

# Remembering the Strathpeffer Area:

## 3. The Heights



During 2015 people gathered at Strathpeffer Community Centre and Achterneed Hall to remember the physical remains of the Strathpeffer area – Jamestown, the Heights and Strathpeffer – focussing on buildings, sites, or monuments which were new, modified or no longer there. They built on previous sessions which had begun to look at Strathpeffer. Using old maps, photographs (some more than a century old), various printed sources, and memories spanning over 80 years, information about over 350 sites was gathered.

This report summarises the results of the meetings focussing on the Heights, an old crofting landscape. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map, surveyed in 1904, was used as a basis. The details have also been forwarded to heritage databases: the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER) ([her.highland.gov.uk](http://her.highland.gov.uk)) and Historic Environment Scotland's Canmore ([canmore.org.uk](http://canmore.org.uk)) where they will provide valuable new information about the heritage of the area.

The 2015 sessions were part of a project organised by ARCH and Strathpeffer Community Centre, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Mackenzie New York Villa Trust. Funding for the smaller projects in previous years was provided by Generations Working Together and High Life Highland. Thanks also to the Highland Museum of Childhood for allowing us to see text panels from their 2009 'Hands Across the Sea' exhibition. But most of all thanks to everyone who has shared their memories and photographs, both at the sessions and at the very successful Heights Heritage 2015 exhibition in October 2015.

Any additions or corrections should be sent to ARCH at [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer, IV14 9DH. This version: December 2015



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### The Heights: a crofting landscape

The Heights on the high ground between Strathpeffer and Dingwall has a rich prehistoric past, with a Neolithic tomb, cup and ring marked stones, Bronze Age burials and houses, and the largest surviving late Bronze Age gold hoard from Scotland. But in the historical period it was largely bypassed, and around 1800 resettled by crofters moved from lands in the strath below.



In the 1880s Donald MacDonald of Tigh-na-Gaoith gave the following account to the Napier Commission of the history of settlement in the Heights: 'The low parts of Strathpeffer were at one time occupied by crofters; but about eighty years ago these crofters were gradually turned off the low and fertile parts of the Strath to make room for large farms. The crofters received compensation neither for their labour on the land nor yet for their houses. Upon being removed from the low parts of the Strath, the crofters became sub-tenants on a patch of unreclaimed barren soil on the heights of Strathpeffer. At the same time they had the right to about 1000 or 1200 acres of common pasture land for which they paid no rent... and they paid rent for an additional piece of hill grazing. The crofters then built houses on their new patches of uncultivated land. Not only did they receive no help in erecting their houses, but they actually to go to other estates to purchase the timber they required. Neither did they receive any assistance whatever in reclaiming their barren allotments.'

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was full of small crofts, some still surviving, others now only rubble in the fields. They were split between two estates: Cromartie on the west and Tulloch in the east, and it is only recently that the road was joined between the two parts.

Most of the crofts had wells, even in areas where there were burns. They provided more convenient access and were easier to keep clean. According to local folk tradition, a trout was kept in some wells to keep them clean. Wells are remembered at various locations including: just at the end of the Achterneed village at the layby going up the hill, after the railway on the left side of the road, to the south of Rockview (still survives), at Dantryfail (where a trout is remembered), on Birchlea land (known as the Shoemaker's well), at Woodside(NH 49607 59897), at Tigh-na-Gaoith Heights of Inchvannie, though not situated that near the house, at Redbank (Heights of Keppoch) and at Burnside (another with a trout). Another one was in the wood northeast of the Bridge at Heights of Achterneed (see no. 503). The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps show a number of other wells. Interestingly a few are labelled 'Spa Well'. The water supply for the Heights is remembered to date to 1957, though it may have been earlier.







Colin MacDonald wrote about life in the Heights in a series of books originally published in the 1930s and 1940s, providing an invaluable record about the people who lived in this area. Information about the sites and people who lived in them was collected, and formed part of a larger exhibition held in the Heights Hall in October 2015. This report goes from west to east.

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ARCH No.	Name	Where ?		Condition	Description	HER & Canmore reference	Name of contributors
638	Post Office	NH 49008 59761		Now dwelling only	The only post office remembered on the Heights was at this location. It was built by Francis Skelly for Dawson MacLeod, the stationmaster. No post office is depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map for the Heights.		Sandy Ross, Neil MacDonald
511	Road near Achterneed Station	NH 48986 59786			The road leading up to the Heights from the telephone box to the Station was maintained by the railway – and was generally in poorer condition than the rest of the road. This seems to be borne out by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.		Neil MacDonald, Kenny Stewart, Margaret Stewart
507	Heights Road				The Heights are split amongst two estates (Cromartie Estate and Tulloch Estate), and the roads reflect this. John Rose of Redbank said in his testimony to the Napier Commission in the 1880s that the (western Heights) road was built in 1860 by the Duchess of Sutherland for c. £300. Before the Station was built, the road up to the Heights from Achterneed was further to the west, on the track where Raven Cottage and Sunnybrae are currently located. The road along the Heights was only joined after WWII, and for that reason is known by some as the ‘County Road’. Before that, the road from the west ended around NH 51924 60833 and the road from the east ended around NH 51994 61043. The road was only gradually tarmacked. For example, the area from the railway to the hall was first done in the 1950s by Baxters. It is remembered that the minister paid for the road repairs. The doctor’s car often bogged down at Redbank.		Fiona Newton Neil MacDonald Kenny Stewart Margaret Stewart
518	Quarry, Corriebein	NH 49868 60250			There was a small quarry near (modern) Corriebein, used for road repairs. Neil MacDonald remembers having to get materials there when his father’s car got stuck.		Neil MacDonald Kenny Stewart
520	Achterneed Station	NH 4910 5980		Converted to house	HER entry: ‘This station opened (as Strathpeffer Station) on 19th August 1870, it was re-named Achterneed Station in 1885. It closed to regular passenger traffic 7 December 1964 and re-opened as a	HER: MHG18655 Canmore: 87583	Fiona Newton Kenny Stewart Neil MacDonald

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					private unstaffed halt 8 February 1965. By 2011, the station had been converted into a private home. A long platform existed to the west of the crossing.’ Additional information: The house which is now a private home was the stationmaster’s house. The water supply for the station came from a tank situated quite a distance to the west (see no. 521). A tap on the railings at the station had a metal cup on a chain for drinking water. Achterneed Station had flush toilets when Margaret Newton (Dr. Paddy MacDonald) was a girl. The sidings to the west of the crossing were extensive.		
636	Steps to Achterneed Station	NH 49083 59754		Very ruinous, but a few in situ	There were steps leading from the phone box on the road, up to the south platform on Achterneed Station where the waiting room was. They appear to be depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map (25 inch to a mile). The steps were in use 50 years ago. Today most are gone, though a few very rotten ones can be made out.		Neil MacDonald, Arthur Coburn, Roseann Christie
637	Goods Shed	NH 49020 59779		Gone	A small goods shed was on the east side of the road near where the railway gate is currently located. It was set up for backing vehicles in to collect goods. It appears on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, but not the 1 <sup>st</sup> .		Arthur Coburn Kenny Stewart
535	Ravenshill	NH 48704 59904		Surviving	On the 1st edition OS map a well is depicted to the east of the house, marked as a spring on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. This was the Campbell’s original house. The remains of the house survive, still with an old range inside. A taxi driver named Matheson lived there.		Sandy Campbell, Ann MacInnes, Arthur Coburn
536	Rockview	NH 48487 60000		Surviving	This house is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps with a well to the south of the house. The byre end of the old house survives, with the current west end added in 1926. A well was to the north of the house in the field. The house was occupied by Mr. Cameron who had a market garden and greenhouses, none of which survive. When Ann MacInnes’ parents moved in they found a number of treadle sewing machines and bibles.		Ann MacInnes
521	Water Tank	c. NH 48277 60104		Gone?	A water tank was built by the railway at this location and piped to the station. It also supplied Plantationside. A standpipe was located at the edge of the plantation and to the north of the barn.		Arthur Coburn

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522	Railwayside or Plantation-side	NH 48372 60047		New house on site	This house was called originally called Plantationside but then later called Railwayside to avoid confusion with another Plantationside higher up in Bottacks. The L-shaped house was two cottages, and a barn was to the west, appearing in different locations on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. It was occupied by George and Margaret MacKenzie, and before them, the MacLennans. The house was demolished 1979, replaced with the existing Railwayside.		Arthur Coburn
523	Iron Well	Grid ref needed		Derelict	An iron well was situated to the west of Railwayside, on the north side of the railway. It had a jam jar for drinking. It is just a seep now.		Arthur Coburn, Kenny Stewart Fiona Newton
503	Well, Bottacks	NH 48982 60038		Unknown	A well was located just to the west of the burn, at a copse of trees known locally as 'the littlest wood in the world'. It is marked on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, and is remembered in use. Near the well was a ram, for pumping water to the shop. The ram no longer survives.		Neil MacDonald, Fiona Newton Arthur Coburn
505	Mill, Heights of Achterneed	NH 48959 59840		New house on site, but part of old one preserved in garage	There was a corn mill above Achterneed Station. It is not labelled as such on either the 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map however, records an 'Aquaduct' near the Achterneed Burn, and much further to the north, a dam (NH 49193 60796) which was used to control the water supply for the mill. Kenny Stewart remembers the aquaduct on stilts. Nanny MacLennan (later Urquhart) opened it to work the mill. Her father, Willie MacLennan also sometimes went on horse up the burn to open the sluice, and used to race the water down. The water went from the burn in a culvert under the road. The last man to use the mill was Willie (Willock) MacLennan probably in the 1920s. A new house is on the site, but part of the old appears to be built into the garage.		Neil MacDonald, Fiona Newton, Kenny Stewart, Arthur Coburn, Avril MacPhee
519	Saw mill	c. NH 48927 59884		Gone	There was a saw mill on the west side of the Heights Road. Duncan Munro from Dingwall first had it, when it used steam for power, and then John MacDonald from Inverness, who used electricity. It was in use during WWII and just after that. Kenny Stewart worked there as his first job. There were huts located below the saw mill and just above the railway where the people working the saw mill		Kenny Stewart Margaret Stewart Arthur Coburn Neil MacDonald






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					lived. The timber was sent away on the railway, and seven wagons are remembered there for this purpose. When the timber was used up, the mill closed.		
642	Larder	NH 48925 59828		Surviving	A small stone building is on the west side of the road, opposite the site of the mill (no. 505). It appears on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, with a similarly sized one just to the south. It has a sloping corrugated iron roof, and a window. The original function of the building is not known. It is said to have been a larder for storing milk.		Anne MacInnes Arthur Coburn Neil MacDonald
506	Bottacks	Centred NH 48820 60263			This area situated to the west of the Achterneed Burn was laid out in small crofts on land given by the Cromartie estate for men returning from the Crimean wars. Watson ( <i>Place Names of Ross and Cromarty</i> ) says the name means a sun-dried crack or narrow channel, but locally it is thought the name relates to the gaelic for 'old men' (bodach).	HER: MHG24534 Canmore: 103162	Fiona Newton, Neil MacDonald
517	Cnoc na Gearraisich	NH 47336 62504			Neil MacDonald remembers the hill labelled Cnoc na Gearraisich on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map as 'Hare Hill'. Five hundred white hares were said to have been shot there on one day.		Neil MacDonald Kenny Stewart
516	Stables	NH 45 66 Exact location not known			Open-fronted stables way up in the foothills of Ben Wyvis are remembered by several people, and it is thought that corrugated iron remnants are still there. The path going there went to the northwest from Bottacks, bearing on the right fork where there was a cairn at NH 48135 61437, then across a wee bridge (listed as a ford on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map) at NH 47619 62816. The track then continued up along the burns. The exact grid reference of the stables is not known, nor why they were located there – but it was in use for the shooting parties. A stone urn with whisky was also brought along, usually never touched and returned to the castle. But one day there was a request and the jar was 'accidentally' smashed – because there was no whisky in it. Isabel McMaster was told that estate workers used to stay up on the hill if doing work there, so perhaps this building relates to this purpose as well. This route was one of the known ways up Ben Wyvis, even used by school parties. Peats cut near the track went down to the Spa.		Jock Watt Neil MacDonald Isabel McMaster Kenny Stewart Arthur Coburn

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527	Needle Stone / Pin Stone	Grid ref needed		Gone	An unusual stone on the path to Ben Wyvis from Bottacks was known as the Needle Stone or the Pin Stone. It was of schist, but with many small indentations. It was one of the stopping points on the way up the Ben for Margaret Newton (Dr. Paddy MacDonald), and family when they were young. Later the stone was blown up because it was damaging tyres.		Kenny Stewart, Fiona Newton
600	'Shoppie Bridge'	NH 48975 59995		Now Culvert	The Shoppie bridge from the Heights road to Bottacks was remembered as a wooden bridge supported on steel beams.		Neil MacDonald
504	The Shoppie Bottacks	NH 48946 60008	  	Rebuilt	<p>There was a wooden shop ('the Shoppie') just over the bridge in Bottacks. It was a one storey wooden extension on the east gable of a stone built house. It does not appear on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but the building is there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map. It was said to have been built of railway sleepers. A photograph of the shop from the 1920s appears in MacDonald 1991. The water was supplied by a ram situated near the well (see no. 503).</p> <p>Mrs Day, an Irish woman, lived there in the late 1800s. When Mrs Day got old, Mrs Maggie Ross (nee Mackenzie, from View Cottage, a sister of Colin MacDonald's mother) came to The Bridge with her husband David Ross and started "The Shoppie". (Maggie Mackenzie was born c. 1848-50 and married David Ross in 1870). Previously, Colin MacDonald's father, Donald MacDonald (born 1839), ran a shop behind Tign-na-Gaoith. Maggie Mackenzie or Watt (born 1882, a niece of Maggie Mackenzie or Ross and great aunt of Daphne Aird) later took over the shop. She emigrated to Canada. In 1929 Mrs Fraser and her husband, Jimmy, took over the shop, and built a new house and shop, sometime between 1929 and 1955. He was son of the gardener at Castle Leod. Mrs Fraser ran the shop until it closed in 1974. It was a thriving business until the 1960s, a great meeting place. Burnett the bakers from Strathpeffer delivered fresh bread twice a week. Within memory supplies for the shop were delivered by vans – and if the paraffin spilt, it sometimes spoilt the other food. The daily papers were</p>		<p>Fiona Newton, Neil MacDonald, Kenny Stewart, Arthur Coburn, Roseann Christie</p> <p>Colin MacDonald, <i>Life in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland</i>, plate 12 (1991)</p>

