

For Further Information

Caledonian Canal Centre:
01320 366493, www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery:
01463 237114, www.invernessmuseum.com

Highland Council Countryside Rangers:
01463 724312, www.highland.gov.uk

Historic Scotland:
0131 668 8600, www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

National Trust for Scotland:
0131 243 9300, www.nts.org.uk

Visit Scotland:
www.visitscotland.com

Archaeology Unit
Planning and Development Service
Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road
Inverness IV3 5NX.
T: 01463 702250
E: archaeology@highland.gov.uk

Large Print Version Available



This project is being part-financed by the
European Union under the
Inverness and Nairn CED Programme
Europe and Scotland
Making it **work together**



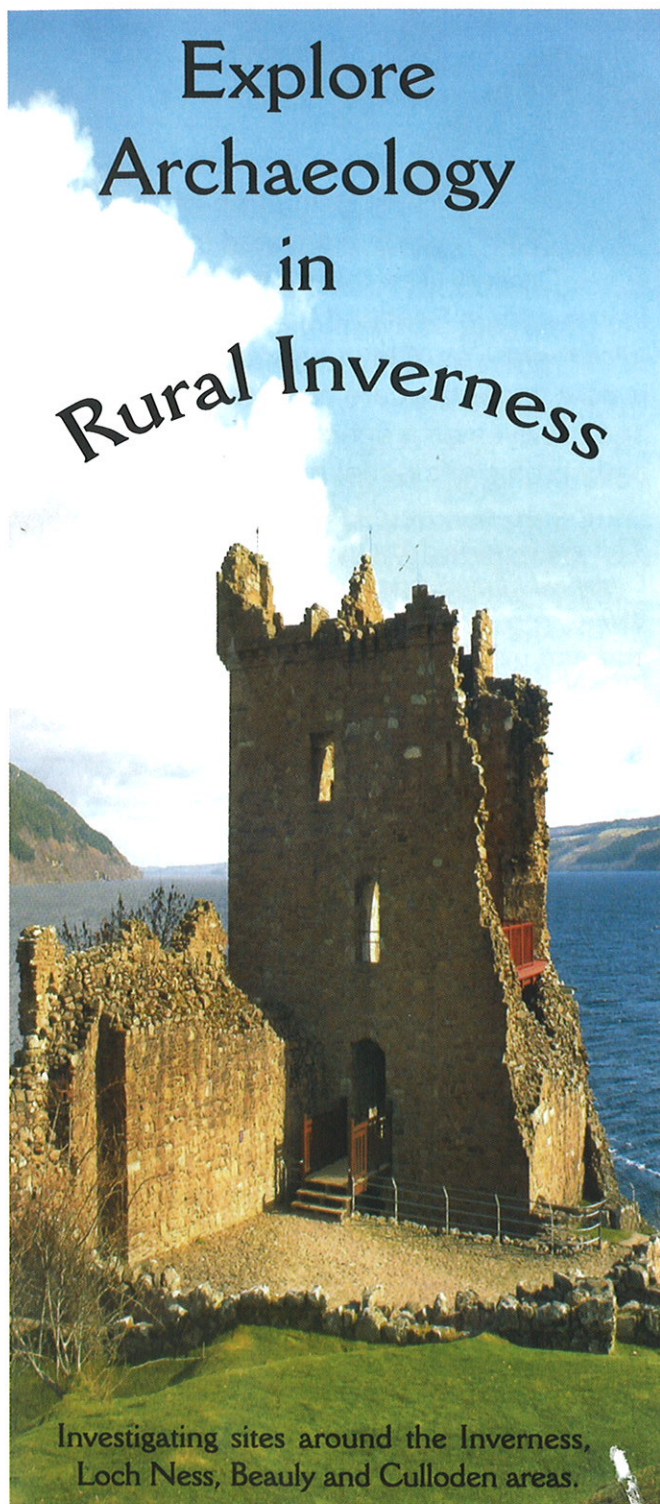
Inverness & Nairn
ENTERPRISE



HISTORIC SCOTLAND



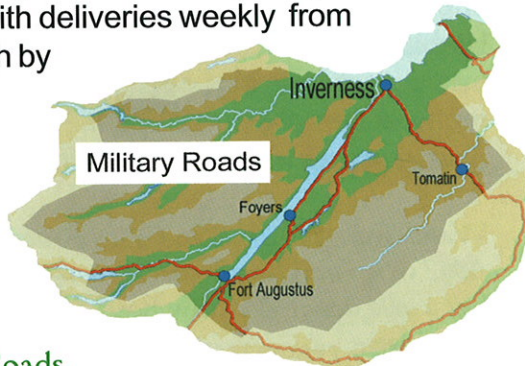
The Front Cover Image is of Urquhart Castle. This leaflet was produced by the Inverness Access to Archaeology Project. Project Officer & Leaflet Designer: David Lock
© Highland Council 2004



