

Remembering Ardross Area

No.	Name of Feature / building	Where? / grid ref	Condition	Description	HER /Canmore	Contributors
1	Ardross Community Hall 3 (current) 	NH 6430 7362	Good	Millennium project with locally raised funds on land donated to the community by MacTaggart family (of Ardross Castle). A large number of members of the community were involved, and included innovative fundraising activities: Fun days at Glaick organised by George Mackay, the Strath Rory duck race by Arthur Scott, and the 'Not the Full Monty' which is still talked about 22 years later, all of which raised a substantial sum. Many others were involved including Richard Dalman and Jane Smith's family. Jane's mother and her mother's great-nephew cut the first turf, as the eldest and youngest members of the family. She still has the spade and photos. Archive information survives concerning the building of the hall.	Not in HER	Richard Dalman, George MacKay, Jane Smith, John Edmondson
2	Ardross Community Hall 2 	NH 6435 7358	Still in use as a classroom P1-3	Wooden building erected in 1969 on the site of Ardross Social Union Club (see no. 3). The school at one time had three classrooms for seven class stages with the schoolhouse attached. The toilets for boys and girls were external and back-to-back near the main building where the present office is now. Gilmour Whyte, Tom Baird and Mr & Mrs Allison were involved. The big bonus was having toilets and a stage, plus kitchen and storage space. Archive information survives concerning building of the hall: contact hall committee.	Not in HER	Ian Shearer, Carolyn Samsin, Veda McClorey, Marie Sutherland
3	Ardross Community Hall 1 (Ardross Social Union Club)	NH 6435 7358	Gone	Used a Nissen Hut bought post WWII from Nigg. Later another wartime building added as an extension, obtained from the Black Isle. Built in 1947. Source of information about the Nissen hut from Nigg is mentioned in a poem by P.M. Ardross (Pat Munro, gardener at Achandunie). It notes that local people went to Nigg, dismantled the structure, transported it back to Ardross and erected it there. Known as Ardross Social Union Club – photo of ticket in Alness Heritage Centre photo collection.	Not in HER	Carolyn Sampson, Ian Shearer, Bill Simpson, Jane Smith, Richard Smith, Marie Sutherland

				<p>Jane's grandfather, Simon Allison, was a stone mason by trade before farming at Achandunie farm and then buying Stittenham farm and house in 1937. He was active in helping set up the hall, providing stone work for the Nissen hut foundations, and the brick work it rested on. Her father and mother (Christy Allison and Alix Allison nee Mackay) were founder members of the Ardross Social Union. Richard was told the bricks came from Lairg brickworks.</p> <p>Marie remembers that others involved in erecting the hall included Willie Thom, Sam Clark, Ian MacKay, John Murdoch. Sandy & Geo Shearer? It was used for dances, concerts, badminton, country dancing, showing films. Mr Ross (schoolie) was a member of Highland & Islands Film Guild so always managed to get most recent and up to date films. Willie Thom was the projectionist assisted by Sam Clark. In winter Mr Ross used the hall for school gym sessions every week.</p> <p>The roof needed regular painting as maintenance, which was difficult with the sloped roof (memories of people falling off).</p>		
4	Area between school and Community Hall 2	NH 6435 7358	Currently a field for school	<p>This was full of trees. The kids helped take all the roots out to make a playing field. The whole school helped with gathering stones. There was a burn running through the area which was covered over. Sports days were held here: Carolyn has sourced a picture of sports day near the Nissen hut. Bill remembers that the schoolmaster filmed the sports days, but no one knows if these survive.</p>		Bill Simpson, Veda McClorey, Carolyn Samsin
5	Dublin Hall, then Forestry hut, used for community events aka Forestry Bothy	NH 6159 7451	Gone	<p>A wooden hall in Dublin was used by the community before the village halls were built and also by estate workers. According to the poem by P.M., when the forestry bought parts of the estate after Dyson Perrins [c. 1937], the community thought that few dances would be held there due to change of ownership. It is still not known when and why the Dublin hall was built in the first place.</p> <p>Memories of Mrs Allison (Jane Smith's mother) from Alness Heritage Centre archives recall Christmas school festivities at the hall in Dublin at Christmas times. She also mentions a dance in the hall every month.</p>		Veda McClorey, David Bentley, Carolyn Samsin, Roy Mackenzie, Marie Sutherland

				<p>Marie Sutherland was told it had a billiard table which when the estate was sold was gifted to the British Legion in Invergordon, and may be still there.</p> <p>Once the forestry took over the hall, it became a bothy. Roy and Veda described the layout of the Bothy: There was a cookhouse, accommodation, and a fire equipment shed sited around the south west corner of Dublin front row. (see Roy's sketch map).</p> <p>A number of forestry employees lived at Dublin, some from as far away as Cornwall. There is a very detailed memoir by J C Kennleysides regarding the Dublin Bothy in the 1950s (available on Forestry Memories website). This describes the bothy in detail – and says it was a creosoted shed with woodburning stove and Tilley lamps. He mentions the sale of the bothy (? In the 1950s) and states 'on the site now there is a hamlet of Modern Houses between the original Housing and the Church at the end of the road.' Marie Sutherland also recalls some of the characters, including the cooks (J C Kennleysides also mentions the cook Watty Robertson).</p> <p>Marie remembers that after the sale by the estate, there were women in the bothy, perhaps land girls or maybe Forestry Commission. She remembers that the girls showed films and held Christmas parties for locals. See her contribution.</p>		
6	Forestry HQ (see also no. 22)	Mid Ardress NH 62933 73892	Still there	<p>Forestry Memories website has memories and information about the forestry in Ardress. Alness & District times to run an article in near future about forestry in the area. This site was the old Free Church schoolhouse (see no. 22). It is in a picture on Forestry Memories no. 2025.</p> <p>Alex Houston heard that there was an estate farm shop at the Estate offices where every tenant had to sell their produce as part of the club farm (see below Farming Life for information on Matheson's Club farms).</p> <p>Willy Munro's Memories of Strathrusdale record a 'tommy food shop' near this location for Dublin estate workers who were forced to buy their provisions at this shop.</p> <p>Jane Parkin adds: In the 1980s the Forestry Commission still had a substantial base at Glensax, with at least 15 men working out of the</p>		Carolyn Samsin, Alasdair Cameron, Mike Stainke, Alex Houston, Jane Parkin

				<p>forestry sheds. Over time this dwindled. The sheds still survive, and on one of the internal doors people have signed their names and one of them looks to be from 1919. The shed appears to have been used for animals and storing coal in the past.</p> <p>There is a flagstone at the gate with 1947 on it.</p> <p>Carolyn adds: The forestry offices transferred to Dingwall in first instance (1984) then Dingwall to Dornoch.</p>		
22	<p>School, Mid Ardross, aka Glensax (see also no. 6)</p> 	NH 62933 73892	Still there	<p>On 1st ed OS map, it is marked as a Free Church School. It was erected in 1858 (Old Name Book), built by Matheson. In 1847 the school met in a small black hut, with a roll less than 24. In 1849 Matheson gave the school a large house and the roll rose to over 40. In 1858 Matheson built a new school house at Glensax with accommodation for 100 pupils (research by Nancy Kinloch for an UHI report in 2008, citing Inverness Advertiser 1877). By 2nd ed OS map, it is not labelled as a school, when a school is labelled at the location of the current Ardross school (no. 19). It is unclear what use Glensax school had after Ardross school opened in 1877.</p> <p>Jane Parkin adds: Glensax was the schoolmaster's house with a school at one end. She was told that at one point 160 children were on the register, but there is not enough space for all of them at the same time. There are two sheds at the back of the house and the cottage next door, which she believes may have been the toilets for the boys and girls at the school. The mother of someone she knows said that his mother went to the school, and as she was born in 1908, she must have attended from 1913. However, at this date the Ardross school was in its current location, so perhaps this refers to the current Ardross school.</p> <p>Current owners and visitors have seen a ghost at the house, a lady in a grey dress.</p> <p>The HER record has lots of pictures of the old schoolhouse, taken during some internal alterations and window replacements</p> <p>The listed building report states that the architect was Alexander Maitland. The stone built barn near the road is not depicted on the 1st ed OS map, but is on the 2nd ed OS map.</p>	MHG8005	Jane Parkin, Lorna Morrison, Alasdair Cameron