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					thrown off the train as it headed west. Mrs Fraser did her washing in a washing shed situated to the west of the house. She died in 1988 having had to give up the shop some years before that after breaking her leg in 1974. The existing building where the shop was is a result of more recent rebuilding.		
538	Brookside	NH 48842 60043		Surviving	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map this building is two roofed buildings with a gap between them, but on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map it is one cottage. The old cottage is still there, though with extensions. MacRitchies lived there.		Pat MacDonald
537	Cypress Cottage	NH 48818 60110		Surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts two joined buildings at slightly different alignment with a well to the west. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, only the eastern building is roofed, but another long building, probably a steading is depicted to the north of it, with threshing circle to the west. No well is depicted.		Pat MacDonald
578	Cottage	NH 48682 60076		New house on site	A small cottage is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> OS maps. It has been replaced by a new house (Brooklea House).		
539	Cottage	NH 48634 60149		Gone	A cottage is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map to the east of Tara croft. By the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map it no longer had a roof. It is now gone. One local story is that a side school was beside Cypress Cottage, but there is no record of one here in the school log books. If accurate, perhaps the school was in this cottage.		Arthur Coburn
540	Tara Croft	NH 48617 60144		Surviving with additions	A house with two unroofed outbuildings is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, with a well to the north. By the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, the outbuildings have been roofed. The house still survives, with additions. According to a letter written in 1955 by Colin MacDonald, and additional notes by his daughter Margaret Newton (Dr. Paddy MacDonald), Rory Muillear (Mackenzie), his wife and sister Anne lived there. Anne was the 'hen-wife' of the Heights, collecting eggs, hens and butter for the Strath visitors. When Anna and Ali, two of the unmarried offspring, died Mrs Jessie Joels became tenant.'		Ann MacInnes, Arthur Coburn Fiona Newton




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541	Plantation-side	NH 48500 60191		New house on site	This is the northerly of two cottages known as Plantationside. It appears on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. Mr and Mrs Alex Holm, retired station master from Redcastle Station, lived there, and then after them Jackie Ross. He added part of a building from Achterneed station after it closed. A new house is there now.		Arthur Coburn Neil MacDonald Alasdair Cameron
542	Upper Cypress	NH 48775 60192		New house on site	An unroofed building is depicted at this location on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. A new house now occupies the site. George MacDonald stayed here.		Ann MacInnes, Arthur Coburn, Neil MacDonald, Pat Mackenzie
531	Caberfeidh	NH 49025 60286		Renovated and extended	A longhouse is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, with a well in the field to the southwest. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, there is a new house to the south. The well is no longer labelled. According to a letter written by Colin MacDonald, and additional notes by his daughter Margaret Newton (Dr. Paddy MacDonald), this croft belonged to the Feilers or Fidleirs. Coinneach and his wife lived there. His wife made 'spraining strings' to mend sprains. She would spit on the string and mumble over it. She died about 1895. Coinneach wore black cone-shaped hats. Their children were Donald, a meal-miller and mason who could 'smell rabbits in a hole'. He went blind when old and started building dry-stane dykes by touch. He was the last man in this district who could make whisky. Johnnie was a gamekeeper plus poacher. He had 3 sons and a daughter, all who left the district. Willie was a joiner. Sandy (Ali) could catch a hare alive by circling it. After the Feilers there were several tenants.  Neil Macdonald was born in this croft. It was owned by Cally MacRitchie who let it out. He had two brothers, Hughie who had been injured in a railway accident and Donnie, an ex-POW. The croft house has been renovated and extended after 2003.		Neil MacDonald, Kenny Stewart Fiona Newton
515	Croft and Bicycle workshop	NH 48851 60254		Gone; new house on site	A house is depicted on this site on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Before moving to Blairninich, Andrew Campbell had a croft in the Heights. He came to work on the croft with his uncle, who was known as Cahoochy (presumably after the rubber used to		Neil MacDonald, Fiona Newton, Jock Watt Isabel McMaster




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					patch tyres). Andrew Campbell later came to be known by this name as well. Neil MacDonald remembers engines and bits of equipment in the steading, and others remember it full of bicycles, presumably where he built some for sale. This steading no longer survives. Andrew was originally from Bathgate, where he had a bicycle shop. By 1955 the croft had been sublet, and the house was derelict. A new house is there now.		
543	Upperton	NH 48833 60323		Surviving	Two buildings are depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but the southern one is without a roof by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map.		
544	Cottage	NH 48849 60295		Gone	A small building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is without a roof by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.		
528	Duran	NH 49003 60403		Gone	A house is depicted on the 1st edition OS map. By the time of the 2nd edition map a new house was built to the south, and the original building became a steading. The old croft house, where Kenny Stewart stayed as a boy, was demolished c. 1990. The house cost £109, but the porch was £15 – the estate put it up and charged the family. This is the southernmost of three crofts known as Duran. It was also known as Johnny Gillander's croft.		Kenny Stewart Neil MacDonald, Fiona Newton
545	An Ard	NH 48675 60415		New house on site	A house is depicted at this location on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Kenny Stewart remembers that it was derelict with ivy coming up to the chimney. A new house is on the site now.		Kenny Stewart
643	Fairy Stone	NH 48774 60416			The cup and ring marked stone has a large number of cups, most on the upper surface, but some also on the side. It is the largest example on the Heights.	HER: MHG52913 Canmore: 12488	Susan Kruse
533	Tigh Beag (Gollans or Fanny Campbell's croft)	NH 48978 60621		New house on site	This is the middle of three crofts known as Duran, but also was known as The Gollans or Fanny Campbell's Croft. It was built in 1885. In the early 1900s the Gollans (actually Campbells) lived there. According to notes by Margaret Newton (Dr. Paddy MacDonald) of conversations with her father Colin MacDonald,		Neil MacDonald Fiona Newton, information at Open Day




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					<p>there were two sisters who stayed at home. One, Lily, took the cows from Castle Leod to above Cypress Cottage and back every day except Sundays. The brother Sandy (called the 'Calipha' – something to do with a dervish in Egypt) was a blacksmith and poet. He was a clever inventor and sang Gaelic songs of his own composition. His ambition was to be the oldest person in the parish, but in competition with Mary Grant, he started adding two years to his age every birthday. He died about 1920, roughly 88 years old. Johnnie Gollan was the father of Fanny and Alick Campbell (and Johnnie's wife was a sister to Robbie Og of New House). Fanny and her brother brought up two boarded out boys, one of whom put up her gravestone in the cemetery ('Mother to the Mortherless'). Fanny was the last to live there. When Fanny died in 1962, she was the last of the once extensive Gollan/Campbell family on the Heights. The place was bought by Gordon Moffat, who also had New House and Dubhran Tri (the original Duran). Some of the furniture from the croft was used to recreate a room in the Heights Heritage exhibition 2001. A new house is on the site, called Tigh Beag.</p>		
509	Croft, Bottacks	NH 48648 60567		Low remains	<p>The 1<sup>st</sup> edition map shows an unroofed house, with an enclosure to the northeast, and a well to the southeast of the enclosure. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map only the enclosure is shown. Low remains survive of the enclosure, now with many stones at one end to form a cairn (NH 48650 60563), with a nearby dump of large stones, one of which has a drilled hole (NH 48646 60569). To the west are remains of what appears to be the house at NH 48637 60546. Kenny Stewart was told an old school was located to the west of Fanny Campbell's house (no. 533). The New Statistical Account from the 1840s mentions 5 schools in the parish, including one at Heights of Achterneed established on 'a teacher's own adventure'. The exact site of this school is not known, but this may be the site.</p>		<p>Fiona Newton, Arthur Coburn Kenny Stewart Anne MacInnes Avril MacPhee</p>

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530	Highfield (Dubhran Tri)	NH 49003 60800		Gone	This was the northernmost of the three houses known as Duran, and reputedly the original one. The Moffats called it Dubhran Tri to differentiate it from the others. The house was also called the tin house. The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts the house, with a derelict building to the east. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map only Duran is depicted. This house belonged to the Moffats, and a Mrs Nicholson was said to have lived here before that. The old croft house was demolished, but a number of photos are on the HER. There were nissen huts, though no one knows where they came from. The water supply was to the northwest of the house, and was piped in a wooden pipe, repaired with tape and tar, leaving a bad taste to the water.	HER: MHG33358	Avril MacPhee, Kenny Stewart, Fiona Newton
546	Dam	NH 49208 60808		Gone	A dam (mill pond) on the Achterneed Burn with overflow (NH 49208 60808) and sluice (NH 49199 60789) are depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, but are not there on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map. It supplied water for the mill near the station (see no. 505). The area now has trees growing on it.		
547	Building	NH 49207 60863		Gone	A small building is depicted north of the dam, with a roof on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but without on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> . It is gone now.		
548	Thornfield	NH 49084 59988		Surviving	A building with two parts, perhaps house to the west and barn to the east, is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Mrs Jessie MacKenzie and her daughter Annie (formerly of Ben View) lived here for about 10 years in the late 1950s-1960s, before moving to Strathpeffer. After them Miss Cameron lived there. It is unoccupied and in poor repair now. It is also known as Cameron's croft.		Fiona Newton Jessie MacDonald
549	Eneclate	NH 49117 60045		New house on site	A cottage appears in this location on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> OS maps. Donnie MacRitchie lived there. It was owned by his brother Willie John.		Fiona Newton, Neil MacDonald
550	Allanfearn	NH 49228 59996		Surviving	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map there are three buildings depicted: one running north-south, another of similar size running east-west, and a small square one to the southwest; a well to the east is also shown. The layout is very different on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map: there		Fiona Newton Jessie MacDonald

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					two buildings running east-west appear, one probably depicted on the earlier map, with a square building possibly the southern end of the north-west earlier building between them. The square building is derelict in 1904. The two east-west buildings are still there. According to a letter written in 1955 by Colin MacDonald, Donallie Uistean gave up the tenancy to the croft about 18 years previously. It was then let to John Urquhart, who was married to a daughter of Red Donald. In 1955 John and his 20 year old son Tommy lived there.		
551	Rowan Cottage	NH 49204 60117		Surviving	A cottage is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps at this location. The croft belonged to William Deas, and it is also known as Deas Croft.		Fiona Newton
552	Dantryfail	NH 49288 60090		Surviving with extensions	A cottage is depicted at this location on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, but is smaller on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. The well is situated to the east at NH 49346 60097 and was said to have had a trout in it. The house survives (with additions) and the well. Material for repairing roads was dug from the Dantryfail garden as it is full of gravel and sand.		Anne MacInnes, Arthur Coburn, Cerian Baldwin
510	Achterneed Hall, Heights of Inchvannie	NH 49460 60149		Surviving	The 'Hallie' on the Heights, or the Jubilee Hall, is over 100 years old. The corrugated iron structure was built as a debating hall for local crofters. An old photo shows it as L-shaped, but later the south wall was removed, and it was rebuilt into the rectangular shape it is today. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, surveyed in 1904, it appears as a rectangular structure. Later a kitchen extension was added to the east, where the current entrance is. The hall was renovated in the late 1980s. It continues in use as a community hall. The yearly Harvest Homes were particularly remembered, where so many people attended that it was a real squeeze to fit them in.		Neil MacDonald, Fiona Newton, Daphne Aird, Doris Junor, Jemmy Campbell; see also <i>Echoes of the Glen</i> by Colin MacDonald, p. 26, and <i>Highland Journey</i> p. 41.
580	Simon's Stone	NH 49483 60133		Surviving	A stone on the edge of the road opposite the hall is known as Simon's stone. It is unclear who Simon was, but Fiona Newton's grandfather wrote to Jimmy MacKay (Simon) in 1955, so perhaps this stone relates to him.		Neil MacDonald Fiona Newton




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553	Rose Cottage	NH 49481 60256		Surviving	The cottage appears on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The well was situated some distance to the east. The original house survives, but a new house was built nearby to replace it. The upstairs rooms were inverted V-shaped and with low ceilings. To the north of the cottage was a field called America for reasons unknown.		Margaret Stewart
579	Hillcrest	NH 49383 60270		Surviving	This house was built by Kenny and Margaret Stewart in 1957.		Margaret Stewart Kenny Stewart
513	Tigh-na-Gaoith	NH 49568 60227		Surviving	The house and barn are depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, but show a number of changes. The current house was probably built 1892-4, and is thought to be the third house on the site. See appendix 1 for notes about the house. There was a well on the croft. It is now dry, because the field to the west of well was ploughed too deeply in the 1970s. The water used to flow down from the spring to a large stone well. The overflow was returned to the field where there used to be a trough for the beasts to drink from. Later there was a large concrete settlement tank and it was piped to the house with a pump, into the south west corner of living room, which had to be primed with water. The spring supplying the well was called St. Brides.		Fiona Newton
647	Monument	NH 49661 60201		Surviving	A monument was erected in the 2000s to Colin MacDonald who was born and brought up on the Heights, and later wrote books describing life on the Heights. It was paid for from donations after the first Heights Heritage exhibition in 2001, and constructed with local labour. The stone used was found on about 200 yards up the roadside on Toran Sligeach croft.		Neil MacDonald, Fiona Newton
532	Griasaich Mor's, or Birchlea	NH 49230 60354		Gone	A croft house with small outbuilding to the south is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The old croft has been demolished but Avril MacPhee has pictures of it. It was known as the shoemaker's croft (and the well nearby as the shoemaker's well). Later it was obtained by Donald MacRitchie (who also got Caberfeidh).		Avril MacPhee Fiona Newton