Investigating sites around the Inverness,
Loch Ness, Beaulieu and Culloden areas.

Historic Communication Routes

Inverness is at the head of the Great Glen, which has always been a natural line of communication whether by foot, water or horseback. Today some of the ancient paths can still be travelled (one of which is now the Great Glen Way). By the Middle Ages, sea travel from Inverness was frequent. In 1708 Inverness gained its first regular postal service with deliveries weekly from Edinburgh by foot.



Military Roads

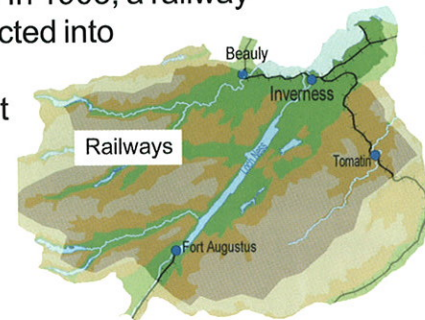
The Jacobite uprisings from the late 17th to the mid 18th century meant that the area around Inverness became a focal point for both Government and rebel forces. In 1724 King George I responded to the Jacobite threat by appointing General Wade as Commander in Chief of North Britain and commanded him to quash rebellion by any means necessary. Wade started an intensive programme of road building to allow easy troop mobilisation. By the summer of 1725 the first military road was complete and before Wade left the Highlands in 1740 his roads stretched across the area. Today the military roads still underlie parts of the A9, A887, B861 and B862, and the Corrieyairack Pass is a popular route for hikers between Fort Augustus and Dalwhinnie.

The Caledonian Canal

By the end of the 18th century Inverness had returned to a peaceful trading town and although the military roads enabled carts to travel with goods, it was still quicker to travel by water. It was decided to create a short cut between the North Sea and the Atlantic by using the natural route of the Great Glen. The Caledonian Canal was constructed at a cost of £840,000. Its building took 17 years and was finally finished in 1822. Now it consists of 22 miles of canal and 29 locks whilst using 38 miles of Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Ness. Today it is easy to visit the canal or take a cruise. The Caledonian Canal Heritage Centre at Fort Augustus describes the canal's history and operation in more detail.

