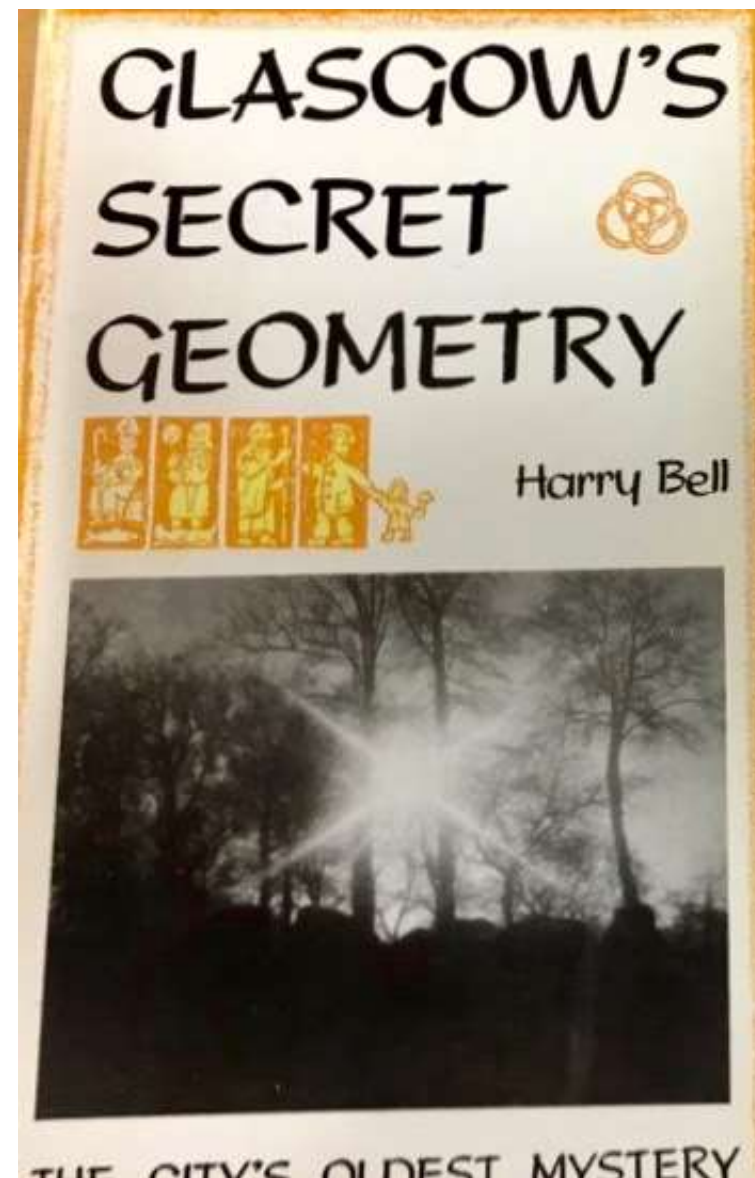




King Arthur In The Scottish Lowlands







- Geoffrey of Monmouth 1095 -1155
- 12th century Welsh/ Norman monk and author of *Historia Regum Britanniae* and original creator of the myth of the legendary King Arthur and Merlin.
- Over the following centuries other authors added such elements including Camelot, Excalibur, the Holy Grail and various knights and the Round Table.
- Was it HRB written to unite native Britons with Normans against a common enemy-the Anglo Saxons?
- Was it to create a foundation myth for the Normans to rule Britain?



• The English Anarchy 1138 – 1153

- 1120- The heir the English throne, William Adeline, dies in a storm when sailing home from France
- 1135- King Henry I dies leaving the throne vacant
- King Henry had insisted that his daughter Matilda should take the throne upon his death
- Matilda was married to the late Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and is still Empress
- Matilda is the niece of King David of Scotland
- Matilda's cousin, Stephen deBlois believes he should be King and has support from nobles
- Civil war ensues , David supports his niece'
- David exploits the confusion and captures much of the North of England.
- David somehow manages to acquire Northumberland and Cumbria after losing the Battle of the Standard
- Robert of Gloucester was Matilda's half brother
- Geoffrey dedicated his Historia to Robert
- When Henry II takes the throne stability returns





alamy
Image ID: 161084
www.alamy.com



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- William Newburgh 1136 – 1198

• “... a writer in our times has started up and invented the most ridiculous fictions concerning them (the Britons) ... having given, in a Latin version, the fabulous exploits of Arthur (drawn from the traditional fictions of the Britons, with additions of his own), and endeavoured to dignify them with the name of authentic history; moreover, **he has unscrupulously promulgated the mendacious predictions of one Merlin, as if they were genuine prophecies, corroborated by indubitable truth, to which also he has himself considerably added during the process of translating them into Latin...** no one but a person ignorant of ancient history, when he meets with that book **which he calls the History of the Britons**, can for a moment doubt how impertinently and impudently he falsifies in every respect... Since, therefore, the **ancient historians make not the slightest mention of these matters, it is plain that whatever this man published of Arthur and of Merlin are mendacious fictions, invented to gratify the curiosity of the undiscerning...** Therefore, let Bede, of whose wisdom and integrity none can doubt, possess our unbounded confidence, and let this fabler, with his fictions, be instantly rejected by all.”

.....He wasn't a king

.....He wasn't medieval

.....He wasn't English

..... There was no Excalibur

.....No Camelot

..... No Round Table

.....No Holy Grail

.....Merlin?

Yr Hen Ogledd-
“The Old North” (P-Celtic)





6th Century Contemporary Characters in Yr Hen Ogledd

- Taliesin the Bard
- Anuerin the Bard
- Lailoken
- St. Kentigern (Mungo)
- St. Columba
- St. Serf
- St. David of Wales
- St Thaney
- Urien of Rheged
- Rhydderch Hael of Strathclyde
- King Lot of the Lothians
- Morcant (the Treacherous)
- Queen Langoureth
- Owain ap Urien of Rheged
- Aedan of Dalriada
- Artur Mac Aedan



Lailoken is often cited as being the figure behind the character Merlin

- He was possibly a druidic figure, a mystic, a bard and a warrior
- He was the bard and friend of King Gwenddoleu who is said to have ruled close to Carlisle
- When his Lord and his comrades were slain in battle against Rhydderch Lailoken went mad
- He went into exile and hid in the woods and lived with the creatures
- His twin sister Langoureth visited him and finally lured him out, possibly to Glasgow
- Lailoken would harass Mungo during his sermons
- He made various prophecies about his own death that he would be beaten to death, he would be impaled, he would drown – he finally suffered a threefold death when beaten by a group of shepherds, thrown into the river Tweed where he became impaled on a stake beneath the surface





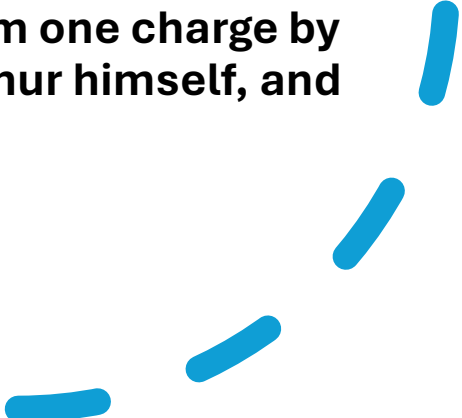






- Then Arthur along with the kings of Britain fought against them in those days, but Arthur himself was the military commander ["dux bellorum"]. His first battle was at the mouth of the river which is called Glein. His second, third, fourth, and fifth battles were above another river which is called Dubglas and is in the region of Linnuis. The sixth battle was above the river which is called Bassas. The seventh battle was in the forest of Celidon, that is Cat Coit Celidon. The eighth battle was at the fortress of Guinnion, in which Arthur carried the image of holy Mary ever virgin on his shoulders; and the pagans were put to flight on that day, and through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ and through the power of the blessed Virgin Mary his mother, there was great slaughter among them. The ninth battle was waged in the City of the Legion. The tenth battle was waged on the banks of a river which is called Tribruit. The eleventh battle was fought on the mountain which is called Agned The twelfth battle was on Mount Badon in which there fell in one day 960 men from one charge by Arthur; and no one struck them down except Arthur himself, and in all the wars he emerged as victor.

- Nennius 9th Century Historia Brittonum



The Twelve Battles of Arthur

From Historia Brittonum
by the Welsh monk Nennius written
in the 9th century.

