

Pop-up

Iron Age Village



**Diamond Jubilee Park
Alyth, Perthshire**

**July 6th & 7th, 2024
10 am - 4 pm**



cateran
EC@
MUSEUM

WELCOME



TO OUR POP-UP IRON AGE VILLAGE!

The Cateran Ecomuseum is a museum in the landscape; all its sites are outside. Created and managed by local people, its vision is to build thriving and inclusive communities that find connection with natural and cultural heritage both regenerative and inspirational.

Stretching across 1,000 sq kms of eastern Perthshire and western Angus, our current programme of events aims to show how our heritage can inspire people to take action to help tackle the climate and biodiversity crises and live more sustainably.

For this free, weekend-long, event, we've chosen to focus on the Iron Age — a period of human history that began around 2,800 years ago when we first saw iron tools in use in Scotland and ended around 1,600 years ago (800 BC to 400 AD) - but there will also be lots of heritage-based activities from other time periods for you to enjoy too!

We chose the Iron Age because there are a number of important Iron Age sites in the Ecomuseum, including one of the best-preserved examples of an enclosed hilltop settlement, Barry Hill Fort near Alyth.



It was also a period of major climate change, becoming much colder and wetter, in a relatively short period of time, and people found ways to adapt and thrive - as we need to do now.

We hope you enjoy travelling back in time with us and finding out more about how the story of our past can help guide the story of our future.





Outdoor Activities & Demonstrations

Travel back in time and experience life in the Iron Age in our outdoor tented village featuring artisan-traders and crafters Pario Gallico, Heritage Blades and Pictavia Leather, and the Renaissance Martial Arts Society (RMAS).

These living history experts will help you immerse yourself in life in the past with up-close demonstrations and displays of crafted artefacts, and will be happy to talk about their crafts and discuss heritage-living throughout the weekend.

Demonstrations will run all day. No need to book.



Iron Age Pigments & Paint

Pario Gallico presents how our ancestors lived and worked, focusing on Iron Age Celts (800BC-43AD). During the day, Pario Gallico will demonstrate specialised crafts and ancient skills. Presenting materials and techniques, Pario Gallico will focus on painted objects and their archaeological evidence to explain a colourful history. You will see how to make pigments from earths and minerals, create paintbrushes out of natural materials, and make various types of paints used in ancient times.

The Iron-Age Forge

Come and watch professional blacksmith and living historian, Thomas Timbrell, as he creates tools and equipment from the Iron Age. Find out how iron was heated on a forge and then shaped with hammer and anvil into the items we now find over 200 years later. This is your chance to learn about the lives of the first blacksmiths, the skills of their craft and the roles they played in the community.



Pictish Crafting

Pictavia Leather, owned and run by Hamish Lamley, is based in Perthshire. Hamish has extensive knowledge and skills of Pictish culture. He is an experienced leather worker and an experimental archaeologist with specialist knowledge as a tanner, coracle builder, and tattoo artist. In his on-site craftsman camp, Hamish will demonstrate his bespoke leather crafting and display his hand-crafted artefacts.





Renaissance Martial Arts Society

Abertay University's Renaissance Martial Arts Society (RMAS) studies historical weapon arts such as longsword, sword and buckler, dagger, and wrestling and promotes the martial history of Europe from the 14th century onwards. By examining written manuals from many time periods, the techniques are interpreted, learned, and taught to the same standards and in the same ways as when they were written. See their re-enactments and live demos throughout the day.

Building the Past - it's not what you find, it's what you find out

What came first, the Iron Age or the Bronze Age? How do the events of the past fit together to shape the world we know today? Join us for an engaging and interactive workshop that brings history to life through hands-on activities - help build a geological timeline using fossils and artefacts to understand the vast timescale and significant events since Earth's formation and explore the evolution of British society from the Iron Age to modern times, discovering what these artefacts tell us about life on Earth at different points in history.



Natural Building

Scotland's rich legacy of building with earth is helping us shape a sustainable future. For thousands of years our ancestors skilfully mixed clay, sand and natural fibres to create an infinite range of earthen building materials. Being locally sourced, non-toxic and fully recyclable, various earth building techniques are now used in construction once again. Join Daniel Postma from Archaeo Build for workshops on the hour every hour and find out more about how earthen building materials keep us safe, dry, warm and happy. You can even make something nice to take home with you!



