

## Appendix 2; Survival of Pre-1700 Bridges in the Fife & Clackmannanshire

Over the past year, an exercise has been carried out in which all the bridges visible on early (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century) maps were counted on a regional basis. The compendium on the web site, <https://historicbridgesofbritain.com/>, has provided information on which of them are still standing, and so it was possible to estimate the percentage survival rates. The bridges of Fife & Clackmannan were considered by both myself and Mr. Simpson, creator of the Scotland's Oldest Bridges web site, and the results which I obtained then are presented below;

**Table A2 Status of Bridges shown on 17<sup>th</sup> century Maps.**

River/Stream Catchment	Bridges marked on 17 <sup>th</sup> century Maps	Standing Bridge Now	Possible Coherent Remains*	Traces (abutments, etc.)	Unknown or No Trace†
R. Eden	12	3 (4)	1 (0)	0	9
Kinness Burn	2	0	0	0	2
Kenly Water	2	0	0	1	1
R. Leven	7	0	0	0	7
Tiel Water	1	0	0	0	1
Dour Water	1	0	0	0	1
Lyne Burn	2	0	0	0	2
R. Black Devon	1	0	0	0	1
R. Devon	3	1	0	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4 (5)</b>	<b>1 (0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>

\* Covers cases where it is thought that there may be substantial elements of a pre-1700 bridge in a more modern structure, and where there is doubt about build-date

† Not all the locations of pre-1700 bridges have been examined; the unknown tag acknowledges this, though I think it unlikely that any bridge would shift more than 1 column to the left (into the 'traces' category).

The maps are those of Jean Blaeu published in c1650, containing work of Timothy Pont carried out in the years around 1600, and those of John Adair dating to the 1680s. There are major differences between the maps produced by the two mapmakers, but my reconciliation simply involves addition to get the total number of bridges recorded by them, and it is those numbers which appear in the first column. The second and third column headings speak for themselves, and since the Table was produced, it has become clear that North Ceres Bridge, in the River Eden catchment is a pre-1700 bridge is sandwiched between 2 extensions of later date. The red

bracketed figures show the effect, namely that the number of surviving bridges is increased to 5. Allowing for slight differences in the ways we perceived the exercise, these results are the same as obtained by Mr. Simpson.

Undoubtedly, the mapmakers omitted bridges standing during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps because the streams, which they crossed or the tracks, which they carried were insignificant, and escaped notice. Also, they seem not to have considered bridges on private estates. This does not affect the following statement which is that of a sample of 31 bridges which stood in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Fife and Clackmannanshire, 5 stand today, giving a survival rate of 16%, which is in line with estimates obtained elsewhere in the country. Other bridges are known to have stood in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and to have survived, but the foregoing is unaffected by that, because they were outwith the sample selected unknowingly by the mapmakers and are representatives of a larger population. This is not the place for further analysis, but it is worthy of comment that there were certainly a large number of bridges in Fife and Clackmannanshire during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.