1. River Glein
2. 3,4,5, Dubhglas Linnius
6. River Bassas
7. Celidon Forest
8. Castell Guinnion
9. Tribruit
10. City of the Legions
11. Mount Agned
12. Mount Badon

- 
- Against them [i.e. [Hussa](#) and his predecessors] four kings fought: Urien, and [Rhydderch Hen](#), and [Gwallog](#), and Morcant. [Theodric](#) used to fight bravely against that Urien with his sons, yet at that time sometimes the enemies, sometimes the citizens used to be vanquished. And he [Urien] shut them [the enemies] up for three days and three nights in the island of [Lindisfarne](#) and, while he was on [this?] campaign, he was slain at the instigation of Morcant out of jealousy, because beyond all other kings he [Urien] had the greatest skill in renewing war
 - Nennius 9th Century Historia Brittonum
- 

GLASGOW'S SECRET GEOMETRY



Harry Bell

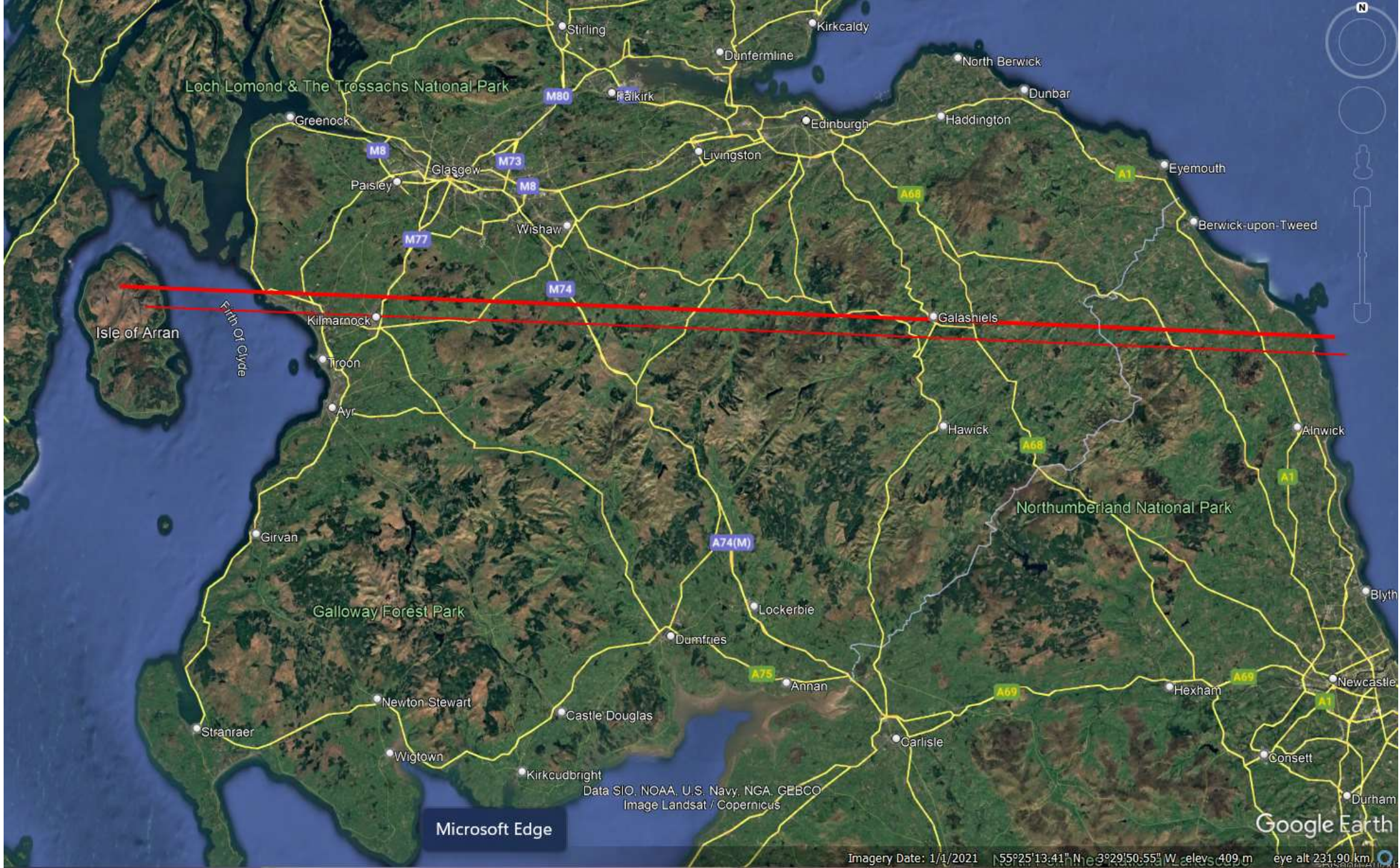


THE CITY'S OLDEST MYSTERY



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth



Microsoft Edge

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth

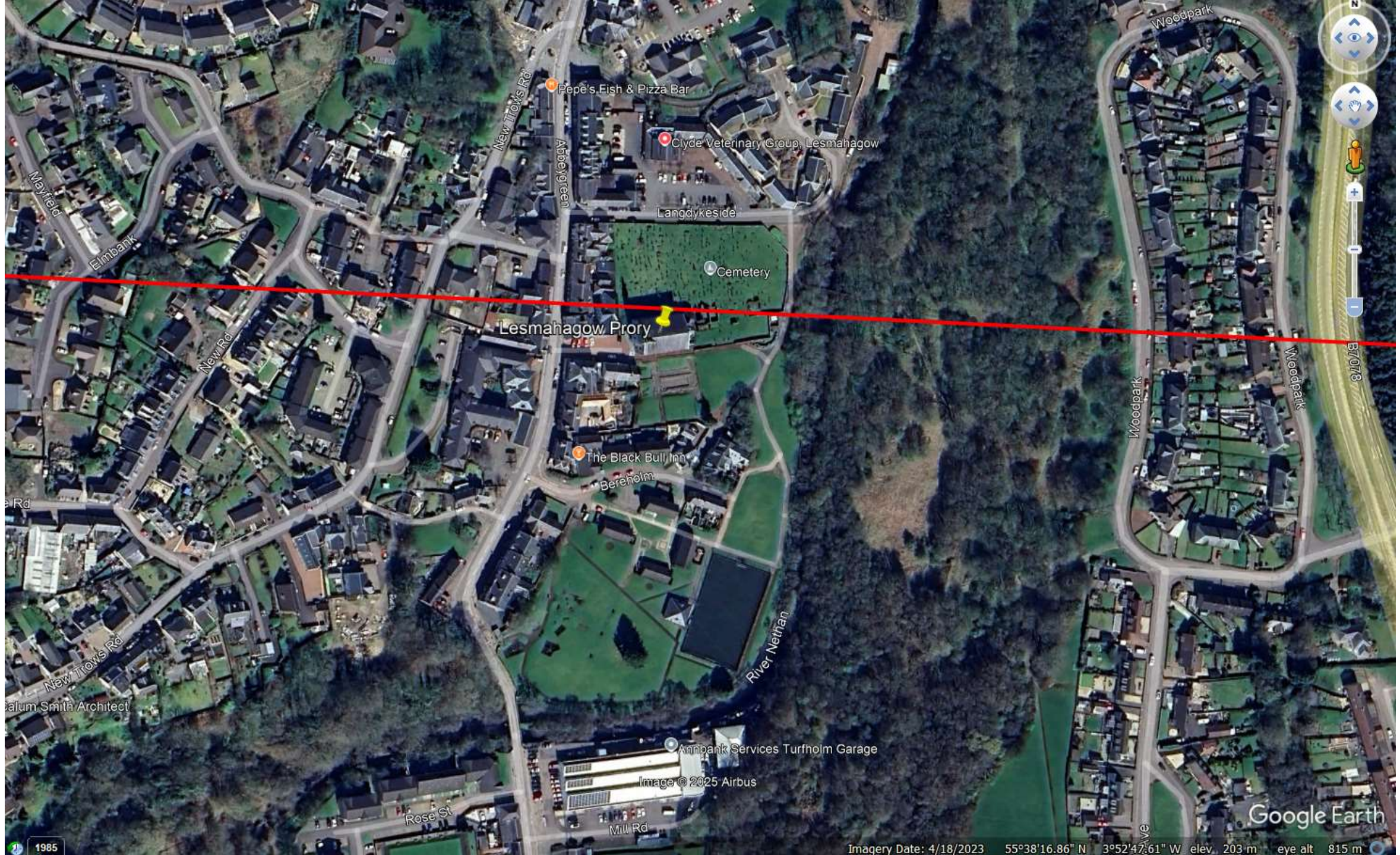
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Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 4/6/2025 55°35'49.34" N 2°26'15.36" W elev 31 m eye alt 84