We can learn valuable lessons from prehistoric societies



Talks & Storytelling

Saturday 6th July

11.00 am - 11.30 am Interactive Storytelling with Neil Paterson



Neil Paterson loves to get his audience to help him tell stories, and will be looking for volunteers to help him as he explores some tales that connect us with the experience of life in the Iron Age. Suitable for families, young and old!

11.45 pm - 12.15 pm Prehistoric Paints in Archaeology: Colours before the Romans. A talk by Caroline Nicolay of Pario Gallico

We often hear about “prehistoric cave paintings” and beautiful “Roman frescoes” covering walls in ancient Rome and Pompei... but nothing about paints, colours or art happening during the thousands of years separating these two examples. Were our ancestors really living in a “mud-coloured” world? Of course not! And modern archaeology now proves it. Caroline takes us on a fascinating tour of prehistoric artefacts recently discovered to give us a better idea of how colourful life was in the distant past, and how it changes our perception of History.



12.30 pm - 1.00 pm The Painted People: the Picts and Their Tattoos by Hamish Lamley, Pictavia Leather

What did the Picts really look like? When you think of the Picts, what image comes to mind? Were they naked blue savages? Absolutely not! History reveals a far more fascinating and intricate reality. In this captivating talk, Hamish will unravel the threads of Pictish style and culture, challenging the barbarian stereotype. If the Picts used tattoos, evidence suggests they were more likely red or black rather than the vibrant blue often imagined. This practice was common throughout Europe, elevating the Picts from mere myth to a people as sophisticated and culturally rich as any other civilisation.

Join us to delve into the true history of the Picts, dispelling myths revealing a culture of great complexity and unpicking the threads of the Pictish style.

2.00 pm - 2.30 pm Stories of the Picts, the Fae & Local Lore with Storyteller Lindsey Gibb



Scottish folklore is rich with tales of the Fae, mystical creatures woven into the country’s cultural fabric. These stories highlight Scotland’s rich imagination and heritage, captivating people with their sense of mystery and wonder. Lindsey loves stories and has been telling and sharing them all her life; her connection to the land and wildlife comes through in her storytelling. Journeys are also strongly featured in Lindsey’s stories as they offer opportunities for adventure, cunning, and the unexpected.



2.45 pm - 3.15 pm Film screening - Towers of the North: The Brochs of Iron Age Scotland (3000 BC - 200 AD) by Pete Kelly, creator of the popular Youtube channel History Time

Massive circular stone towers woven into the archaeological landscape of Caithness, brochs are among the most enigmatic structures of Scottish prehistory. Built by northern Caledonian tribes around 2000 years ago during the middle Iron Age, these drystone towers are notable for their grand height, with some still standing 10 to 13 metres tall today, and are the tallest prehistoric structures in the British Isles. Rich in folklore and academic interest, brochs continue to intrigue with their complex design and mysterious history, despite extensive research. Find out more in this film by Pete Kelly, creator of the popular YouTube channel 'History Time'

Sunday 7th July



11.00am - 11.30am Rewild Yourself: A talk by Malcolm Handoll of Five Senses Rewilding

We understand the need for a healthy planet but what about us humans? Malcolm describes his personal explorations into past societies and indigenous peoples and how we might benefit from being in nature and learn how to lead healthier, more enjoyable lives now and in the future.

11.45am - 12.15pm Iron Age Metalsmith by Thomas Timbrell

Join blacksmith and living historian Thomas Timbrell to explore the world of the Iron Age metalsmith. Many objects have survived the Iron Age, from powerful swords wielded by warriors to horseshoes and agricultural implements indicating settlement patterns across Britain. But why the change from bronze to iron? And what do the iron objects that have been left behind tell us about the people who made and used them? Thomas will share his knowledge of the period, coupled with his extensive experience of blacksmithing, to uncover some of these metal mysteries from Iron Age Britain.

2.00 pm - 2.30 pm Stories of the Picts, the Fae & Local Lore with Storyteller Lindsey Gibb

See Saturdays description.