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612	Cists, Heights of Achterneed	NH 4928 6042		Gone	During removal of gravel from a ridge and mound at an altitude of 180m to the south of Birchlea, 2 or 3 cists were revealed and destroyed. Kenny Stewart remembers that they were situated in a hill of sand, very different from the soil around. He remembers that there were shells at the bottom of the cist, and at least one small bone.	HER: MHG8304 Canmore: 76520	Kenny Stewart
554	Cottage	NH 49090 60302		Gone	A cottage was located across the Achterneed Burn to the east of Caberfeidh on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS maps, but was without a roof on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition.		
555	Mary Shocan's Croft	NH 49318 60452		Ruins	A house with a well situated to the east is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Locally it is known as Mary Shocan's house. She was quite old when Kenny Stewart was a boy, and dressed in old fashioned clothing, all in black. Kenny briefly lived here when his family were forced to move from Toran Sligeach with virtually no noticed.		Fiona Newton Margaret Stewart Kenny Stewart
529	Bogaran's or The Gunner's House	NH 49357 60541		Gone	The house with a well situated to the east is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. It no longer survives. There was a huge dyke nearby. The Gunner had served in India. He lost his eye when he threw a lemonade bottle against a wall and the glass marble shattered into his face. He was very lame, but is remembered cycling along the railway. Colin MacDonald wrote in a letter in 1955 that the roof of the house had caved in, but the Gunner still lived there. He was a son of Mairi Chlaimh. After the Gunner died, sometime in the 1960s, Jock Munro, an ex-soldier, lived there. The new house was built recently further up on the croft.		Neil MacDonald, Kenny Stewart Fiona Newton
556	View Cottage or Toran Sligeach	NH 49510 60522		Surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a house in the field at NH 49568 60487, with a well to south. By the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, a new house had been built at the top of the field at NH 49510 60522, and a barn with threshing circle to the west at NH 49486 60513. Fiona Newton's great-grandmother, Elsie MacKenzie was brought up there, as were Daphne Aird's relations. In the early 1930s it was rented by Kenneth and Christina Stewart, as well as a number of other people. In a letter written in 1955 Colin		Kenny Stewart Margaret Stewart Neil MacDonald Daphne Aird Fiona Newton


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					MacDonald said: 'Johnnie Ruadh's Mary, John's youngest daughter married over 40 years ago, Bob Aird who was a keeper at Duran. When John died, the croft went to Mary. Bob then retired and they came to live at Toran Sligeach. He is an expert at farming and put the place in first class order, but he wanted a bigger place and when John Rose gave up Redbank in 1941 Bob gave up the old home and took up the tenancy of Redbank.' Then a number of tenants lived there. Colin MacDonald wrote that between 1941 and 1955 there were 3 tenants: Angie MacLeod from Harris, John Macrow from London (for 3 years) and then John Ravenshear. Later tenants included Peter Andrews, Roddy & Flora Shaw, and Bobby & Marian Hamilton.		
514	New House Croft	NH 49835 60567		surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map shows a house at NH 49826 860570 with a long rectangular steading behind it (NH 49816 60583). On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map the house has been rebuilt, and is at NH 49835 60567. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map there were small crofts on either side, at NH 48711 60563 to the west and NH 49932 60613 to the east. By the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map these crofts are gone, and New House croft then incorporated both of their lands. Neil MacDonald's father demolished the croft to the east, and used the stones to make a track leading to New House Croft. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, a circle for horses to turn the threshing mill is shown to the north of the steading. The existing house was built by Robert Munro (Robbie Oag). He was grandfather of Jake Junor from Va-atan. Shortly after the house was completed Robbie died. The family never got round to picking a name for it, and therefore it was always referred to as new house – and the name stuck.		Neil MacDonald, Doris Junor
502	Well, New House Croft, Heights of Inchvannie	NH 49731 60636		Gone	The sulphur well was well-built, with stone walls and a lid. It was located at NH 49731 60636, to the northwest of the. The 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps also show a well or spring located to the south of the croft house at NH 49836 60550. Neil MacDonald also remembers this well.	HER: MHG55624	Neil MacDonald

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525	Home Guard Hut	NH 50172 61141		Gone	There was a Home Guard Hut situated behind the Common. It could hold 6-8 men at a time, and many men on the Heights were there on a rota, looking out for enemy parachutists. All wore uniforms when manning the hut. The Officer in charge was named McArthur. The local men decided where to site the hut, to have the best view (and near the deer fencing to allow the occasional deer to be shot). A similar Home Guard hut with similar purpose was at Knockfarrell. Kenny Stewart also remembers aqueducts in the area here. After the war Neil MacDonald's father took the hut for re-use as a henhouse at New House croft. The site is just a hole in the ground now.		Arthur Coburn, Neil MacDonald Kenny Stewart
526	Common				Donald MacDonald's testimony to the Napier Commission describes how crofters moved up to the Heights c. 1800 and were granted 1000 or 1200 acres of common grazing. Everyone had a share, allowed to take a certain number of animals. Fiona Newton's grandfather wrote that women and children took the animals to the Common to shielings during the summers. Crofters at Bottacks used to have a right to common grazing in Glen Skiach, but this was later taken away, and they had to pay rent. Kenny Stewart has the paperwork about this.		Kenny Stewart, Fiona Newton
612	Peat Roads				There were three peat roads on the Heights: one leading northwest from Bottacks (see no. 516), one leading up to the east of New House Croft to the Common, and one on the east, over the ford near Leidchruch to the east of the hill called the Pap. At the bottom of the New House peat road where it meets the Heights road there was a box until mid 1900s where crofters deposited the share of the peats for the estate. The box was large, about the size of a lorry. Some of the peat was used in the spa. The field to the west of the Peat Road near where it joins the Heights road was called Peat Bog field.		Kenny Stewart, Neil MacDonald, Arthur Coburn, Fiona Newton

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557	Old Glenburn	NH 49536 60057		Surviving	A building is depicted on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The house was originally called Glenburn, but renamed Old Glenburn when Neil MacDonald built a new house at the road. Old photographs and memories of the Mackay and Campbell family assembled by Bobby Campbell were submitted to Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society.		Neil MacDonald
558	Woodside Croft	NH 49638 59933		Surviving	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, the croft is a long building stretching east-west, with a small building to the south. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, the longhouse is much smaller, and the small building is not recorded. A well was at the bottom of the lane from the Heights road, at NH 49611 59902, and the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map records another to the south of the eastern end of the house. Madge MacLean had boarded out twin girls there after the war. Her nephew Duncan MacLean took over the croft and made improvements to the house. The current house has been extended.		
559	Balnaird	NH 50083 60071		Steading replaced with new building; house surviving	Balnaird was the only farm on the Heights – all others were crofts. The house (NH 50083 60071) lay to the south of the steading (NH 5009 6015). The steading is larger on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map than the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map, and has a large threshing circle to the north. Balnaird farm housed the Dept. of Agriculture bull when it was sent to the Heights. Edward and Harriet MacLean came here from Jamestown when Roddy Maclean died. It was let to Kenny Mackenzie for years. The steading has been completely rebuilt, but a photographic record of the building is on the HER. A picture of Jock Richmond and Mary MacLaren, Balnaird Farm c. 1932 is in <i>Life in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland</i> by Colin MacDonald. Davy MacRae also had the croft in the mid 1900s.	HER: MHG53560	Kenny Stewart
560	Easter Balnaird	NH 50176 60057		Ruins	A farmhouse is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> OS maps, with a threshing circle on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Jock Stewart lived here.		Neil MacDonald
561	Cottage	NH 50300 60164			A building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps at this location, with a well to the south near the burn. Within recent memory it was derelict. There was a ford, not marked on the maps, to the east.		Neil MacDonald






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562	Kenny Grant's Croft	NH 50087 60774	 	Low ruins	<p>The croft appears on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, with a longhouse oriented east-west, and a small building to the southwest. It was investigated as part of a WEA and Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) project in 2007. They were able to trace it back to 1841 when Alexander Chisholm lived there with his family. His daughter probably married a Grant, and the property stayed in their family. After Kenny Grant's death in 1928 the croft was merged with Davy Macrae's croft, staying in their family. In 1955 Colin MacDonald wrote: "Kenny Grant's – only a bit of one gable standing. Rabbits have their burrows where Kenny used to sit smoking under the 'chimil-crochi.' The land now goes with Balnaird farm but is not cultivated. How it would break Kenny's heart to see the land he cultivated and cleaned so carefully growing little but rushes." The WEA group and YAC surveyed the remains in 2007 as part of a Scotland's Rural Past project. The research was given to Dingwall Library.</p>		<p>Susan Kruse</p> <p>Pictures and descriptions on Scotland's Rural Past website, Heights Heritage project:  <a href="http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk/">http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk/</a></p>
563	Croft house, Heights of Keppoch	NH 50317 60741		Low remains	<p>The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a building, partly roofed. It was unroofed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map, and the cultivated land had reverted to rough grazing.</p>		
645	Clearance cairns, Heights of Keppoch	NH 50503 60856		Surviving	<p>Two heaps of stones are visible, perhaps a recent clearance cairn, or one which has had recent stones added to it.</p>		
646	Possible croft site	NH 50383 60799		Low stones surviving	<p>A gean tree, and heaps of stone are visible in the bracken, and may represent remains of old croft site. The site is not marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps.</p>		



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564	Croftthouse, Heights of Keppch	NH 50346 60954		Gone	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a building, but by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map the building no longer had a roof. No traces were found.		
565	Tigh na Otraich	NH 50315 60597		House Surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a longhouse with two smaller buildings to the north and south. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map the building to the north is gone, and there is a threshing circle behind the longhouse (steading). Only a wall remains of the steading, but the house to the south is there. Alex Rose lived there after WWI. The house was called Cowpat Cottage by Lady Gillian when she lived there, and then given the present gaelic name which means House of the Dunghill. This is presumably because the house was not looked after, and cows roamed within it. Before renovation a great deal of dung had to be removed.		Patricia Haigh Margaret Stewart Neil MacDonald
566	Croftthouse, Heights of Keppoch	NH 50420 60616		Gone	An unroofed longhouse is depicted at this location on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps. Within the last 10 years remains could be seen, but currently (2015) they have been bulldozed into a pile. The old road, which paralleled the current one, is visible here.		Patricia Haigh
567	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 50615 60657		Gone	A longhouse is depicted at this location on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps. Within the last 10 years remains could be seen, but currently (2015) they have been bulldozed into a pile.		Patricia Haigh
568	Clark Hill, now Bracken-ridge	NH 50767 60692		New house on site	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map depicts a longhouse in three sections. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map small outbuildings have been added to the west and south. The well was on the road to the east, at NH 50845 60708. The croft was also known locally as Grantie's Croft. A very large woman and her much smaller husband lived there in living memory. The building was demolished and a new house built in the 2000s (called Brackenridge).		Kenny Stewart, Neil MacDonald
569	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 50770 60617		Gone	A building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but was gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.		





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570	Crofthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 50808 60945		Ruinous	A building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Low remains of walls of several buildings still survive. Cathy Dagg described the building in a survey in 2004: 'Aligned NE-SW, the main body of the building measures 9.5m in length, with a byre attached to the east gable and a smaller shed to the west. The footings of the NE corner of the main building are curved, while the west gable appears to have been rebuilt, possibly to accommodate a flue and fireplace, although these were not visible.'	HER: EHG1323	
596	Stone, Heights of Fodderty	NH 50789 60964		Surviving	A large, flat stone lying near to an old croft (no. 570) has several holes and metal bolts, presumably to hold some machinery. There are also carved settings for plates.		
571	Crofthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 50763 61129		Ruinous	A building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, with a well to the west. It runs from NH 50783 61122 to NH 50808 61136. No trace of the well could be found, but the site is overgrown. Cathy Dagg was told in 2004 that this croft was locally known as 'the cobbler's'. She recorded: 'The main building, aligned NE-SW, measures approximately 24m in total, consists of two large compartments, with a byre attached to the east gable and a small annexe to the west. The size of the two main compartments suggests the possibility of a cottage and a workshop. In front of this building, aligned N-S is a smaller building, 5.5m in length which, although not obviously so, must be the kiln barn recorded on the SMR. This is the only kiln barn recorded among all six farmsteads [on the Tigh na Mullach croft].'	HER: MHG8916 EHG1323 Canmore: 12933	
572	Crofthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 50647 61495		Gone	This is the most northerly crofthouse depicted for the Heights of Fodderty on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, with a well to the south and a few cleared fields. By the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map the buildings are unroofed. The site is now covered by forestry plantation.		

