

Doors Open Day Short Route

The archaeological remains of the Roman occupation in Strathearn tell a story about the size and power of the Roman army that was stationed here, how it controlled this area, and how it occupied and abandoned territory during the Flavian (c. AD 77-86/90) and Antonine (c. AD 139-165) periods. This cycle route is a way to explore a few Roman sites in the context of their wider landscape. You can move through the landscape at your own pace, taking some opportunities to think about how it might have looked in the first and second centuries AD, while enjoying a zero-carbon tour of Roman sites around Crieff. The references at the end show where you can find more information on this area during the Roman period.

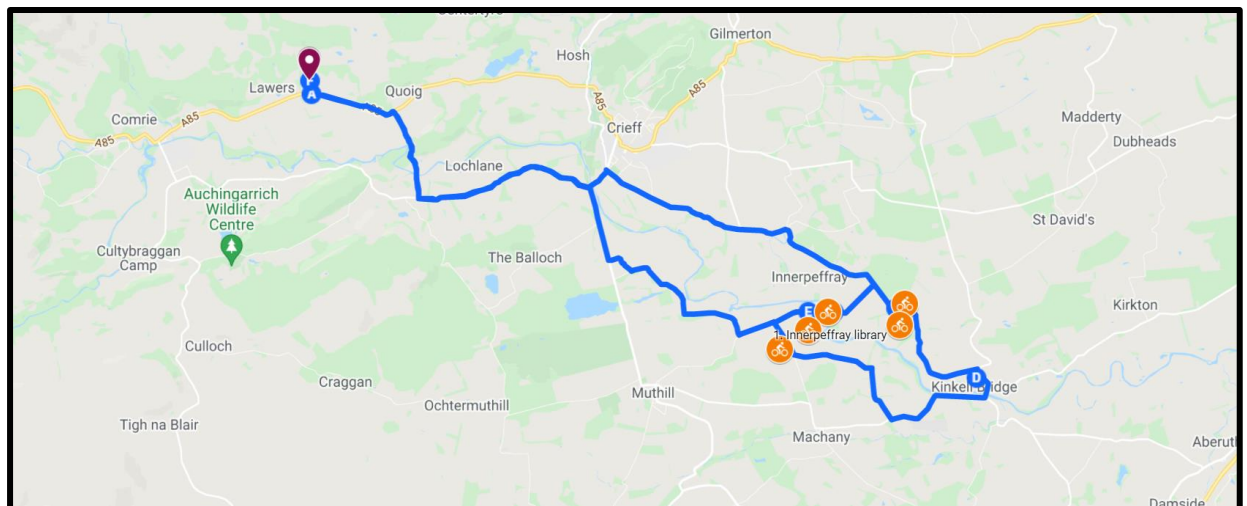


Online map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1-tAO8D31WmxQkoIMvEhV9pFFd1bXlccF&ll=56.347095736461775%2C-3.9993457737119815&z=11>

You can start and end this route at Comrie Croft (point A)

Braincroft, by Crieff, Perthshire, Scotland PH7 4JZ

What3words: ///beaten.lighten.tall



You can start your journey fuelled by lunch, coffee and cake from the Comrie Croft Café or buy snacks from the farm shop.



Before you start

- * Bring your own bike or hire one from Comrie Croft (including electric bikes) <https://www.comriecroftbikes.co.uk/>.
- * Remember your helmet, lights and high-vis gear if you have it. Wear shoes that are suitable for both cycling and exploring Roman sites on foot.
- * If you're bringing your own bike, consider doing an M-check beforehand to make sure it's road worthy and safe: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/get-active/2019/everyday-walking-and-cycling/the-m-check-for-your-bike-in-11-steps/>.
- * Find out more about road safety at:
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/road-safety/cyclists/#road>. You undertake these routes at your own risk, so please take all necessary safety precautions.
- * Please enjoy the outdoors responsibly: be mindful of accessing private land (check with landowner or tenant where necessary), don't disturb crops or livestock and please don't leave litter: <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/sites/default/files/2021-04/SOAC%20Enjoying%20Scotlands%20Outdoors%20leaflet%20online%20%28A3436975%29.pdf>
- * Bring plenty of water and snacks. You can start your journey fuelled by lunch, coffee and cake from the Comrie Croft Café, or buy food and drinks in Crieff towards the start or end of your ride.
- * If you take photographs of the sites, we would love to see them uploaded to MyCanmore, where they will join a collection of photos from everyone who's visited. Share your images by making an account and start uploading here:
<https://canmore.org.uk/mycanmore/register>.