7	<p>Fox Farm (Snow Belt Farm Ltd)</p>	NH 6520 7482	Still there	<p>There was a fox farm located at this site, and according to an advert in the Scotsman 14-11-1928, was Britain's first fox farm. According to an article in the Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate & Cheriton Herald (Jan 1925, transcribed on Alness Through the Years facebook page) the fur farm was set up by Major Harrington, a Canadian and naturalist, in 1920. He brought over 8 pairs of foxes from Prince Edward Island, and the enterprise proved so successful that further foxes were shipped over to other parts of Scotland and N. England. Descendents of Major Harrington still live in the area. An article in the Scotsman Nov. 1928 noted the awards in the 1927 Silver Fox show awards, and that the business was called Snow Belt Farms Ltd, managed by F. Ballinger. An article in the Aberdeen Press and Journal 8-9-1932 provides more information about the company and a picture of Mr Ballinger. By this time there were 65 breeding pairs, with around 200 cubs. In addition to furs, the farm also sold breeding pairs, including to Holland, Finland and Persia. Fiona notes that Ebe Esson Clark has posted on Alness Through the Years facebook page about this, which noted that Fox Farm closed at the start of the war. Local boys worked skinning rabbits to feed the foxes. Other fox farms are known throughout Scotland, with one also thought to have been in Golspie. Their pelts (with fox head) were prized women's attire. After the Forestry purchased some of the estate, including this property, Fox Farm was a residence for some staff. See https://www.forestry-memories.org.uk/picture/number2597</p> <p>Richard was told by a former local resident that 10 land army girls stayed in a bothy at Fox Farm during the war.</p> <p>The first house at Fox Farm was the Esson's house, and there was a recording studio there where the local band Wolfstone rehearsed and recorded. The second house is where Matheson the trapper lived (and possibly was known as Snowbelt (see no. 7a) and then Soos family. Carolyn adds: this was not really a farm, more an assortment of caged areas to house the foxes.</p> <p>Jeannie was told that they switched to mink and then when fur became unfashionable they let the animals go.</p>		<p>Fiona Stephenson, Janes Smith, Alasdair Cameron, Richard Smith, Simon Arnold, Veda McClorey, Alex Houston, Alasdair Cameron, Carolyn Samsin, Lawrence Jamison, Jeannie Lloyd</p>
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7a	Snowbelt	NH 6517 7510		These are the most northerly buildings on Fox Farm	Fiona Stephenson, Jane Smith, Simon Arnold, Veda McClorey
8	<p>Ardross Sawmill and Creosoter</p> 	Culich, Ardross NH 6394 7309	Gone, new house on site	<p>It is thought that the estate set up the creosoter and sawmill, date not known, but Valuation Records might shed light on this. In Alness, there was a creosote pit next to railway, and creosote was transported from this depot up to the Ardross sawmill creosote tank (35ft x 5ft) to treat timber. The mill cut railway sleepers and other industrial goods but most of the production was for mining timbers for coal mines as far south as England: boards, pit props, wagon timbers etc. Alasdair Cameron went there in mid 50s with his father to collect creosoted fence posts, and submitted information to Forestry Memories: The sawn posts were loaded onto railway bogies and two at a time were pushed along a narrow-gauge railway line into a big round horizontal tank. A section of the rail was lifted up and a big round heavy steel door was swung round and secured with a lot of bolts to seal it all up. Alongside was a big steam boiler, fuelled with the mill waste, and the steam powered the pump that pumped the creosote into the tank with the steam also heating up the creosote. The hot creosote boiled the moisture out of the fence posts and as it cooled overnight the creosote was drawn into the wood. The warm load of posts was winched out and sat over a large metal drip tray and the drips were recycled. The bulk creosote came into Alness Station and nothing grew in that part of the goods yard as there was a bit of spillage at times and no drip tray. The Creosoter was owned by McAinsh who was from Crieff, who came to harvest timber in WWII. The McAinshes of Crieff became one of the biggest timber merchants in Scotland, and developed large sawmills in a number of locations. Taylors and Bell operated it. Six of the Bell family, men and women, worked at the mill; the women could tackle anything on site! It traded as Ardross Sawmill.</p>	<p>Howard Bell, Stewart Campbell, Alasdair Cameron, Veda McClorey, Roy Mackenzie, Bill Simpson, Carolyn Samsin</p> <p>Marshall engine at Landmark, Carrbridge: https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1645458</p>

				<p>Memories from c.1965: The steam engine was a Marshall stationary engine powering two vertical drive wheels and was the size of an ordinary steam engine – similar to the portable Landmark, Carrbridge. The belts moved two circular saws on two saw benches either side of the engine and shed. The saw-bench mill carriages were driven by friction feed and had a crank, and pushed the timber towards the saw. Looking down the engine towards the saw-benches, Adam Bell’s side was the right-hand saw, and his son worked the left-hand saw. The timber was unloaded from the lorry on to skids to the right-hand side of the mill and the left side was used for further processing.</p> <p>At the head of the engine, the fireman had a small saw for chopping logs for the firebox. He kept the fire banked up overnight with sawdust and came in early to get it up to steam each morning.</p> <p>Ogilvies came to the area with McAinsh, and set up his own transport business for livestock and timber haulage, which expanded to c. 20 vehicles based at Muir of Ord, running timber to the Fort William pulp mill. Forestry Memories Website has pictures of his lorries https://www.forestry-memories.org.uk/picture/number1252/ After working at the mill, Roy drove a hiab crane lorry, collecting and delivering timber from forestry commission plantations all around Scotland.</p> <p>Carolyn was told that there was a stable block at the rear of the sawmill with 3 stalls for woodworking horses. This was demolished.</p>		
9	<p>Aultnamain Inn and Droving Stance</p> 	NH 6659 8130	Exists, but no longer an inn	<p>On the Struie road, and well known for being remote, and a good place for getting snowed in. During the war soldiers used to stop at the tea room in Ardross on their way to the inn. Alness Heritage has pictures of Aultnamain snowed in in 1978. Richard added information from <i>The Empty Stells</i> by John MacDonald: The last droving from Stittenham Drove stance (no. 40) to Aultmain Inn and then on to Ardgay was 22-9-1929. The cost of using the Aultnamain drove stance for a night was 8 shillings.</p>		John Edmondson, Carolyn Samsin, Richard Smith
10	<p>Smithy / tea room / post office / petrol / shop/</p>	NH 64459 73670	Private dwelling. Tea room	<p>The cluster of buildings included the smithy, a byre, house, and tea room. The Smithy was there from 19th century (on 1st ed OS map). Around 1926 Carolyn/Veda/Florence’s grandfather built the other building, and in</p>		Veda McClorey, Carolyn Samsin, Florence