Storyteller Lindsey Gibb loves telling stories to whoever will listen



Image Courtesy of the artist

2.00pm - 2.30pm Natural Building by Archaeo Build

In this talk, Daniel Postma offers a broader perspective on the links between past building practices and modern sustainable construction. Examples are drawn from across the fields of settlement archaeology, vernacular building conservation and natural building. Through a selection of Archaeo Build's recent projects, we will explore new ways to learn to benefit from our ancestors' long-standing ability to construct comfortable, fully recyclable and low-carbon building, using non-toxic, locally sourced materials and working in a community.

2.45pm - 3.15pm Lost Species with Aquila Wildlife & Nature

Join Andrea Hudspeth and Evey Schreiner from Aquila Wildlife and Nature to explore the lost species that roamed Iron Age Scotland. What would our wildlife and landscapes have looked like over 2,000 years ago? Experience stories of both extinction and hope as we dive into the past, present, and future of Scottish wildlife.



The talks programme is informal and requires no prior booking. Feel free to drop in and enjoy discussions on topics that interest you or explore something new.



Reflecting on historical examples can inspire us to adopt more sustainable practices in our modern world. By reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, embracing renewable energy sources, and promoting sustainable agriculture, we can mitigate the impacts of climate change and build a more resilient future.



The remains of the Shanzie Souterrain. Photo by Clare Cooper

Replica Museum

Our replica museum houses reproductions and copies of heritage artefacts, artworks, historical objects, and environments inspired by original Iron Age and Pictish items. It provides a unique way to experience and appreciate history and art, ensuring that cultural heritage is protected and celebrated.

Some of our replicas have been hand-made by community groups in the area, including work from the Nest Community Space and Wisecraft in Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus Youth Activities Group and Cake or Dice in Dundee.

Each group was given exciting activities like building roundhouses, crafting Iron Age-inspired jewellery, making Iron Age shoes, decorating shields, and painting Pictish stones. The results are amazing! Imagination ran wild, and they created, designed, and made everything you see here today—including weaving and heritage-inspired musical instruments.



Image from Wisecraft



Real Scottish Iron Age artefacts and replica objects are on loan from Archaeology Scotland. These include:

- Armlet (replica)
- Javelin Head (replica)
- Pig Bone
- Bridle Bit (replica)
- Iron Slag
- Spindle whorl
- Bone Pins
- Pottery Sherds
- Glass Bead
- Cannel Coal Bead & Bracelet Sherd





Heritage Workshops & Crafting

Throughout the weekend there will be live crafts demonstrations and lots of hands-on opportunities to make things you can take home.

Different activities will accommodate varying skill levels and allow you to choose your own pace and timings. The workshops will take place in a large yurt and will be a mix of drop-in and scheduled sessions. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Iron Age-inspired Air-Dry Clay Pots & Painting

Create and paint your own clay pots with Iron Age symbols while learning about ancient history at the same time.



Image by Pario Gallico

Roundhouse Model Making

In this hands-on workshop you can build and decorate your own model of an Iron Age roundhouse.

Painting Pictish Stones & Wood

Use vibrant paint to highlight the intricate carvings of symbols, animals, and figures created by the Picts.

Weaving

Tools related to spinning and weaving have frequently been found in archaeological excavations of Iron Age sites, confirming that producing yarn and textiles was an essential daily task for households. Try your hand at this ancient craft using a small table-top loom.



Temporary Iron Age-Themed Tattoos & Face Painting

Symbols, patterns, and motifs connect us with ancient history, offering a glimpse into the art and culture of our ancestors. Common designs include spirals, knots, animals, and warriors - choose your design and wear a piece of history (**Sunday only**).



Weaving by Wisecraft

Iron Age & Pictish Jewellery

Iron Age jewellery often included torcs (neck rings), bracelets, and fibulae (brooches), while Pictish jewellery was noted for intricate designs and symbols. Appreciate the craftsmanship of ancient cultures, and enjoy creating your own historical-inspired pieces.

Iron Age Shoes



Using recycled material that might otherwise have been discarded, create a historically-inspired pair of shoes.

Stone Carving



Alyth-based stone carver Neil Paterson carves pieces such as wedding and commemorative stones and garden ornaments based on Scottish folklore.