Pope's Fish & Pizza Bar

Clyde Veterinary Group, Lesmahagow

Langdykeside

Cemetery

Lesmahagow Prory

The Black Bull Inn

Berholm

River Nethan

Annbank Services Turfholm Garage

Image © 2025 Airbus

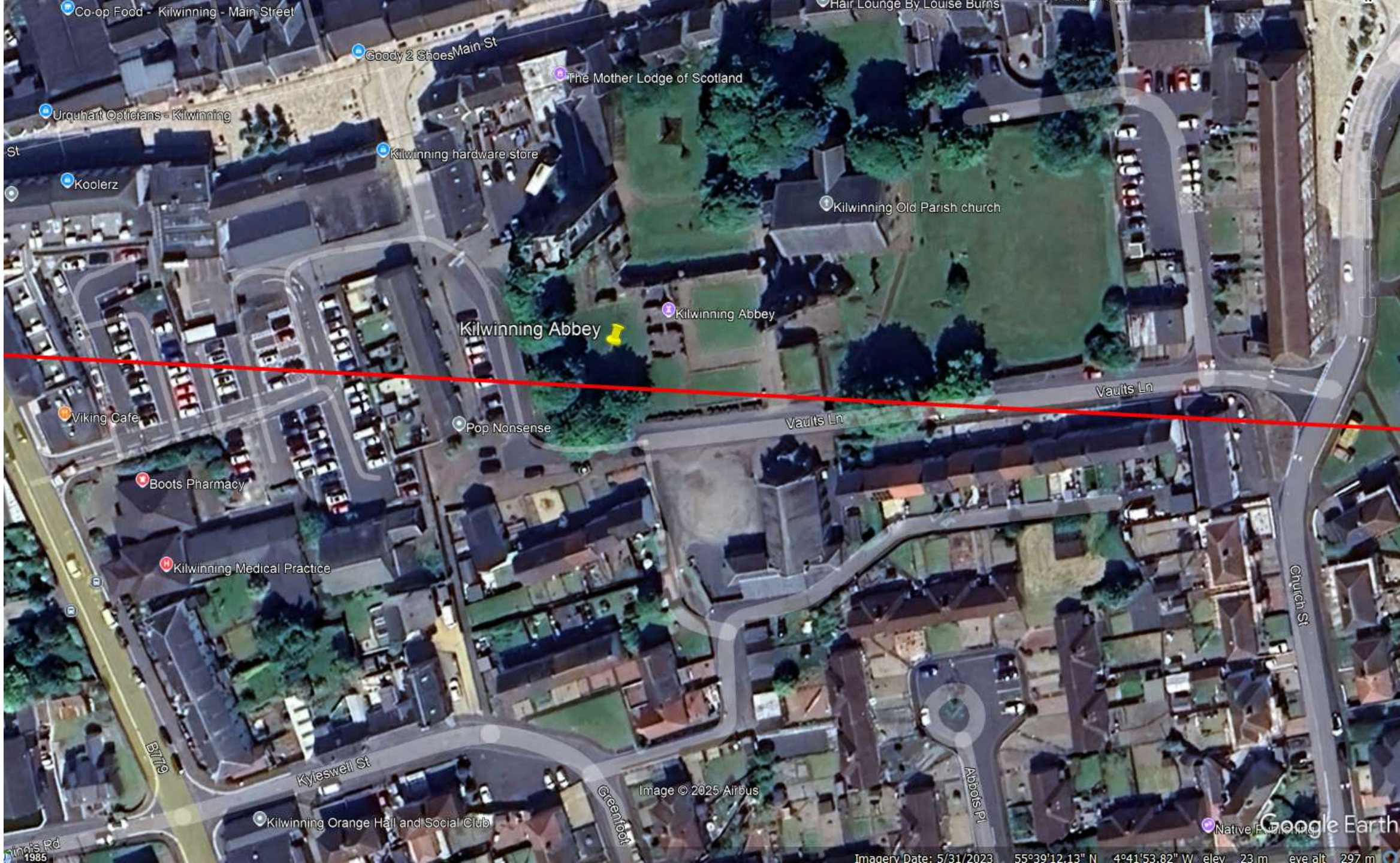
Rose St

Mill Rd

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 4/18/2023 55°38'16.86" N 3°52'47.61" W elev. 203 m eye alt 815 m



Co-op Food - Kilwinning - Main Street

Goody 2 Shoes Main St

The Mother Lodge of Scotland

Hair Lounge By Louise Burns

Urquhart Opticians - Kilwinning

Kilwinning hardware store

Kilwinning Old Parish church

Koolerz

Kilwinning Abbey

Kilwinning Abbey

Vaults Ln

Viking Cafe

Pop Nonsense

Vaults Ln

Boots Pharmacy

Kilwinning Medical Practice

Church St

B776

Kyleswell St

Image © 2025 Airbus

Abbots Pl

Kilwinning Orange Hall and Social Club

Native F...

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/31/2023 55°39'12.13" N 4°41'53.82" W elev 23 m eye alt 297 m

