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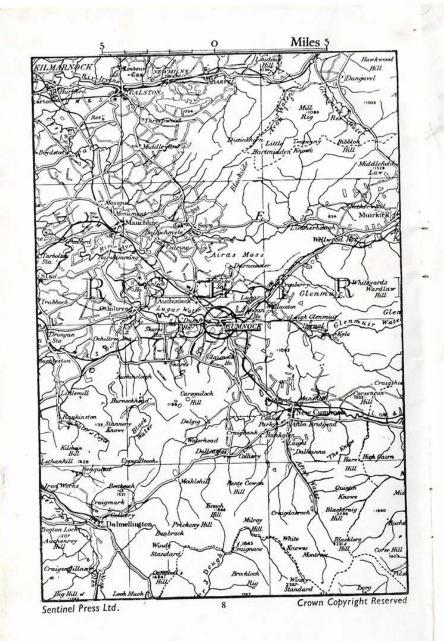
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and
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Main Street, Auchinleck

Telephone No. : CUMNOCK 3272

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THE BURGH OF CUMNOCK

Situated in the County of Ayrshire, and in the centre of that county, the Burgh of Cumnock lies in a sheltered position in the valley, where the waters of the Glaisnock and the Lugar meet. It is 60 miles from Edinburgh, 16 miles from both Ayr and Kilmarnock, 40 miles from Glasgow and 43 from Dumfries.

Although, when standing in the streets of the town, the visitor may look up towards the surrounding hills, the burgh is far from being low-lying, being 362 feet above sea level, and rising in some parts to 500 feet.

There would appear to be some controversy regarding the manner in which Cumnock received its name. Some authorities aver that the name is indicative of its situation in the small valley, whereas W. C. Mackenzie, in his book, "Scottish Place Names," opines that the name is cognate with that of Contin, meaning water meet, and that it originates from the fact of Cumnock being on the bank of the Glaisnock which falls into Lugar Water, and is based upon the Gaelic commun—meaning confluence.

Unfortunately the origin of the name is not made any more certain by the observations of James B. Johnston, B.D., F.R.Hist.Soc. in his own book, "Place Names of Scotland." This author is of the opinion that the name "Cunnocke" originated in the year 1297 and has gone through other forms, such as "enock" and "Cunnok," meaning "a shrine" of St. Bride's Bank, and that the name "Giffnock" originated in a similar manner. It would seem, therefore, that the original meaning of the name has never been made really clear.

Of outstanding historical events there is little to record in connection with Cumnock, although it receives mention in ancient documents, until the days of the Covenanters. In the churchyard here lie the remains of "Prophet" Peden, who was originally buried at Auchinleck, but who was removed from there to Cumnock by dragoons, who placed his remains below the gallows in the town. Others of a like persuasion also died in this area.

It is natural because of its situation that Cumnock should have associations with the poet Robert Burns, who had friends resident in the town and visited them from time to time, and in his collected poems will be found a memory of such visits in the lines:

"The rising moon begins to glower
The distant Cumnock hills out-owre..."

Two other famous names connected with this area are those of Dr. Johnson and his friend and biographer, James Boswell, who was the eldest son of Lord Auchinleck, the Scottish judge. The literary tastes of Boswell were highly developed, and prompted him to seek out and make

a friend of Johnson, of whose life he has given the most interesting account, which is generally held to be the best example of a faithful biography in the English language.

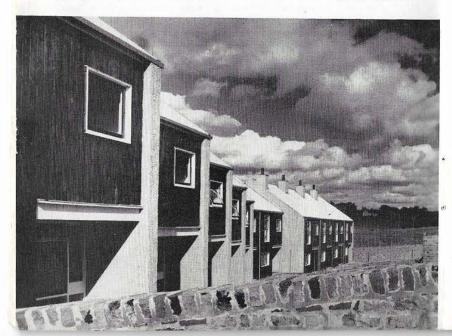
Boswell's father, Lord Auchinleck, built the house which bears his name, and which stands only three miles away from Cumnock, and Boswell himself is buried in the church here. It is recorded that Dr. Johnson made a visit to the house and noted it as a modern mansion in 1773, but added that he was less delighted with the elegance of the modern mansion than with the sullen dignity of the old castle which adjoins.

