

The history of Alloa Inch was revealed on Monday , March 27th 2017, when Roy Sexton (Chairman of Stirling and Clacks Scottish Wildlife Trust), gave a presentation to Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society about the 80 acre island in the Forth. In this brief article he tells something of its fascinating history.

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I am sure that there are local people who are unaware that there is an 80 acre island in the River Forth at Alloa known as Alloa Inch.

In the 1700s the Inch was a mud bank covered in salt marsh and flooded to a depth of 4-6 feet at spring tides.

In 1800 the island was surveyed and plans put in place to build a nine foot embankment round its periphery to keep the water out and produce fertile farmland. After an initial catastrophic failure the banks were strengthened and a farm complex built.

Subsequently the island was occupied and farmed for 180 years until the banks finally gave way. The isolated existence on the island was not easy for the families that lived there. The Alloa ferry initially provided transport but with the building of the Kincardine Bridge farmers had to find their own means of moving equipment and stock to and from the mainland.

Today the island is owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and it is particularly important at this time of year as a refuge for the huge numbers of geese on their migration routes north.



Alloa Inch with the town and Ochil hills in the background