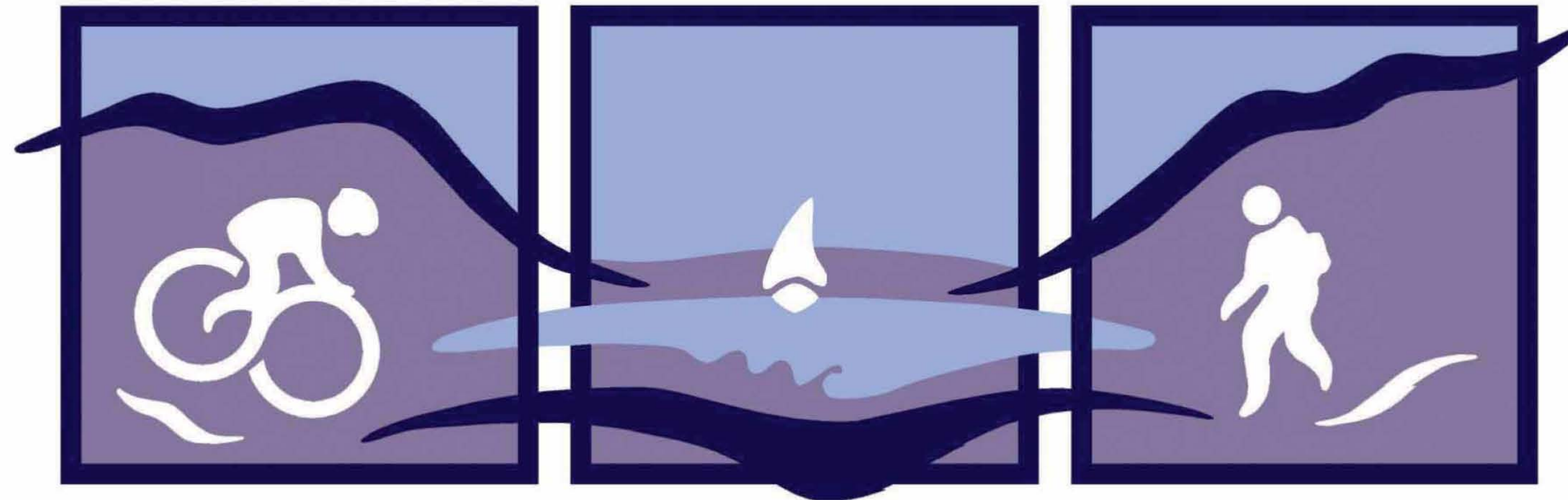


# G R E A T G L E N W A Y S



## S L I G H E A N A' G H L I N N M H Ó I R



British  
Waterways  
Scotland



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## Where's the fort?

## Càite bheil an dùn?

*Pronounced: Catcha vale an doon?*



Sketch of Fort William in 1891.



General Hugh MacKay.