	<p>telephone</p> 		no longer there	<p>1946 Carolyn's parents came and her father helped as a mechanic. Petrol pumps were put up in the 1950s. Their grandmother had the tea room (separate building to West) and also ran the post office. Veda's father and grandfather were blacksmiths there. In the courtyard there was a big ring that was for shrinking on the metal tyre rim on wooden cart wheels. Laundry baskets were dropped off for collection. The cousins were brought up close together. Carolyn has a picture of the tea room (active during the war, with Tea Room lettering on roof). Veda remembers a piano in the Tea Room. The family took messages on the public phone box. Carolyn with a number of photos. One shows the bees which Florence's father kept to the north of the buildings.</p>		Sutherland, Bill Simpson
11.	<p>Kennel man's house, Post office, Tollie (Brae House)</p> 	NH 6133 7441	Still there	<p>The Post office moved to this location when the Smiddy PO closed perhaps around 1959/1960. It was originally the kennelman's house (see no. 32). He had a huge number of dogs. Mrs Thom ran the post office. She retired in 1988. Towards the end the only custom was a few pensioners and school kids. The chocolate bar wrappers changed from purple to grey. It closed around 1990. Alasdair has photographed the current site. Was the hole in the wall for the postbox?</p>		John Edmondson, Fiona Stephenson Alex Houston, Bob Baxter, Carolyn Samsin
12.	<p>Tall Pines</p> 	NH 6406 7312	Derelict	<p>After Perrins sold the estate, The Tall Pines was built by MacDonald [?], then sold to Craigie and Johnston, who later sold it to the castle. A restaurant/bar run by Doug's mother from around the early 1970s. It was officially known as the Castle Inn. Later a Dutchman named Ludovic ran it in the 1980s for the castle. Like the craft shops, once the Dornoch Bridge was built, business declined and it closed.</p>		Doug Redwood, Victoria Arnold, Carolyn Samsin, George Mackay
13	<p>Woodturners, pottery, jewellery shop</p> 	NH 6407 7310	Derelict	<p>Timber buildings with grass roofs. Active before Dornoch Bridge built, and catered to tourists on the Struie road. This was located near the Tall Pines. The potter, John Day made fantastic Lord of the Rings type figures as well as traditional pottery, and ran night classes. The houses were full of asbestos.</p>		Simon Arnold, Alasdair Cameron, Bob Baxter, George Mackay

14	<p>Ardross Church</p>  	NH 6159 7436	Still in use	<p>Built by Dyson Perrins in 1899 (architect Alexander Ross and MacBeth), as thanksgiving for recovery of his first wife after serious illness. Richard was told that it was constructed from stones obtained from a church, possibly off Kenneth Street, in Inverness, shipped to Belleport pier, and then carried to Ardross by horse and cart. Contemporary press cuttings said the church was constructed of Ardross red sandstone (Inverness Courier 13-7-1900).</p> <p>The original title as drawn up by Dyson Perrins was for the church to be for Presbyterian worship. Accordingly Church of Scotland and Free Church of Scotland ministers (Rosskeen) held services on a rotational basis from 1900 to 2019. In 2019 the church title was revised making Ardross Church nondenominational.</p> <p>It does not have a cemetery: burials went to Rosskeen Parish Church and Edderton, or much earlier to Nonikiln or Cille Mhuire. Some may have gone over to Croick or Annat as well.</p> <p>The church bell came from Tollie farm (no 45), as most large farms had their own bells to notify workers of the time. The bell was said to have been much missed by Tollie workers.</p> <p>Electricity from the castle hydro scheme (see no. 62a) powered the church lighting and heating (Ross-shire J 14-12-1900). An early distribution box survives, as well as some early fittings. Later the church reportedly had 2 coal burning stoves for heating, with remains of the stove supports still in place. The castle was said to have supplied coal for these stoves up until the time Dyson Perrins sold the estate in 1937. If so, the electric heating system must have broken down sometime between 1900 and 1937 or proved inadequate.</p> <p>The church contains a WWI war memorial.</p>	MHG16665	Veda McClorey, Carolyn Samsin, Richard Smith
15	Nonikiln chapel	NH 6620 7124	Ruinous	<p>Chapel sometimes said to be dedicated to St Ninian, though there is some debate about this. The surviving west gable walls has a gothic window, and this end is thought to be all that survives of the Medieval church. It is likely to be an old parish, later amalgamated with Rosskeen. 16th century documents mention an alehouse nearby (Originals Parochiales). At present there are two buildings in the churchyard, one</p>	MHG4532; <u>MHG6318</u>	George Mackay Carolyn Samsin, Evelyn Simpson

				<p>including the west gable and the other to the east, both now mausoleums, with different construction. There are also foundation remains between the two. Lorna Morrison has done detailed research on the church: see binder for details.</p> <p>Local tradition is that it was on the pilgrim route to Tain Estate. Ferindonald Papers say the last service was in 1713, and the roof fell in 1714.</p> <p>By 1891 the graveyard was in disrepair, but Kenneth Matheson, owner of the graveyard, paid for fencing and dyke repairs (Inverness Courier 9-10-1891). Carolyn was told that the last person buried here was the aunt of a friend. George remembered the last burial of a man in 1981.</p>		
15a	Nonikiln Holy Well	NH 6625 7115	Survives but dry	<p>Well dedicated to St Columba, recorded in the Old Name Book. It is now boxed in, situated in a dyke. Pictures on the HER</p> 	MHG6315	Carolyn Samsin
16	Cille Mhuire (Chapel of Kildermorie)	NH 5223 7720	Ruinous	<p>Documentation to 16th c, but thought possibly earlier. The chapel was partly maintained by lands of Tolly, and consequently is sometimes called the chapel of Tolly. Documentary evidence suggests that after the Reformation the lands passed to the Munros, while Tolly went to the Rosses (article by W.J. Watson, republished in Clan Munro Magazine 22, 2000). Even by Watson's time (c. 1948), the graveyard was much neglected with few gravestones. There were occasional services, including Catholic ones, in recent times.</p>	MHG8890	Bob Baxter
16a	Cille Mhuire graveyard	NH 5220 77210		Unrecorded monumental inscriptions and possible font to be investigated.	<u>MHG31405</u> Canmore <u>12960</u>	Fiona Stephenson

17	Stone Circle/ possible chapel at Druid Stones (Seapal-Dail a Mhic)	NH 6420 7275	Ruinous	<p>Maclean (1886) described this as a chapel on the farm of Achandunie, but during his time only part of the foundation remained, and by the 1970s no traces survived. A pair of standing stones are thought to have been erected in the 19th century. It has also been interpreted as the remains of a Neolithic cairn (source: HER)</p> 	MHG8001	Simon Arnold, Carolyn Samsin
18	Ardross Castle power station	NH 60942 74121	Derelict	<p>An early hydro scheme from 20th century. Water was supplied from Loch Dubh. Canmore 95787 with old photo. An article in the Ross-shire J (14-12-1900) provides a very detailed description of the turbine house and its machinery. The water was piped in cast iron pipes. The electricity was used for lighting and heating, and the castle also had an early electric car and electric player piano. The station preserves two turbines. The generators and switch board have had most of the copper removed but a maker's plate (Gilbert Gilkes & Co, Kendal no. 269) remains which has a number on it which may be traceable. The company still is in existence, and has an archive. Alasdair has taken pictures of interior. The power station was operational until a big storm in the early 1940s.</p> 	MHG19823 Canmore 95787	Richard Dalman, John Edmondson, Alasdair Cameron, Victoria Arnold
19	Ardross School	NH 6435 7358	Still in use	<p>A school is shown at this location on the 2nd ed OS map. The school opened in 1877, replacing the school Matheson built at Glensax in 1858 (see no. 22). The log books were at the school, but their current location is not known. The canteen is another wartime building, though not military. It had an asbestos roof which had to be replaced. The school has a reconstructed roundhouse in its grounds.</p> <p>In memories of Mrs Allison (Jane Smith's mother), the number of pupils was mentioned as 90; today there are 28 -and it covers a wider area, as earlier there were the other schools in Strathrusdale, Kildermorie and Boath. In the old days there was a lot of movements between farms and this affected school rolls too.</p> <p>Lorna Valentine's great aunt Chrissie Logan (Miss Logan to her pupils) was a teacher and then head mistress probably mainly between the wars.</p> 	MHG53617	Alasdair Cameron, Lorna Valentine, Lorna Morrison, Veda McClorey Marie Sutherland, Carolyn Samsin; Jane Smith

