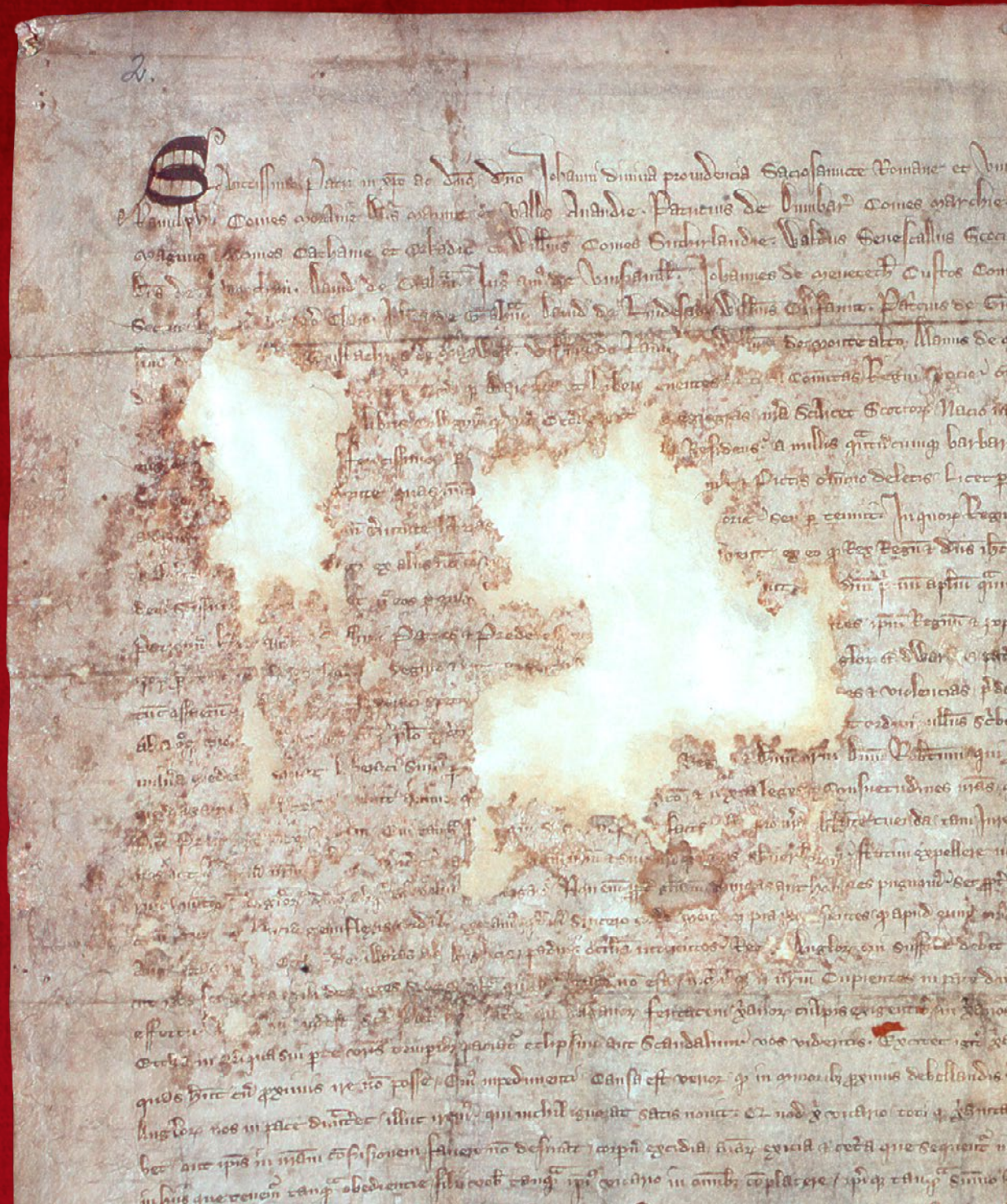




HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

ROBERT THE BRUCE & THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH PLACES TO VISIT

Part of Historic
Environment
Scotland



**We fight not for glory,
nor for wealth, nor honour
but only and alone for freedom
which no good man surrenders
but with his life.**

The Declaration of Arbroath, 6 April 1320



WHAT WAS THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH?