The Route

1. Innerpeffray library

On Doors Open Days, stop at Innerpeffray Library to meet a Roman legionary soldier.

2. Parkneuk Roman Watch Tower

The next site you will come to is Parkneuk Roman Watch Tower. You can park your bike at the entrance to the forestry track. Walk along the track for about 50m before turning east; the rampart and ditch can still be seen.

3. Innerpeffray East and West Roman Temporary Camps

You will then pass the remains of two temporary Roman camps to your left, known as Innerpeffray East and West. Few remains are visible on the ground: the sites were identified using aerial photography.

4. Cuilburn Enclosure

This enclosure aligns on the road with Strageath Roman Fort. It is surrounded by a large ditch and represents another element of the military infrastructure on this line.

5. Strageath Roman Fort

The final site on the route is Strageath Fort. Excavation in the 1970s revealed that Strageath Roman Fort was used in both the Flavian and Antonine periods. It overlooks the River Earn and can be accessed on foot. Laurence Keppie's guide to Scotland's Roman Remains (1998) recommends asking at the Strageath Mains Farm for access. From the front of the farm buildings, you can walk uphill along the field boundary, then left along the

tree line. 120m into the second field there is a low bank which represent the rampart of the fort's annexe. 80m further on there is the fort and rampart surviving as a low mound. Continue along the fence line to find the northern rampart.

References

- D. J. Breeze (1983) 'The Roman forts at Ardoch', in O'Connor, A and Clarke, D V, *From the Stone Age to the 'Forty-Five': Studies presented to R B K Stevenson, Former Keeper, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland*, Edinburgh
- Lawrence Keppie (1998) *Scotland's Roman Remains*, Council for British Archaeology Scotland: Edinburgh
- D.J. Woolliscroft and B. Hoffmann (2006) *Rome's First Frontier: The Flavian Occupation*, Tempus: Stroud
- <http://scarf.rcahms.gov.uk/content/33-flavian-scotland-c-ad-77-8690>
- <http://scarf.rcahms.gov.uk/content/34-antonine-scotland-c-ad-139-165>

Safety information

Please be careful when using these routes, you are travelling at your own risk and the route includes busy roads and narrow lanes. Take care of yourself and of other road users around you. Please be mindful when visiting monuments on private land and adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Before undertaking any of these routes, you should:

1. Assess the weather conditions, terrain, dangerous roads and crossings on the route, considering their own ability in this assessment.
2. Consider risks on the route and take all necessary safety precautions.
3. Assess your own ability to complete the route. Do not undertake the cycle ride if you have any medical conditions which could be aggravated by the ride or additional needs which may cause difficulties on the ride.
4. Print out the map so that you have a physical copy, in case the electronic map cannot be accessed via the internet, or you run out of battery on your device.
5. Ensure your bike is roadworthy and safe. If you do not have a suitable bike for the route you can hire one from Comrie Croft. Here you will be able to hire route-appropriate bikes, including electric bikes for less able road users.
6. Ensure you have enough water and food with you.
7. Prepare a first aid kit and puncture repair kit.

Whilst cycling, you should:

1. Use appropriate PPE, including a helmet and high-visibility clothing.
2. Wear clothing which is appropriate for the weather conditions. Do not wear loose clothing that could get caught whilst cycling.
3. Keep a mobile phone with you for emergencies.
4. Cycle during daylight hours, avoiding dusk.
5. Consider other road users such as horse riders, drivers and pedestrians. Always give pedestrians priority.
8. Keep safe distances between other riders and road users.
9. Keep speed low where necessary.
10. If children are taken on the route, consider shepherding them with outriders.



11. Maintain single file where appropriate, especially on busy roads.

When exploring the places on these routes please remember to treat the landscape and archaeological sites with respect: **Leave no trace.**

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