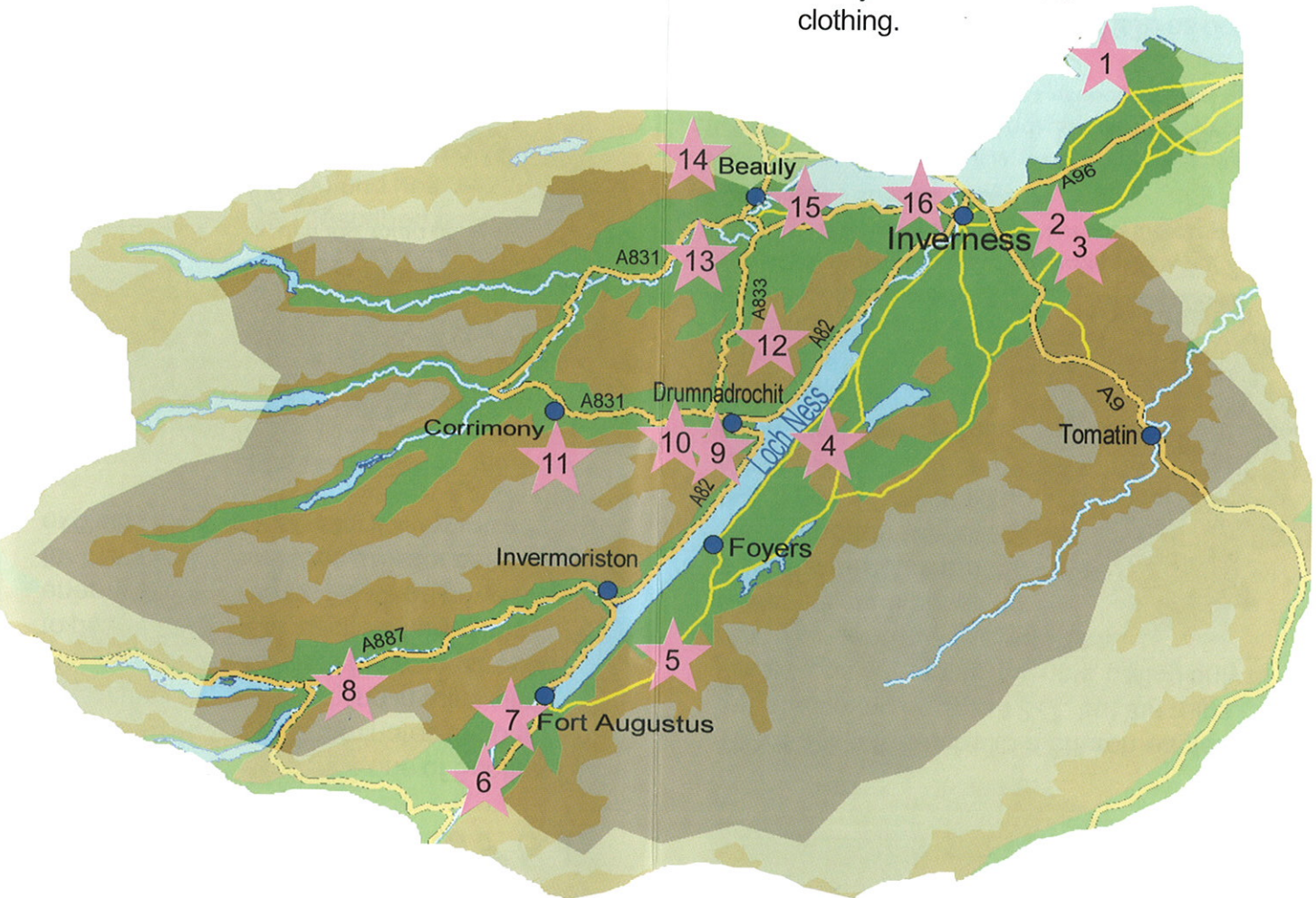
The Railway

The Caledonian Canal enhanced Inverness as a trading hub but it was the railway which helped to create the tourist trade that fuels the economy of the area today. The first railway line in the Inverness area was opened in 1855 and linked Inverness to Nairn. By 1865 Inverness was linked to Perth and thus joined the Highlands to the rest of Britain. A shortened line south via Carrbridge was opened in 1898. In 1903, a railway line was constructed into Fort Augustus from Invergarry. It is still possible to trace this line across the countryside.



While You Are Exploring

- Please take care and act responsibly. Leave gates and fences as you find them.
- Please respect the countryside and follow the SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE – take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints, and take care not to disturb wildlife. Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Please do not light fires – they easily burn out of control.
- Please respect the sites and monuments, and help them survive for future generations to enjoy. Please do not add anything to them or take anything away. Some sites may be in a dangerous condition. Do not approach these. You visit all the sites listed here at your own risk.
- Please respect the weather, which can change quickly! Note the recommended footwear, and make sure you have suitable clothing.





A Brief History of the Inverness Area



The Inverness area has always been important to the history of the Highlands, whether this involved St Columba, King Brude, Bonnie Prince Charlie or the world's most famous monster – Nessie.



The first people in the Inverness area arrived around 8000 years ago and probably came through the Great Glen on foot and by boat. Around the start of the Bronze Age, people began to live in round houses and buried their ancestors in cairns. By the Iron Age there were also larger fortified strongholds called duns and hillforts to keep the people safe and happy.



Over the last 800 years, a succession of castles in Inverness have been built, destroyed and rebuilt again. The castles received many famous visitors including Robert the Bruce, who seized one from English hands and Mary, Queen of Scots, who hanged the castle's governor for refusing her entry.

After the Jacobite uprisings the British Government decided to create a series of roads and forts across the Highlands so that troops could move around more easily. General George Wade was placed in charge of road building.