				<p>She first commuted on a motorbike and then was first woman to have a car in the area.</p> <p>The estate employees' children had red coats, but others did not: Alasdair Cameron's sister Joyce attended Ardross school in 1933 and did not get a red cloak and schoolbag unlike her friend whose father worked at Achandunie for Mr Perrins. Carolyn was told that the red coats, however, were only for Kildermorie school pupils.</p> <p>Memories of M Mackay and V A Allison were collected by Nancy Kinloch – see file.</p> <p>Info from Lorna M based on newspaper cuttings: When Ardross school opened in 1877, the press reports that it was not any bigger than the Mid-Ardross school and later on in newspaper reports of school board meetings they are looking to expand accommodation and at one point discuss and possibly reopen Strathrusdale school, so perhaps the school at Mid-Ardross was reused again. The school log books might be helpful if they still exist.</p> <p>From Carolyn: The reconstructed roundhouse was the idea of retiring head teacher Morag Foster, who acquired lottery funding to build it for the children to use. The heather for the roof was stolen before completion and the house was not completed till the following year when more funding was gathered. The round house needed a fire to be at least two or three times every month in order to keep it viable. It was to be used for environmental lessons and story-telling to create an ambience. As far as she knows, the children have never been allowed in it. Susan adds: although not very authentic based on what we know of prehistoric examples in terms of pillars and structures, it still creates a great atmosphere.</p> <p>Veda and Marie's mothers worked in Ardross school canteen in the early 1950s supplying meals to Bridgend School in Alness. See their separate account.</p>		
20	The Old Schoolhouse,	NH 5809 7670	Surviving	<p>Located opposite Dalreoich. Ian's grandmother taught at the school. After a great deal of debate, much featuring in the local papers, building commenced in 1893 at cost of £150/18/6 (Ross-shire J 4-8-1893) with</p>		John Edmondson, Ian Shearer, Bob Baxter; Fiona

	<p>Strathrusdale</p> 			<p>opening in early 1894 (Ross-shire J 30-1-1894). It had closed by 1906, as a North Star and Farmers' Chronicle article (20-9-1906) notes there were discussions to reopen the school which were refused. In 1912 it is described as a side school (North Chronicle & General Advertiser 3-4-1912)</p> <p>Old records for the school were salvaged by Ian Jemmet but he no longer has them. They possibly were passed onto Willie Clash, but it is unknown if they were preserved after his death.</p> <p>The toilets were a separate building behind the school.</p> <p>Alness Heritage Centre has school photos, including 1923 (9 children and teacher Mary McLeod) with names labelled. The school closed c. 1944, lying empty until 1955 when the Education sub-committee decided to advertise it for sale (North Star 17-12-1955).</p>		<p>Stephenson, Carolyn Samsin, Lorna Morrison, Alex Houston</p>
21	<p>Kildermorie School</p>	?	?	<p>This was a side school, opened in 1899 (Ross-shire J 3-11-1899 & 15-12-1899), with Miss Munro from Boath appointed teacher. It appears in newspaper articles to 1907 and then 1937, but it is currently unclear if this was continuous, and when the school closed. Veda was told that estate pupils had red cloaks, as was Carolyn. Dates needed for when it was set up and closed down. It is also remembered as an old post office. In 1920 Christopher Murray Grieve (aka Hugh MacDiarmid) was employed by Perrins as a caretaker for Kildermorie Lodge, and then as a schoolmaster for the head stalker's daughters (info from www.kildermorie.co.uk/history.html). Uncertain where this school was located.</p>		<p>Veda McClorey, Alasdair Cameron, Ian Shearer, Kerry Kendell, Carolyn Samsin</p>
23	<p>Boath Schoolhouse</p> 	NH 5907 7364	<p>Still survives, now a private dwelling</p>	<p>A school is said to have been at Boath in the 19th century, endowed by S.P.C.K, but was discontinued at the Disruption (1843), after which the buildings were said to be dilapidated (information in Clan Munro archives. Sources needed). The school was then a Free Church school, and then seems to have been local authority school (the transition is described in the school log books, summarised in papers in Highland Archives (D1386/1/20). The School was opened in 1873 (Munro, Averon</p>		<p>Carolyn Samsin Evelyn Simpson, Mike Stainke, Christel McIntosh, Alasdair Cameron</p>

				<p>Tales and Legends...). Research by Evelyn from Seaboardhistory.com noted that Walter Aird was headmaster of the school when it was an SSPCK school. He was born in Rosskeen c. 1782, and later became headmaster of school at Balintore. Later the headmaster at Boath was James Watson (1834-1909). His gravestone records that he was headmaster at Strathconon for over 20 years, and then for 23 years at Boath. He died at Contullich 4-2-1909. His nephew William J Watson (1865-1928) lived for some time with the family in Boath and attended the school. Watson later published Place-names of Ross and Cromarty. Evelyn noted that the Scottish Gazeteer stated Boath school had accommodation for 70 children and in 1879 an average attendance of 23, and a grant of £36.16s.6d.</p> <p>The log books were seen in Alness Heritage Centre in the past. Further details on Boath school can be found in books by William Munro (<i>Averon : Tales and Legends of Alness District</i>, 1992); by John Wilson <i>Tales and Travels of a School Inspector</i>, by Annie Smith Mackenzie (who was teacher there in WWII), in her book <i>Earth is Crammed with Heaven</i>, and a detailed summary in Highland Archives, author unknown (D1386/1/20). See also no. 82.</p> <p>The summary of Boath school in Highland Archives notes that the school closed in June 1948.</p>		
24	Boundary Stone, Strath Rory burn	NH 6581 7761	Needs checking	Reputedly in Strath Rory burn, a square stone with K for Kildermorie and B for Balnagown.		Carolyn Samsin
25	Boundary stone, on Achnacloich road (Clach Ceann a' Mheoir)	NH 67212 73357	Still there	<p>Large boulder. There is a gruesome story about a boy having his fingers cut off told in Maclean 1868 p. 332. The Old Name Book reports a different tradition that when the proprietor of Achnacloich detected people thieving, they were taken to the stone to have their fingers cut off. The place-name means 'Stone of the Finger Ends'. A large stone wall runs from the stone.</p> 		George Mackay, Carolyn Samsin, Evelyn Simpson, Jane Smith, Richard Smith

26	Highland Games site, Easter Ardross	NH 6408 7373		Highland games were held in the field next to Mr Simpson's field, just below Easter Ardross. Fairground rides were stored at the smiddy byre. The Highland games and bake sale were to raise money for the hall building (no. 3) so this would have been in late 1940s.			Carolyn Samsin
27	Highland Games site	NH 6450 7357		The second location of the Highland games was in the field between Smiddy Brae and Dalnavie farm on the north side of the smaller farm road (not on the side where the newer houses are).			Carolyn Samsin
28	Site of Ardross Estate Offices (see also 33)	NH 64481 71994		At some time the Ardross estate officers were located at Achandunie and home to the Estate Factors. Mr William Mackenzie was estate factor in Matheson's time. R. Munro was factor in the late 1800s, when he was based at Tolly Farm. Col. Cuthbert was factor to Mr Dyson Perrins. The estate work force was large. Photos survive in Alness Heritage Centre.		MHG48408 Canmore 272098	Carolyn Samsin
28a	Steading at Achandunie	NH 64509 72066		The steading is depicted on the 1 st and 2 nd ed OS maps. Farm outbuildings were often called Farm 'Offices' in the 18 th and 19 th century – so may or may not have been the Factor's work office when so described.		MHG48409 Canmore 272099	Lorna Morrison
29	Dublin, 'The Barracks', castle workers camp	Perhaps NH 6396 7354	Gone	In the 1840s when the castle was being built and the estate 'improved', Irish workers were employed in the work. They were housed in purpose built accommodation at the area of the estate called 'The Barracks' which later became known as Dublin. Carolyn was told they were paid in tokens to use locally and lived in a camp. Alasdair found an article citing Notes from the Inverness Scientific Society (date not stated) which said that the barracks were built of turf and wood, with 'close doors, neat windows, fireplaces and bedboxes'. Meal was available and a grocery opened where goods were sold at Inverness prices.			Carolyn Samsin, Alasdair Cameron

