



## B2.3 Forth Crossings

### Project Overview:

This project aimed to reconnect communities by engaging groups in research, documentation, knowledge sharing and celebration surrounding how trading shaped the landscape and culture of the Forth and how the river was a key element in connecting communities.

Volunteers and schools got involved to consider the construction, use and decline of the infrastructure that facilitated trade, namely ports, piers and harbours. They also researched the industries, materials, produce and trading routes that served to make the Inner Forth a bustling hub of activity in times gone by.

This research has been shared with people in numerous ways, not least by contributing images and data for the 'Historic Trade' layer on IFLI's interactive online map. Guided walks were delivered in places like Culross, Charlestown and Kennetpans; and numerous talks were delivered throughout the IFLI area and beyond on the subject of the Inner Forth's vibrant trading past. Around 120 people were hosted on a boat trip on the Maid of the Forth, which sailed from Alloa, past Kennetpans and Airth, before heading into the Windings towards Stirling. This enabled people to learn about historic activities along the Inner Forth from experts in the field and characters (courtesy of the Walking Theatre Company) whose lives and livelihoods depended on the river.

Two major pieces of original research were produced by individual volunteers: Ian Middleton's focused on the *Port of Alloa*; Murray Baird's was entitled *Culross: The Rise and Fall of a Royal Burgh*. Both are available to download from the IFLI website. Further, Ian's research was used as the basis for a bespoke play that was created by the Walking Theatre Company and performed by pupils from Alloa Academy during the Inner Forth Festival 2016: *Smugglers, Spies and Stolen Plum Pies*.

Finally, jointly with the Division of History and Politics at the University of Stirling, this project funded a bursary for a Masters research dissertation that investigated *Stirling's Lost Harbour*.

### Project lead and other organisations:

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Lead: Kirsty McAlister, Cultural Heritage Officer, IFLI

### Project Location:

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Various locations around the Inner Forth

### Project dates

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Years 1-4: September 2014 to February 2018

### ***Project Outputs***

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Delivered</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Community mapping resource	1	1	
Engagement tools	5	11	
Public celebration event	1	3	
Communities involved in public celebration	2	3	
Volunteers contributing to project	12	12	
Schools involved in project	4	12	

### ***What difference has this project made to the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Inner Forth?***

This project has uncovered new information associated with historic trade along the Inner Forth, and has documented and shared this in a variety of ways with a range of different audiences.

The various activities of this project have individually and cumulatively encouraged people to appreciate, celebrate and take pride in the trading heritage of the Inner Forth and the way this has shaped the landscape and culture of the area.

### ***What difference has this project made to people?***

Through written research projects, presentations, guided walks, plays and an interpretive boat trip, this project played an important role in increasing people's engagement with and understanding of both the physical remnants and cultural heritage of the Inner Forth's trading past.

Additionally, it facilitated networking opportunities for individuals and groups from different communities.

### ***Useful Links***

Project Page on IFLI website:

<http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/projects/recording-celebrating/forth-crossings>

## Lessons Learned

The success of this project was down to two main things: the considerable input of skilled volunteers; and the flexibility which allowed for a creative approach in engaging people with the project.

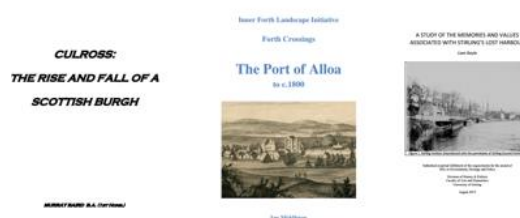
The original plan for a sound and light show spanning the Forth was shelved after considerable investigation and discussion about the practicalities involved to achieve this. With the limited cash budget of the project, it was deemed unfeasible.

## Photographic Evidence

*Reminders of the Inner Forth's maritime past*



*Written research projects on historic trade in Alloa and Culross, and Stirling's 'lost' harbour*



*Culross Heritage Walk, Sept 2016 (repeated various times)*



*Maid of the Forth boat trip (Alloa~Kennetpans~Airth~Windings), Sept 2017*



## Funding Partners



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