



# Historic Ferry Port & Railway Harbour

## Tayport Heritage Trail

has been created by the Ferry-Port-on-Craig Community Fund. It provides an introduction to the heritage of both Town and Parish, along with the surrounding countryside.



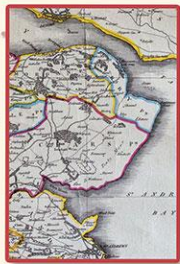
The Ferry-Port-on-Craig Community Fund originates from compensation received when the railway crossed the East Common in 1848. The Rights of Common were established by deed of agreement in 1739 and remain an important historical link for the community. Support from the Community Council along with Fife Council & Taybridgehead Councillors, has been instrumental in ensuring funding for this project. This has been generously provided from the various sources as listed below:  
Community Fund; Tayport Community Fund; Councillors' Locality Budget; Fife Environmental Trust; Co-op Local Community Fund; New Park Educational Trust; Northwood Charitable Trust; Fife Council Economic Regeneration Dept. & Local Resident Richard Touth.  
Ian D. Mathers J.P. Chairman Ferry-Port-on-Craig Community Fund 2021

Further information on the Trail and the story of Tayport can be found at: [www.tayportheritage.com](http://www.tayportheritage.com)



## The Setting

The North Fife coastal location continues to define both the identity and sense of community of the area. Its geography and landscape have encouraged both habitation and travellers from the earliest times. To the south and east are flat areas of land which include the sandy beaches of Tentsmuir and the scaups of the tidal mudflats. There were Mesolithic settlements of hunter-gatherers and fishermen on small tidal islands close to Morton Farm from around 6000 BC. To the west, the more elevated part of the parish around Scotsraig Estate extends down to the rocky shoreline which provided access for the early ferry crossings that gave rise to the village's original name of "Ferry-Port-on-Craig". ([www.pastmap.org.uk](http://www.pastmap.org.uk)).



Extract from 1827 Ainslie and Bell map.

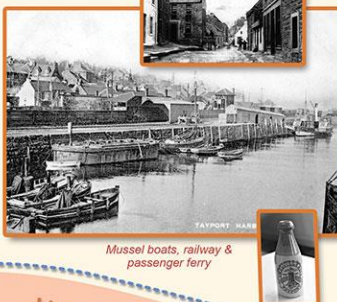
## Parish and Town

Following the establishment of the Railway Harbour and Ferry service in 1848, the influence of the Edinburgh, Perth & Dundee Railway on the affairs of the village was significant. At a company meeting in Edinburgh in 1851, they agreed to substitute "for the rather cumbersome designation of Ferry-Port-on-Craig, the more intelligible one of Tayport." Tayport was established as a Police Burgh in 1887, whilst the Parish remained as Ferry-Port-on-Craig until 1994.



The passenger ferry "Dolphin"

# Tayport Heritage Trail



Mussel boats, railway & passenger ferry

# Historic Ferry Port & Railway Harbour



## The Trail

The complete trail is a circa 6.5 km circular route with various shorter linking options. There are twenty four interpretive boards along the trail, giving information on the various historical periods.

- The Early Years (Prior to 1770)
- The Agricultural Improvement/Pre-Railway Period (1770 - 1848)
- The Railway Period (1848 - 1966)
- The Post-Railway Period following the opening of the Tay Road Bridge

Each board carries a small rubbing plaque which can be used as a memento of the trail and also a QR code which links via a smart phone app to the trail website where you can find additional information on each of the topics covered.

### 1 Ferry, Harbour, Railway



Railway Station & Harbour 1943

### 2 Old Piers & Boat Building



Fish house & County Pier

### 3 The West Common

Early ferry traffic and links both across and along the shores of the Tay.

### 4 Ships & Seafarers



The 958 ton "Glenogla"

### 5 The Castle



Sketch of castle ruins c.1855

Late medieval fortifications and the creation of the "free burgh of barony".

### 6 Art & Satire



"Cynicus"

In the early 1900s, Tayport could boast a rich seam of artistic talent...

### 7 Spearhill View

The high ground above the town and the vista it affords over the Firth of Tay.

### 8 Ocean Voyages



Captain Milne and crew of "Eclipse"

More maritime history and the town's links with Arctic exploration.

### 9 Garden of Remembrance

Tayport's contribution and sacrifice in times of war.

### 10 Burgh Chambers



The former Burgh Offices

The story of local government and civic improvements.

### 11 Social Activities

Groups, organisations and societies, plus the story of "The Picture House".

### 12 Scotsraig Estate



Former Scotsraig Mansion

The Laids of Scotsraig and the landowning families.

### 13 The Burn Edge

The 'Old Chaple', Toll House and Scotsraig Burn

### 14 The Curling Pond



The curling pond late 1890s

Recreational activities, the Horticultural Society and the story of the town's market gardens.

### 15 The Mill Dam Area



Extract from 1854 OS map

The expanding town of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

### 16 The Canniepairt

The East Common, Factory Corner and football in Tayport.

### 17 Garpit Links



Prehistoric Tentsmuir

Scotsraig Golf Club, Morton Lochs and prehistoric Tentsmuir.

### 18 Auld Coup & The Shore

The history of the shoreline and the surrounding area.

### 19 Snook Head & Lucky Scalp



The Battery, Snook Head, early 1900s

Coastal defences, Lucky Scalp and the Seawall/Esplanade.

### 20 The Mill Lade



The Pile Light

Timber yards, gas works and the story of the East Common.

### 21 Musselopolis on the Tay

The 'Draig', salmon fishing and the Pile Light

### 22 The Developing Community

The town's expansion in the pre-railway era and a new public school.

### 23 Auld Kirk & Graveyard



Auld Kirk prior to 1890

Tayport's places of worship and notable burials in the churchyard.

### 24 The Railway Harbour



Cargo ship in the harbour, 1930s

The 'floating railway' plus imports and exports from Tayport Harbour.

**KEY**

- Information Panels
- Heritage Trail Route
- Alternative Route avoiding rougher terrain
- Alternative Routes to P13 avoiding faster traffic
- Links to Fife Coastal Path

**Information Panels:**

- 1 Ferry, Harbour, Railway
- 2 Old Piers & Boat Building
- 3 The West Common
- 4 Ships & Seafarers
- 5 The Castle
- 6 Art & Satire
- 7 Spearhill View
- 8 Ocean Voyages
- 9 Garden of Remembrance
- 10 Burgh Chambers
- 11 Social Activities
- 12 Scotsraig Estate
- 13 The Burn Edge
- 14 The Curling Pond
- 15 The Mill Dam Area
- 16 The Canniepairt
- 17 Garpit Links
- 18 Auld Coup & The Shore
- 19 Snook Head & Lucky Scalp
- 20 The Mill Lade
- 21 Musselopolis on the Tay
- 22 The Developing Community
- 23 Auld Kirk & Graveyard
- 24 The Railway Harbour

**Other Landmarks and Features:**

- Waterloo Tower early 1900s (Board 7)
- The remains of Old Scotsraig House and arched gateway (Board 12)
- Jess Philp's Dam (Board 13)
- Volunteer women in the late 1950s (Board 15)
- The Scotsraig Works in 1918, prior to demolition (Board 16)
- Play equipment on the East Common, 1950s (Board 20)
- A whaler leaving Dundee Harbour with Ferry-Port-on-Craig in the distance, off the port bow (Board 8)