29a	<p>Dublin Cottages</p> 	NH 6164 7454	Still there	<p>Cottages at Dublin are depicted on the 1st ed map (called Ardross Cottages) and 2nd ed map (called Dublin cottages). The Old Name book reports that at the time of the 1st ed OS map (1870s) there were 4 handsome cottages, property of Mr Matheson. Once the Forestry purchased this part of the estate, they were used by forestry workers. The hall is described in no. 5, and was located at the s. end, and had a fire shed to the east. Stables were located at the n. end. Roy has provided details of the cottages and bothy. Marie has provided a list of people who were in each cottage in her time, and memories of life there – see her transcript. Alness Heritage has some undated photos of the cottages.</p>	MHG48410	Roy Mackenzie Marie Sutherland
30	<p>Sawmill near Stittenham Farm</p>	NH 6516 7407	Gone	<p>There was also a saw mill near Stittenham farm, which possibly closed in the 1960s. It was located at the top of the farm road on the N side. All timber handling was by horse, and stabling was located at the sawmill. Mobile saw mills also operated in the area.</p>		Jane Smith, Richard Smith, Bill Simpson
31	<p>Well near Smiddy</p>	NH 6440 7366	?	<p>There was a well to the west, with overflow running under the playground.</p>		Carolyn Samsin
32	<p>Kennels</p> 	NH 6131 7441	Ruinous	<p>The estate kennels were there in the 1990s, but are no longer roofed. They are clearly visible on modern aerial photographs. The 1st ed OS map records the kennels in a different location (NH 6111 7428)</p>		Bob Baxter, Victoria Arnold, Simon Arnold
33	<p>Achandunie House</p> 	NH 64481 71994	Still there	<p>Large house and farm complex. The 1st ed OS map (surveyed 1880) labels a sundial and summer house. The 2nd ed OS map (surveyed 1904) does not label these, but notes the presence of 2 hydraulic rams (cyclic water pumps powered by hydropower), although no water source is evident on the map.</p> <p>Part of Ardross Estate, and remembered as the estate offices at some point (see no. 28). A photograph of a sign at the Smiddy notes the estate offices are here. Col Cuthbert, who was a WW1 hero, was the estate factor and lived there. After Dyson Perrins sold the estate in 1937, he retained Achandunie House to have a base in the area (info supplied to Richard Smith). However, at some point it appears to have been part of Novar: further research needed.</p>	<p>House MHG48408 Canmore 272098</p> <p>Steading MHG48409 Canmore 272099</p>	Carolyn Samsin, Richard Smith, Bill Simpson, George

				In 1942 it was the headquarters of No. 1 District of the Canadian Forestry Corp which later moved to Fearn Lodge near Ardgay (source: Sawdust Fusiliers by W. Wonders and documents in the National Archives). Also during WW2, exact dates to be researched, the house was requisitioned by the Norwegian Forces as they were denied access to Ardross Castle as they had been promised. (See written account of Dick Mardon). The King of Norway, who was in exile at Carbisdale Castle visited frequently (Carolyn Samsin). Norwegians there included at least one doctor. The Gascoignes with Munro family connections live there [when?]		
34	Garbhan Beag quarry	NH 5202 8365		John Edmondson remembers some railway tracks here. The HER lists a quarry, although it not depicted on 1 st or 2 nd ed OS maps.	MHG20659	John Edmondson
35	Mica quarry	NH 6155 7662		The grid ref is approximate, based on a description of the Braetollie mica prospect, "in the valley of the Tollie burn approximately 1400 yards north by west of Braetollie Farm". During WWII the Geological Survey of Great Britain working with the Ministry of Supply was involved in the search for a range of strategic mineral resources, including mica, which was needed for electrical and radio parts. The Braetollie deposits were sampled in 1943, but never mined commercially. http://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php?title=Mica quarrying and processing in Scotland during the Second World War&oldid=33696		Carolyn Samsin, Lorna Morrison
36	District Nurse's House	NH 6291 7391		Alness Heritage has photos of Nurse Gibson, who is mentioned in the Ross-shire J article in 1911 on the Coming of Age of James Dyson Perrins.		Jane Parkin, Evelyn Simpson



37	<p>Cuillich</p> 	NH 63602 73158		<p>Above the door of Cuillich is a marriage/lintel stone, with the initials I MK and HE and date 1730, though there is some inconsistency in the lettering and the inscription appears to be formed of two stones. This may relate to John MacKenzie, 3rd Laird of Ardross and his wife Helen Erskine (though their marriage is said to have been 1713: Ferindonald Papers). Simon wonders if this area might be the site of the 'old house' and maybe the lintel stone has been reset. Further research needed. Roy's military survey from the 1750s displays a house at this location, the largest for the Ardross area.</p> <p>The house has also been known by the name 'Haugh House' during the 20th century.</p>		Simon Arnold, Victoria Arnold, Howard Bell, Mary Bell
38	<p>Stittenham Farm</p> 	NH 6525 7313	Still there	<p>Mr Simon Allison bought Stittenham Inn, Stittingham Farm and Stittenham Cottages from Ardross estate in 1937. The walls of the silage pit used recycled conveyor belting from the demolition of the Invergordon Aluminium Smelter.</p>		Jane Smith, Richard Smith, Alasdair Cameron
39	<p>Stittenham House & stables (formerly Stittenham Inn)</p> 	NH 6504 7429	Still there	<p>Built by the 2nd Duke of Sutherland in 1833 or 1835 as final staging post and inn on route south from Golspie. The date stone in gable (recording 1833), was formerly above the SW entrance. The date stone had the word 'Inn' chiselled off by a later owner.</p> <p>The cottages to the rear of Stittenham House (W) were the former stables and horseman's accommodation. To the left were the stables and to the right lived the horseman. Possible reused font in garden.</p> <p>Stittenham House has a wooden lean-to, which is on the footprint of the wooden wash house. A lead drain was found in the SW corner. Mrs Alex Allison always referred to the lean-to as the wash house.</p> <p>As factor to Charles William Dyson Perrins, Major Cuthbert did radical changes to Stittenham House as he was going to take up residence here. In circa 1900 he raised the ground floor ceilings and created the single storey building we see today. He also changed the back entrance which was formally at the SW, and dispensed with the SW entrance. The outline of the upstairs windows can be observed and original stair skylights are</p>	MHG16328 MHG39718 Canmore 11355	Jane Smith, Richard Smith

				<p>still in place. Having undertaken the major changes Major Cuthbert never moved into Stittenham House (he moved to Achandunie). The Allison family bought Stittenham House and Farm from Ardross estate in 1937. Canmore has some watercolours of the house from 1854, also showing the criss-cross fencing common to the estate.</p>		
40	<p>Stittenham Drove stance</p> 	NH 65466 74875	Still there	<p><i>Inverness Courier</i> 04 January 1848 article about improvements, including those to Stittenham Inn... “a well-watered drove-stance has been added to the outdoor accommodations of the inn” . This was last used by drovers in 22-9-1929. The fee charged for sheep was £1 – 4/ - per night. (info from <i>The empty Stells</i> by John MacDonald). Memories of former drover Ian Munro, recorded in 2006, state that the drove stance at Ardross was free (Ambaile website: PC_HIGHLANDLIVESTOCK_AUDIO_04). The stance was sold by Dyson Perrins to the Forestry Commission, and later bought by Simon Allison in the 1940s for use as a grazing area. It was subsequently sold in the 1990s, and trees were planted. Photos from 1999 on HER</p>	MHG33305	Richard Smith, Lorna Morrison
41	<p>Curling Pond</p> 	NH 6416 7025	Still there but over-grown	<p>The curling pond used by people in Ardross and Alness was at the top of the Corkscrew road. The 1st & 2nd ed maps show a pond in this location, but it is not labelled a curling pond. Bob also provided information on other curling ponds in Dalmore, Alness and Evanton. Alness Heritage Centre has a number of documents. Evelyn has a picture, taken by Hugh Ferrier in 2018. She also has information about the Alness Curling Club, obtained from Ross and Cromarty Heritage website, with an old picture, but it is unclear if this relates to this curling pond. According to records on R&C Heritage website, the club was instituted in 1895. A WEA publication <i>Alness Living Memories</i> (2005) has memories by Mary Jemmet of the curling pond, and a picture of it in use. She noted that the curlers were farmers, doctors, shopkeepers, bankers – and even some women. It was lit up by wires with bulbs on, tied to poles and trees around it, powered by a small engine with a hut built round it. The shed</p>		Bob Baxter, Chris Lea, Evelyn Simpson