Another name which has a far different connection is that of William Murdoch, who was born in 1754 at Bello Mill, Lugar, only 2½ miles from Cumnock, and who carried out early experiments with a view to perfecting illumination with the use of coal gas. For this purpose he used a cave in the neighbourhood, which may still be seen.

Apart from Auchinleck House, the home of the Boswells, there are a number of other mansion houses in the vicinity, notable among them Dumfries House and Glaisnock House. The latter is now a residential Agricultural School.

Barshare Housing Development 1963 Saltire Award Five Apartment Houses

(Photo by Henk Snock)





Cumnock Workingmen's Club

The town of Cumnock became a Police Burgh in the year 1866, and as will be seen later is governed by a Town Council. Although a market town, an industrial and residential centre, Cumnock is also highly favoured by visitors, especially during the summer season, when it becomes a touring centre with facilities for visitors to visit the surrounding country-side and places of interest, though it has much to offer in its own right, as will be seen by the information contained in the following pages.

Of the town itself it may be said that it is a clean and attractive, a well-planned and well built centre, built round its Market Square, wherein stands the Parish Church, and the old Mercat Cross. The motorist will find it a convenient town, for there are two parking places—in Waterside Place, near the Square itself, and in Ayr Road—while modern garages in the town offer all the facilities he is likely to require.

From the wider viewpoint it is, too, an up-to-date town, with electricity, gas, an abundant supply of pure water, and a modern drainage system. Electricity is supplied by the South of Scotland Electricity Board, from the power station in Kilmarnock, and gas by the Scottish Gas Board. The water supply is drawn from Borland Reservoir and after filtration in the most modern manner is piped to the town.

Walking through the town with its pleasant streets and open square

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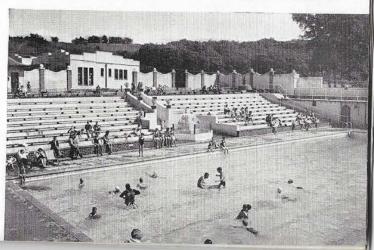
the visitor can hardly fail to notice the number of new houses which have been erected in modern times. The Council has always been alive to the needs of its residents in this particular, and have completed the erection of more than 1,500 houses, flats and bungalows. Professor Robert H. Matthew, of Edinburgh University, one of Britain's foremost architects, has been retained to plan future housing developments and to advise on the re-development of the Town Centre.

The Council was also responsible for another outstanding feature in the Burgh—the construction of the swimming pool on the bank of the Lugar, and amid attractive scenery. The pool is a well-known centre for both individual bathers and swimming clubs over a wide area. It is recognised as one of the finest inland open air swimming pools in Great Britain.

The dimensions of the pool are 100 feet in length, 45 feet in width, and the depth is graduated from 3 feet 6 inches for learners to 10 feet for the experienced swimmer, while it is equipped with high diving boards and spring boards, rising terraces from which swimming galas and other aquatic events may be witnessed by 2,500 spectators, first-class dressing cubicles, sprays and other conveniences and a cafe. The water is filtered and sterilised and heated to an equable temperature according to the temperature of the air, and the pool holds 200,000 gallons.

Although the scope of the present publication is not sufficient to allow the compilers to enlarge upon all the features of Cumnock, it is hoped that

Swimming Pool, Cumnock



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New High Flats at Barhill Housing Development. A new town is rising. 1966 Civic Trust Commendation (Photo by Henk Snock)

these few introductory paragraphs will have given a preliminary picture of the Burgh. In the following pages an attempt has been made to supplement this information in the form of a Table of Local Information, arranged in alphabetical order for the convenience of the reader, and the closing page gives some indication of the industries operating in and around the Burgh. It is hoped that these features will give a fair description of Cumnock and the district in which it is situated, and that this publication will prove of use to both resident and visitor.

