

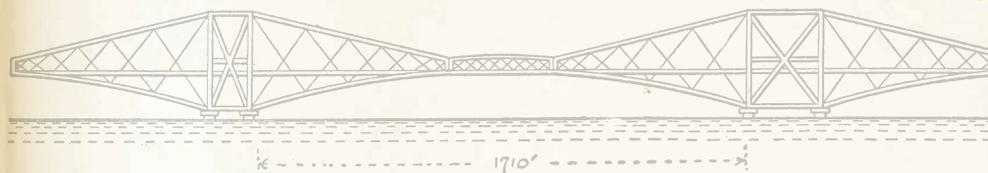
Map 7 FORTH BRIDGE

Aunt Bea was not usually silent, but even she found it hard to wax lyrical about the almost 50 miles we had travelled east on the M8, once we'd left the outskirts of Glasgow behind us.

'There's no shame in some roads being about the destination, not the journey,' she said. 'Now dig out the right map for the Forth River.'

North Queensferry is dominated by the Forth Bridge. There's no other word for it. The village is pretty and the people are friendly, but the bridge marches through and over it like a red giant. The locals barely notice it, I suspect, but I found it very difficult to think of anything else – not least because of how it dwarfs everything around it.

'The Firth of Forth is an estuary where several rivers come to the sea, including the River Forth. The word firth shares a common ancestor with the Scandinavian word fjord. There are two other bridges across the Firth of Forth, the Queensferry Crossing that carries the motorway, and the Forth Road Bridge, which is now used for public transport, bicycles and pedestrians. This one, the original and still the best, which carries trains, is significantly more spectacular than the others, 130 years old and going



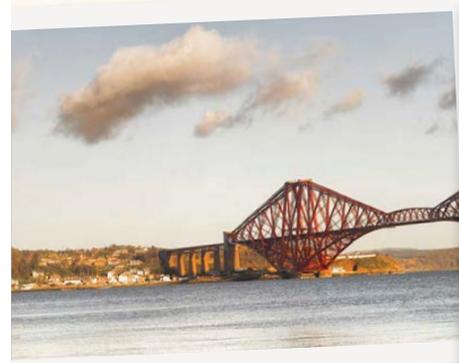
strong. Ah, those Victorians knew how to do bridges, didn't they! You see how the bridge's support girders rise and fall, like the ridges of a stegosaurus?' Aunt Bea was well aware of my ongoing fondness for dinosaurs.

I nodded.

'Well, each of those pieces is separate, weighted so they balance on their central supports. Cantilevered. Its biggest spans were the longest cantilevered bridge segments in the world for 20 years, until the Quebec Bridge came and stole their thunder, but they're still the second-longest. About 1,700 feet, all in one piece, perfectly engineered and balanced. It's incredible when you think about it. A fitting testament to Scotland's resilience and ingenuity. And a fascinating next step on our path!'

She pointed at a bench that faced out opposite the water and handed me her leather bag full of maps.

'Now, you sit there and puzzle these out and I'll go rustle us up some fish and chips. Something tells me it will soon be time for us to turn our faces south, to those savage lands known as England.'



QUESTIONS

Easy

1. How many blue marsh symbols are there in St Margaret's Marsh?
2. Which location sounds like it might have been used for executions?

Medium

3. Where on the map might you expect to find a horse?
4. Which of the three bridges is above the Firth of Forth for the greatest distance?

Tricky

5. Which of these names is the odd one out?
 - a. Craig
 - b. Edgar
 - c. James
 - d. Maggie
 - e. Piers
6. What is the lowest elevation enumerated on the map?

Challenging

7. Starting at a religious headland, follow the coast southwards to the third marked pier. From there, head straight north to a land-locked ferry. How tall is the nearest hilltop?
8. Which major Fife town is less than ten miles from North Queensferry? Look for a MIRE D FUNNEL.

Key Puzzle

* Several words lie between the museum and the blue lady. What is the second you pass through?



MAP
7

1. 7
2. Gallow Bank
3. Whinny Hill
4. Queensferry Crossing has the greatest length above water out of the three bridges
5. d. 'Maggie' is not printed anywhere on the map
6. 3m, south of the pier at West Ness
7. 71m (Cult Ness, to Town Pier, to Ferry Loch, to Ferry Hills)
8. Dunfermline



Key Answer

* Harbour