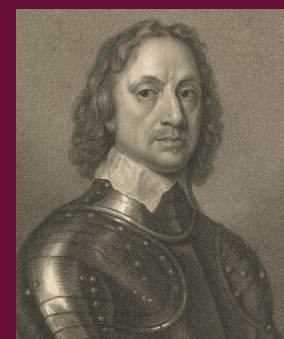


CROMWELL IN PERTH



If you were standing here in the 1650s, you'd be in the middle of a military stronghold. This unpopular fortress was built after Oliver Cromwell's successful siege of Perth during the Civil War. The building was demolished over the following centuries and only traces lie below ground. Why did Cromwell build his citadel here? Perth was an excellent strategic location for subjugating Scotland. It was the lowest crossing point on the River Tay, the harbour was the furthest inland and the burgh was the meeting point of the main roads. If you controlled Perth, you had a hold over the rest of the country.

- The citadel covered an area equivalent to eight St Johnstone's football pitches.
- For its construction, building materials were taken from houses, graveyards, the walls of the town and the hugely significant Mercat Cross.
- The ramparts were constructed of turf from the burgh's two Inches. They were used for communal grazing and drying household linen.
- After the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, the citadel fell into disuse and was gradually demolished.
- It was re-occupied, however, during the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745.



Oliver Cromwell, 1599 - 1658.



MEDIEVAL TRAIL PERTH

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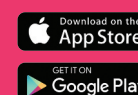
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Discover more about medieval Perth at various locations in the city centre.