LOCAL INFORMATION

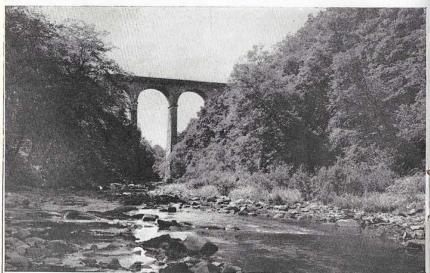
Accessibility.—Access from London is from the station known as Cumnock, which is served by the Northern Region of British Railways, the London termini being St. Pancras and Euston Stations, and trains running via Carlisle and Dumfries.

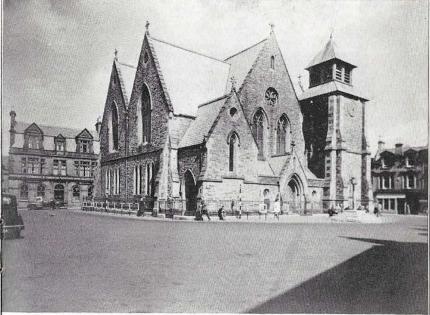
The town is, of course, easily reached from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr and Kilmarnock, while the surrounding district is linked to the town by bus services operated by the Western S.M.T. Co. Ltd., services running to Glasgow, Ayr, Dumfries, Kilmarnock, Auchinleck, Mauchline, New Cumnock and other places.

Accommodation.—Ample accommodation is available in this favoured district for the visitor, both in Cumnock itself and in the surrounding area, and attention is drawn to the information contained on a later page under the heading "Hotels and Inns."

Ambulance Service.—Cumnock has a modern ambulance service which operates throughout the 24 hours of each day.

River Lugar and Viaduct in Woodroad Park, Cumnock





The Square, Cumnock

Area.—The Burgh of Cumnock covers a total area of 584 acres.

Banks.—Banking facilities in the town are provided by branches of the Royal Bank, the Bank of Scotland, the National Commercial Bank, and the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank.

Churches.—The Parish Church of Cumnock stands in a commanding position in the Town Square, and is an edifice in the Gothic style of architecture, and contains a number of stained glass windows, one of which is a memorial to the men who fell in the Great War (1914-18). The Crichton West Church in Ayr Road, also Church of Scotland, is a most attractive building with fine stained glass windows depicting biblical characters and scenes. The religious needs of the residents are also met by services held in St. John's Roman Catholic Church, while there are also United Free, Congregational and Baptist Churches, a Salvation Army Meeting Place, and places of worship for the Plymouth and other Brethren.

Climate.—Being situated amid beautiful and open country, the Burgh enjoys an agreeable climate, with only an average rainfall and long periods of sunshine.

Clubs and Societies.—The residents of Cumnock are communally minded and have founded and enthusiastically support a number of clubs and societies, ranging through youth organisations to educational, recreational and cultural clubs.

The churches have their own youth organisations, and in addition there are troops of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, a company of the Boys' Brigade and of Army cadets. The educational establishments in the town have founded their own societies for literary appreciation and general debates, and there is a Former Pupils' Club. The Cumnock Music Club is one of the best clubs of its kind in the country and promotes five concerts each season, featuring some of the best artists and ensembles in Europe.

In the sporting field there is a football club with its own ground, a badminton club, a tennis club, an Angling Association, a Cycling Club, a well known bowling club, and facilities for putting. Playing field facilities extend to about 55 acres.

Cumnock Carnival.—The Carnival is held on the first week-end after the first Monday in June of each year. It opens on the Friday evening with sports, a concert for old folks, followed by open air entertainment and dancing in the Town Hall.

Carnival Saturday is now a recognised Fair Day where decorated vehicles and fancy dressed walkers, accompanied by several bands, and headed by an open car with the Carnival Queen and her Attendants wind their way through the thronging crowds to the Woodroad Park.

The highlight of the week-end is the crowning of the Carnival Queen, which takes place on an open air platform set amid scenic beauty which only the Woodroad Park can give. Then the Carnival becomes one vast picnic as food and lemonade is provided for all the town's children and the remainder of the day is taken up with a swimming gala, baby show, open air concert and events like show jumping and sports, while the music from the Fair (also in the Park) gives an air of gaiety to a wholly colourful crowded scene. On this festival day the Burgh acts as host to more than three times its population.

