

On This Day – 29th October 1936

Kincardine Bridge opens



Photo: Robert Sneddon

While there were frequent places to catch a ferry or train across the River Forth in the early 20th century, Stirling was the only point with a road bridge – and with car journeys across it almost trebling between 1922 and 1935, it was time to build a new crossing.

The site chosen was Kincardine – it was far enough downriver from Stirling to make a significant difference to travel times, and it was also a historic crossing site, being one of the spots where drove roads from the north would meet ferries to continue their journey to the Falkirk Tryst.

With Alloa and Stirling ports still busy with coal and timber trade, the Kincardine Bridge was built to swing open, moving around a central truss – the entire operation took around 13 minutes, and used the modern equivalent of less than 1p worth of electricity. It operated without fault for over 50 years.

The closure of the upstream ports led to the locking of the swing mechanisms in 1990, and in 2005 the bridge was granted a Category A Listing by Historic Scotland.

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