				is also long gone which housed the stones and gave shelter. She noted that the war brought an end to curling there.		
42	Contullich Sawmill	NH 63600 73158	Gone	Listed on the 1 st ed OS map, but not the 2 nd		
43	Contullich Castle 	NH 6367 7048	Gone 	By the time of 1 st ed map this had disappeared though the site is marked. See HER record for possible bits in adjacent farmstead. The Old Name Book records that human remains were found inside the walls. Local legend is that the 17 th century owner Hector Munro killed people who did not take off their bonnet when passing, placing the bodies into a vault. These remains were later said to have been buried in Alness cemetery. Source of this legend still needs to be investigated.	MHG8021	Simon Arnold, Alex Houston
44	Pillars Lodge aka East Lodge	NH 64148 73325	Still there	According to the HER record, this was built in 1898, architects Ross and Macbeth. (Listed Building (C) 15032: Ardross Castle, East Lodge.) Bill remembers that the road from the lodge to Easter Ardross was cobbled 	MHG8006 Canmore 13790	Bill Simpson Evelyn Simpson
45	Mains of Ardross / Tollie Farm 	NH 6093 7464	Still there	According to an article in the Ross-shire J (14-12-1900), the farm machinery (a circular saw, thrashing machine, corn crusher, straw elevator, binder, chaff and root cutters and other wood working machines) at that date was powered by electricity, from the Castle hydro scheme (no. 18). Renovated to become a distillery in 2010s. For bell, see Ardross Church (no. 14). R. Maclean, who published the article in 1868 about Rosskeen, lived there	MHG19812	
45a	Cairns near Tollie Farm / Old House of Ardross	NH 613 748	Gone	Maclean (1868) records around 200 cairns just west of a grave which in his time still existed on the farm. He stated they were removed when the land was improved, and marked a battle. The Old Name Books states that the battle was 600-800 yards to west of Carn na Feinne (no. 49) which would place it, if accurate, just below Old House of Ardross (no. 46). They may have been clearance cairns	MHG7994	
46	Old House of Ardross	NH 6132 7484	Still there	Depicted on both 1 st & 2 nd ed OS maps. Unclear how old it is.	MHG20922	

47	Building to E of Dublin cottages 	NH 6189 7456	Gone	Depicted on 2 nd ed OS map, but not the 1 st , on a road heading north. Marie remembers a large shed and hayloft (black shed) used by Tollie Farm for shelter and maybe calving, but needs to be confirmed if that is the one at this location.		Marie Sutherland
48	Footbridge to E of Dublin cottages	NH 6175 7456	Gone	Depicted on the 2 nd ed OS map, but not the 1 st , over burn between Dublin cottages and the road north. Did it link the cottages with no. 47?		
49	Chambered Cairn, Carn na Feinne 	NH 6155 7479	Ruinous	Neolithic chambered cairn. Maclean 1868 described when it was opened in 1875, when 2 bodies were found in graves 7' by 2', and about 2' deep.	MHG7993	
50	Balrishallich 	NH 6390 7538	Still there	Croft on the Strathy road, which was known as a 'model croft'. The Pritchards lived there. Carolyn was told Dyson Perrins set this up, and it pioneered holding demonstrations of equipment and crop rotation. Alasdair Cameron's father spoke about the College Farm at Ardrross. He has checked Hansard, but there is only one reference, where it is described as one of 9 sites where demonstration & experimental work was carried out by Scottish agricultural colleges or research institutes. The Croft, Ardrross was operated by the North of Scotland College of Agriculture and/or the Rowett Research Institute. George and Alasdair remember a sheaf dryer, the last visible remains of equipment. It is like a giant cloths airer with a corrugated iron roof. Alex and George recalled that nearly all of the farms in the area had sheaf dryers.	MHG25634	Carolyn Samsin, Alasdair Cameron, George Mackay, Alex Houston, Bill Simpson
51	Stone to S of Balnaraig	NH 5859 7596	gone	A stone is labelled on the 1 st and 2 nd ed OS maps. Nothing to be seen now at this grid ref		
52	Hut circles and burnt mound to E of Aultnafearn	NH 5937 7577		A number of hut circles, field systems, clearance cairns and a burnt mound, some prehistoric, others later, are in this area. Report of walkover survey in 2011 is attached to the HER record	MHG8894	John Edmondson

53	Hut circles, Bog Ban	NH 5780 7690		2 prehistoric hut circles, both quite large		MHG8893	Evelyn Simpson, Bill Simpson
54	Gravel pits on the Strathrusdale road	See comments	?	A number of gravel pits are depicted on the Strathrusdale road on the 2 nd ed OS map at the following locations: NH 58925 75262, NH 58267 76532, NH 57673 77031, NH 57005 77582. These were probably used for road repair and maintenance			
55	Mineral Well 	NH 5721 7738 NH 5693 7768	Surviving	2 mineral wells are depicted on the 1 st ed OS maps, to SE and to N of Balalochan, but only the northerly one on the 2 nd ed map. The first seems to be a burn now, the second (at NH 5693 7783) has water welling up.			Evelyn Simpson, Bill Simpson
56	Braeantra	NH 567 780	Surviving	A mill lade and sluice/weir are depicted on the 1 st and 2 nd ed maps leading to the farm. The lade can still be traced.		MHG24895	
57	Reputed chambered cairn/bothy, Braeantra	NH 5679 7793	Ruinous	Remains of large stones were thought to be relics of a Neolithic chambered cairn. Further work by Henshall and Ritchie disagreed and thought this was too irregular to be a cairn or circle, with the setting probably a bothy or pen.		MHG8895	John Edmondson
58	Strathrusdale road beyond Braeantra towards Croick			This is remembered as a good route and reputedly the first tarmac road in Easter Ross. In a few places tarmac is still preserved. All the bridges were blown up to stop poachers. It may have been the forestry commission who blew them up.			
59	Road between Tollie and Braeantra			The old Strathrusdale road went straight between Tollie to Braeantra. In the 1911/12 the pony men could walk the old road. [Can this route still be traced or has forestry destroyed it?] Alex supplied an annotated map of Strathrusdale in the 1980s, showing many features, properties, and residents' names and occupations on the Strathrusdale road.			Alex Houston

60	<p>Lochan-a-chairn Lodge</p> 	NH 5155 8481	Gone?	<p>Up Strathrusdale on road to Croick. Not on 1st ed map, but it is on the 2nd. It was reputedly built by Perrins. The HER states this is another Ross and Macbeth construction from 1898, with lodge, stables, offices and keeper's house. There are (?were) charcoal graffiti on the walls of the lodge. Perrins dug out the road to get to the loch. Gregor Laing was told that in the 1960s/1970s the roofs were removed from the buildings to make them ineligible for council rates, and that Mr Fowler, owner of Diebidale estate, took much of the stone for building works there. More recently stonework was used for dyke/building repairs around the Glencalvie estate.</p>	MHG2221	George Mackay, Bob Baxter, Grigor Laing
61	Dalmore House	NH 5812 7601	Ruinous	<p>Recorded by RCAHMS in 1996 (see HER record). (This is not the Dalmore house near Dalmore distillery)</p>	MHG8413	George Mackay
62	<p>Ardross Castle (including gardens and outbuildings)</p>   	NH 60906 74230	Most still surviving	<p>Preserves a number of buildings including glass houses at walled garden (MHG43992), icehouse (MHG31204), laundry (MHG29803), stables (MHG21462), tennis courts (MHG21463). In 1848 built on the site of an earlier lodge by Matheson, architect Mr Rhind of Inverness (<i>Aberdeen Herald</i> Saturday 9 Sept 1848). The pinetum was started by Matheson. 1880-81 Redesigned/ renovated by architect Alexander Ross 1898 The castle was sold to the Perrins family 1909 – 10 formal gardens created by Edward Whyte. Before the gardens were landscaped, they had to be drained as a large lake was situated in front of the castle. In 1937 the castle was sold to the Mardon family. A sales brochure for 1937 describes the castle and outbuildings in detail. There is currently a Greek orthodox chapel in the castle. Several people described the silver paint on the walls of some of the rooms and there was some discussion that it had been done to try to retain heat within the castle. Stewart Campbell remembered visiting someone at the castle and the bedside glass of water for their false teeth had frozen solid.</p>	MHG8004; MHG43992; MHG31204; MHG29803; MHG21462; MHG21463; Canmore <u>13792</u>	Alasdair Cameron, Stewart Campbell, George Mackay Lorna Morrison, Carolyn Samsin, Richard Smith, Victoria Arnold