South Line

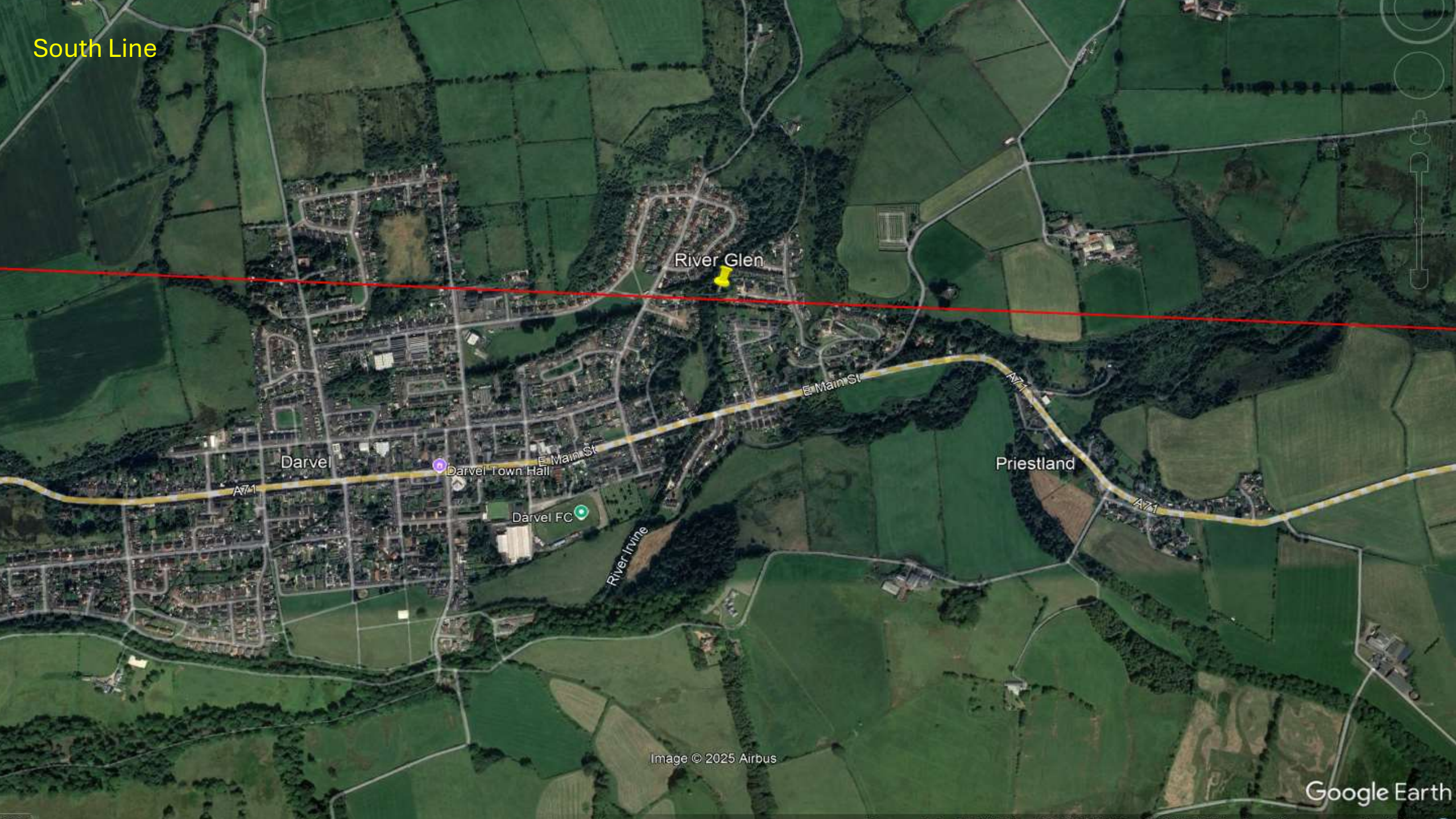


Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

South Line

Loudoun Hill

Spirit of Scotland Monument

River Irvine

Loudoun Hill Restaurant & Pizzeria

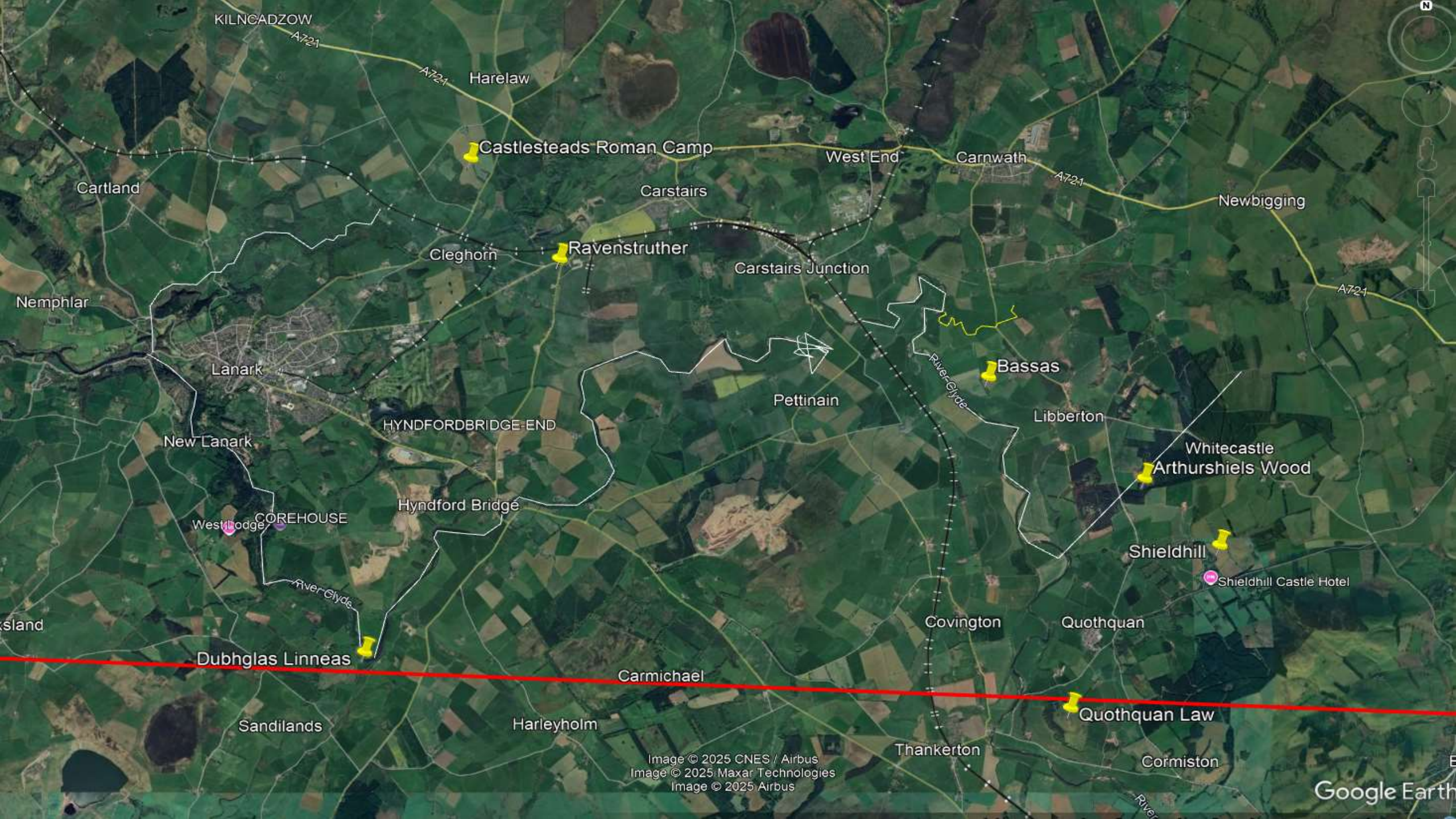
A71

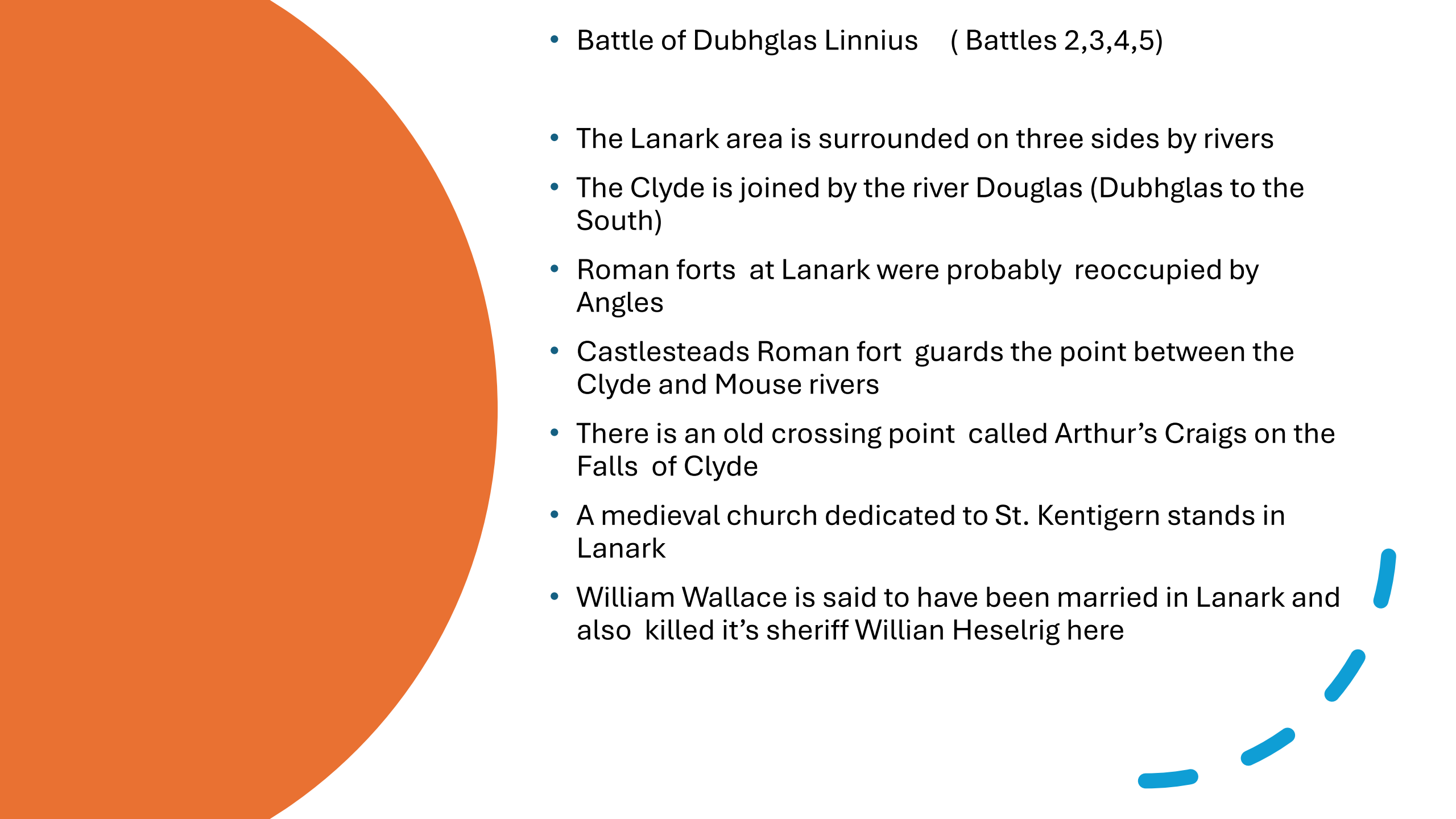
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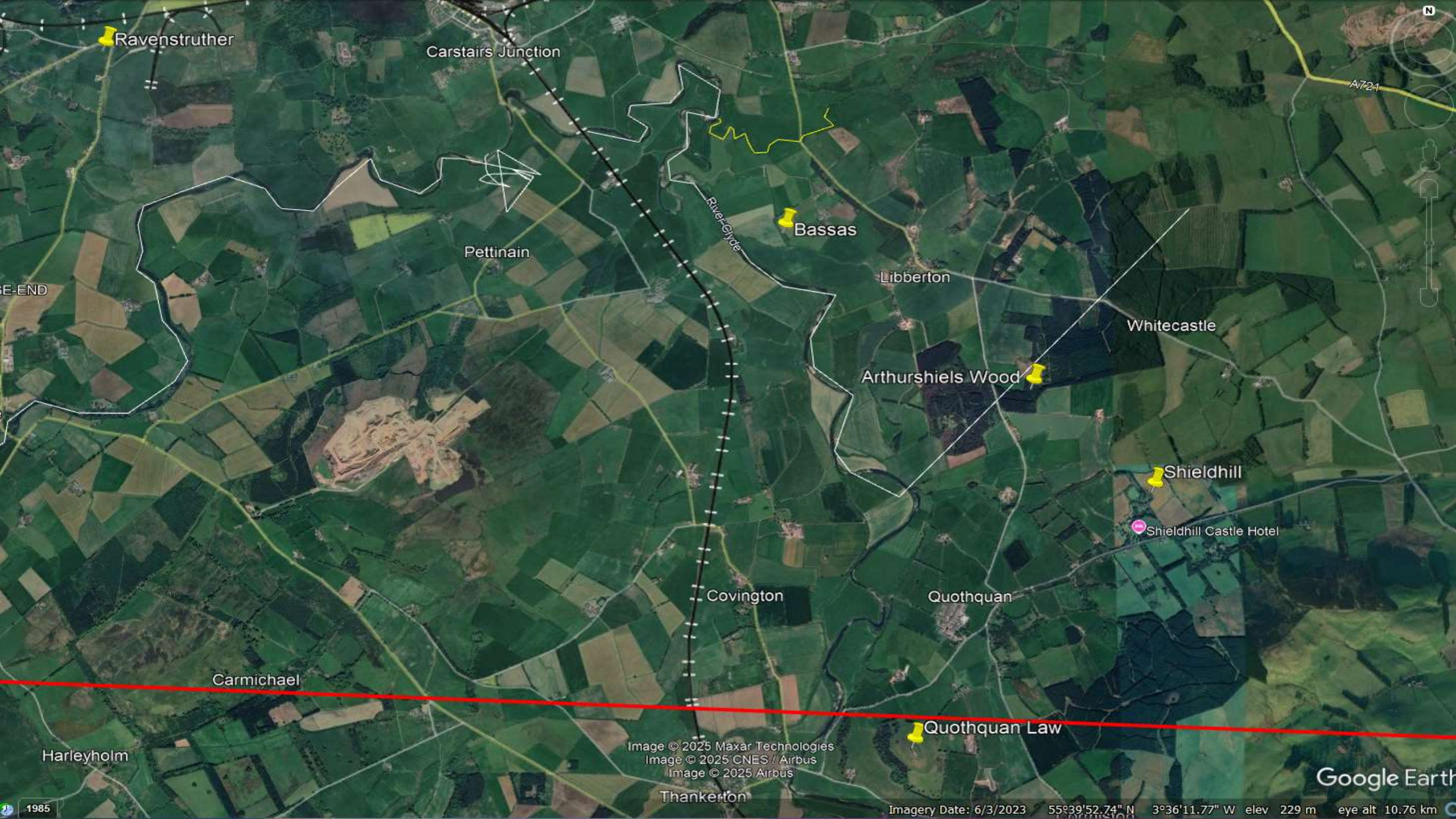
Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth