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573	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51035 61266		Ruins	A building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but only half is roofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Cathy Dagg in a survey of 2004 recorded: 'The farmstead consists of two aligned but separate buildings, the gap between the two being barely a metre. The buildings are aligned SE-SW and measure in total 22.5m. Both have entrances to the SE, that of the SW building being set right of centre. There is an internal partition in the NW building, but the thickness of the stonework suggests that this was originally the gable end, and there is an annexe or byre filling what was once a wider gap. There is a doorway through this wall, with a set upright stone. From the NE corner a rubble dyke running NW indicates a former attached enclosure. In front of the building is an artificial trench, partially stone-lined, 4m wide and running almost the full length of the two buildings. Immediately south of this is a knoll, into which a small scoop has been quarried, with some reject stones abandoned within.'	HER: MHG8915 EHG1323 Canmore: 12934	
574	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51200 61134		Gone	A croft with three buildings is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but has been modified on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. map. There are two levelled platforms, but no remains of buildings survive here.	HER: MHG8914 EHG1323 (no. 12); Canmore 12935	
575	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51478 61176		Surviving, but poor condition	A building is depicted on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition also depicts a well to the west, and two further wells to the north. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map a small building is to the north; no traces remain. The croftthouse is still roofed, but in poor condition. Cathy Dagg in a survey of 2004 recorded: 'It would appear to have been originally a croft house, and has one window in the south wall which appears to be original. On the interior back wall is what may be the remains of a groove for a cruck frame.'	HER: EHG1323	
601	Building, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51353 61216		Gone	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map a small building is recorded here, but it is not on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. In 2004 the rubble footings of this building, c. 8m in length, were visible. No traces could be seen in 2015.	HER: MHG20763 EHG1323 Canmore: 103714	

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576	Tigh na Mullach, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51534 61065		Surviving as steading	A longhouse is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps. It now forms the steading for Tigh na Mullach, built in the 2000s. A piggery is remembered here, and a wooden hut used in the summer. Duncan Cameron ('The Yank'), Willie's brother was here.		Neil MacDonald Jessie MacDonald
577	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51553 60822		Surviving?	A short distance to the east beyond the end of the western half of the original Heights road was a croftthouse, mainly roofed with two unroofed buildings nearby on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, and then only the unroofed longhouse depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. A shed is currently there, perhaps using some of the old building.		
588	Building, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51051 60933		Gone	A small square building is depicted as unroofed on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. No trace of the building is visible.		
589	Building, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51018 60830		GONE	A small square building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but was gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. No trace of the building is visible.	HER: MHG20761 Canmore: 103712	
590	Building, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51118 60808		Ruins only	A small square building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but was gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Only low grass and gorse-covered low walls remain.		
599	Cup-marked stone, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51144 60792		Surviving	A cup and ring marked stone is next to a recent track, overlooking the burn. It appears to be in its original position.		
581	Redbank	NH 50635 60368		Surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a long steading running roughly southwest to northeast, a smaller rectangular building oriented the opposite way, and a small building to the east. There is a well to the east of the long house, and to the south. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, the steading is still there, now with a threshing circle to the north, and a new house has been built to the south. John Rose of Redbank gave evidence to the Napier Commission in the 1880s. His grandfather had been moved from a farm in the Strath, and		Daphne Aird Neil MacDonald Fiona Newton






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					reclaimed land and built a house at Redbank with difficulty. The Airds moved there in 1941. Donald Aird was born at the original Duran (the most northerly of the houses of that name) in the Heights of Achterneed. After working in Moray as a gamekeeper, his grandson Bob returned to work Redbank croft. Pictures of Mr & Mrs Hugh Rose, and Bob Aird were published in the <i>Life in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland</i> by Colin MacDonald (Aberdeen University Press edition only). The steading burnt down in the 1990s, but the farmhouse survives. Daphne Aird remembers a well in the kitchen, and when the house had water, a pump in the bathroom.		
582	Slaggan Croft	NH 50860 60150		Surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps depict two buildings, one oriented north-south, the other east-west, with a well to the northwest. Colin MacDonald wrote in a letter in 1955: 'Not one of the Sutherland family remains. Angus, Willie (Bags), Roddie, Hughie, Cathie and Annie are all dead. There were several tenants after the Sutherlands, the most picturesque being 'The Plumb' supposed to have made a fortune in Klondyke. For the past 12 years is Willie MacLennan, a retired sheep farmer from Strathconon. For 5 years he has been completely blind. He is a batchelor of 87 years looked after by a sister of Davy MacIntosh [Annie Macintosh].' Willie was helped by others, including Geordie MacUisdean (Geordie Mackenzie) of Dochnaclear. The Airds from Redbank also worked the land for some time. After Willie died, the croft went to Annie, and after her to the sons of Colin Macintosh. The house and land are now separate. The house oriented east-west is gone, and the north-south house is a steading. The current house must therefore be later than 1904. It had a front porch and a rear tin extension, both now gone, with the rear replaced by a much larger extension. Other ruins are said to be in the fields to the west of the house.		Daphne Aird Kenny Stewart Neil MacDonald Fiona Newton Martin Gaywood Fiona Graham Rae Scott
583	Croft Vatan (formerly	NH 50884 60402		Surviving	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map there are two buildings, one oriented north-south, the other east-west, but by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, only the east-west building is depicted. No well is noted. This		Kenny Stewart Margaret Stewart Arthur Coburn

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	also Bhatan, and now Bruich)				belonged to MacDonalds. Kenny Stewart remembers bringing saws to be sharpened here; Mr MacDonald had been in the forestry. In 1955 the tenant was Donald Cameron, and prior to that his mother. In 1959 the croft was taken over by the Junors. There were two nissen huts, one surviving, which were bought from surplus sold from Evanton airfield after WWII. There are two wells on the croft, one east of the house, the other two fields south of the house. They got mains water in 1960 – which Doris Junor was very thankful for!		Neil MacDonald Fiona Newton Doris Junor
584	Heatherly	NH 50835 60533		Surviving	This house was built by Willy Cameron, in the 1960s. He lived before that in Broombank, and his mother lived here.		Jessie MacDonald
585	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51045 60526		Gone	A house to the west of the burn and to the south of the road is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but was gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map.		
586	Burnside	NH 51085 60525		Surviving, with alteration and additions	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map two buildings are depicted, a steading oriented east-west, and a shorter building oriented north-south, with a well to the northeast near the road. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, three quarters of the east-west building and the north-south building are without roofs. A new building oriented east-west has been built to the west of the other. Arthur Coburn's wife spoke of going to Burnside to 'play in the cinema', but this may have been just play within the buildings. The house still survives, but the steading has been renovated, and another house added.		Arthur Coburn Kenny Stewart
587	Lily's or Lilich's	Centred NH 50951 60731		low remains only	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map shows 3 buildings at this location, but by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition survey, only the westernmost one has a roof. Only low remains survive of several buildings. The croft was called Lily's or Lilich's (spelling unknown), presumably named after a previous occupant. There is a small pond, now with rushes, to the northeast of the houses near the burn, but no obvious dam.		Susan Kruse, Kyreen Chalmers

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649	Cup and Ring Marked Stone	NH 5106 6071		Moved to Neil Gunn Monument	A prehistoric cup and ring marked stone was lying near a stone dyke, presumably moved there during field clearance. It has now been relocated to the Neil Gunn Monument. The stone is highly unusual in having decoration on both sides.	HER: MHG55106	Susan Kruse See also <a href="http://www.archhighland.org.uk/">www.archhighland.org.uk/</a> Find of the Month
591	Old Gravel Pit / Travelling Folk Campsite	NH 51172 60608		Gone	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map marks an old gravel pit at this location, and while the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition does not label it, the drawing suggests a pit here to the north of the road. Later it was used as an official site of the travelling folk (the Stewarts), with tents, caravans and even a bender remembered. They made pails which they sold on the Heights. Later there was a phone box here, which was removed in the 2000s. There was another official site for the travelling folk at the bottom of Heights road on the Dochcarty side, where the new care home is located.		Kenny Stewart, Arthur Coburn, Fiona Newton
592	Fank	NH 51000 60774		Surviving, but decaying	This was the communal fank and sheep dip for the Heights. Neil MacDonald's father and Donald MacRitchie built it. It is deteriorating and becoming quite overgrown.		Neil MacDonald Kenny Stewart
593	Davidson Croft	NH 51353 60576		Surviving with additions	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, there are three buildings depicted, the one to the south without a roof, and the long one in the middle only half roofed. The short building to the north is now the steading and has been extended in the past. Only the roofed sections of the middle building survive, forming the present house which has been extended to the south. A photograph of James Mackay driving a pony trap c. 1918 is in <i>Life in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland</i> by Colin MacDonald (Aberdeen University Press edition only). David MacKay was born in 1838. He had five children. Davy Macintosh, who had a wooden leg, lived there later. Two of his brothers lived abroad.		Kenny Stewart Fiona Graham Rae Scott
594	Dochnaclear	NH 51521 60419		Most of old house gone	This is an old settlement. The placename means the Davoch of the Clergy, and there is a recorded mill here in 1533. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps there is an L-shaped building, with a threshing circle to the north (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition only). Walls survive of some of this building used in sheds. Dochnaclear house to the southeast is more		Kenny Stewart,  W.J. Watson 1904. <i>Place-names of Ross</i>

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					recent. When Kenny Stewart was a boy, this was the home of Geordie MacUisdean (Gaelic for son of Hugh) - Geordie Mackenzie. He had two brothers, Neil (a joiner) and Aleck (known for his stories), and a sister Mary who worked at Castle Leod. Geordie was well known for his sharp deals.		<i>and Cromarty.</i>
595	Wyvis Croft, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51779 60575		New house on site	There are two buildings depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Both are gone and have been replaced with more modern buildings. The existing house was built by William Junor, grandfather of Jake Junor on his father's side. William Junor was said to have had a whisky still in the old steading, but that is hearsay. Jake's father inherited the croft, and in the late 1930s or early 1940s the steading was burnt to the ground. They lost their stock, cattle, horses, pigs and hens. Jake's father rebuilt it. Robbie Junor had one of the first tractors on the Heights, with metal wheels, in the late 1940s.		Arthur Coburn, Doris Junor
597	Croftthouse, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51335 60845		Gone?	Two unroofed buildings are depicted at this location on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but have gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.		
598	Duncan Findlay's house, Heights of Fodderty	NH 51191 61128		Gone	A croft house is depicted here on both the 1st and 2nd OS maps. Duncan Findlay lived here with his sisters Lottie, Peg and Jess. It had a lovely garden, and the house was spotless inside. Their father was a pony man at Castle Leod. Kenny Stewart used to plough the croft. Willie Cameron had it later, and had it completely bulldozed down, perhaps in the 1960s. Nothing remains.		Neil MacDonald Jessie MacDonald Kenny Stewart
602	Firth View, Heights of Brae	NH 51622 61203		Replaced by new house	A rectangular croftthouse is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, with a well to the west. Ronnie MacDonald lived here in a recently built house.		Fiona Newton
603	Ardbeg, Heights of Brae	NH 51622 61202		Replaced by new house	A rectangular croftthouse is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The house has been rebuilt. It used to be lived in by MacDonalds (painters and decorators).		Fiona Newton
604	Croftthouse, Heights of Brae	NH 51675 61302		Gone	A longhouse oriented southwest to northeast is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but was unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map.		

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605	Ivy Cottage, Heights of Brae	NH 51875 61306		Surviving	A building is depicted on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, with a kaleyard to the southwest. Kenny Ross, a MOD Gold-winning Gaelic singer was brought up here. He attended the side school at Mrs. MacKenzie's. He won his gold medal in 1964. A great crowd crammed into the barn at Ivy Cottage to watch the first television pictures on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 1953 (the Coronation).		Jessie MacDonald
615	Dam, Heights of Brae	NH 51901 61055		Surviving	To the south of Ivy Cottage, and north of the modern Neil Gunn Monument is a pond, with a substantial U-shaped embankment around it. Jessie MacDonald remembers it as a dam, although the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps do not label it as such. She remembers walking home one summer nights and there were hundreds of tiny frogs on the road at this location.		Jessie MacDonald
648	Croft, Heights of Brae	NH 52179 60604		Gone	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map there is a house (NH 52179 60604) with a large U-shaped steading (NH 52161 60623) situated to the north of Brae farm and south of the current Neil Gunn monument, with a track linking the farm and Heights road. Just to the east is a well labelled 'Spa Well', although it is some distance to Strathpeffer spa. The farm was completely unroofed by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map. It is now in a copse of trees.		
606	Ben View, Heights of Brae	NH 52043 61294		Surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a house with smaller outbuilding to the east and west, and well to the east. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map the western outbuilding has gone, and a threshing circle is depicted. Several new houses now occupy this general area.		Jessie MacDonald Neil MacDonald Kenny Stewart
613	White Slide, Heights of Brae	NH 520 614		Gone?	Jock Stewart, lived here after returning from sheep farming in Australia, and named it after a place in Australia. He had links with Balnaird. This house is remembered as behind Ben View, but there is no building there now. It may be no. 607 or 608 – but further investigation is needed. Neil MacDonald's father trapped lots of rabbits there. The name is applied to Jock MacRitchie's croft (no. 611) on some modern maps, but this croft was not White Slide.		Jessie MacDonald Kenny Stewart Neil MacDonald
607	Building, Heights of Brae	NH 52150 61298		Gone	A small building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. A new house is on the site.		