Sent from Arbroath Abbey and dated 6 April 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath was a letter to the Pope from the noblemen and landowners of Scotland. It was written after nearly 25 years of war over control of the nation, and asserted Scotland's right to be recognised as an independent power, as well as demanding recognition for Robert the Bruce as rightful king.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since the 1290s, the English kings Edward I and Edward II had claimed overall control of Scotland. Bruce had seized the crown in 1306, but his enemies on both sides of the Border had refused to acknowledge him as King of Scots, even after his great victory at Bannockburn in 1314. If the Pope could be persuaded to lend his support to Bruce, Edward might concede, allowing peace to return to the warring nations.

THE HISTORIC SCOTLAND EXPLORER PASS

Join us in celebrating the 700th anniversary of this important document at Arbroath, and at other locations with strong connections to the story.

Visiting Arbroath Abbey and discovering the real story of Robert the Bruce can create an intriguing and fascinating theme for a visit to Scotland. Our Explorer Pass makes it simple to travel around the sites that tell Bruce's tales, and is excellent value for money.

As well as the sites featured on our trail, which all have connections to Robert the Bruce and the Declaration, there are many others to visit around the country. Passes can be used as part of a package or offered as an optional add-on.

- Includes access to all 77 Historic Scotland attractions
- Fast track entry to all sites



PERTHSHIRE, KINROSS & ANGUS

1 ARBROATH ABBEY

Postcode DD11 1EG

Open all year

Arbroath Abbey was one of the largest and most important abbeys in Scotland, founded in 1178 by King William I. It was frequently visited by Robert the Bruce, who attended religious services here and installed his chancellor, Bernard of Kilwinning, as Abbot of Arbroath in 1310. The letter sent from Arbroath in 1320 was probably drafted under Bernard's supervision, and noblemen came from all over Scotland to add their seals, signifying their approval. The abbey survives as a spectacular ruin, and a new exhibition has been installed to bring to life the story of the Declaration of Arbroath.





KINGDOM OF FIFE

2 DUNFERMLINE ABBEY & PALACE

Postcode KY12 7PE

Open all year

Some of Scotland's greatest medieval monarchs were laid to rest at Dunfermline Abbey Church. Robert the Bruce was buried here in 1329, though not before his heart was removed to be taken on Crusade. Near the end of his life, Bruce contributed funds for the rebuilding of the abbey buildings, which had been damaged during the Wars of Independence. A skeleton, which at the time was thought to be Bruce's, was found during construction of the new parish church in 1818 and his name is memorialised in the parapet of the 19th century church tower.



3 ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL

Postcode KY16 9QL

Open all year

The remains of Scotland's largest and most magnificent medieval church, St Andrews Cathedral is a prominent landmark. Bishop William Lamberton of St Andrews was the head of the Scottish church and one of Bruce's main allies; they were appointed joint Guardians of Scotland in 1298-9, together with Bruce's rival John Comyn. In 1309, Bruce held his first parliament at the cathedral, and on 5 July 1318 he attended the cathedral's consecration by Lamberton, which had been delayed by the Wars of Independence. On 6 April 1320, Bishop Lamberton sent one of two accompanying letters that were presented to the Pope along with the Declaration of Arbroath. The other was from Bruce himself.

NORTH & GRAMPIAN

4 KILDRUMMY CASTLE

Postcode AB33 8RA

Open summer only

'The noblest of northern castles', Kildrummy was owned by the Earls of Mar, who were linked to Bruce by marriage. After seizing the throne in 1306, Bruce sent his wife Elizabeth and daughter Marjorie to Kildrummy for their safety, but the castle was soon besieged by English forces. Bruce's brother Neil was executed, and Elizabeth and Marjorie were taken hostage. In 1335, Bruce's sister Christina defended Kildrummy against a pro-English force under David, Earl of Atholl.

