



GLENSHEE: THE GLEN OF THE FAIRIES

Discover the hidden heritage of this wild, romantic and beautiful Glen. Slow down and enjoy spectacular views across huge landscapes sculpted by glaciation and traversed by old drove roads and ancient rights of way.

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museum

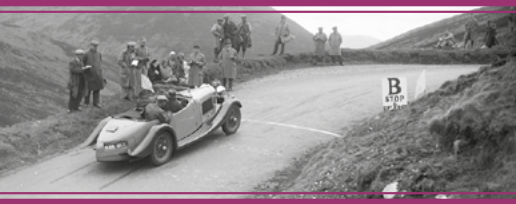


A MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

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.



There are Pictish Stones to excite your curiosity, unknown stories from the legends of King Arthur and the Irish Giant Finn mac Cumhaill, 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.

EXPLORE SOME OF THE MOST HISTORIC SITES ALONG THIS IMPORTANT ROUTE THROUGH THE EASTERN HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.



Visit iron age round houses and cross one of Scotland's best preserved Military bridges. Walk to one of Perthshire's most evocative stone circles linked to the great Fingalian saga of Diarmuid and find out about the Clan MacThomas, the only clan associated with upper Glenshee.



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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



Glenshee takes its name from the Gaelic word shith, signifying 'fairies'. Until the old tongue died out in the late 1800's the inhabitants were known as Sithichean a' Ghlinnshith - 'The Elves of Glenshee'.



With traces of human settlement going back millennia and centuries of droving and wayfaring, legends have woven their way into the landscape of the Glen and stories of Clan warfare, fearsome Cateran cattle raiders and tales of travellers' tragedies and fortune abound.



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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**

outdooraccess-scotland.scot

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



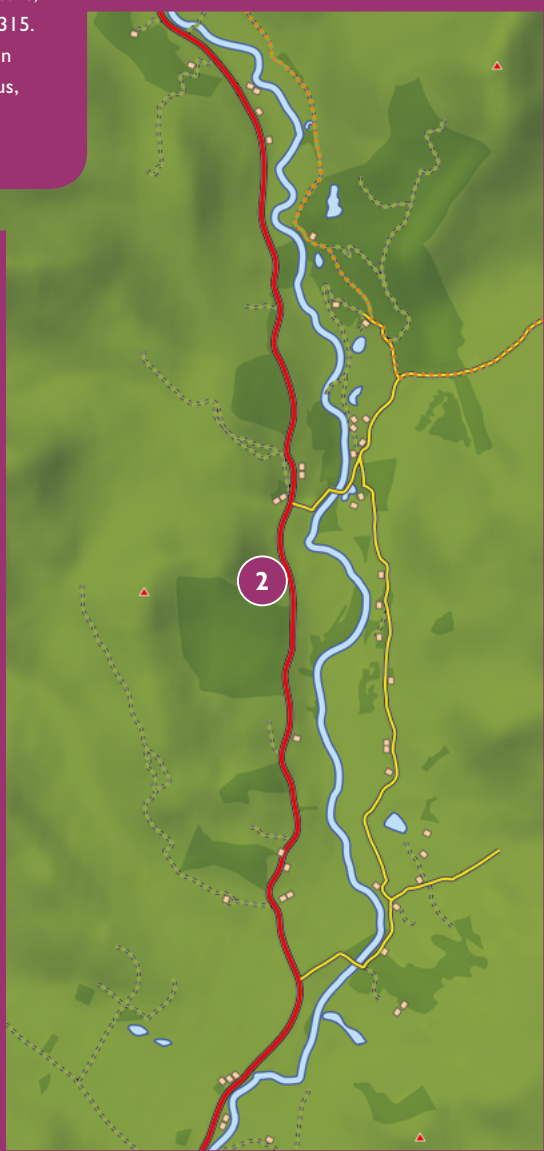
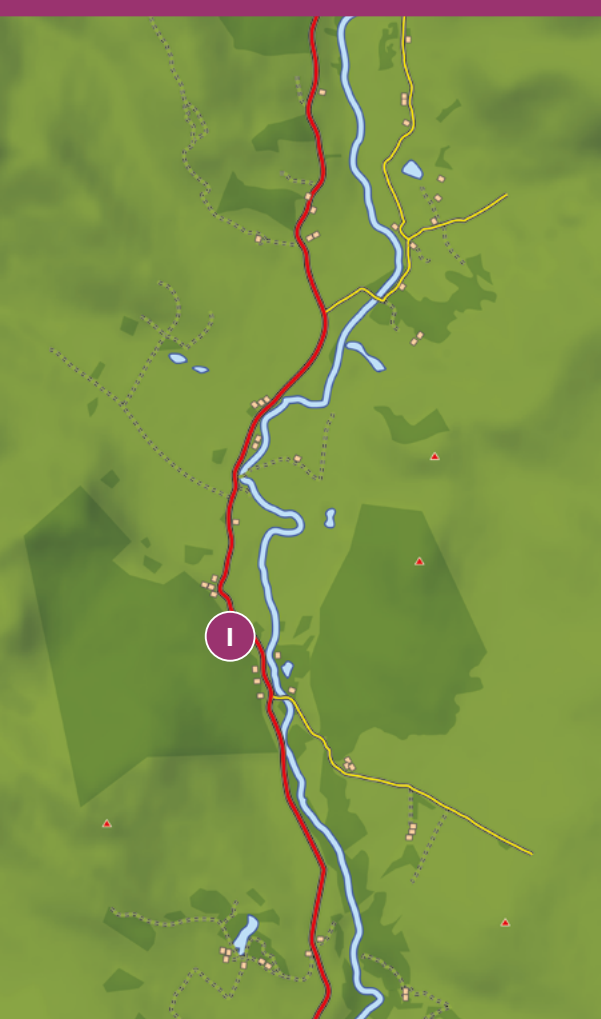
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The Caterans - the name given to the Highland cattle raiders who were the scourge of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glen Isla from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

'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. Dalrulzion Forest

The site of a number of iron age round houses

Dalrulzion is a name given to a particular form of iron age house building style with double walls, found almost exclusively in Perthshire. They are so named because there are many examples of this type of ancient building within the forest.



2. Clach na Coileach

The gathering place of the Clan MacThomas
Clan members from across the world gather every three years around this large glacial erratic stone. The Clan's main family names include: Combie, McCalm, McComas, McComb(e), Mc Combie, McComie, McComish, MacOmie, Tam, Thom, Thomas, Thoms, and Thomson.



3. Caulfeild's Military Bridge

The military story behind some of Scotland's roads

Major William Caulfeild, the British government's Inspector of Roads from 1732 to 1767, was responsible for building new roads and bridges in the Highlands of Scotland, the aim of which was to bring order to the parts of the country that had rebelled in the Jacobite rising of 1715.



4. Glenshee Kirk

A traditional parish church built on the site of an old standing stone

Glenshee Kirk is built on the site of a standing stone, which can still be seen behind the Church. It is a good example of a traditional parish church typical of the remoter parts of Scotland, bare and simple with the honest austerity of its time.



5. Diarmuid's Grave

One of the many legends in Glenshee connected to Finn Macumhaill

Diarmuid was one of the legendary Fionn Macumhaill's most trusted warriors. It is said that he is buried in this mound and that the four standing stones point across to Ben Gulabin to mark the place of his death.