- 
- Battle of Dubhglas Linnus (Battles 2,3,4,5)
 - The Lanark area is surrounded on three sides by rivers
 - The Clyde is joined by the river Douglas (Dubhglas to the South)
 - Roman forts at Lanark were probably reoccupied by Angles
 - Castlesteads Roman fort guards the point between the Clyde and Mouse rivers
 - There is an old crossing point called Arthur's Craigs on the Falls of Clyde
 - A medieval church dedicated to St. Kentigern stands in Lanark
 - William Wallace is said to have been married in Lanark and also killed its sheriff William Heselrig here



Ravenstruther

Carstairs Junction

Pettinain

Bassas

Libberton

Whitecastle

Arthurshiels Wood

Shieldhill

Shieldhill Castle Hotel

Covington

Quothquan

Carmichael

Harleyholm

Image © 2025 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2025 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2025 Airbus

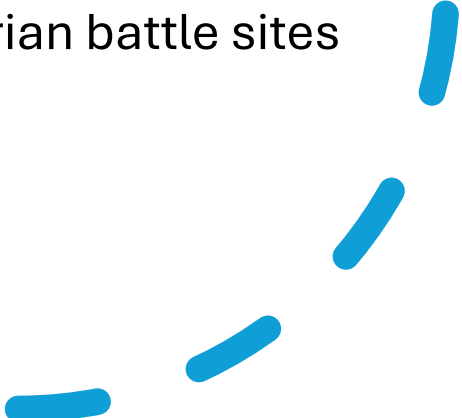
Thankerton

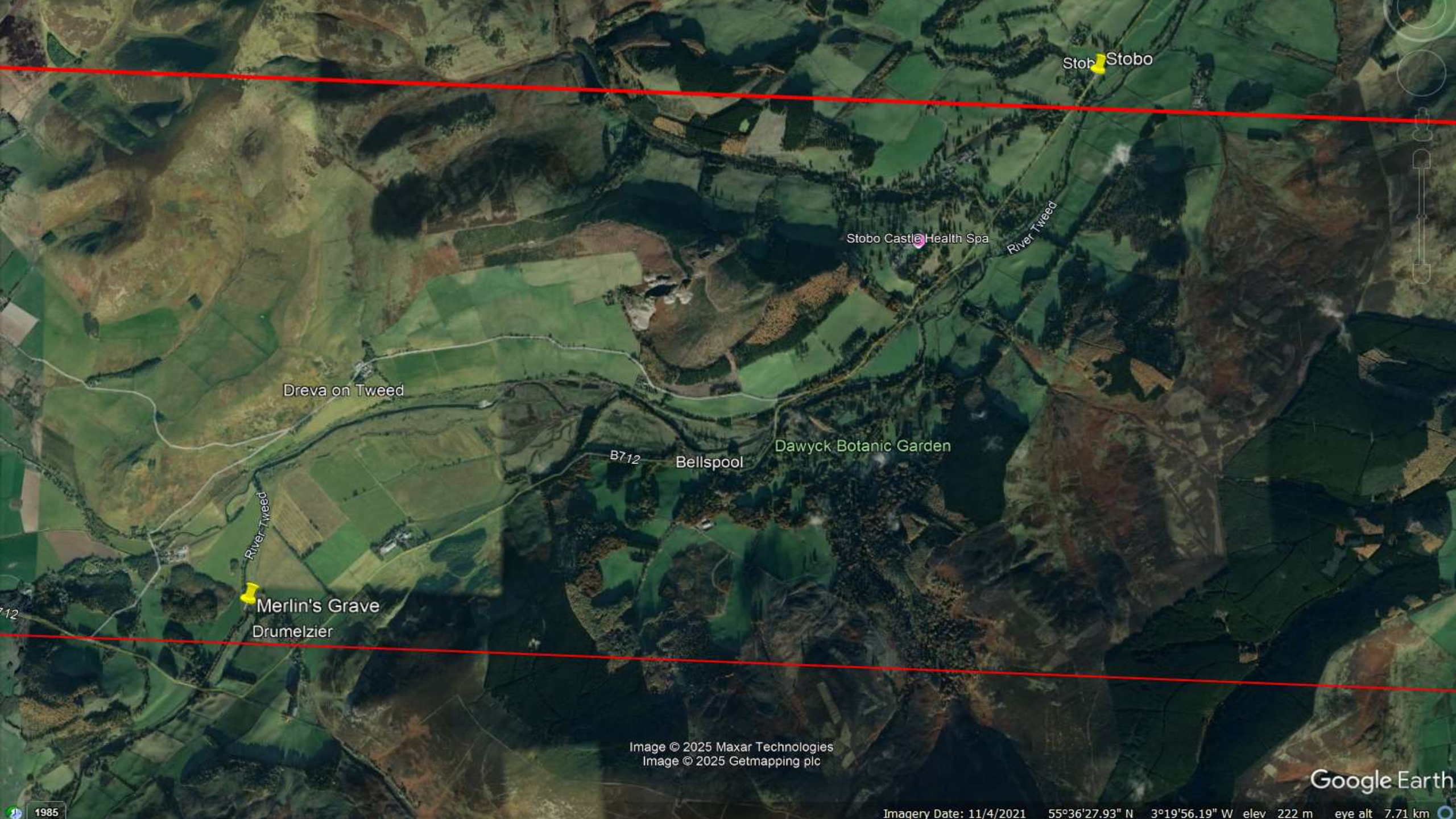
Quothquan Law

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 6/3/2023 55°39'52.74" N 3°36'11.77" W elev 229 m eye alt 10.76 km