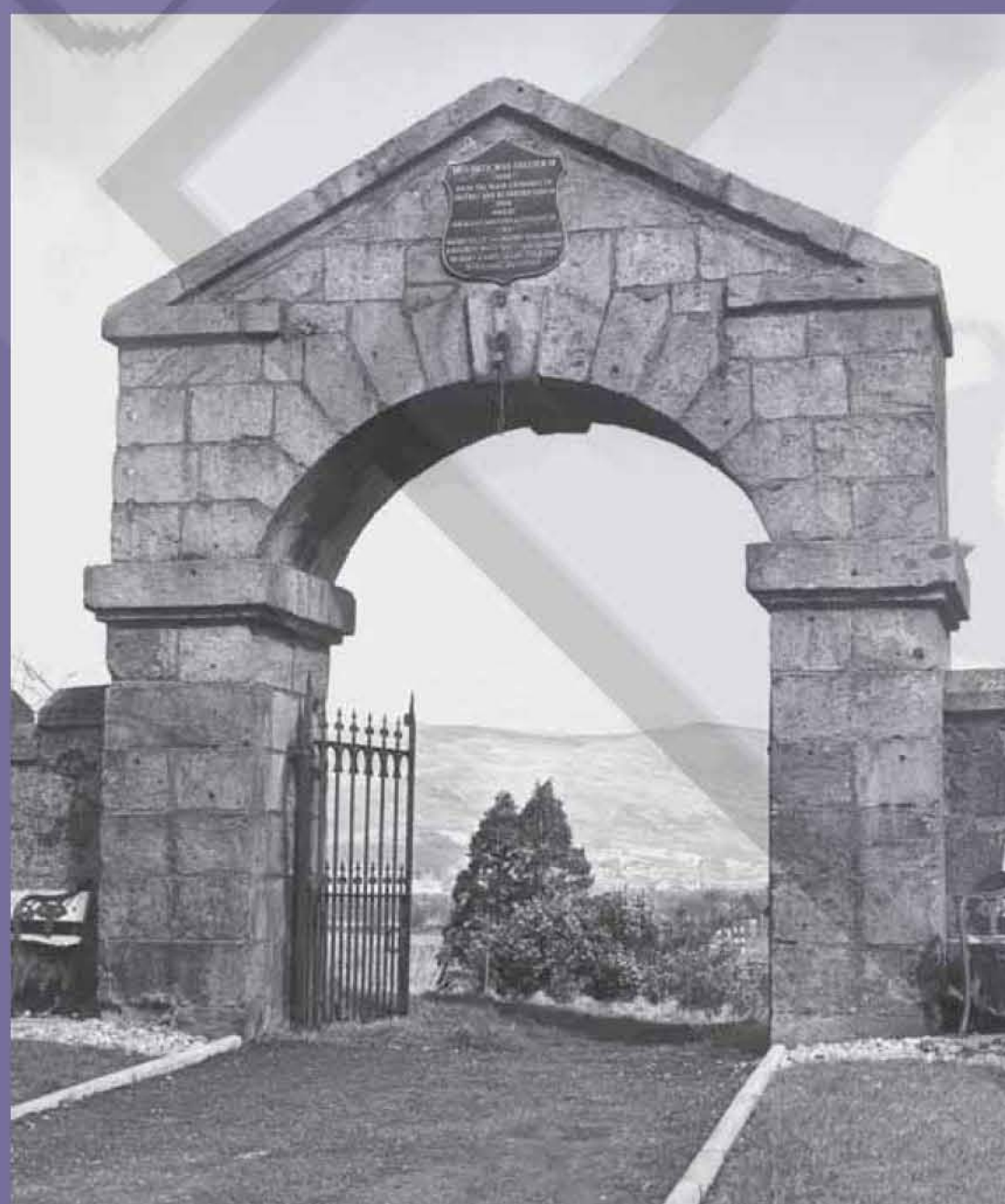
There is little sign nowadays of the fort which gave Fort William its name. However, there used to be a garrison here which played a key role in controlling the Highlands A' Ghàidhealtachd.

General George Monck, leader of Oliver Cromwell's army in Scotland during the Civil War, built the original "Inverlochy Fort" in 1656. The location beside Loch Linnhe An Linne Dhubh (The Black Loch) allowed supplies to be brought in safely by sea. There was also easy access to potential Highland trouble-spots.

In 1690 General Hugh MacKay of Scourie was commander of King William's troops in Scotland. He rebuilt Monck's timber fort into a stone fort, named "Fort William" after the King. In 1692 the orders for the infamous Massacre of Glencoe **Mort Ghleanna Comhainn** were issued from the fort.

General Wade strengthened the fort further in 1725. The Jacobite army of Bonnie Prince Charlie **Teàrlach Òg Stiùbhart** (Charles Edward Stuart) besieged it in 1746. However, the garrison brought in supplies by sea and the siege failed. The fort continued into the 1800s when local smugglers kept the soldiers busy.

In 1889 the West Highland Railway Company bought the site of the fort to build its new railway station.



Archway from former entrance to the fort, now at the entrance to the Craigs burial ground.

### Did you know...?

Fort William's Gaelic name An Gearasdan means "the garrison". You can still find traces of the old fort around Fort William if you know where to look.

There is very little to see at the actual site of the fort (1) but an archway from its entrance was rebuilt at the Craigs burial ground Cladh Thaigh na Creige (2) where it can still be seen. Some interior panelling from the room in the fort where the orders for the Massacre of Glencoe were probably signed can be seen in the West Highland Museum (3). In addition, some of the stones from the fort's walls were used to face the town's sea wall.

