the Wars of Independence it was owned by Sir Herbert De Moreham who was executed in the Tower of London.