1985

- 
- “The sixth battle was on the river called Bassas”
 - An area called Arthurshiels is nearby
 - The landscape is a flood plain with shallows and oxbow lakes
 - Near to Libberton and where the River Medwin joins the Clyde
 - The Welsh translation for “shallows” is ... “Bas”
 - Quothquan Law has a feature called Wallace’s Chair
 - This site sits between two often cited Arthurian battle sites nearby.
- 



Stobo Stobo

Stobo Castle Health Spa

River Tweed

Dreva on Tweed

B712

Bells pool

Dawyck Botanic Garden

River Tweed

Merlin's Grave
Drumelzier

Image © 2025 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2025 Getmapping plc

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 11/4/2021 55°36'27.93" N 3°19'56.19" W elev 222 m eye alt 7.71 km



Mungo baptises Myrddin at Stobo near Peebles



Merlin's Grave by the Tweed



Arter Brae Wood

Kirkton Manor

Cademuir Hill

Kailzie Gardens

Kirkburn

Glen Sax

Cat Coed Celidon

MacBeth's Castle

Glenrath dark age dig

Image © 2025 Maxar Technologies

Borders Aerial Photography

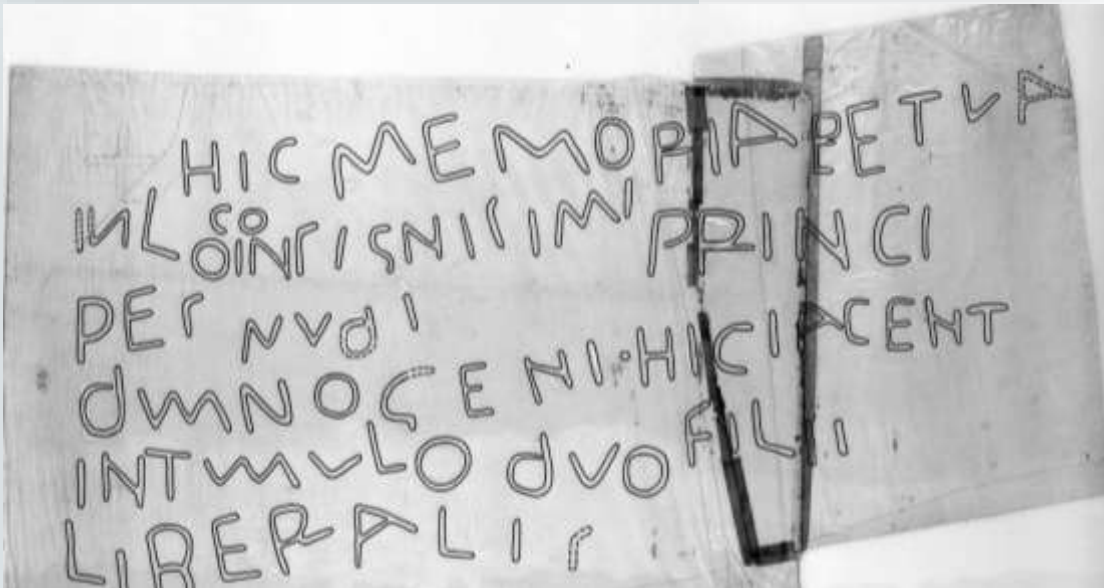
Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 11/4/2021 55°36'25.19" N 3°11'50.50" W elev 475 m eye alt 10.30 km



- *"This is the everlasting memorial. In this place lie the most famous princes Nudoss and Dumnogenus. In this tomb lie the two sons of Liberalis."*





Traquair House

Traquair

Thornylee

Clovenfords

Ashiestiel

Caddonfoc

Cat Craig

Yarrowford

Newark Castle

Bowhill

Philiphaugh

Yarrow

Yarrow Stone

Image © 2025 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2025 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth



“The seventh battle was in the forest of Celidon, that is Cat Coit Celidon.”

Most writers and commentators agree that the location of Arthur’s seventh battle was in this area’

There is local lore about an Arthurian battle in the area.

Lots of Roman infrastructure in the area that could be re-used

William Wallace is said to have been defeated at nearby Happrew

”The eighth was near Guinnion castle, where Arthur bore the image of the Holy Virgin, mother of God, upon his shoulders (shield?), and through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the holy Mary, put the Saxons to flight, and pursued them the whole day with great slaughter.”

Local lore concerning an Arthurian battle

Ancient church of St.Mary said to be founded by Arthur

Arthur is said to have fought with the Virgin Mary on his shield

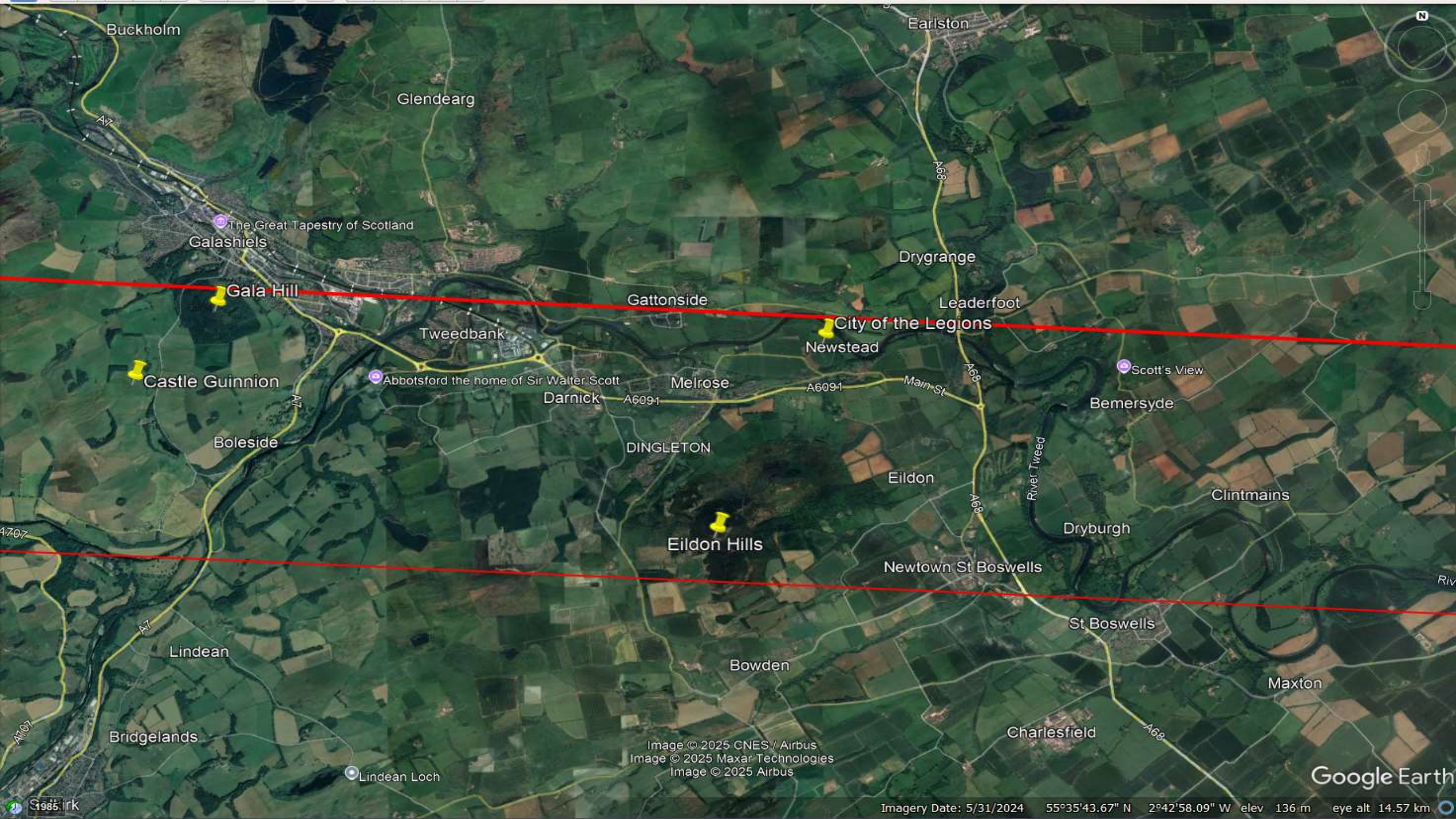
Lots of Roman infrastructure (2 x roads meet)

Defensive sites – ring forts,

Wallace site – (Wallace’s Trench)

A tenth century handwritten document in the Vatican Library by Marc the Anchorite apparently describes in detail a fort near Stow of Wedale in this area citing it as Guinnion.