5 DEER ABBEY

Near Mintlaw

Open all year

This tranquil Cistercian monastery was founded by William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, in the early 1200s. In 1308, the abbey was probably sacked when Bruce drove William's grandson John into exile and ordered Buchan be ravaged *'fra end till end and sparyt nane'*.

6 URQUHART CASTLE

Postcode IV63 6XJ

Open all year

Magnificent Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness was captured by Bruce in 1307 as he unleashed his fury against the Comyns (Sir Alexander Comyn of Badenoch had been made constable at Urquhart by Edward I three years earlier). Around 1312, Bruce gave Urquhart to his favoured nephew, Sir Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, who later led a heroic raid on Edinburgh Castle.

7 BALVENIE CASTLE

Postcode AB55 4GH

Open summer only

A wide ditch encircles this striking, curtain-walled castle. On 22 May 1308, Bruce defeated John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, in battle at Inverurie, 30 miles south-east of Balvenie Castle, after which he brutally stamped out the inhabitants of Buchan.





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GLASGOW, CLYDE & AYRSHIRE

8 DUMBARTON CASTLE

Postcode G82 1JJ

Open all year

Dumbarton Castle stood at the heart of an ancient kingdom covering the area now known as Strathclyde. The castle was captured in 1296, during Edward I's first campaign in Scotland, but fell back into Scottish hands after Wallace and Moray's victory at Stirling Bridge in 1297. Bruce died nearby in his manor at Cardross in 1329.

9 GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

Postcode G4 0QZ

Open all year

Visit Glasgow Cathedral, the spot where Scotland's largest city first began to take shape. The Cathedral was the seat of Bruce's key ally, Bishop Robert Wishart, who helped arrange the lifting of his original excommunication.

10 DUNDONALD CASTLE

Postcode KA2 9HD

Open all year

The second castle at Dundonald was destroyed around 1298, possibly by Bruce while Earl of Carrick. The castle's owner, Walter, the 6th High Steward, fought with Bruce at Bannockburn and later added his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath. He married Bruce's daughter Marjorie; their son became King Robert II, founder of the Stewart line, the UK's most enduring royal dynasty.

11 BOTHWELL CASTLE

Postcode G71 8BL

Open all year

Hotly fought over during the Wars of Independence, Bothwell Castle was captured by Edward I in 1301, and remained in English hands until June 1314. In the aftermath of Bannockburn, many of Edward's senior knights took shelter here. Bruce sent his brother Edward Bruce here, where he captured some very valuable English prisoners.

CENTRAL & WEST

12 STIRLING CASTLE

Postcode FK8 1EJ

Open all year

Stirling is one of Scotland's greatest stone castles. Bruce would have been present at the siege of 1304: at that time he was an ally of Edward I. Stirling Castle was also besieged by Bruce's forces in May 1314, which led to the Battle of Bannockburn, a turning point in the Wars of Independence and in the fortunes of Bruce and his foe Edward II of England. The face of the statue at Bannockburn battlefield was modelled on the skull found at Dunfermline.

13 KILCHURN CASTLE

Postcode PA33 1AF

Open summer only

From a galley on Loch Awe, close to where the castle stands today, John MacDougall of Lorne watched his army routed by Bruce's forces in the Battle of the Pass of Brander in 1308. The Campbells, who had supported Bruce, were rewarded with lands around Loch Awe, replacing MacDougall as Argyll's dominant family. The castle that stands now came later.

14 IONA ABBEY

Postcode PA76 6SQ

Open all year

Take the foot ferry to Iona and step off onto one of Scotland's most sacred sites. Angus Og MacDonald, a follower of Bruce, is buried here. The founder of the first monastery at Iona, St Columba, was believed to bring blessings to Scottish forces in battle. The legendary Brechbennach (probably a reliquary or box containing relics of Columba) was kept at Arbroath Abbey, and supposedly carried into battle at Bannockburn, Bruce's great victory over Edward II of England in 1314. The Monymusk Reliquary, now in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, is sometimes said to be the Brechbennach.