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608	Croft, Heights of Brae	NH 52053 61488		Gone	The 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps depict an L-shaped building with outbuilding to the west. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map an outbuilding also appears to the south.		
609	Building, Heights of Brae	NH 52241 61401		Gone	A small building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Ruins may survive in the field.		
610	Heights of Brae Chambered Cairn	NH 5144 6152		Surviving	The Heights of Brae Neolithic chambered cairn is described in the Old Name Book as a 'Stone Circle', although this probably was not a circle, but rather only some stones surviving after many had been taken away. The Old Statistical Account mentions several concentric circles around the central stones, but none survive. It is known as the Clachan Gorach (the Foolish Stones).	HER: MHG8919 Canmore: 12930	
611	Jock MacRitchie's croft	NH 52309 61559		Surviving	A house is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Before Jock MacRitchie, Mr Weems had the croft; he also had lived at Forester's Cottage in Blairninich. Before moving here, Jock MacRitchie had been at Keeper's Croft (no. 616). There was a side school located Jock MacRitchie's croft. Duncan Finlay gave Neil MacDonald a list of people who had attended the side school there. The teacher was Mrs Fraser, the wife of Ron 'Coigach', and when she retired, and the house changed hands, the school closed on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 1946 and then moved in 1946 to Donnie Mackenzie's house (Fodderty school log books). The original side school was said to have opened in 1927, but it is unclear if this reference refers to this site (Minutes of Ross and Cromarty County Council, 3/4/1947).		Neil MacDonald Jessie MacDonald, Marshall Skelly
501	Standing Stones, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52494 61413		Surviving	Standing stones have been erected in the last 5 years in an area that the OS map recorded a standing stone.	HER: MHG8900 Canmore: 12949	Susan Kruse
512	Dam, Heights of Brae	NH 52397 61088		Surviving	A dam and sluice at the Heights of Brae was used to feed farms below. It is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, and now forms one of a network of ponds constructed there in the 1990s. Sandy Ross remembers that when Brae farm was using the water		Neil MacDonald, Sandy Ross




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					power for threshing, a man was sent on horseback up to the dam with a lever to open the sluice gates.		
614	The Street	NH 52799 61500 to NH 52555 61476		Gone	A row of small crofts in a line are depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map there are 12 houses depicted, some semi-detached, occupying narrow plots. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, there are only 6 houses with roofs, and some unroofed buildings, and the plots are not as regular. This area was known as 'The Street', and a photograph survives of one of the thatched cottages in the early 1900s. The most easterly house survived til quite late, but all original houses are gone, with only a pile of stones between modern houses remaining. It was originally for Tulloch estate workers.		Neil MacDonald
508	Blackmuir Croft, Heights of Docharty	NH 52831 61447		Surviving	A rectangular building appears on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, replaced by an L-shaped building and steading on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map There was a side school here, moving from Jock MacRitchie's croft in 1947. Mrs Mackenzie allowed the school to use a room, and repairs and decoration totally £60 5sh 4d were spent to make it ready. She received £12 per year. Margaret Cameron taught at the side school until 1951 when the side school closed and the children then went to Fodderty School. Mrs Mackenzie also allowed her living room to be used on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month in the summer so that Rev. Duncan Leitch from Dingwall could conduct services here. Later this croft belonged to Donny Mackenzie.		Fiona Newton, Neil MacDonald, Betty Ramsay Jessie MacDonald  (Minutes of Ross & Cromarty County Council 17/10/1946; 20/11/1946; 3/4/1946).
641	Croftthouse, Heights of Docharty	NH 52876 61500		Gone	A rectangular croft house is roofed on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but not on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. The site is now (2015) in a copse of trees. Roy MacIver was told by his uncle that at one time, probably in the late 1800s, this belonged to a man named Fitch who lived there with his sister. He took his horse to Muir of Ord to sell it, and without realising it bought it back it again later in the day – and remarked what a smart horse he had bought, because it knew its way home. He later moved house without telling his sister, and later had a house in 'the Street'.		




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616	Keeper's Croft, Leidchruich (also known as Ben View)	NH 53118 61497		Ruinous	A croft house is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map also shows a well to the southeast. It was used by keepers on the Tulloch estate. The track continued to the north, eventually to Tulloch Castle, which enabled shooting parties to come direct to the keeper. In the late 1800s Kenneth MacDonald was gamekeeper and lived there, with his wife and 10 children. He and his wife were known as Lord and Lady Hill, which may illustrate how they were regarded by the local community. In the early 1900s Mr Torrance lived there; he was related to Hamish MacDonald. Later Jock MacRitchie was there, before moving to MacRitchie's croft (no. 611). Later it belonged to the Urquhart family, with the Urquharts coming from Strathskiach. Rory, Alastair, Colin and Chrissie Urquhart were the children. Daphne Aird heard that possibly MacDonalds also lived there. It was last lived in during the 1950s. The northern gable and walls still survive of the house though in bad condition. Wooden barns to the south are also in a poor state. The name Keeper's Croft has transferred to the house down the hill near the Heights road.		Jessie MacDonald, Daphne Aird, Marshall Skelly, Roy MacIver, Roseann Christie
617	Croft house, Leidchruich	NH 53068 61556		Low ruins	A small building appears to the north of Keeper's Croft on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps, although unroofed on both. Only low walls remain.		
618	Building, Leidchruich	NH 52928 61653		Low ruins	A partially roofed building appears on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. The ruins can be seen in aerial photos. This field used to belong to Blackmuir House, but was sold off a few years ago.		Margaret Leslie
619	Croft house, 6 Leidchruich	NH 52945 61835		Ruinous	Two buildings, one to the east, oriented north-south, the other oriented east-west, appear on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Only the eastern part of the building oriented east-west survives, but is derelict, while the building oriented north-south has only low stone walls. This house was occupied by John MacLennan who emigrated to Australia in the late 1800s/early 1900s. 3 and 6 Leidchruich are now one croft.		Margaret Leslie 


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620	Crofthouse, 3 Leidchruich	NH 52897 61924		Ruinous	Two buildings, one oriented north-south, the other east-west, appear on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, while the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition also depicts a third building to the north, oriented north-south. All three survive. The middle building is the house, with barns on either side. Donald MacLennan (brother of John MacLennan at 6 Leidchruich), his wife Elsie and 3 children (Donald, Helen and Alick John) lived here. Donald was killed in WWI, Helen married and moved away. Alick John ran the croft after his father passed away. It has not been occupied since his death in 1991. The house still stands with a tin roof; a barn and byre are in derelict condition. 3 and 6 Leidchruich are now one croft.		Margaret Leslie
621	Crofthouse, 3 Leidchruich	NH 52885 61997		Gone	A rectangular building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is without a roof on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. It is part of 3 Leidchruich. Only low stones remain. 3 and 6 Leidchruich are now one croft.		Margaret Leslie
622	Glencruich or Firwood, Leidchruich	Centred on NH 52816 62125		Partially surviving	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a longhouse to the east of the track, and a small building to the west. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, the building to the east has become unroofed in parts, and a new house and steading oriented north-south have been built to the north. These newer buildings to the north still survive, though the house has been much renovated. The small building to the west of the track is gone, and a later barn is in its place, while only low stones show the location of the original longhouse to the east of the track. The house was occupied by Anne and Tommy MacLennan in the 1950s, then Kenny Mackenzie of Balnaird, and then the Andrews. On modern maps the croft is also called Leidchruich.		Neil MacDonald Jessie MacDonald
623	Crofthouse, Leidchruich	NH 52878 62316		Gone	An unroofed building appears on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map, but is gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map.		
624	Blackmuir House, Former Blackmuir	NH 52445 61828		Partially surviving	A house is shown on a 1732 Tulloch estate map at this location. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps a rectangular longhouse oriented east west is depicted, with an unroofed structure to the northwest. The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map also shows a well is to the south, while the 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Alastair Stewart, Fiona Cameron

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	Riding School, Heights of Dochcarty				edition map shows a small outbuilding to the north, and a threshing circle behind the longhouse. Parts of the longhouse survive as a steading. The house to the south of the steading was built around 1912. The Misses Cameron were brought up here. Then Gil Dippie and his wife had a riding school. A very long stone survives in the grounds. A wooden shed came from Invergordon after WWII, perhaps the harbour master's hut.		
625	Croft house, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52524 61794		Gone	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map shows a rectangular building, roofed on its eastern side, while the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map shows it partially roofed on its western side. Although gone, the ground is still hard. Neil MacDonald chose a large stone from here to form the memorial to Kerr Yule to the north of the Skiach river.		
626	Croft house, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52654 61699		Gone, only rubble	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map shows two buildings and a well, but only the more northerly one is depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, where it is unroofed. Kenny Stewart cleared this and pushed all the stones in a heap, which is now fenced off. A very deep ditch lies to the west along the field boundary.		Kenny Stewart Alastair Stewart
627	South View, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52920 61254		Surviving	A croft house and kaleyard are depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. The house belonged to Colin & Chrissie Urquhart. Around 10 years ago it had a new roof added, and an extension built to the north side.		Fiona Newton, Susan Kruse
634	Croft house, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 53091 61340		Ruinous	A partially roofed house is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Ruins can be seen in the field.		
628	Skeeper's Croft, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52866 61104		Low Ruins	An L-shaped building with a kaleyard to the east is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. It was said to have been built by a sea captain, and is known as Skeepers Croft. Allie Fraser, an accordion player, is said to have lived there. Low remains survive. Stone from this house reputedly was brought in from elsewhere.		Neil MacDonald, Mike Chalmers

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629	Building, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52858 61051		Gone	A small building is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but is only outlined on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. No traces remain.		
630	Croftthouse, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52949 61046		Renovated with new upper structure	A longhouse oriented east-west, with a smaller building to the south oriented north-south, and surrounded on three sides by trees is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map. On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map only the larger house is shown, without any surrounding trees. A well is depicted to the west. The lower part of the house was renovated, but the upper is new.		
631	Louden's, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 52966 60990		New buildings on site	A longhouse with kaleyard to the south and well to the west is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. It was known as Loudens, but is presently called An Cabar. Buildings on the site are later.		
632	Upper Dochcarty, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 53268 60755		House renovated; steading gone	A house and a U-shaped steading to the north, threshing circle to the west of the steading and kaleyard to the south of the house are depicted on both 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map the well is to the northeast of the steading, while on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map it is to the west of the house. Jessie MacDonald played here as a child. One previous occupier was Mr Tennant.		Jessie MacDonald
633	Croftthouse, Heights of Dochcarty	NH 53487 60779		Low remains	The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a small house with a well to the north. It is unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Low remains can be seen on aerial photographs.		
644	Croftthouse, Heights of Docharty	NH 53277 61041		Gone	A croftthouse appears on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, but was gone by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map.	HER: MHG20797 Canmore: 103688	
639	Pumping House	NH 53270 60950		Surviving	When water mains were put on the Heights, the pumping station was built to pump water up from the valley – despite the fact the water supply is from the loch to the north. Buchan and Mitchell built the water system for the Heights.		Kenny Stewart



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640	Forestry Workers' huts, Heights of Dochcarty	c. NH 53215 61066		Gone	Two forestry workers' huts were located here in the late 1950s/1960s, used when the trees on Tulloch Hill to the east were being cut down.		Jessie MacDonald Kenny Stewart
635	Stony Brae	NH 53405 60713		Surviving	This steep section of the Heights Road is known as Stony Brae. Before it was paved (1950s), it was noted for its very poor condition – well named. NH 53327 60818 to 53428 60584		
524	Farmhouse and turbine house - Glensgaich	NH 45870 60890		Surviving	This was a shepherd's house. In the 1900s it was Jock MacLeod's (Jock the Glen's) house. Most of the supplies came by train, and the train was known to have stopped to give Jock's wife a lift. She also cycled along the railway to get to Achterneed. Arthur Coburn was told that the righthand side of the house was a side school.	HER: MHG55845	Kenny Stewart, Neil MacDonald Arthur Coburn
340	Carn Gorm Mica Quarry	NH 442 631			This is one of several sites where mica was worked during WWII. The official story was that it was to provide cockpit windscreens for spitfire fighter aircraft, However, in fact it was instead used for insulators on valves, eg for radios. The mica was sent to Pitlochry for processing which was done by travelling women. The mica occurs in a pegmatite which is a coarse grained vein of granite related material.		Andy Moffat, reporting on research by Alan Crombie in Pitlochry

### SOURCES

Watson, W.J 1904. *Place Names of Ross and Cromarty*.