Buckholm

Glendearg

Earlston

The Great Tapestry of Scotland
Galashiels

Gala Hill

Gattonside

Drygrange

Leaderfoot

City of the Legions

Newstead

Tweedbank

Abbotsford the home of Sir Walter Scott

Melrose

Darnick

DINGLETON

Eildon

Bemersyde

Scott's View

Clintmains

Dryburgh

Newtown St Boswells

St Boswells

Maxton

Charlesfield

Bowden

Lindean

Bridgelands

Lindean Loch

Image © 2025 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2025 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 5/31/2024 55°35'43.67" N 2°42'58.09" W elev 136 m eye alt 14.57 km

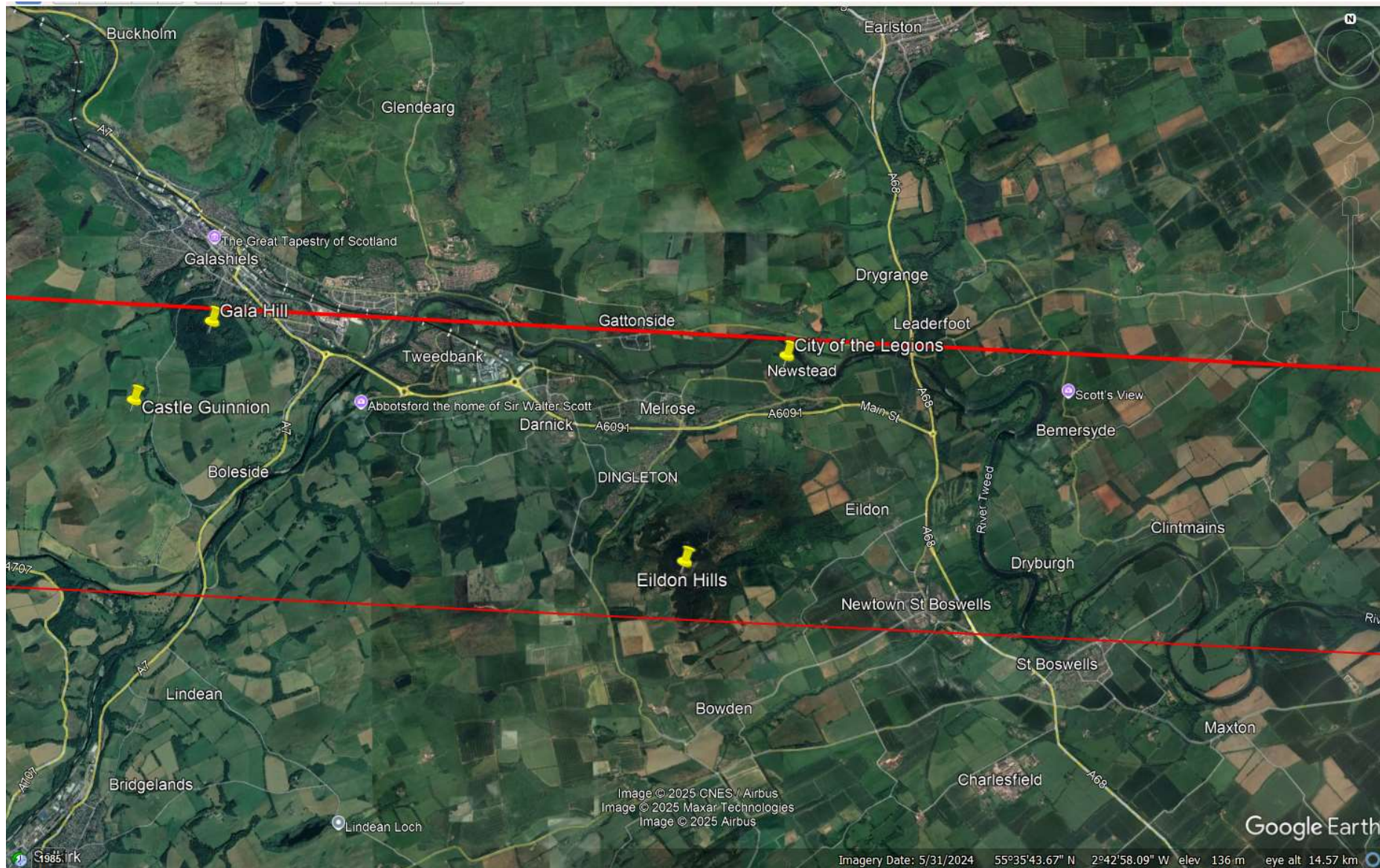
The City of the Legions

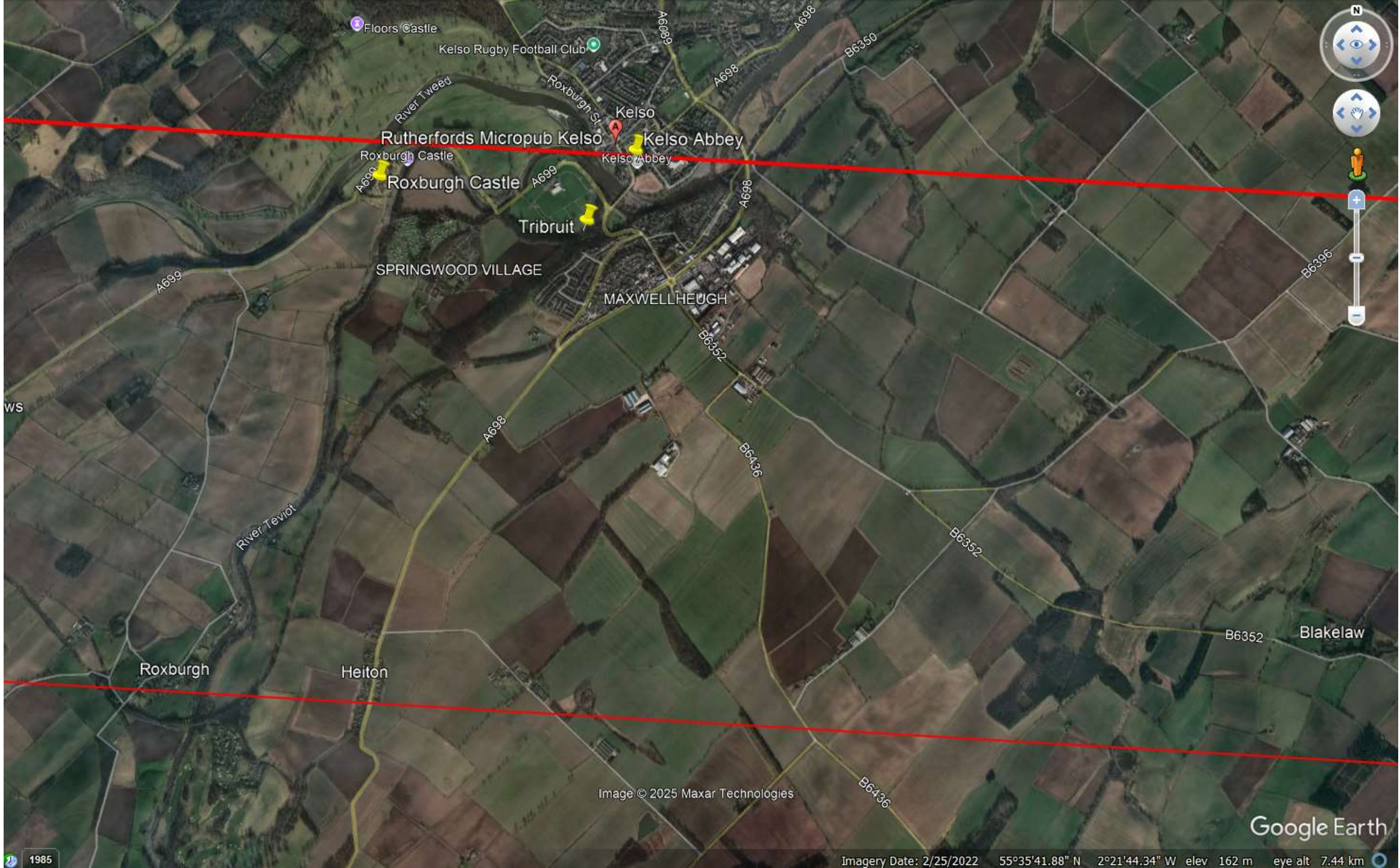
- The Romans occupied Newstead or “Trimontium” for 200 years
- The fort was occupied by at least 2000 men
- There was an adjacent town and ampitheatre
- Mainly held Roman cavalry











Floors Castle

Kelso Rugby Football Club

Roxburgh St

Kelso

Rutherford's Micropub Kelso

Kelso Abbey

Roxburgh Castle

Roxburgh Castle

Kelso Abbey

Tribruit

SPRINGWOOD VILLAGE

MAXWELLHEUGH

River Teviot

Roxburgh

Heiton

B6352

Blakelaw

Image © 2025 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 2/25/2022 55°35'41.88" N 2°21'44.34" W elev 162 m eye alt 7.44 km



10. Tribruit, Traeth Tryfrwyd,

At the confluence of the rivers Tweed and Teviot

Historian Alistair Moffat cites it as a significant
Arthurian location

Tryfrwrd (Welsh) is said to mean “pierced” or
“speckled”

The battle is said to have been fought on the “shores”
of the river

The shores and banks of the river are composed of
white limestone

Blood on limestone?