Early Closing Day.—Early Closing Day in the Burgh of Cumnock is on Wednesday, when the shops close at 12 o'clock.

Education.—Cumnock offers splendid educational facilities to the children of its residents. There is situated here the Cumnock Academy the largest Senior Secondary School in the whole county, which accepts pupils from the age of five up to eighteen years. Quite apart from the normal curricula in standard subjects, the Academy offers courses in commercial subjects, domestic science, technical subjects, science, art and music, and is outstanding in being the only educational establishment over a wide area which offers a course, extending over two years, in nursing. Under the heading of Clubs and Societies a mention has been made of some of the organisations connected with the Academy, which comprise in full the Literary and Debating Society, a Group concerned with the arrangement of plays and orchestral concerts, and the Former Pupils' Club.

The Academy also has a full sporting life, such recreations as football, rugby football, cricket, swimming, hockey and netball being encouraged.

Greenmill Public School is a most modern building; opened quite recently, it cost £140 000. St. John's and St. Conval's Schools which are Junior Secondary Schools are attended by children of the Catholic faith. Plans are now being prepared for another Roman Catholic School.

Hospital.—With the enlargement of the health services, the necessity for the Cottage Hospital in Cumnock has passed, and the building is now being used as a Convent.

Known as the Bute Cottage Hospital, the building was both erected and furnished by the Marchioness of Bute, the cost exceeding £2,000. The former hospital stands in Barrhill Road and occupies a most attractive position.

Hotels and Inns.—Situated in Cumnock itself are three hotels—the Dumfries Arms Hotel, the Royal Hotel, and the Black Bull—which offer accommodation with comfort and good service to visitors. Among licensed premises are the Wheatsheaf Inn, the Sun Inn, the Buck's Head Inn, the Craighead Inn, the Tup Inn, the Snug Bar and Burns Inn. Also in the town are several restaurants and cafes, namely the Coffee Mill, Quadri's Cafe, the Welcome Cafe, the Coronation Cafe, and the Academy Cafe, and mention may be made of the fact that comfortable accommodation may also be secured in the private houses of residents who rent apartments to visitors.

Indoor Entertainments.—Apart from the facilities offered by the various clubs and institutes in the town, Cumnock has its own cinema, the Cumnock Picture House, in Glaisnock Street, where the latest films may be seen in comfort immediately upon their release in the district. Dances are held regularly at the Town Hall.

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Industries.—The attention of the reader is directed to the section following this Table of Local Information, in which some details are given regarding the industries operating in the Burgh and surrounding districts.

Library.—The Cumnock Public Library, situated at Millbank, is a branch of the Ayr County Library, and is a comparatively modern building equipped with the latest library systems. Here there is a large collecton of books of all types which are freely available to the residents, and to visitors who lodge the tickets issued by their home libraries, and who desire to borrow holiday reading.

The Library is open at the following periods each day (Sundays excepted):—Monday: from 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m. and from 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.; Tuesday: from 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m.; Wednesday: from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.; Thursday: from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and from 3.0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m.; Friday: from 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m. and from 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.; Saturday from 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m. and from 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.

A Library Service is also in operation throughout the area by means of which residents in the Burgh may order special books for study or research, drawn from a number of larger libraries, from commercial sources, and even, in some cases, from private libraries, by the co-operation of individual owners. This service, like the district library service, is entirely free to residents, who pay only the necessary postage when returning the volumes to the library concerned.

Licensed Hours.—Permitted Hours in the Burgh of Cumnock are as follows:—weekdays, from 11.0 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and from 5.0 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays in licensed hotels.

Local Government.—Local Government in Cumnock is represented by the Cumnock Town Council, consisting of a Provost and eight Councillors, among the latter being the Treasurer, two Police Judges and two Bailies. The chief official is the Town Clerk. There is also a Town Chamberlain and Burgh Surveyor. All officials have offices and are resident in Cumnock.

Markets.—Tuesday is market day in Ayr (Friday in Kilmarnock).