MacDonald, Colin 1991. *Life in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*. Aberdeen University Press

### NOTES

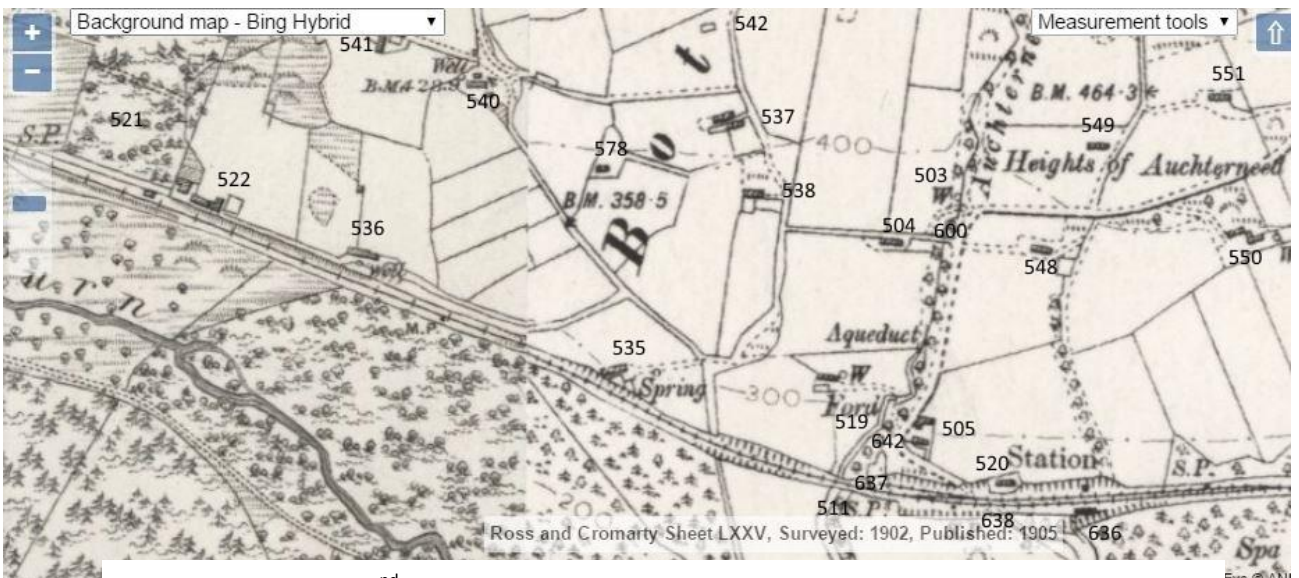
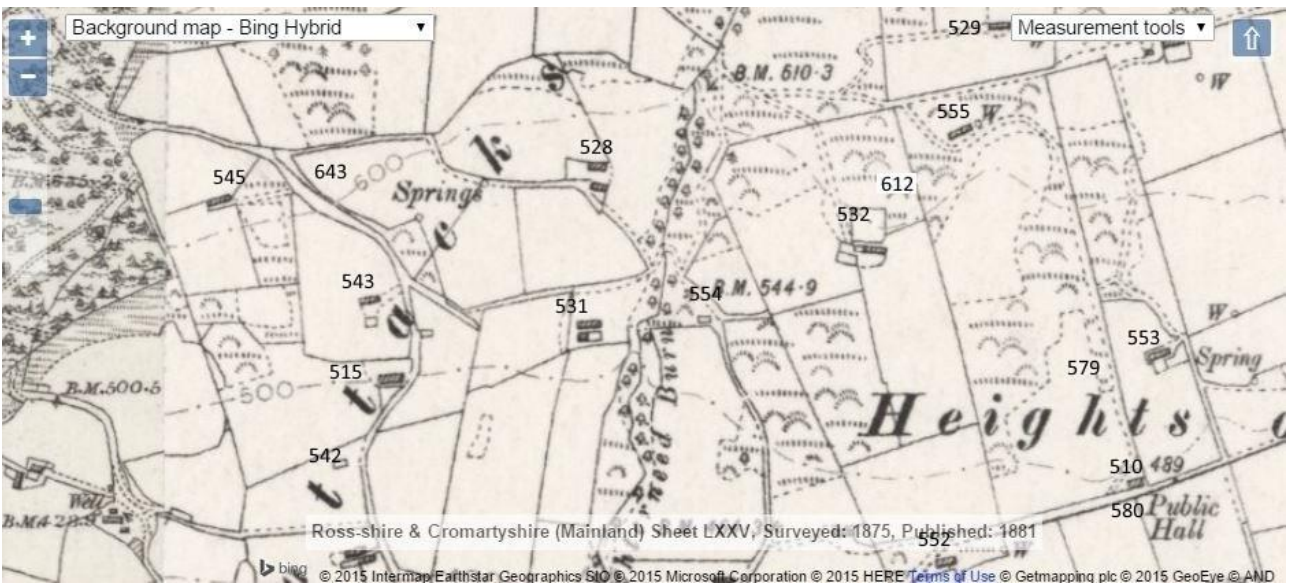
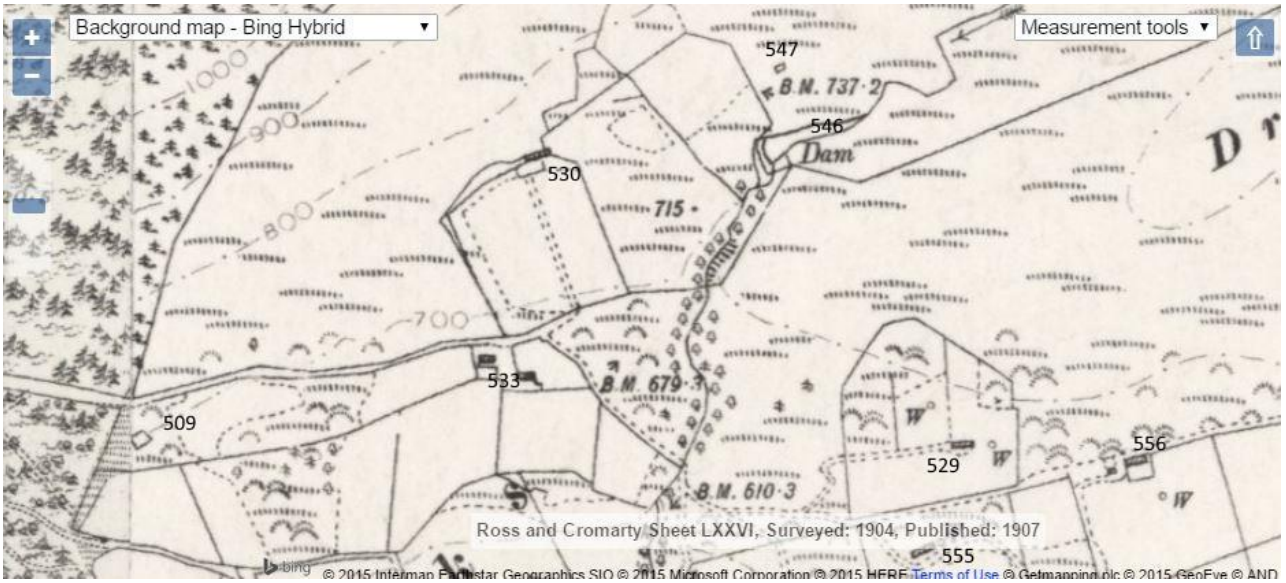
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map was surveyed in 1875 and published in 1880; the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map was surveyed in 1904 and published in 1906.
- There were a number of shoemakers on the Heights. Fiona Newton's great grandfather was a shoemaker on the side and the family still has some of the lasts. John Mackenzie (known as Johnnie Murdo or Jock Stornoway) mentioned a factory with c. 12 people employed in the Heights. ( He came from Stornoway and married local Annie Murdo. He worked with horses on farms but later worked on the railway line. He lived at Rose

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Cottage, Heights of Inchvannie) (Fiona Newton). There was also a shoemaker behind Lilich's (no. 587) (Kyreen Chalmers). Isabel MacMaster's ancestor also was a shoemaker in Blairninch.

- Soldiers billeted in Strathpeffer during WWII used to come up to the Heights of Achterneed for training. They never used to open the gate at Kenny Stewart's croft, simply running over it. His mother went to the Colonel in the Highland Hotel about five times to get money to replace the gates.
- Mobile shops used to come up the Heights, including Burnett's (well-known bakers from Strathpeffer). Louis Belli drove Donati's ice cream van up to the Heights in the summers on Sundays after the war. Cones cost 3 pence or 6 pence. (Jessie MacDonald)
- Around WWII there was a runaway train at Achterneed. The couplings broke and despite there being a safety siding at Achterneed station (leading up the bank to sand), the two wagons fell into the wood, killing the sheep they were carrying. The train also had whisky, cigarettes and fruit on board, and was looked after day and night by local men – though some of the cargo was said to have vanished.
- The peat deposits to the north of the Heights were deep, and people recount finding large tree roots, often quite large Scots Pine roots six feet deep in the peat.
- Many old abandoned crofts on the Heights still have rhubarb or blackcurrants, or a gean tree, marking previous use.
- Fiona Newton's grandfather told her mother that during foot and mouth disease outbreaks the animals were taken far into the hills, and only those that survived returned.
- A campsite for the travelling folk was located on the track between Brae Farm and Dochcarty Farm cottages, in use from at least the late 1930s to 1950s. They came regularly and worked on Brae and Dochcarty farm. They were MacDonalds from Skye. Jessie Macdonald remembers a bender there in the early 1950s. (Sandy Ross, Neil MacDonald, Jessie Macdonald)
- To the north of the Skiach river is a hill called Cnoc a' Mhuilinn (hill of the mill), with remains of a lade (MHG45045, MHG45046, MHG8912). Although no croft-houses survive from here, there must have been some in order to have a mill there. To the north of Cnoc a' Mhuilinn are a large number of prehistoric round houses (Susan Kruse).
- The snow in bad winters accumulated near Burnside. In one year, possibly 1965, there was 21 feet of snow there.
- Forbes Murray (Forbie) drove the school bus from 1951. It belonged to Robertson Porters Garage in Dingwall. It was also used on Tuesdays and Fridays for shopping trips to Dingwall for some time. It came up Stoney Brae, along the Street and down to Fodderty school and then did it in reverse on the way home. (Jessie MacDonald).
- From c. 1950 to c. 1960 Hugh Ross of Kilcoy Brae would spend three weeks with a mobile thrashing mill, working from one end of the Heights to the other. Neil MacDonald has a picture of the mobile threshing mill.

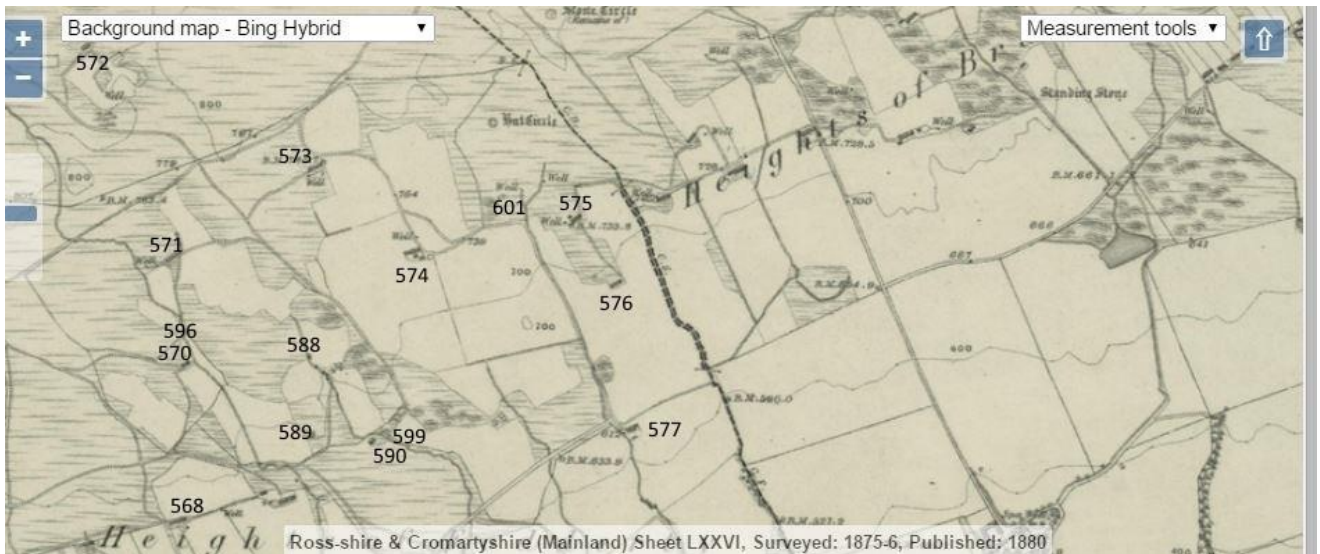
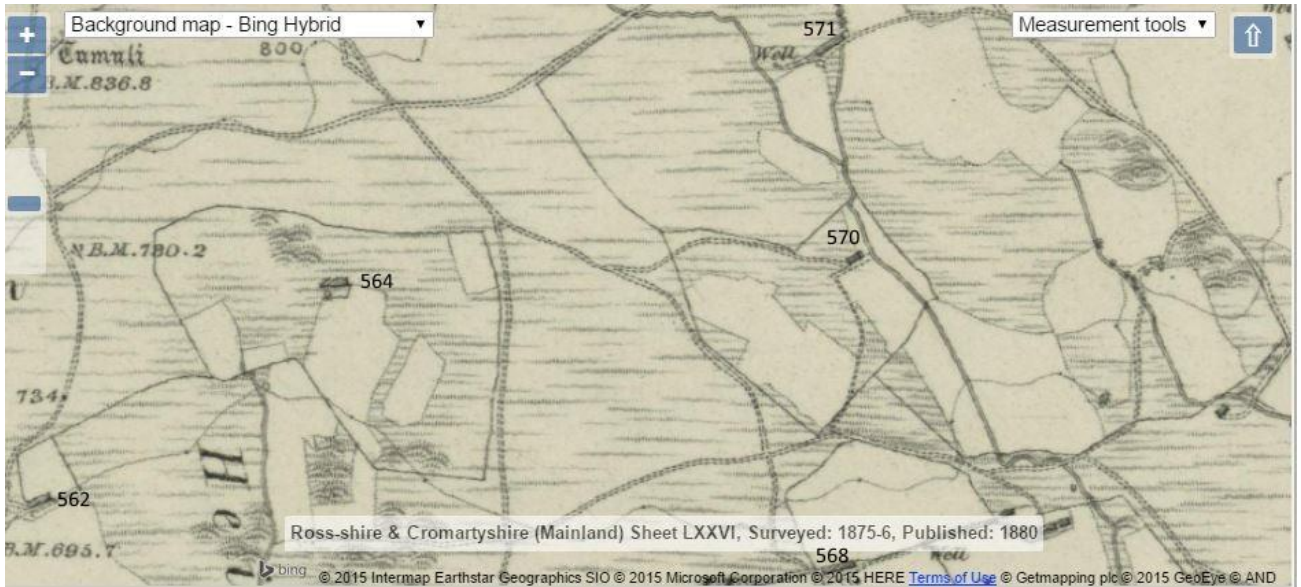
## Remembering the Strathpeffer Area: THE HEIGHTS