Image by Neil Paterson

Bushcraft & Foraging

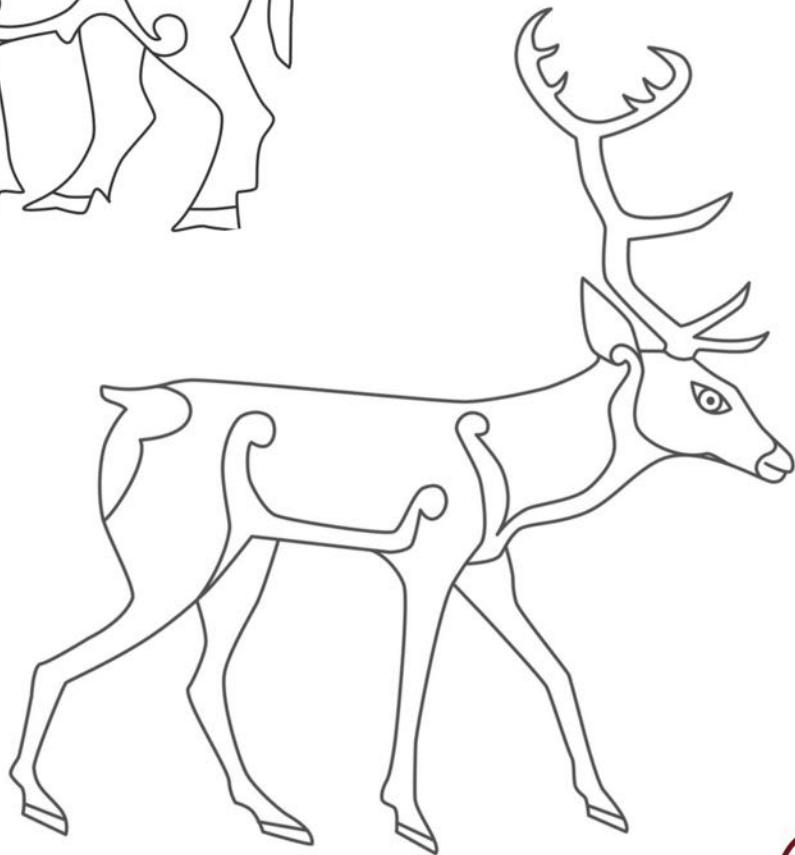
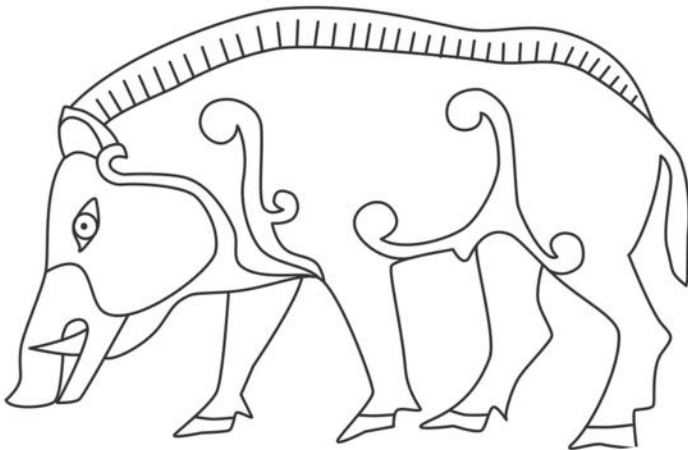
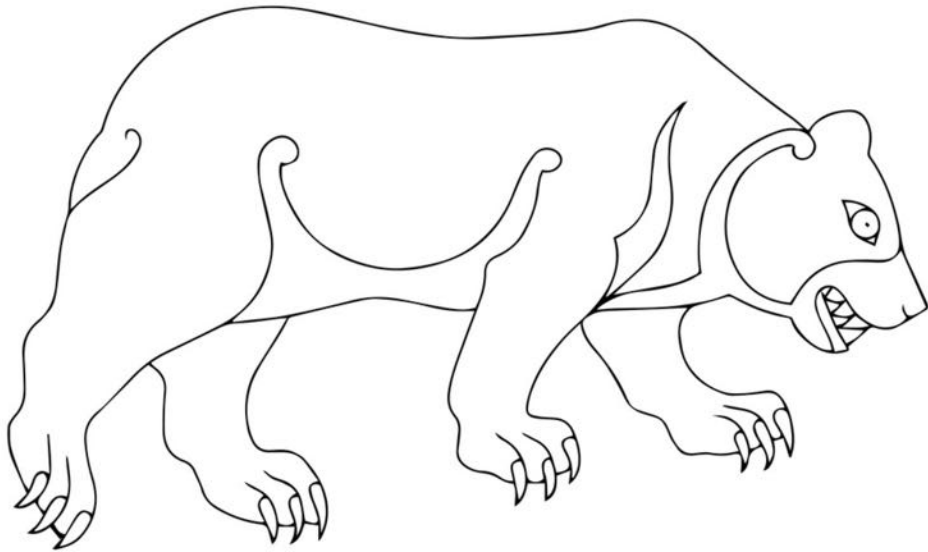
Join registered bushcraft practitioner and qualified woodland activity leader Steve Haden for three separate sessions looking at the art of thriving in the natural environment - one of the first steps in the process of self-reliance and sustainability. Steve will show you how to turn common nettles into string which was used by archers as well as to make baskets, clothing, mats, and bags. He will also demonstrate some beginner-friendly willow crafts, including creating a willow wind twister for the garden, and lead a relaxed and informal walk looking at seasonal flora and fauna, highlighting plants that have traditional medicinal properties and some fun and interesting facts about survival in Alyth! Saturday only.

