

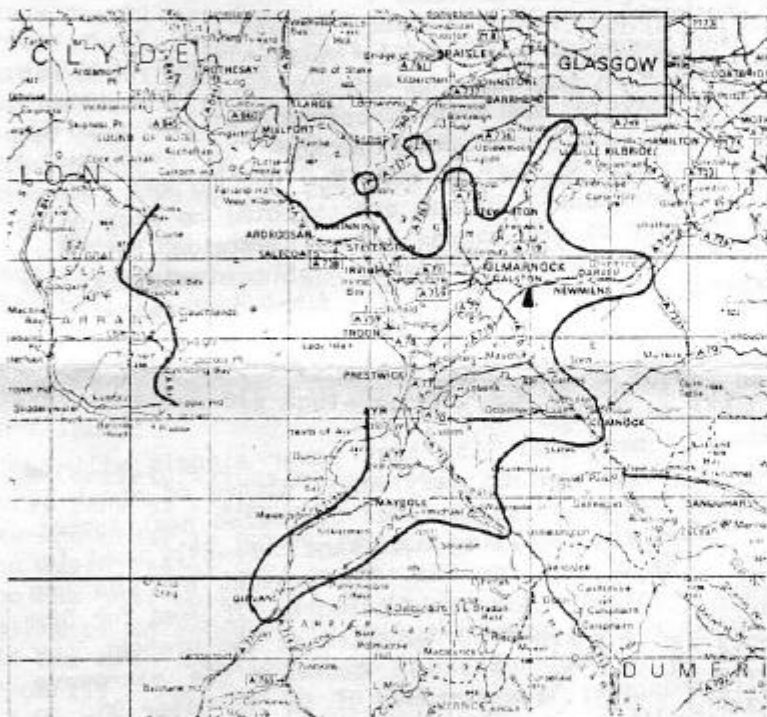
THE MOVING OF GB3AY

On 2nd February 1988 site tests were carried out from a site near Galston in Ayrshire with a view to finding a replacement site for the under-used repeater GB3AY.

HISTORY : The GB3AY repeater became operational in May 1981 from the IBA site at LETHANHILL near Patna in Ayrshire. The site was readily available, free of charge, and its coverage had already been proved by the co-sited 405 line television relay transmitter. However, despite different aerials, the site did not prove satisfactory, particularly towards, and into Kilmarnock, which remained largely uncovered.

It was in 1987, with the threat of new site charges for remaining at LETHANHILL that the CSFMG began to look more seriously for a replacement site.

NEW SITE : The answer seemed to come from an offer to use an old subscriber relay mast just outside the town of Galston. The building and mast had been unused for years, but with some repairs, and a lick of paint, it seemed like a godsend. The site tests confirmed that coverage would be better than that obtained from the old site. The map below is an outline of the coverage that will be expected from the new site.



As can be seen the previous black spots around Kilmarnock will now be adequately covered, while the county town of Ayr should also be well within range - indeed the Patna area should also receive signal from the new site.

The Ayrshire geography will in effect shape the coverage area from the Galston-situated GB3AY.

Areas which will not receive a signal include Dunure, screened by the Carrick Hills, West Kilbride up to Largs and north. The possibilities of longer-distance reception are also evident with the outlying hills of the Glasgow basin expected to benefit, also a possible sea path to the south west !

A full application to the D.T.I. was submitted on 19th April 1988. It is impossible to give an exact indication of how long it will take - the D.T.I. are not famed for speed !! However, being on the exclusively amateur 2 Metre band, it could be less than three months.

STATISTICS - THE NEW SITE :

Locator	: IO75TO	N.G.R.:	NS 499 357
Site Height above sea level :	110m	Mast height above ground :	80m
Channel	: R2 (145.050, 145.650 MHz)	E.R.P.	21 Watts
Transmission equipment :	Storno CQF 612 with 10 W P.A.		
Aerials :	Andrews Collinear, single aerial working.		