15 CAMBUSKENNETH ABBEY

1m east of Stirling

Open summer only

During the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, the disaffected Earl of Atholl led his men against the troops guarding the Scottish supply depot. Shortly after the battle, Bruce held a parliament at Cambuskenneth at which those Scots who had opposed him were stripped of their titles and estates, and he compelled cross-border landowners to choose between Scottish and English estates.

In 1326, another Cambuskenneth parliament agreed the royal line of succession to follow Robert, via his daughter Marjorie, which ultimately put the Stewart dynasty on the throne in 1371.

16 DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE

Postcode PA37 1PZ

Open all year

Dunstaffnage was the seat of the MacDougalls of Argyll. They sided with the Balliols during and after the Great Cause of 1290-1, which led to John Balliol being selected over Robert Bruce (Robert the Bruce's grandfather) as King. After seizing the throne in 1306, Bruce moved ruthlessly to eliminate his rivals and enemies. After trapping MacDougall's forces at the Pass of Brander, Bruce pursued them to Dunstaffnage, which he besieged. Despite MacDougall's appeal to Edward II for assistance, the castle soon fell to Bruce.





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18



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EDINBURGH & LOTHIAN

17 EDINBURGH CASTLE

Postcode EH1 2NG

Open all year

In March 1314, Bruce sent his nephew, Sir Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, to attack the castle. In a daring raid, Randolph and his men scaled the rock and captured the castle. Bruce then had most of it demolished to prevent it from being useful to the English. Discover more of this story in the *Fight for the Castle* exhibition. The Earl of Moray was one of the noblemen who added their seals to the Declaration of Arbroath. 20th century statues of Bruce and Wallace guard the door at Edinburgh Castle.

18 HOLYROOD ABBEY

Postcode EH8 8DX

Open all year

Bruce held a parliament at Holyrood Abbey in 1328, at which the Treaty of Edinburgh was ratified. This recognised Bruce as rightful King of Scots, and brought a temporary halt to the Wars of Independence. Its terms also included a marriage between Bruce's son (later David II) and Edward III's sister Joan. Bruce stayed here during the parliament.

Note. Holyrood Abbey accessed in the grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse – tickets for the Palace must be purchased to visit.

19 LINLITHGOW PALACE

Postcode EH49 7AL

Open all year

Explore the magnificent ruins of Linlithgow Palace, where a royal manor once stood. Edward I made Linlithgow his base during his campaigns of 1296 and 1301, and expanded it in 1302-3. The site remained in English hands and, in 1310, Edward II spent a week at Linlithgow during one of his Scottish campaigns. It was recaptured by Bruce's followers in 1313. John Barbour's famous epic poem *The Brus* describes at length how a cattleman named Bunnock jammed the gates open with his cart and slew the porter with a single blow, allowing Bruce's troops to flood in and overwhelm the English garrison.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

20 CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE

Postcode DG1 4RU

Open all year

Besieged and captured by Edward I in 1300, Caerlaverock Castle remained in English hands until 1312 when the keeper Sir Eustace Maxwell changed his allegiance to Robert the Bruce. He was besieged by the English, but held out. In 1313, with the castle secured, Bruce ordered it to be demolished to prevent the English invaders from using it. Sir Eustace later added his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath. You can now explore this unique triangular wide-moated castle.



SCOTTISH BORDERS

21 MELROSE ABBEY

Postcode TD6 9LG

Open all year

Discover a place so beloved by Robert the Bruce, he chose it as the final resting place for his heart. In 1302, Bruce wrote to Melrose Abbey to apologise for attempting to press its tenants into battle against the English.

After his death in 1329, his heart was buried here after being taken on crusade by his loyal ally Sir James Douglas, which was his dying wish.

For opening times, prices and more information on each site, please visit [historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place)



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ROBERT THE BRUCE AND DECLARATION OF ARBROATH TRAIL



1 Arbroath Abbey
Postcode DD11 1EG



2 Urquhart Castle
Postcode IV63 6XJ



3 St Andrews Cathedral
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4 Stirling Castle
Postcode FK8 1EJ



5 Dunfermline Abbey
Postcode KY12 7PE



6 Glasgow Cathedral
Postcode G4 0QZ

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