Roxburgh Castle has long been strategically important
where David I had his capital.

- 
- David was sent to France by his father Malcolm III (Canmore) for safety during strife in Scotland.
 - David and his father are often accused of bringing the feudal system to Scotland
 - It is true that when he returned David brought monks, craftsmen and nobles to Scotland.
 - David's chaplain John Capellanus was a monk from Tiron in France and carried out a number of significant ecclesiastical building projects in Scotland.
 - The Tironese monks built Selkirk Abbey, Jedburgh Abbey, Kelso Abbey, Lesmahagow Priory and Kilwinning Priory.
 - David was visited by Hugh dePayens grand master of the Knights Templar who was touring Europe. Seeking support via donations of money, land and recruits.
 - DePayens was master of the temple mount in Jerusalem and founded the order with his cousin Bernard of Clairvaux.
 - The Templars were a renowned order warriors who would take vows not to retreat in battle, not to kill unless necessary, vows of chastity and poverty. They protected pilgrimage routes, built thousands of properties throughout Europe and the Holy Land and created a banking system and loaned money to kings and popes.
 - Bernard of Clairvaux, a Cistercian monk, is a major and very influential figure during the Middle Ages.
 - David donated lands in Balantrodoch Lothian where dePayens build a temple.
 - The order ended in 1312 when Philip IV of France and Pope Clement V, who were in huge financial debt to the Templars, ordered an assault on the order Europe wide. Their grand Master Jaques Molay was burned at the stake, many Templars fled to Scotland and were reputed to have fought with Robert Bruce at Bannockburn 1314.



Image © 2025 CNES / Airbus

Humble Google Earth

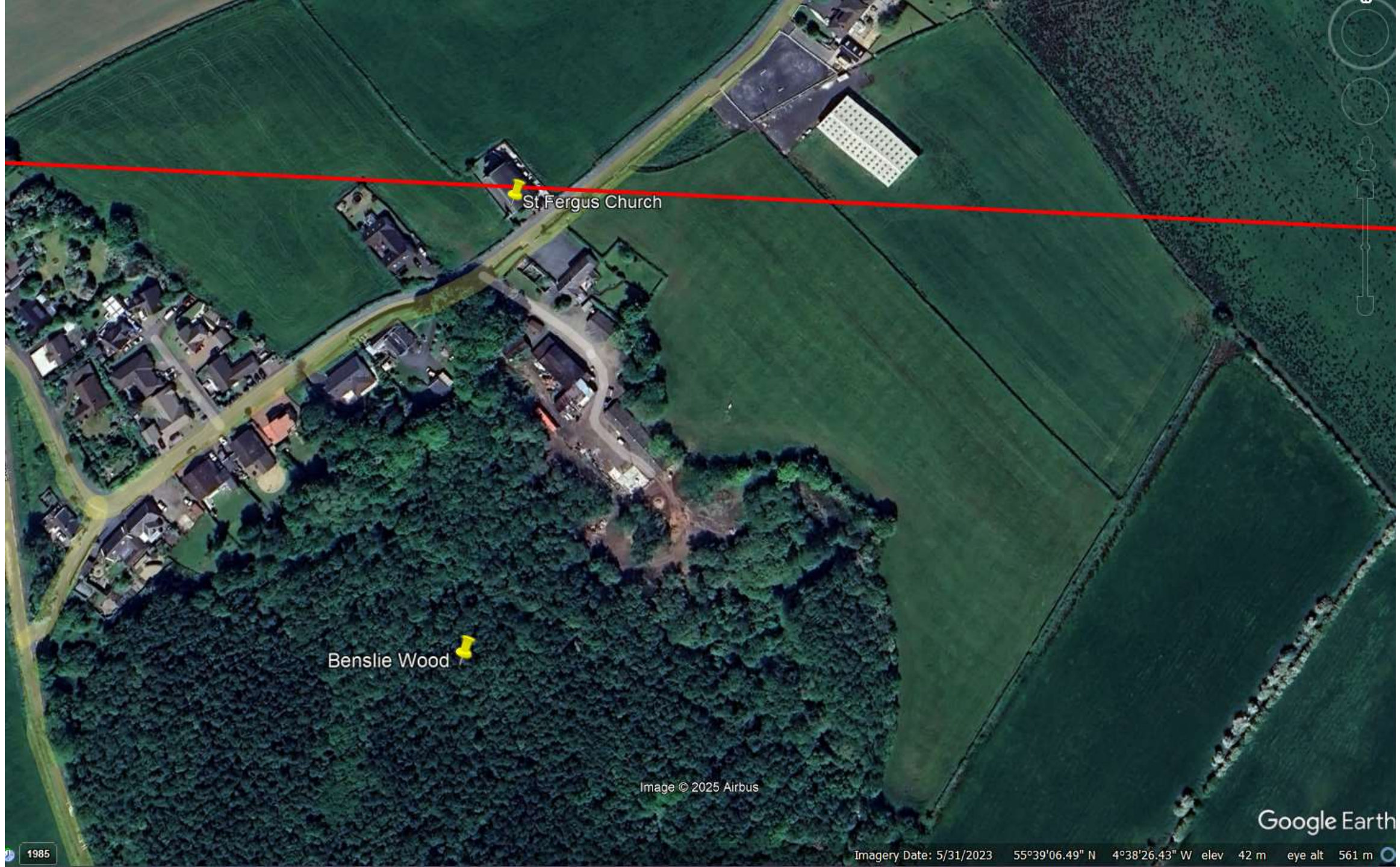
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1985



Ad Gefrin, Northumberland





St Fergus Church

Benslie Wood

Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/31/2023 55°39'06.49" N 4°38'26.43" W elev 42 m eye alt 561 m

**Position of
Church 1879**

**Eglinton
Castle**



Benislay

MOUNT HEREDOM

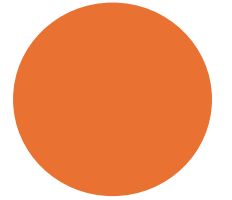
Templar ritual or ceremonial site with connections to Eglinton Castle.

Sir Hew of Eglinton was not only a favourite in the Royal Court of Scotland but also in England, for he was given safe passage to visit King Edward III in London on numerous occasions and especially the years 1358 and 1359 when Edward held his great Round Table functions of Arthurian and Grail themes.

Heredom Discovered
Shaun McDowell Linton



- Bamburgh Castle, and Lindisfarne Northumberland.









- The Arran Alps from Millport including Goat Fell, Suidhe Fheargas and Caisteal Abhail and the “Sleeping Warrior”.



- 
- So.....
 - There is a charter from the time of Malcolm Canmore which describes Dumbarton Castle as “Castello Arturius”, why was it named thus?
 - Malcolm was first to negotiate with the Normans
 - David was sent to the Cotentin Peninsula in France for safety and for his education and was influenced by how they organised their society.
 - David’s sister Married King Henry 1st of England
 - David took the title “Prince of the Cumbrians”, was this one promotion away from King of the Britons?
 - Did David take the opportunity to create an Arthurian landscape while England was in Crisis?
 - David had met the Grand Master of the Templars and David’s Chaplain was an expert church builder. Was this the chance to build a pilgrimage route to bring in revenue via Christians who wanted to visit saint locations and the new Arthurian battle sites?
 - David died in 1153 but the building of churches on the line continued. Did the project end when Henry II came to the Throne?
 - After Henry II died his son, Richard the Lionheart presented King Tancred of Sicily with “Excalibur” as a gift for aiding access to the Holy Land and so that Tancred might marry his sister Joan?
 - Later, the English began creating their own Arthurian Landscape







AND THE SQUARE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE



Thank You