

Reference Section 7.4 and 7.8

and their chiefs so daring, and the English so cowed, that it was no otherwise between them than as a hare before greyhounds'.

This is paramount, as faced with continual raids on their lands, and feeling that the crown did nothing to protect them, northern English lords made private arrangements with Bruce. As part of these agreements Bruce partly achieved his main aim – English recognition of Scotland as an independent country, albeit Edward still refused to recognise him. Overall, Bruce's leadership was key to the achievement of Scottish independence as his resounding victory at Bannockburn pushed English forces almost completely out of Scotland. However, with Edward's denial of Scotland's independence Robert's successful use of diplomacy, was also key to victory.

Successful use of diplomacy was crucial to securing Scottish independence, according to G.W.S. Barrow. On 6 April 1320, the 'Declaration of Arbroath' was handed to Sirs Adam Gordon and Edward Maubisson for delivery to pope John XXII at Avignon. The letter is an elaborate argument detailing the reasons for Scottish independence and justifying King Robert's usurpation of the throne in 1306. Barrow states it was 'the most eloquent statement of the case for national independence to be produced anywhere in medieval Europe'. The letter, often quoted by historians, shows the Scottish people's desire for freedom and their determination to keep that freedom.

Ronald McNair Scott writes, 'The impact on the pope was immediate ... he sent a letter to Edward II exhorting him to make peace with the Scots'. This is important as papal recognition forced England into negotiating with Scotland, showing that Robert the Bruce would, alongside his total control of Scotland, have documents recognising the country's independence. However, peace talks collapsed by 1322 and the countries resumed conflict, meaning Bruce had not yet achieved a recognised independent country. It was not until after the deposition of Edward II in 1327 that Bruce was able to negotiate recognition for Scotland

with England's new regent, Roger de Mortimer.

The treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton, signed in 1328, brought an end to the war and acknowledged the independence of Scotland. Fiona Watson writes, 'in return for an acknowledgement that he and his heirs should be free to enjoy the kingdom of Scotland without having to pay homage for it, the Scottish king agreed to pay £20,000'. Overall, Bruce's successes in diplomatic situations were pivotal for gaining independence as he had won the war of recognition with the ratification of the treaty in which England acknowledged Scotland as independent. However, Bruce's leadership and victory at Bannockburn put him in a position of strength to demand recognition as king.

To conclude, Scotland gained its independence as a direct result of Robert the Bruce's excellent leadership. His victory at Bannockburn turned the tide and routed the English from every corner of Scotland. In essence, Scotland was a free and independent country. However, Bruce's successful use of diplomacy, as well as taking advantage of English mistakes, ultimately led to Scottish independence being recognised by England in the treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in 1328. Thus, king Robert I of Scotland was instrumental in helping Scotland gain independence.



Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland
G.W.S. Barrow (Edinburgh, 2005)

Bannockburn: Scotland's Greatest Battle for Independence
A. Konstam, (London, 2014)

Robert the Bruce: King of Scots
R.M. Scott (Edinburgh, 2014)

Robert The Bruce: Pocket Giants
F. Watson (Stroud, 2014)

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS poetry garden to be created in St Andrews

Plans are underway for a piece of neglected land in the St Andrews conservation area to be transformed into a history garden, with a large statue of Mary Queen of Scots.

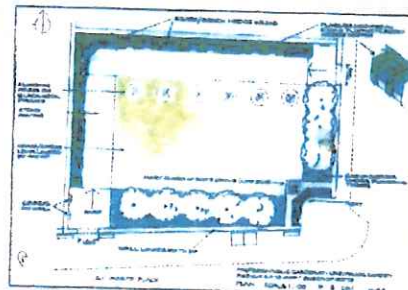
The garden, on the corner of Greyfriars Garden and St Mary's Place in St Andrews, Fife, has lain derelict for over 20 years. Now, the recently-formed community group Poets' Neuk has learned that its application to register an interest in buying the garden has been approved by the Scottish Government.

The plans (shown below) celebrate the site's recorded connection with Mary Queen of Scots. Poetry by and about the Queen will be featured in the garden, and, in time, a life-size statue of the Stewart queen will be a centrepiece, surrounded by flowering trees, climbing roses and a series of poetry plaques mounted on stone plinths.

Using the community right to buy legislation, now extended to urban areas, a group of local residents supported by twelve major voluntary organisations in the town, submitted their two-stage application in December and January.

The proposed garden, in the centre of the ancient Royal Burgh, is on the site of the medieval Greyfriars monastery. This piece of land was granted to the community of St Andrews by Mary Queen of Scots on 17 April 1567, a few months before her forced abdication. Since then, the site of the monastery has passed through many hands.

The plans for the garden reflect its medieval history and will aim to return the land to community use, provide an extra resource for townspeople and an additional site of interest for visitors to the town.



Plan of the proposed garden, with life-sized Mary Queen of Scots statue