Inverness has survived throughout history as a sea trading port. During the Industrial Revolution, canals and railways were added to the communication network allowing the town to grow and become wealthy. However, it was the Victorians who brought tourism to the Highlands with stirring stories of Scottish romance and brooding landscapes.

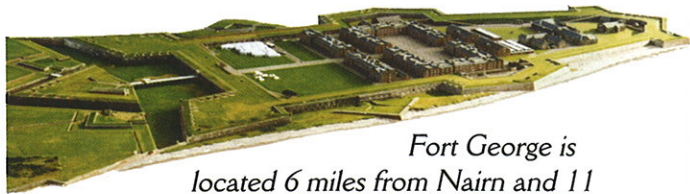


The landscape and the traditional Highland way of life have been transformed in the last two centuries. Many people left, or were cleared from, the land and their fields and villages are now occupied by sheep. In 1920, the Forestry Commission was founded and thousands of trees were planted. Later, dams were built, turning water into hydroelectric power and light across the Highlands.

1 Fort George



Fort George was completed in 1769 and had been designed to defend against the prospect of another Jacobite uprising. Today the fort *daingnreach* buildings are shared by the army and Historic Scotland, they show a fascinating insight into both 18th Century and modern army barracks.



Fort George is located 6 miles from Nairn and 11 miles from Inverness. It is signposted from the A96 and the A9.

2 Culloden Battlefield



By 1746 the Jacobite uprising and support for Bonnie Prince Charlie was a significant threat to the government. On 16th April 1746, the Jacobite army were outnumbered and defeated by government troops on Culloden Moor. The National Trust for Scotland has now reconstructed what some of the battlefield *blàr* will have looked like on that day. The site also includes a visitor centre that explains the history of the Jacobite cause.



Culloden is situated off the B9006 and is signposted from the A9 just outside Inverness.

P = Parking Available
Ä = Wheelchair Access
£ = Admission Charge
english = *gaelic*

Easy: Sensible footwear Moderate: Waterproof footwear Strenuous: Hillwalking boots

5 Whitebridge



Whitebridge has one of the finest surviving examples of a single span, hump-backed bridge, built by General Wade's troops as they created a road link between Inverness and Fort Augustus. Today the modern road bypasses the old bridge *drochaid* and it now stands as a monument to General Wade's extensive and successful road network.

The bridge lies in the village of Whitebridge, reached along the B862 from Inverness.

6 Bridge of Oich



In 1849 floods swept through the Great Glen, breaching the Caledonian Canal and destroying the stone bridge over the river Oich. Its replacement is a fine example of an industrial double cantilever bridge. Now in the care of Historic Scotland, this site gives an insight into Scotland's industrial heritage.

The Bridge of Oich is signposted from the A82 south from Fort Augustus.

3

Balnuaran of Clava



Three prehistoric cairns at Balnuaran of Clava were excavated in the 19th Century. The thirty similar known cairns *càrn* in Scotland have been named after them – as ‘Clava-type’ cairns. The site is now under the care of Historic Scotland and survives as a spectacular testament to early prehistoric burial practice.

This site is situated just over a mile from Culloden Battlefield. Travel from Inverness east along the B9006, continue past the battlefield and take the next turn right (signposted to Clava Cairns). Go straight across at the junction, over the river and turn right. A car park lies on the right hand side.

4

General Wade's Change House



The remains of the Change House now survive only as a ruinous rectangle of stone walls. This was once an inn where people travelling along the military road from Inverness to Fort Augustus could find shelter and food, and could ‘change’ horses or carter.

There is car-parking at the first picnic area north of Inverfarigaig on the B852 and the change house lies a short walk along the wooded loch shore. The Forestry Commission has also included the site in a way-marked walk of about two miles.

7

Torr Dhuin



The fortified dun known as Torr Dhuin lies on the high ground overlooking the River Oich and the Great Glen. This later prehistoric fort will have been seen as a symbol of power by the people who lived in the valley *gleann* below. Today the Forestry Commission has created a path network to reach this site and experience the breath-taking views.

Travel north from Fort Augustus on the A82 and follow signs to Auchterawe. Continue past the Forestry Commission offices for the Torr Dhuin car park.