Market Cross.—The old Market Cross stands in the Square, adjacent to the Parish Church: it is a Mercat Cross (pertaining to markets or trade), and has carved on it the date 1703 and "repaired in 1778." At one time it displayed the arms of the Earls of Dumfries and the motto of the Crichton family, "God send Grace," but the passage of time has had its effect on these carvings and they are no longer fully visible.

Newspapers.—In addition to the national daily and Sunday newspapers, which are on general sale in the area, news of the district is contained in the weekly *Cumnock Chronicle*, which is published on Fridays.

Political.—Cumnock is situated in the Parliamentary Division of South Ayrshire, the sitting member being Mr. Emrys Hughes, son-in-law of the late James Keir Hardie founder of the Labour Party. Mr. Hughes resides in Cumnock.

Population.—The present population of the Burgh of Cumnock is estimated at approximately 5,500.

Postal Services.—Cumnock has a modern Post Office which was erected in recent years in Lugar Street, and where Telegraph and Money Order business may also be transacted. There is a regular daily collection and delivery service of letters and parcels throughout the Burgh.

Cumnock Senior Club



Public Buildings, Halls and Institutes.—The Cumnock Town Hall is situated in Glaisnock Street and is a structure of red sandstone containing within a principal and secondary hall, these being able to seat 650 and 250 people respectively: in addition there are the Council room, kitchens, a large stage with dressing rooms (it should be noted that the Scottish National Orchestra and the B.B.C. Scottish Orchestra have played on this stage, which will give some indication of its dimensions when fully extended), and a splendid dance floor.

Situated in Lugar Street is the Baird Institute, which was given to the town by the late John Baird. The building was erected in the year 1891 at a cost of some £3,000, and the donor also willed sufficient funds for its upkeep. Within the building there is a museum, reading and recreation rooms, and a billiards room.

The Drill Hall, used by the local Territorials, is situated in Townhead Street and was used during the Second World War as Home Guard Headquarters. In addition to the principal hall, it contains a miniature rifle range, a store room and a recreation room.

Public Health.—Mention has been made of the closing of the Cumnock Cottage Hospital. A very large and modern hospital has been built in recent times at nearby Ballochmyle (6 miles), the services of which are available to the residents of Cumnock, as are those of the Kilmarnock Infirmary and the Ayr County Hospital. Seven general practitioners serve the residents, and there are three dentists.

There is also a Public Health Clinic situated at Millbank, Cumnock, which opens on Tuesdays of each week at 2.45 p.m. for ante-natal services, and at 2.30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month for child welfare services.

Shopping Facilities.—As becomes a market town, Cumnock is a compact and convenient shopping centre, and here are situated shops and business houses representative of all trades and services, and the need does not arise for residents to travel further afield for supplies or goods. As far as local people are concerned, they naturally prefer to patronise the shops and businesses within their own town. Increase in trade in such a direction means a direct, if small increase in the available local employment, and the shopkeepers, as ratepayers and subscribers to local causes, are valuable members of the community, quite apart from the commercial services they offer and the conveniences they provide for the shopper. The attention of the reader is especially directed towards the advertisements which appear in this guide and which give a good indication of the wide variety of shops, business and industrial enterprises situated in Cumnock and district.

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Sport and Recreation.—Cumnock as a holiday centre is ideal for the motorist or for the rambler, for it is situated amid rich, historical and interesting country.

There are two public parks (Wood Road Park and Murray Park), the former possessing tennis courts and putting greens, and bathing pool.

Mention has already been made of the football ground, which has ample accommodation for spectators, and which is used by the local Club, the "Cumnock Juniors." In addition there are two bowling greens, badminton and bowling clubs, and the angler will also find Cumnock an ideal centre for the furtherance of his gentle art in the local waters. New Playing Field facilities have recently been provided at Broomfield.

Telephone Services.—During recent years the Cumnock Telephone Service has been converted to automatic control.

War Memorial.—The Cumnock War Memorial is a handsome monument which was originally erected in a central position to commemorate the men of Cumnock who gave their lives in the First World War, these being 120 in number, and whose names were engraved on bronze panels mounted on the eight sides of the base, from which rises a pillar carved from Crectown granite.