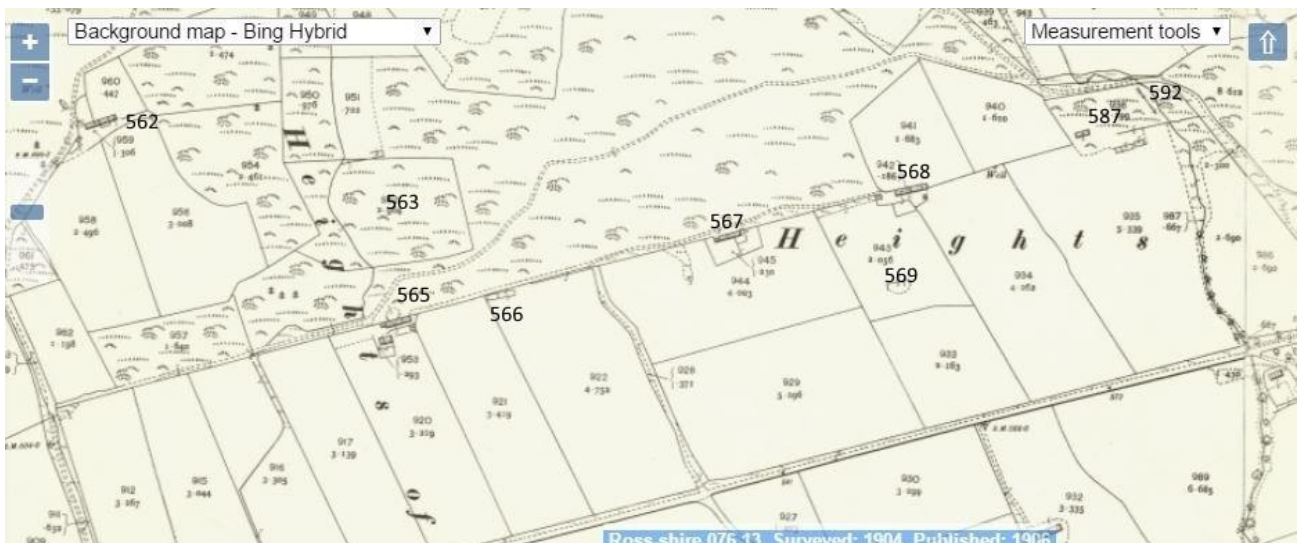
Bottacks area. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, surveyed 1904. ©National Library of Scotland



## Remembering the Strathpeffer Area: THE HEIGHTS

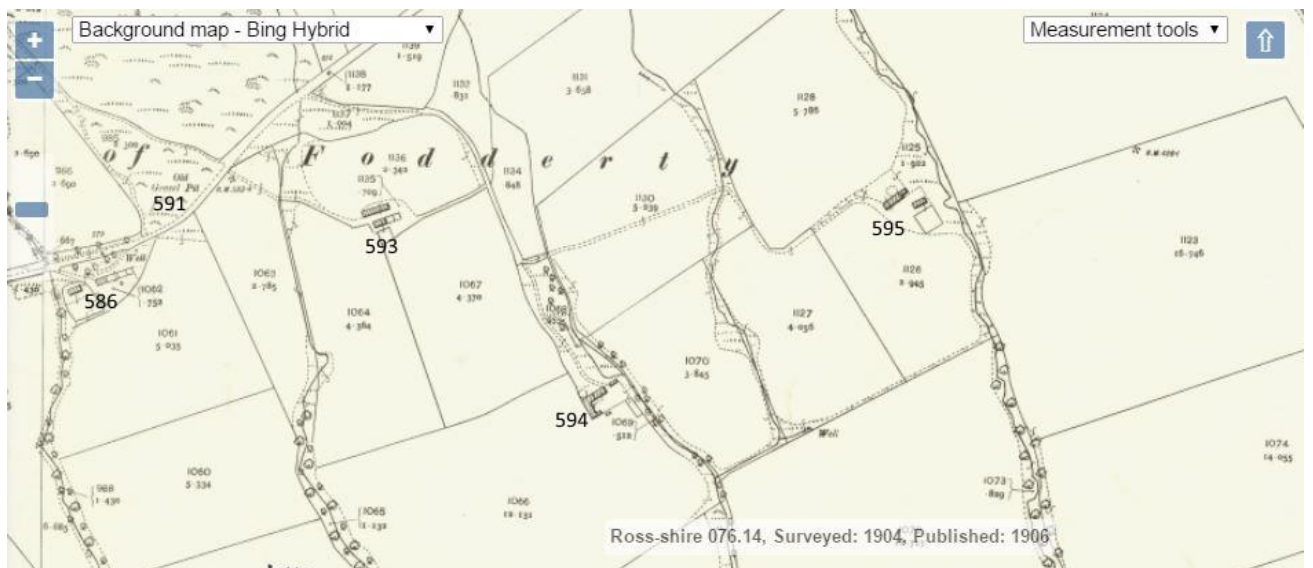
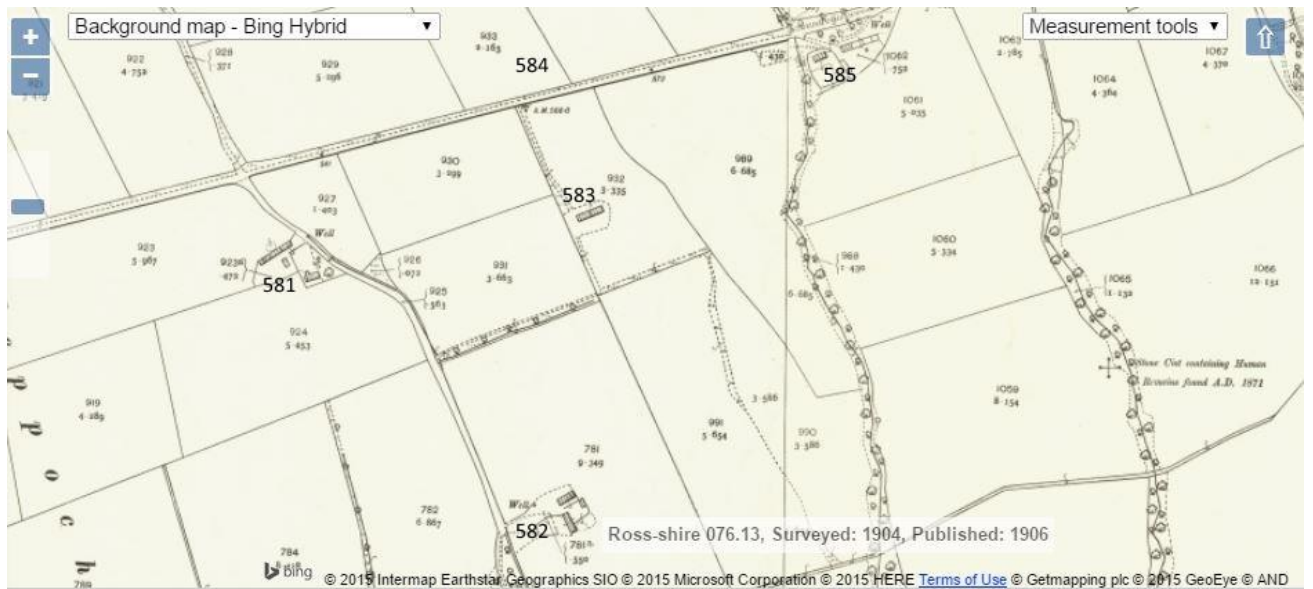


Heights of Foderty N of the road. 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, surveyed 1875-6. ©National Library of Scotland



Heights of Inchvannie and Heights of Foderty. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. OS map, surveyed 1904 ©National Library of Scotland

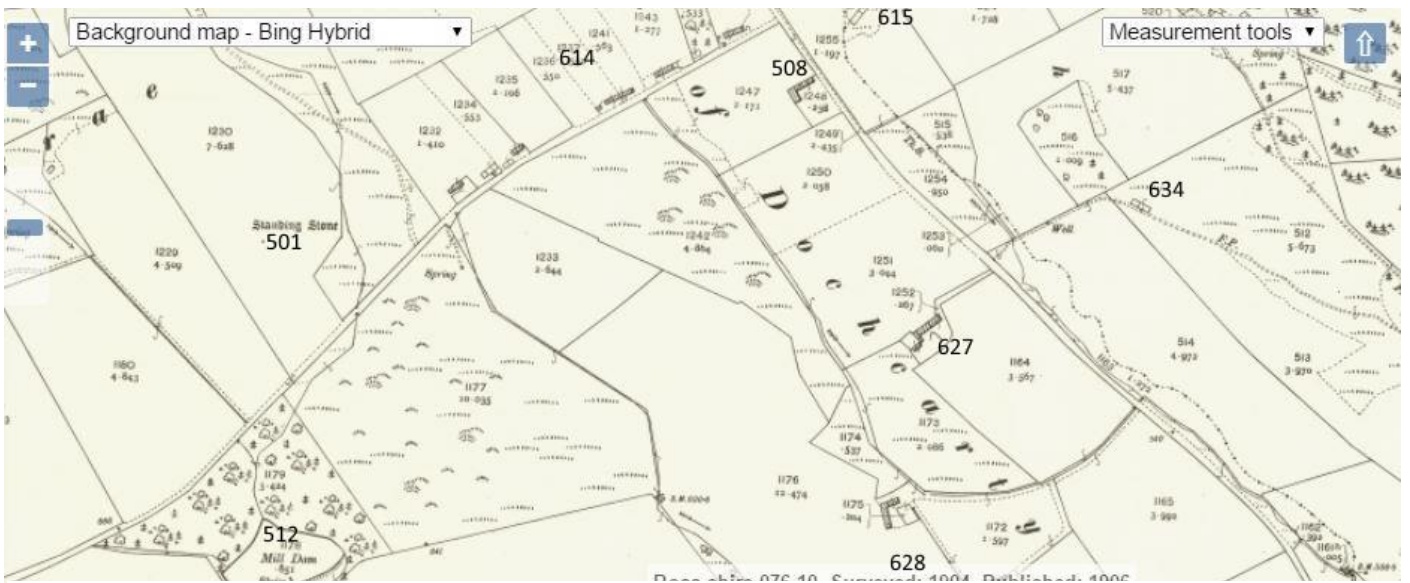
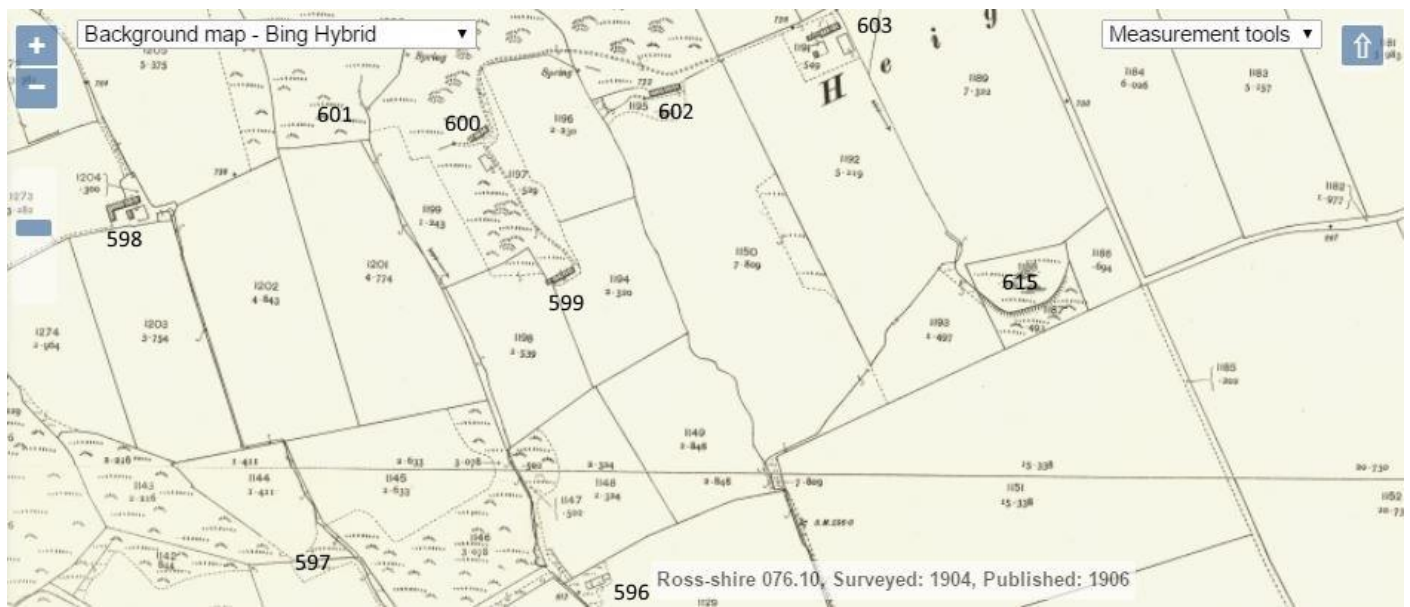
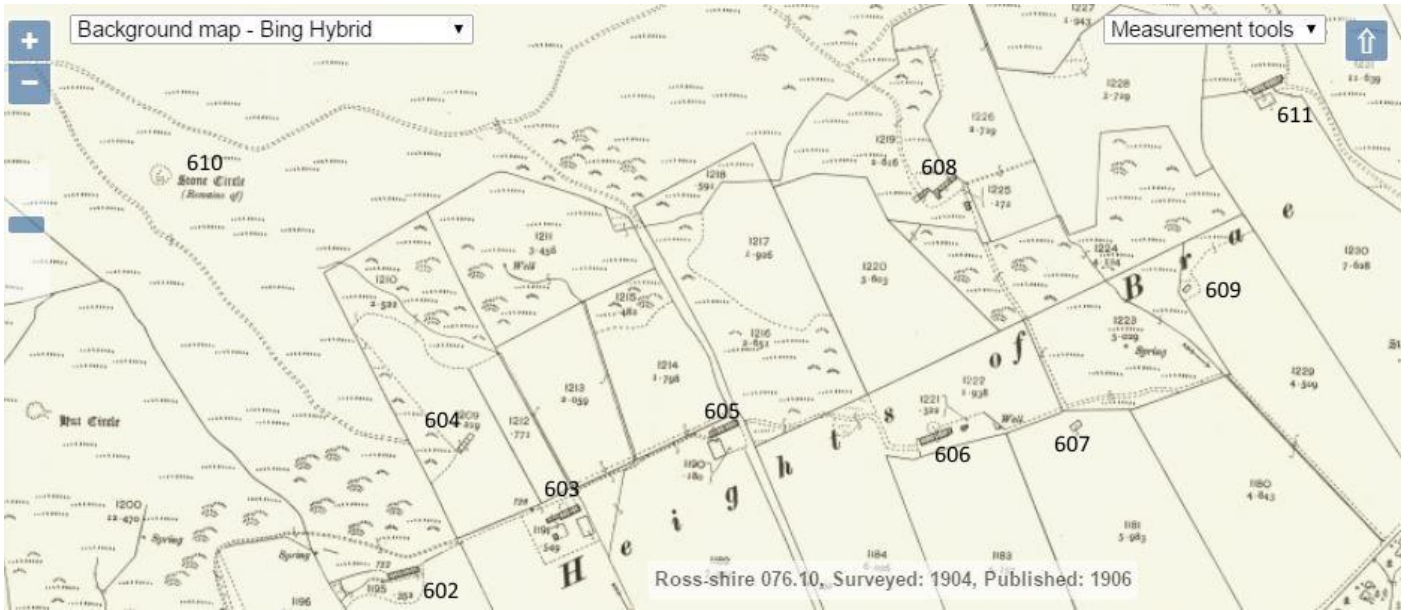
## Remembering the Strathpeffer Area: THE HEIGHTS