				<p>Richard adds: The balustrade at the front of the castle is very significant. It was built using 'Pulmanite' invented by James Pulham using a process which has not been emulated. Pulham did construction work for Perrins in 1901 in Malvern, and at Ardross in 1909. You will find this type of work at Buckingham Palace and Glasgow town Hall amongst other venues. The Castle had electric light and heating by 1900: a Ross-shire J article of 14-12-1900 has a detailed description. It states that the ballroom alone cost £30,000 and was very like that at Balmoral, with elaborate lighting, and even an electric player piano.</p> <p>Richard was told by a local resident that in the time of Dyson Perrins there were 7 gardeners, 7 living in a bothy in the castle grounds. They had a housekeeper to take care of them.</p> <p>During WWII the castle was taken over by the British military, first the catering corps, then the Royal Artillery drivers (memories by Dick Mardon of these years). Victoria played in nissen huts built in the grounds.</p>		
64	Mackintosh's Well	NH 6213 7368	?	<p>Marked on the 1st and 2nd edition maps. The Old Name Book records: 'A fine spring issuing from a rock situated on the north bank of the River Alness ...It is so called from a person, Mackintosh by name, a notorious drunkard, having been in the habit of drinking at it.'</p>		
65	<p>Memorial stones to Col Cuthbert</p> 	On Struie Road NH 65436 76165	Still there	<p>Col. Cuthbert was factor of Ardross estate during and after WW1. Carolyn heard that he led the Seaforth Highlanders recruitment of estate workers. He was very highly regarded, and the Seaforth War Memorial in Dingwall was planned by him (and Carolyn was told some of the links around the memorial were forged by her grandfather Jimmy Simpson at Ardross, along with Jimmy Reid, blacksmith at Dingwall). Col. Cuthbert retired to Scourie, Sutherland, and drowned in a loch near there in 1936, age 64, and is buried in the grounds of a hotel at Scourie.</p> <p>A tree was planted, and a plaque erected on the Struie road to mark the march of the Seaforth Highlands through the Highlands. George was told that the tree was accidentally cut down by some nefarious woodsmen at twilight one evening. After this another plaque to this effect was erected by the Ardross community.</p>	Not in HER or Canmore	George Mackay, Carolyn Samsin

66	<p>Lealty Bridge</p> 	NH 60647 74156	Still there	The bridge crossed the Alness river, providing a route between Lealty and the Castle. This was clearly more than a footpath: the Perrins liked to take this route to the castle by carriage.	<u>MHG31206</u>	George Mackay, Bill Simpson
67	<p>Lealty House and Steading</p> 	NH 60877 73327	House: Ruinous Steading: rebuilt	<p>Remains of a substantial stone built house. Lealty estate was separate from Novar and Ardross from an early date (see Estates sheet), and this house may be the main residence. A stone lintel survives to the right of the door, marked 1799. There was also a fireplace lintel (upper floor, room on left of front door) with inscription 17 AM . K M^cC 79 (sketch in Clan Munro archives). Unknown if these survive. Highland Archive Centre also has several documents relating to land transactions and borders.</p> <p>The house was also said to be a mail stopover from Dingwall. To the community it was known as Easter Lealty House. It was inhabited within living memory, possibly up until 1937, by a father and daughter MacLeod. It was then sold by Perrins in 1937 and purchased by the Mardon family to be developed as the Home Farm for Ardross Castle (<i>Aberdeen Press and Journal</i> Tuesday 1 Jun 1937)</p> <p>Alex Houston supplied a sketch of the layout of Lealty as he remembered it from about 1980. He recalls that all walls and windows were intact in 1980, albeit with graffiti on the internal plaster. The steading was an arched structure of slatted granite stonework, exactly as that at Tollie. The adjoining building was again of slatted granite, a hay loft with a 7ft space underneath, almost no doors or windows, but skylights. Bill Merchant, Agricultural adviser, had them demolished c. 1980 because they were not convenient for cattle. He had built the current steading, which was considered very well organised for cattle. Mr Mardon kept a herd of 120 Hereford cattle.</p> <p>The walling at the farm on the road from Lealty bridge had the finest drystone anyone had seen, some mortar too. Behind this, there was a plantation of Larch c.1860s or 1870s.</p>	Not on HER or Canmore	Alex Houston, George Mackay, Fiona Stephenson

68	<p>The Lifting stone of the Munros of Lealty</p>	<p>NH 6087 7 73327</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Large stone at Lealty House. From MacLean, 1888: "There is to be seen at Lealty House the lifting-stone of the old Munros of Lealty. It is of granite, globular, 2 feet in diameter, and weighs 7 cwt. It is said, 011 an occasion of the sons of one of the lairds of Lealty and the heir of the laird of Tollie, on the opposite side of the river, trying feats of strength, that the heir of Tollie injured his spine in trying to lift the stone. His father complained to the laird of Lealty, who, during the following night, got the stone removed to Lealty burn and sunk it into a deep pool. His sons, having missed the stone the following morning, made a quiet search for it, restored it to its former place, and there it now rests, bidding all observers defiance to lift it. There is a vein of iron ore on this estate. A sample of it, which, in the end of the last century, was sent to the Carron Company at their own request, produced 70 per cent, of iron. In 1849, a Birmingham Company sampled it with the same result" (MacLean, Roderick (1888) 'Notes on the Parish of Alness'. <i>Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness</i> Vol XIV p.217 Available from: < https://electricscotland.com/history/articles/alness.htm>) Photo of Finlay Munro taken in 1950 available from https://tainmuseum.org.uk/photo.php?id=192 describing: "The Lealty Stone was a "putting" stone. The Munro family lived at Lealty House (opposite Ardross Castle) but in 1848 exchanged it for one at Rockfield at the request of the landowner."</p>	<p>Not in HER or Canmore</p>	<p>Alex Houston, Fiona Stephenson</p>
69	<p>Ardross Castle Gates and Gate piers</p> 	<p>NH 61667 74306</p>		<p>The fruits depicted on the top of the pillars are sometimes stated as being poppy seeds (because Matheson was involved in the opium trade), but later research (including by Adrian Clark) suggests these are pomegranates which were on the Perrins coat of arms. Former postmistress Mrs Thom insisted they were pomegranates. The doorbell of the castle also depicted a pomegranate. Simon noted that pomegranates represent fertility, immorality and resurrection/restoration, and were a Jacobite symbol.</p>	<p>MHG46562 Canmore 252373</p>	<p>Victoria Arnold, Bob Baxter, Alasdair Cameron, Simon Arnold</p>

