

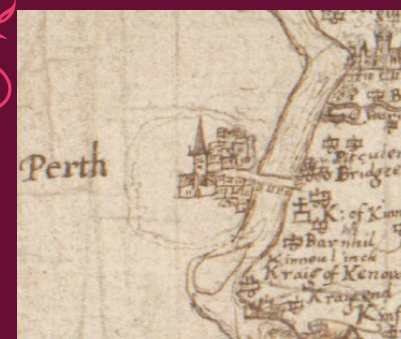
CROSSING THE TAY

Artist's impression of the bridge in the year 1440.



For centuries, Perth was the lowest crossing point over the River Tay. In medieval times, several bridges were built and then swept away by fierce floods. Boatmen had to carry people and goods across the river. They did this even in dangerous currents and atrocious weather conditions.

- The River Tay is the longest and most powerful river in Scotland.
- Skilled ferryman often risked life and limb to navigate the passage across. You can find some of their gravestones in Greyfriars Kirkyard.
- In the middle ages, a busy and thriving harbour lay at the end of today's High Street where the viewing platform is situated.
- Not only bridges perished; Perth Castle was swept away in a flood in 1209. It stood at Horsecross where Perth Concert Hall is today.
- Perth Bridge was built in 1771 by John Smeaton.
- Queen's Bridge, further downstream, was opened in 1960.
- The railway bridge, the second to be built, dates from 1863.



Timothy Pont's 16th century map of Perth, showing a former bridge over the Tay.



MEDIEVAL TRAIL PERTH

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Scan the QR code to see a 360° impression of this location in the year 1440.



Scan the QR code for a BSL version of this board.



Download the Perth 1440 app for more info and virtual content.



Discover more about medieval Perth at various locations in the city centre.