

# OUTSIDE THE BURGH

Perth on 11th May 1559. On the right of this image, you can see the area of the Blackfriars' monastery and the industrial settlement.



In medieval times, this area was just outside the walls of the burgh of Perth. Perth Castle stood here until it was washed away by a flood in 1209. The site then became part of the monastery built by the Blackfriars. Many religious buildings were destroyed after the Scottish Reformation began in 1559. The land was then used mainly for hazardous and odorous industries. These included skinning, tanning, dying and blacksmithing - it was a thriving 'suburb' of the royal burgh.

- King James I was murdered in 1437 when he was staying with the Blackfriars at their monastery. He was buried in Perth's Carthusian monastery which stood where King James VI Hospital is today.
- Parts of The Fair Maid's House may date from the 13th or 14th century. It takes its name from Sir Walter Scott's novel The Fair Maid of Perth. Today it houses the visitor centre of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.
- In this area, you would have found trades that used fire, needed space or reeked badly. They were just too unpleasant to be in the densely populated burgh.
- Tanning leather involved soaking hides in a liquid containing urine and dog's faeces and then treating them with tannin from oak - a smelly process!



James I, 1394 - 1437 by an unknown artist.

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## MEDIEVAL TRAIL PERTH