Town Hall and Glaisnock Street, Cumnock



INDUSTRY IN CUMNOCK

Cumnock has seen many industries rise and fall in the course of its long history, but two of the most ancient industries still remain-those of farming, the oldest of all, and coal mining-although the latter industry is confined to the district itself and not to the Burgh. Cumnock is situated in the centre of the Central Ayrshire Coal Field with mines in its own parish, and the Barony Colliery at Auchinleck, not far distant.

In former days the Burgh attained fame for the manufacture of its snuffboxes, hand-made from seasoned plane or sycamore, with a concealed hinge in the lid, and often beautifully decorated and bringing high prices. The usage of tobacco having considerably changed, this artistic industry died as snuff-taking gave way to smoking, a fate which has also befallen the tanning industry, the hand-loom weaving and hand-needlework industries which once flourished here, and shoe-making.

In more modern days farming and the production of coal remain the two principal industries in the area, but there are, of course, a number of others, outstanding among which is the Bankend Factory of John Foster & Sons, Ltd., in Ayr Road, covering no less than 61 acres and having a floor space of some 58,000 square feet. Both spinning and manufacturing are carried on here, the resultant products being flannels, tropical suitings, ladies' dress goods, worsted suitings and furnishing fabrics. This firm who came to Cumnock in 1950, have completed work on a second extension of their Ayr Road factory. This extension involved capital to the extent of £,200,000.

Further local employment is given by the Western Scottish Motor Traction Co., in dairy work, in the local shops and business houses, in the hotels, inns and restaurants situated in the town, and in the offices necessary for the administration of most of these businesses. The residents are, therefore, in the happy position of being able to find various employments in the Burgh itself, or in the immediate district, and, industrially speaking, the Burgh of Cumnock is one of those rare communities to-day which are almost self-supporting.

The Cumnock Knitwear Co. Ltd. which came into operation recently have built a 5,000 sq. ft. factory at Ayr Road. This industry is expanding rapidly and an extension to their factory is being erected. Sufficient ground has been acquired by the Company to allow for up to 30,000 sq. ft. of factory space.

During the last two years the British Bath Shoe Co. and Messrs. F. & G. Sykes Ltd., have opened a factory, and Chick Hatchery respectively, and very recently Chemstrand Ltd. opened a factory.

Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this guide, and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, the publishers and the promoters of this publication will not hold themselves responsible for any inaccuracies.

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25 THE SQUARE, CUMNOCK

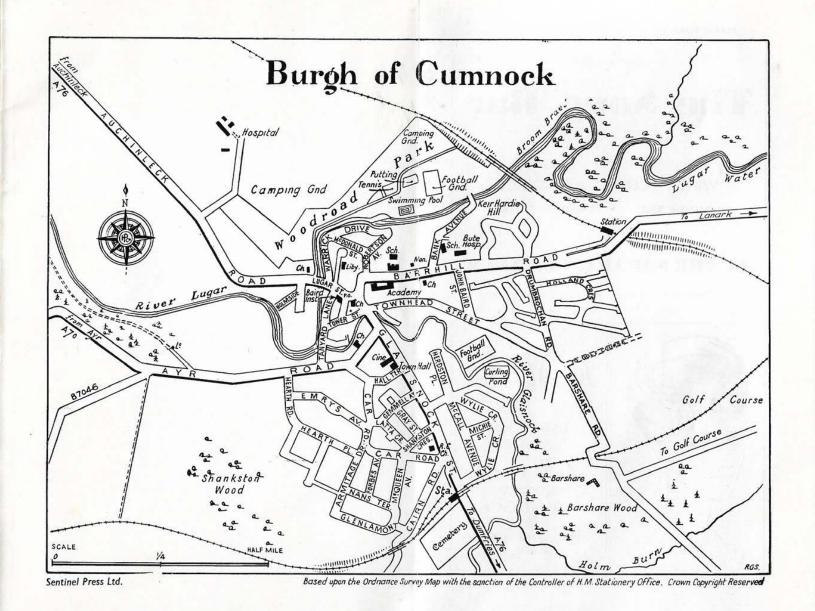


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