

## Cup Marked Stones and St Mary's Church 20/4/26

12 members set off from Aberfeldy Distillery car park to explore cup marked stones, an abandoned settlement and St Mary's Church. Leaving the car park, the group followed the road for a short time, passing the spring scene of fields of sheep with their lambs. We then followed a track which led us through Braes of Cultullich to a number of large cup and ring marked boulders, which were recently the subject of investigation by archaeologists uncovering some of what lay below ground. We could only speculate as to the reason why the people of the time made those marks on the stones. A coffee break was taken at this point, enjoying the open views to the surrounding hills.

From there tracks and field crossings were taken to the abandoned 'ferm town' of Tomtayewan, where time was spent examining what remains of the buildings. In the 19th Century the inhabitants emigrated en masse to New Zealand. It is said that they had become depraved and killed the one 'Virtuous Man' among them before leaving the country. From Tomtayewan we headed across country to St Mary's church, visiting a ring of standing stones on the way where lunch was taken. St Mary's Church is thought to have been built around 1533. Its standout feature is the painted ceiling which is thought to have been added in 1636 and is one of only two surviving ecclesiastical painted ceilings from the 1600s in Scotland. The final section of the walk following The Rob Roy Way along the river made for a very pleasant return to the cars. A walk of around 7 miles but plenty of interest along the way. The day was rounded off by coffee and cake in the distillery.



En route to Braes of Cultulloch.



Cup Marked Stones



Ruins of Tomtayewan



Stone Circle and lunch stop



St Mary's Church



Return along the River Tay to Aberfeldy