



A HISTORY TOUR AROUND KIRKTON OF GLENISLA

Explore this small village in one of the Ecomuseum's most beautiful Glens. Visit some of its historic sites and enjoy the area's many walking and cycling tracks, including the Cateran Trail, one of Scotland's great long distance footpaths.

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A MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

The Cateran Ecomuseum is a museum without walls, all our sites are outside. Designed to reveal the hidden history of Cateran Country by the community who live here, it tells the story of its people, places and landscapes from pre-history to the present day.



Situated on the 500-million-year-old Highland Boundary Fault – the great geological feature that divides the Scottish Highlands from the Lowlands – the Cateran Ecomuseum's human history stretches back through millennia with sites identified from Neolithic times.

Horse drawn vehicles and animals

There are Pictish Stones to excite your curiosity, unknown stories from the legends of King Arthur and the Irish Giant Finn mac Cumhail, contemporary histories of the Scottish Traveller Community, important events linked to the great Jacobite rebellions and fables of the Caterans themselves, the Highland clan warriors who came to be associated with cattle raiding.

LEARN ABOUT THE INGENUOUS CONSTRUCTION OF THE KIRKTON'S WROUGHT IRON BRIDGE, DISCOVER ITS ANCIENT LADY WELL AND CLIMB TO A PREHISTORIC CAIRN WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS.



Travel through an ancient farming community where little has changed over centuries in the way the land has been managed and where the remains of Bronze Age and Pictish sites, small farms, shielings, and meal mills can still be made out in the landscape.



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You can discover the history of Scotland's Berry Capital, Blairgowrie, and visit the site of its Victorian Textile Mills, walk a part of the Highland Boundary Fault in Alyth and enjoy its well preserved old town centre. A hike along the Cateran Trail, one of Scotland's great long distance footpaths will take you across magical Glenshee to the small villages of Kirkmichael and Glenisla, offering you spectacular views through huge landscapes sculpted by glaciation and traversed by old drove roads and ancient rights of way.



This leaflet should be used in conjunction with the Cateran Ecomuseum website which offers more detail on each itinerary and points of interest.

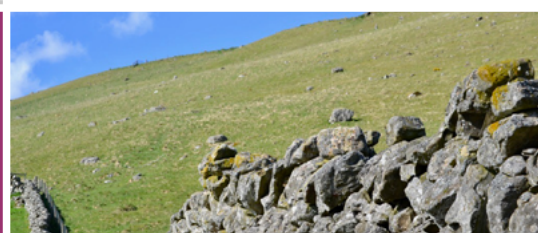
Visit: www.cateranecomuseum.co.uk



During medieval times, Glenisla was part of the lands of Coupar Angus Abbey, a Cistercian order which, by the 14th century had become the wealthiest religious house in Scotland. The Abbey had extensive influence, not only through its landholdings which reached across into Strathardle as well as Glenisla but in its highly organised approach to agricultural development and improvement.



This farming heritage made Glenisla an attractive target for the cattle raiding Caterans. Too easily noticed if they attacked through Glenshee's Cairnwell Pass, they moved over the adjacent mountain tops and came into Glenisla over the high Monega Pass to steal cattle before driving the stolen beasts back the same way.



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The Cateran Ecomuseum is a social enterprise whose vision is to enable holistic, democratic and sustainable involvement with culture, history and heritage.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**
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The first phase of the Cateran Ecomuseum has been made possible by many people who live and work locally and by the generous financial support of the following funders:

Our Funders



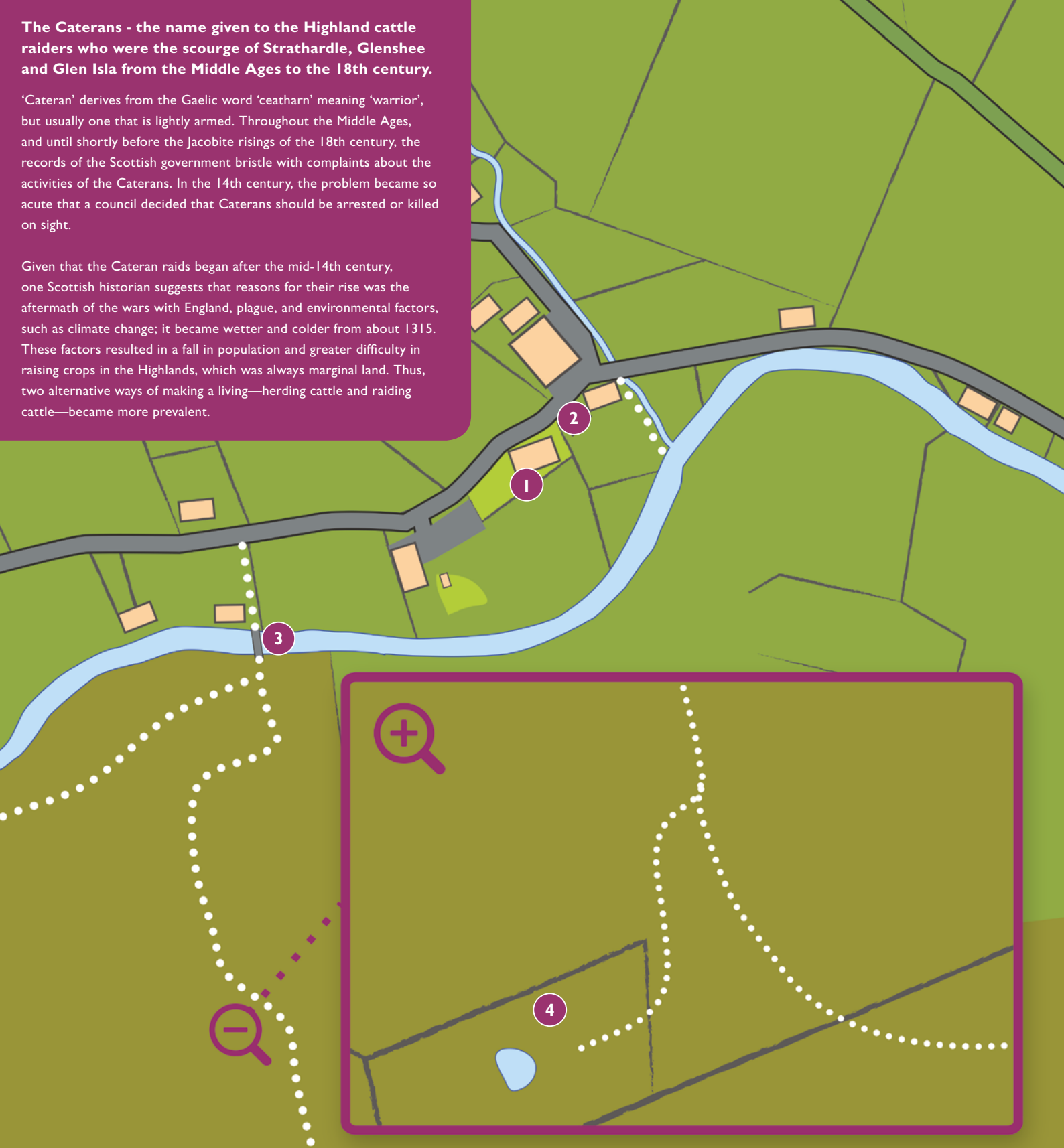
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The Caterans - the name given to the Highland cattle raiders who were the scourge of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glen Isla from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

'Cateran' derives from the Gaelic word 'ceatharn' meaning 'warrior', but usually one that is lightly armed. Throughout the Middle Ages, and until shortly before the Jacobite risings of the 18th century, the records of the Scottish government bristle with complaints about the activities of the Caterans. In the 14th century, the problem became so acute that a council decided that Caterans should be arrested or killed on sight.

Given that the Cateran raids began after the mid-14th century, one Scottish historian suggests that reasons for their rise was the aftermath of the wars with England, plague, and environmental factors, such as climate change; it became wetter and colder from about 1315. These factors resulted in a fall in population and greater difficulty in raising crops in the Highlands, which was always marginal land. Thus, two alternative ways of making a living—herding cattle and raiding cattle—became more prevalent.



1. The Kirkton of Glenisla Lady Well
The site of an ancient well

This well has been a site of spiritual significance for a long period of history. It would have been the reason why the Kirk was built here.



2. Glenisla Kirk

A popular wedding venue

The present church was built in 1821 replacing an older church known as The Blessed Virgin. It was known at various times as The Church of Glenylit or Glenlyefe and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin.



3. Brackny Bridge

The oldest known bridge of its type in Scotland

Built in 1824 by engineer John Justice of Dundee as a prototype for a larger version at the Haughs of Drimmie, this bridge has a span of 19 metres and a sheep gate at one end.



4. Druim Dearg or Bell Cairn

A prehistoric burial site

This ancient Kerb Cairn contained or concealed deliberately deposited human remains. It consists of large stones set close together forming a kerb.