

A Toll-Schedule at Struthers, Fife

by *Walter M. Stephen*

Mr H. L. Stewart, farmer of Struthers (N.G.R. NO 378098) near Cupar, Fife, has on the wall of his garage the schedule of tolls originally displayed on the Struthers toll-house. Until the middle of the eighteenth century the main road in Fife between the ferries of Dundee and Kinghorn was the present A916,¹ the Struthers toll-bar stood at Grid Reference NO 381096 covering the Y-junction with the old road to Ceres and St Andrews, the road taken by Archbishop Sharpe on the journey ending on Magus Muir.

Struthers toll-bar was one of the least remunerative of those administered by the Fife Turnpikes, Cupar District. The rent in 1841 was £52, compared with Newburgh and its checks at £765.² Nothing remains of the toll-house today. Mr Stewart's family moved to Struthers in 1913, when the schedule of tolls was already in place in the farm steading.

The General Turnpike Act³ enacted that 'the trustees of every turnpike road shall provide for every toll-bar a printed or painted schedule or table, containing the name of the toll-bar, with a list of the tolls payable at such bar, and also the name of every other bar which shall be cleared by the payment of toll at such bar.' The Struthers toll-schedule is a board 5 ft. 9 in. long by 4 ft. broad, painted white with clear attractive lettering in black.

The text is as follows:

Table of Toll Duties Payable at Struthers Bar

	£.	S.	D.
For every Horse or Beast of Draught drawing any Coach, Barouche, Berlin, Chariot, Landau, Chaise, Curricule, Calash, Chair, Hearse or other such carriage, where only one is drawing such carriage	—	—	6
And where more than one is employed in drawing any such Carriage, not exceeding two	—	1	—
And drawn by three Horses or other Beast of Draught	—	1	6
And drawn by four Horses or other Beast of Draught	—	2	—
For each additional Horse or other Beast beyond four	—	—	6
And for one Horse or Beast drawing a Taxed Cart	—	—	6
For every Horse or Beast of Draught drawing any Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such like Carriage where only one is drawing and where any such carriage and the loading thereof taken together shall not exceed 25 hundred weight	—	—	4
And where such carriage and loading shall exceed 25 hundred weight and shall not exceed 30 hundred weight	—	—	6
And where such carriage and loading shall exceed 30 hundred weight and shall not exceed 35 hundred weight	—	—	8
And where such carriage and loading shall exceed 35 hundred weight and shall not exceed 40 hundred weight	—	—	10
And in addition for every hundred weight which such carriage and loading should weigh above 40 hundred weight and not exceeding 45 hundred weight	—	—	2

¹ *Old Statistical Account* (1794), XIII, 125 (Kennoway).

² William Pagan, *Road Reform* (Edinburgh, 1845), 124.

³ 1 and 2 Will. IV, Cap. 43, Section xxxv.

And for every hundred weight which such carriage and loading shall weigh above 45 hundred weight. Sixpence per hundred weight	-	-	6
And for every Horse, or other Beast of Draught, that shall be employed in drawing any such Wagon, Wain, Cart, or other like carriage, more than one, for each such additional Horse or Beast of Draught	-	-	2
For any Horse, Mule, or Ass whereon any Person shall ride	-	-	2
For every Horse or Mule, laden or unladen, and not drawing	-	-	1½
For every score of Oxen or Neat Cattle, One Shilling and Threepence, and so in proportion for any greater or less number			
For every score of Calves, Hogs, Sheep, Lambs or Goats, Threepence, and so in proportion for any greater or less number.			
NB Tickets given to clear Cupar East Bars, Cupar South Bar (on great Road,) Clushford Bar, Pitscottie Bar, (on road from Cupar by Challenge).			
NB Carriages, constructed with broad wheels, (in terms of the Road Acts,) pass at half Toll.			