8

Mackenzie's Cairn and Grave



Roderick Mackenzie (famed as a look-a-like of Bonnie Prince Charlie) died at the hands of Cumberland's government forces in July 1746, three months after Culloden. Roderick was beheaded and his head *ceann* was taken to Fort Augustus for formal identification which allowed Prince Charlie the precious time he needed to escape. This cairn marks where Roderick is said to have been slain; and the grave holds his body - minus its head.

The cairn is visible from the A887 roadside approximately 14 miles west of Invermoriston. The grave can be found by following the path down towards the river.

9 Urquhart Castle



Urquhart Castle was once one of Scotland's great castles and still dominates the banks of Loch Ness. It has been lying in ruins since 1691, when government forces destroyed it to prevent the castle *caisteal* falling into enemy hands. Historic Scotland now cares for this site and provides a visitor centre that explains the castle's history.



Urquhart castle is situated just south of Drumnadrochit on the A82.

10 Craig Mony



Craig Mony lies on the end of a high ridge between Glen Urquhart and Glen Coiltie, overlooking Loch Ness. Legend has it that the Norse king, Monie was besieged at this fortification and killed on the plains below whilst trying to escape. Today the site is looked after by the Forestry Commission and provides a fantastic outlook across Loch Ness.

Park in the main Drumnadrochit car park and follow the Craigmonie and Balmacaan woodland walks (signposted in the car park).

13 Kiltarlity Old Parish Church



There are references to a church *eaglais* on this site dating back to 1227, but the ruins visible today are relatively new, dating only to the 16th Century. The site lies within a beautiful setting with wonderful riverside views and the Kilmorack hydro power station lies just up river. The graveyard *cladh* is still in use today.

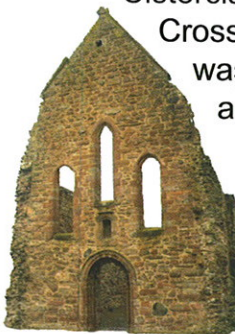


Kiltarlity Old Parish Church can be found from the A831 by turning east along the road signposted 'Kiltarlity 2 1/2 Eskadale 4 1/4' and then turning left into the car park immediately after the bridge.

14 Beaully Priory and Mercat Cross



Beaully Priory was founded in 1230 as one of only three Valliscaulian abbeys in Scotland. However, by the end of the Middle Ages its allegiances changed and it became a Cistercian abbey *abaid*. Beaully Mercat Cross lies close to the priory and was erected in 1430 when Beaully acquired the right to hold its own markets.



Beaully Priory and Mercat Cross are both located at the northern end of Beaully High Street.

11 Corrimony Cairn



Corrimony Cairn is a Clava-type cairn and was excavated in 1952. Today the site is maintained by The National Trust for Scotland and it is possible to enter the cairn chamber *rùm* and to see the curious stone cup-markings.

Signposted from the A831, it lies on the main road to Corrimony, with parking on the left before the site. This site lies next to a bird reserve.

12 Abriachan Hut Reconstruction



A well maintained reconstruction of a Bronze Age house lies in woodland near Abriachan (such sites are often described as Hut Circles). The reconstruction forms part of a woodland *coille* interpretation project which includes numerous other activities to keep you amused.

Travel down the A82 from Inverness and turn west towards Abriachan (on road signposted 'Abriachan 1½'). The Abriachan Forest Trust car park lies approximately 2 miles from the village and is signposted on the Foxhole road.



15 Wardlaw Mausoleum



Wardlaw Mausoleum dates back to 1722 and has a rich history with references to an earlier church on this site from the early 17th century. This site is a superb example of Highland burial tradition, displaying many extremely ornate gravestones *clach uaghach*.



Wardlaw lies in Kirkhill and is signposted from the A862 when travelling from Inverness. The site lies half a mile down Wardlaw Road from the centre of the village.

16 Craig Phadrig



The striking landmark of Craig Phadrig hillfort is believed to have once been the stronghold *dùn* of the Pictish King, Brude. Tradition holds that Craig Phadrig is where St Columba met King Brude to bring Christianity to this area.

Craig Phadrig can be reached by traveling south on the A82 out of Inverness, turning right past the canal bridge towards Kinmylies. Along this road, take a left at the lights and travel up the hill, go straight across the roundabout and follow signs for Craig Phadrig Forest.