Each session lasts around 60 minutes apart from the foraging walk will be approximately 90 minutes. Book on the day.





Colour in your own Pictish Animal



What's On When - Quick Glance!



Saturday, July 6th

Talks & Storytelling:

11.00 am Storytelling, Neil Paterson

11.45 am Prehistoric Paints: Colours before the Romans, Caroline Nicolay, Pario Gallico

12.30 pm The Painted People: The Picts and their tattoos, Hamish Lamley, Pictavia Leather

2.00 pm Stories of the Picts, the Fae and local lore, Lindsey Gibb

2.45 pm Towers of the North: The Brochs of Iron Age Scotland, Film screening

Demonstrations and workshops throughout the day:

Foraging - Iron Age-inspired clay pots and painting - Roundhouse model making - Painting Pictish stones and wood - Temporary Iron Age tattoos - Nettle String making - Willow Craft - Iron Age shoe-making using recycled materials - Settlement archaeology - Bookmark weaving - Crafting Iron Age and Pictish jewellery - Blacksmithing - Leather work - Re-enactments

Sunday, July 7th

Talks & Storytelling:

11.00 am Rewild Yourself, Malcolm Handoll, Five Senses Rewilding

11.45 am Iron Age Metalsmithing, Thomas Timbrell, Heritage Blades

12.30 pm Stories of the Picts, the Fae and local lore, Lindsey Gibb

2.00 pm Natural Building, Daniel Postma, Archaeo Build

2.45 pm Lost Species: What's gone missing from our landscape, Andrea Hudspeth & Evey Schreiner of Aquila Wildlife

Demonstrations and workshops throughout the day:

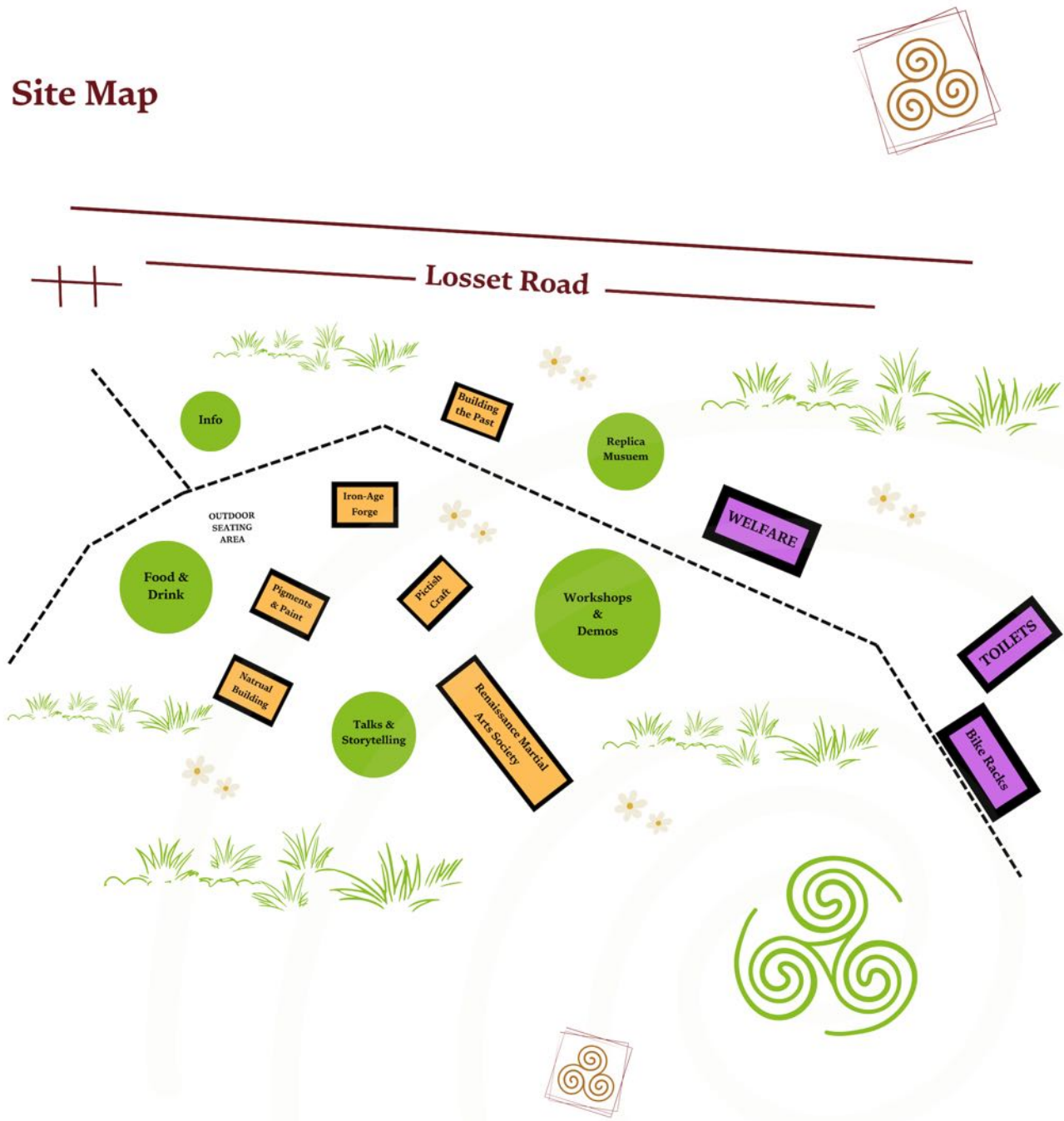
Iron Age-inspired clay pots and painting - Roundhouse model making - Painting Pictish stones and wood - Temporary Iron Age tattoos - Iron Age shoe-making using recycled materials - Settlement archaeology - Bookmark weaving - Crafting Iron Age and Pictish jewellery - Blacksmithing - Leather work - Re-enactments



On-Site Facilities

On-site facilities include portable toilets, a welfare tent and a first-aider, bike racks, indoor and outdoor seating, and a food yurt.

Site Map




Find out more about our work on our website, including information on our 23 walking and cycling itineraries. These will take you to over 140 places of natural and cultural heritage interest that span 6,000 years of human history and 400 million years of geological history.

cateranecomuseum.co.uk

Information Point

If you have any specific questions about the site or the programme, please visit our Information Point.

Workshops & Activities

All our activities are open to everyone, regardless of age or ability, and all are family-friendly. Some of our activities have been designed with younger children in mind. Look out for this symbol  to find out which ones.

Demonstrations will run all day, and there's no need to book in advance.

Workshops are run on a drop-in basis, and our workshop team will be on hand to guide you.

This event has been supported by the following funders: Thanks to National Lottery Players & the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and SSE Drumderg Community Fund.

We would also like to thank everyone who has made this event possible.



**All information is correct at the time of publishing, however, things may change due to unforeseen circumstances or to accommodate changes.*



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