

Flisk – Site Summaries



Ruins of Flisk Parish Church. (B. Rhodes)

Sacred Landscape Project

St Mary's College, University of St Andrews

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Flisk – Places of Worship – Past and Present

Ballinbreich Castle Chapel / Chapel Hill / Glenduckie Chapel, Ballinbreich

Denomination: Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland

Period: Late Medieval, Early Modern

Current Place of Worship? No

There is thought to have been a chapel located slightly to the east of the ruins of Ballinbreich Castle. In the 1840s it was noted that ‘the foundations of an ecclesiastical edifice’ could still be seen here. It is possible that this was the site of the medieval chapel of Glenduckie. If so, the chapel was already in existence in the 1450s and continued as a place of worship until at least the 1680s.

Sources

G. Marshall, ‘Parish of Flisk’, *New Statistical Account* (1845), vol. 9, p. 601.

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for ‘Ballinbreich Castle. Available at:

<http://canmore.org.uk/site/30464>



View across fields in direction of Ballinbreich Castle. The former chapel site is covered by the woodland to the right of the castle. (Source: Bess Rhodes / University of St Andrews)

Creich and Flisk Free Church, Brunton

Denomination: Free Church

Period: Late Modern

Current Place of Worship? No

Creich and Flisk Free Church was founded in the 1840s. The congregation was established by Dr Taylor, who had formerly been minister of Flisk Parish Church, but left the Church of Scotland during the Great Disruption of 1843. Following the union of the United Free Church with the Church of Scotland in 1929 worship appears to have ceased at this site. The former church is now ruined and is on the register for buildings at risk.

Sources

Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland, 'Free Church, Brunton'. Available at:

<https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/details/907391>

University of St Andrews Library, Records of Creich and Flisk Free and United Free Church, CH3/1582.



Creich and Flisk Free Church and Manse shown on the 1855 OS map of Fife. (Source: National Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74426822>)

East Flisk Chapel / Birkhill, Flisk Wood

Denomination: Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland

Period: Late Medieval? Early Modern?

Current Place of Worship? No

There appears to be the remains of a chapel in the southern section of Flisk Wood. Its origins are uncertain. James Gordon of Rothiemay's 1642 map of Fife appears to show two churches at Flisk. The western one is labelled 'Flisk Kirk' and appears to be on the site of the former Flisk Parish Church. However, the eastern site is simply labelled 'Flisk' and may be a representation of the chapel in Flisk Wood. In the 1840s there was visible in the woods 'low ruins' and an 'enclosing wall', which were thought to be associated with a former place of worship. By the 1950s it was noted that the foundations of 'the chapel' were 'under turf' meanwhile 'the enclosing bank of the graveyard' was apparently 'earthen' and had been used as a 'tree-bank'.

Sources

James Gordon of Rothiemay, 'Fyfe Shire' (1642). NLS, Adv.MS.70.2.10 (Gordon 53). Available at:

<https://maps.nls.uk/rec/52>.

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for 'East Flisk'. Available at: <http://canmore.org.uk/site/31835>

G. Marshall, 'Parish of Flisk', *New Statistical Account* (1845), vol. 9, p. 601.



Detail of James Gordon of Rothiemay's map of Fife in the 1640s showing Flisk Kirk and another church at Flisk – perhaps East Flisk Chapel. (Source National Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk/view/00000999>)

Flisk Parish Church

Denomination: Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland

Period: High Medieval, Late Medieval, Early Modern, Late Modern

Current Place of Worship? No

There seems to have been a parish church at Flisk as early as the 1170s. The medieval parish church survived into the late eighteenth century, before eventually being demolished and replaced by a new building constructed 'near the site of the former' church in about 1790. It was claimed that at the time of its demolition the medieval church had stood 'for 500 years'. The new church was praised as 'a neat edifice' and had seats for 153 people. In the nineteenth century Flisk Parish Church was described as being 'beautifully situated on the banks of the Tay'. In the early 1970s the congregation at Flisk became part of the combined parish of Creich, Flisk, and Kilmany. Worship appears to have ceased at Flisk around this date. The church is now roofless, although some conservation work has been undertaken. The churchyard has a number of notable tombstones, many of which predate the rebuilding of 1790.

Sources

I. Cowan, *Parishes of Medieval Scotland* (1967), p. 67.

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for 'Flisk Parish Church'. Available at:

<http://canmore.org.uk/site/31843>

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for 'St Adrian's Old Parish Church, Flisk'. Available at:

<http://canmore.org.uk/site/31850>

G. Marshall, 'Parish of Flisk', *New Statistical Account* (1845), vol. 9, pp. 601, 607.

University of St Andrews Library, Records of Flisk Kirk Session, CH2/1545.



The ruins of Flisk Parish Church. (Source: Bess Rhodes / University of St Andrews)