Heights of Inchvannie and Heights of Fodderty. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. OS map. surveyed 1904 ©National Library of Scotland



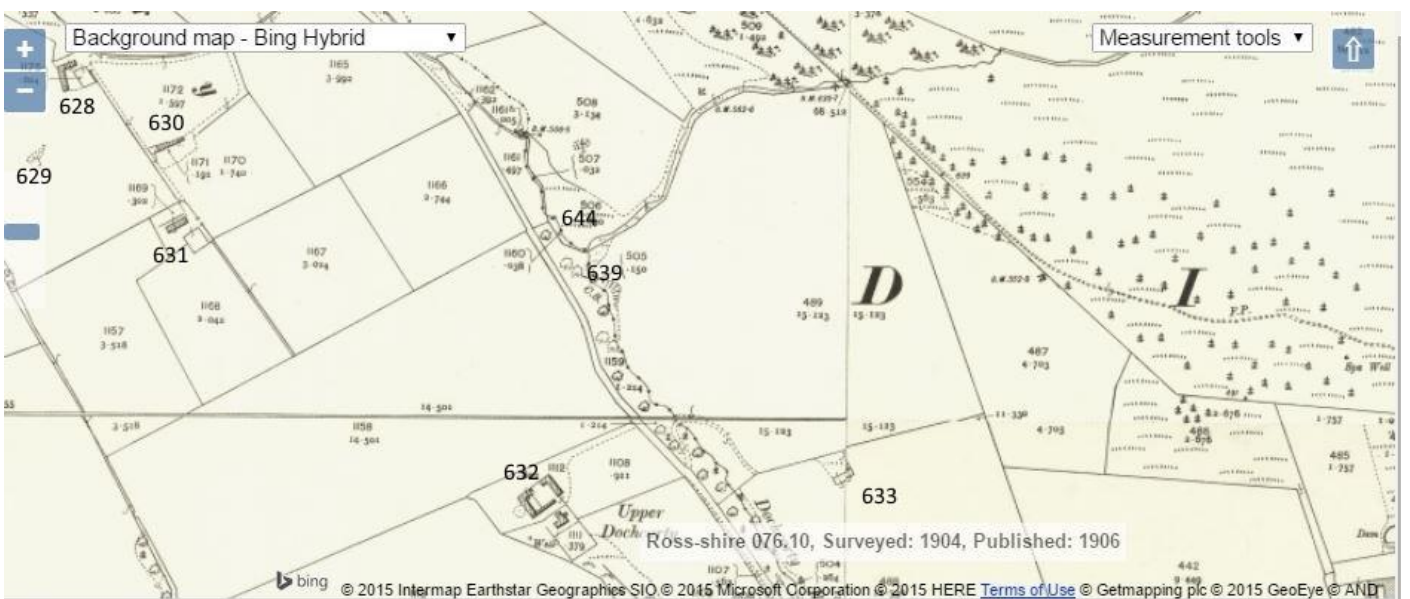
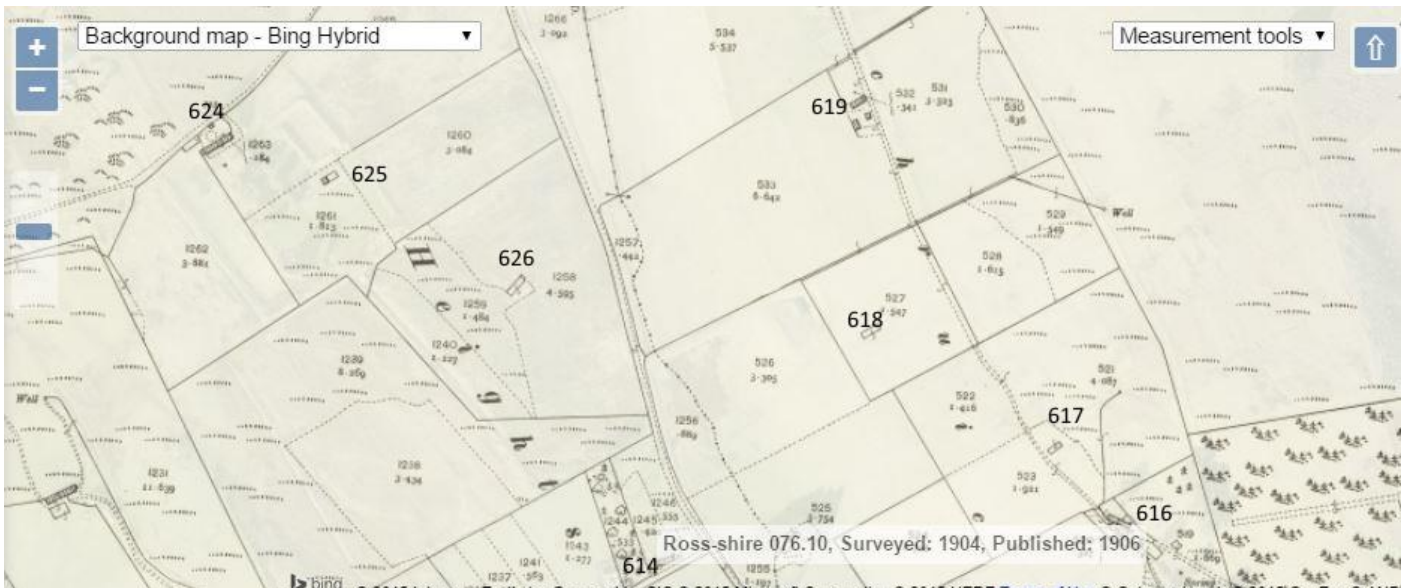
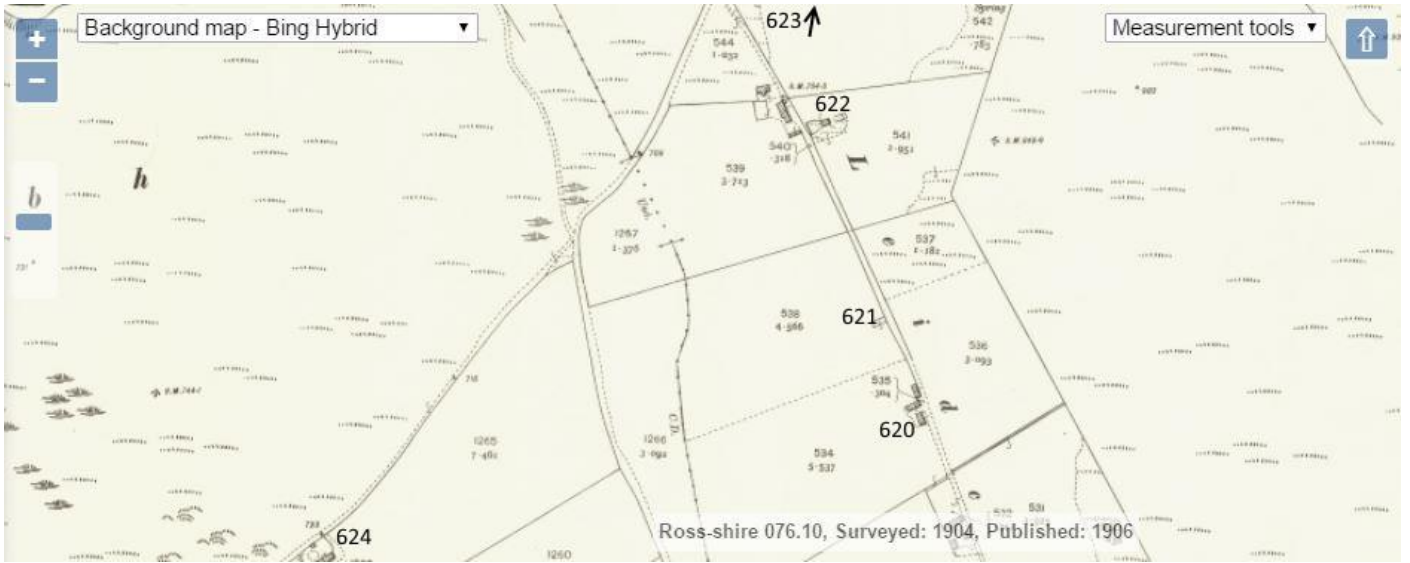
# Remembering the Strathpeffer Area: THE HEIGHTS



Heights of Brae and Heights of Docharty, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, ©National Library of Scotland



# Remembering the Strathpeffer Area: THE HEIGHTS



Leidchruch and Heights of Docharty, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed OS map, ©National Library of Scotland

**Appendix 1. Tigh-na-Gaoith. Notes by Fiona Newton, 2015**

The family believe this to be the third house on the site where the family have lived for over 250 years and, allegedly, are the oldest family on the Heights. The Rose Family (see Redbank) having been the first to live on the Heights but no members of that family have lived on the Heights since the death of Alec Rose. Donald MacDonald, born 1839, gave evidence to the Napier Commission in 1883. The result of this Commission was the 1886 Crofters' Holding (Scotland) Act. As his son, Colin born 1882, was to write in *Croft and Ceilidh* (1947) pp132-143 the Act afforded protection to the crofters. Like many others, the MacDonald's were "busily and happily employed in building on their crofts comfortable slated cottages in substitution of the clay-built thatched hovels." The current house was built by Donald and Colin, probably with financial help from family members in the colonies between 1892-94. The layout was typical with a central door to the south, leading to an east-west corridor. The room to the east was "The Room" where the minister would be entertained and the dead would be laid out. The stairs lead to two bedrooms with comb ceilings. One for boys and one for girls. The room to the west was where the family lived and entertained. Originally, there was a range on the west gable. This was the ceilidh house in the Strath. Behind the staircase to the north was the parents bedroom. Originally, there was no porch and upstairs three skylights. By 1911 an Uncle, who was a joiner, who had been home on holiday from South Africa and built the porch and two dormer windows. When Colin retired back from his work in Edinburgh work was done to the house. The parents bedroom was turned into a kitchen and above it a bathroom was built. The downstairs windows were enlarged so that the view could be enjoyed while sitting down. The next change came in 1979-80 when his daughter, Margaret Newton (Dr Paddy MacDonald) and her husband retired back. An extension on the west of the original house giving more space, including a larger kitchen and downstairs shower room.

This extension did mean that the dairy which was a small building to the west of the house was demolished. Originally, it had marble shelves. Later it was used as a coal shed.

The barn. At ground level there is an open cart to the east and the byre to the west. The byre is cobbled with channels for the beasts' excrement. There would have been wooden divisions for the cow and horse. Above is the hay loft which would have been used for threshing. For a full description of this read MacDonald 1947 pp34-40. The first hand mill came to the Strath in 1872. Prior to that and afterwards, in the case of a break down, all the threshing was done using a flail. Winnowing was done by hand using the wind. MacDonald writes that opposite outside doors were a feature of an old time barn. When the wind was in the right direction everybody had to turn out and work. If the wind came in the night the winnowing would be done by candle light. The door in the west gable is blocked up now. A loading bay is found at the west gable. Behind the barn is the remains of the mill where the horse, and at times the children, would have walked round and round. There used to be a hole about 18x 9 inches through which the machinery went in the north wall.