

Annan Water's wading deep,
 'And my Love Annie's wondrous bonny;
 And I am loath she should wet her feet,
 Because I love her best of ony.'

The gray was a mare, and a right gude mare;
 But when she wan the Annan Water,
 She should not have ridden the ford that night
 Had a thousand marks been wadded at her.

The side was steep, and the bottom deep,
 From bank to brae the water pouring;
 The bonny gray mare she swat for fear,
 For she heard the Water-Kelpy roaring.

He spurred her forth into the flood,
 I wot she swam both strong and steady;
 But the stream was broad, and her strength did fail,
 And he never saw his bonny lady!

Sir Walter Scott

From the A709 the banks are softer for 7km, topped by fields and cut away on bends and sometimes with rows of sand martin nest holes. This is a New Red Sandstone basin covered by boulder clay. Fields around Roberthill may be grazed by flocks of Canada and greylag geese and whooper swans. The meandering river appears to make serious attempts to get to Hightae before giving up and heading south between Birkshaw Forest and a monument beyond the Range Castle fort.

There are a number of weirs at this end of the river, mostly small or broken down, and also rapids, up to grade 2 in difficulty, especially when the water level is low. Weirs are shown on OS maps but rapids are not. Anglers' huts are regular features.

Almost as an afterthought the river reaches a loch dotted with islands and turns back on itself to reach a wooded island. The main river goes straight ahead but can be shallow at the end of the island. The channel to the right is better. At one stage it was dammed until the dam was blown up by Ukrainian prisoners of war to end flooding that was taking place upstream. The river turns right at Linn Mill, where a prominent summerhouse overlooks the remains of a cauld where most of the water activity is on river left.

The 6th century St Mungo's church stands roofless

at Nutholm while there is a rocking stone on the right side of the river at Kirkwood.

The remains of a weir near Gillhall form a small rapid. A riverside hideaway is surrounded by primroses in the spring.

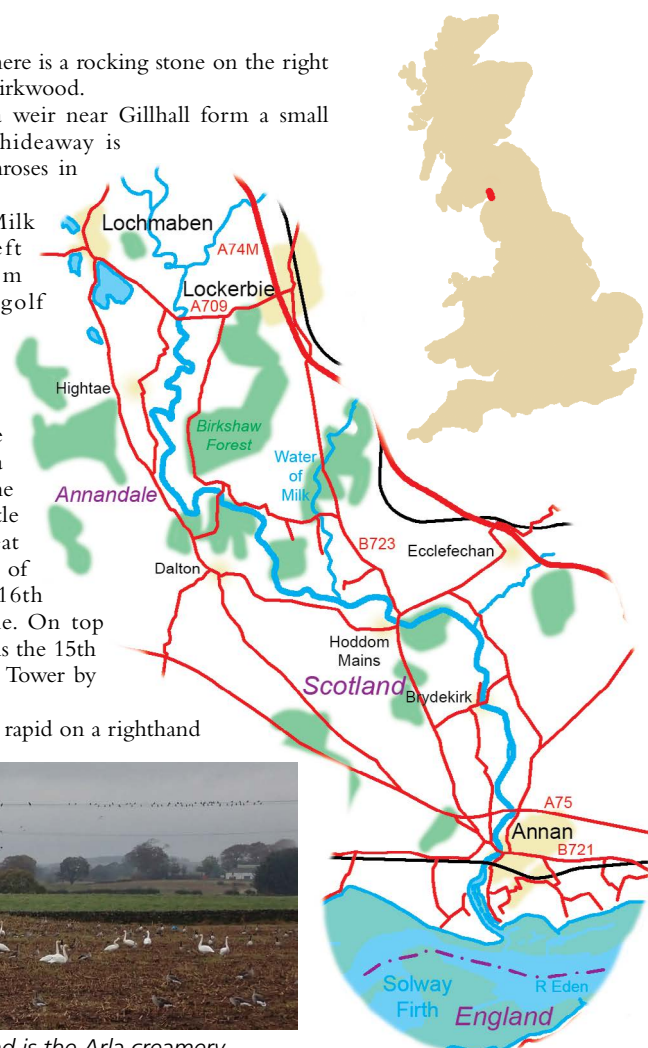
The Water of Milk joins on the left before Hoddom Castle with its golf course and camping and caravan site. Carvings have been installed on the conglomerate bank where a footbridge crosses the river. Hoddom Castle was the original seat of the Bruces, then of the Herries, in a 16th century tower castle. On top of Repentance Hill is the 15th century Repentance Tower by John Maxwell.

There is a grade 2 rapid on a righthand

River Annan

Southern End

Weir
 extremes



Whooper swans and Canada and greylag geese at Roberthill. Beyond is the Arla creamery.