70	Ardross Castle Gate Lodge	NH 61532 73742	Gone	To the right of the gates, as you look down the drive towards the castle, there was a gate lodge. It is marked on the 1904/ 1907 OS map: Ross and Cromarty LIII.		George Mackay, Veda McClorey
71	Ardross Castle burial ground	NH 61532 73742	Survives	This is marked on the 1 st ed OS map as the burial ground of the Mathesons. Nearby is a cemetery used by the Mardon family, who purchased the castle in 1937.	MHG31205	George MacKay, Carolyn Samsin, Lorna Morrison
72	Achnacloich Castle	NH 67002 73481	Nothing remains	Marked as a substantial building on Pont's map ca. 1583-96 	MHG8164; Canmore 13736	
73	Achnacloich Loch Crannog	NH 66488 73623	Not visible	Maclean mentions a crannog here in 1868 visible when the loch water was low, but there is no crannog on the 1 st ed OS map. Odo Blundell also recorded a crannog at this location in the 1913 (Blundell 1913, PSAS v. 47). The HER records that it is a 20 th century swan nesting place constructed by Mr Mackay, based on information from a local farmer. The informant in the OS name book, Mr MacKay, was the gamekeeper and lived at the Pillars. This may have been constructed on the site of the crannog identified by Maclean and Blundell.	MHG8161 Canmore 13739	George Mackay Carolyn Samsin
73a	Cairn, Achnacloich 	NH 6718 7370		The HER and Canmore mention a large stony mound at NH 6680 7380. They note that Watson <i>Place Names of Ross and Cromarty</i> mentioned a large cairn here, but later investigators noted several large accumulations of stones in the fields between W Achnacloich- E Achnacloich and Loch Achnacloich, with a huge one at NH 6718 7370. These were thought to be clearance cairns, though one visited by the RCAHMS in 1978 was thought to perhaps be a burial cairn which had recent field-gathered stones added to it. Emma with photo of the large cairn	MHG8160 Canmore 13740	Emma Chisholm

74	Priest's Well	NH 67276 73575	Still there	The Old Name Book describes this as an excellent spring, which in 1874 was covered by a heap of stones with runoff used for cattle trough. It was reputedly later used to supply water in Invergrodon and in the 1960s was covered by a small brick structure. No further information on why it is called the Priest's well.		MHG7350	Evelyn Simpson, Bill Simpson
75	Windmill at Loch Achnacloch		Gone	George Mackay remembers a windmill on the shore of Loch Achnacloch, possibly pumping water to Dalnacloch? Exact location needed. (The Loch used to be main source of water for Invergordon)			George Mackay
75a	Dalnacloch 	NH 6634 7343	Still there	The farmhouse is in the same location as on the 1 st ed OS maps, but the steading appears to have had some changes. Sheeting from the Invergordon aluminium smelter was used here, as at Stittenham Farm.		Not in HER	Alasdair Cameron
76	Cnoc Navie	NH 66118 72470		This hill is reputedly the 'Hangman's Hill'. Watson's <i>Place names of Ross and Cromarty</i> relates 'Navie' to church names.			Katie McMillan
77	Carn na Croiche	NH 65619 72212	Ruinous	Much mutilated Neolithic chambered cairn (c. 4000-2500 BC). One of a number of Neolithic chambered cairns in the area. Local tradition is that it is the cairn of the hanged or hanging men or similar. Maclean (1886) lists some legends relating to the site.		MHG8163	Katie McMillan
78	Crochail / Springfield	NH 65131 73440	Gone	Said to be the hangman's house. ('croch' is to hang and the 'ail' makes it plural so place of the hangings.) Used to be called Springfield.		MHG56553 ?	Katie McMillan Carolyn Samsin
79	Drove Road: Ullapool to Kildermorie			Ullapool to Kildermorie along the north side of Loch Mhorie, and on to Ardgay for sales. Livestock was sold at Ardgay and Muir of Ord. At Ardgay the big stone was where the auctioneer used to stand.			Ian Shearer, Roy McKenzie

80	Crannog on Loch Mhoire	NH 54572 75170	Still there	What appears to be a crannog with causeway is visible in modern aerial photos. However, a crannog does not appear in this location in 1 st and 2 nd ed maps, nor ones looked at dating to the 1960s. The HER record questions whether this was a crannog. Further research needed, perhaps in Kildermorie estate papers.	MHG8889	Katie McMillan Simon Arnold
81	Rosskeen Parish Church	NH 68837 69250	Still there, but building at risk	This church was constructed in 1832, Architects: James Smith and Andrew Maitland, reputedly on the site of previous churches. Burials from the parish came here, including therefore from Ardross.	MHG17561	
82	WW2 Newfoundlander Forestry Camp near Lealty	NH 6067 7278	Gone	A Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit camp was located at near Lealty. There were at least 2 camps in the area, known as 'Novar 1' and Novar 2 (being on the Novar estate). Annie Smith Mackenzie, teacher at Boath school in WWII, mentions in her book <i>Earth is Crammed with Heaven</i> how Newfoundland foresters rescued her car on the Boath road and in return she helped them write home. This is probably the camp referred to as Lealty in <i>Alness Living Memories</i> published by the WEA in 2005, which mentions locals going to films at the Lealty Newfie camp. Alex was told that the Newfies were miserable here, and poorly equipped. Veda was told that the Newfies also had mobile sawmills.	Not in HER	Alasdair Cameron, Alex Houston, Veda McClorey, David MacDonald
83	WW2 Newfoundlander Forestry Camp and possible Post-war sawmill	NH 5613 7883	Gone	A second Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit camp was remembered, located near the Red Bridge (no. 86). After the Newfies moved away a sawmill was set up at Kildermorie by Hannan Brothers from Alcaig. When the sawmill closed David MacDonald's father bought half of the sawmill building. Was this sawmill on the site of the Newfie camp or a different location?	Not in HER	David MacDonald, George Mackay
84	WW2 Newfoundlander Forestry Camp	NH 6389 7190	Gone	An oral history project in Evanton remembered a Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit map situated north of Dalneich Bridge. It is still unclear if this relates to one of the other camps (nos 82 and 83) with precise location misremembered, or if this is a third camp.	MHG56248	Alasdair Cameron

85	Enclosure or building foundation	NH 5609 7886		Simon noted a rectangular outline on the W side of the river near the Red Bridge, visible from aerial photos. More investigation needed to determine its nature. It is possible this is part of the Newfie camp.	Not in HER	Simon Arnold
86	The Red Bridge 	NH 56118 78903	Still there	Metal bridge... painted red, although currently (2021) it is not red.	Not in HER	
87	Site of plane crash, Baldoon	Precise location to be determined		A military plane came down into peat bog at Baldoon c. 1962. Hugh Munro went into the peat bog and found wreckage and a man's helmet, and got the MOD involved, and had to sign the official secrets act. No-one locally knew about it until a lad began selling bullets from the site at the school. 100 marines could not pull the wreckage from the bog but eventually it was salvaged along with the remains of those who perished.		Simon Arnold George Mackay Mike Stainke
88	Cup marked stone, Dalreoch	NH 5827 7648	Surviving	Cup-marked boulder. MHG8395 is likely to be a duplicate record. Scotland's Rock Art project will have further details.		MHG44195 Simon Arnold, George Mackay
89	Cup marked stones	NH 58173 76359 NH 58212 76355 NH 58242 76382	?	3 outcrops with cup marks. Photographs in HER. Scotland's Rock Art project will have further details.	MHG49776	Simon Arnold, George Mackay
90	Cup marked Stone, Ardoch, on the Boath road	NH 6114 7246	?	Prostrate slab with at least 25 cp marks. Photos on HER from 2011. Scotland's Rock Art project will have further details.	MHG8009	

91	Saddle Querns, Ardross	Grid ref needed	Still there	2 saddle querns found in a rockery, original findspot not known, but perhaps roughly in situ.			Simon Arnold
92	Knocking Stone, Glaick	Grid ref needed	Still there	George has a hollowed out stone in his front garden, probably a knocking stone.			George Mackay
93	Coin hoard, Coilbeag	NH 6538 7064	Lost?	The Old Name Book records that a stone cist was found containing several 14 th c coins in 1852. The cist and coins were said to have been in Ardross Castle in 1874, but present locations are unknown.		MHG6317	Emma Chisholm
94	Coin hoard, Ardross estate		2 coins in Tain Museum	Tain Museum contains two Austrian coins, one of which has been set into a brooch. These two coins are said to have been one of around 60 found in the fireplace gable of a cottage in the grounds of Ardross Castle, said to be mainly Spanish dollars from the reign of Philip IV, and a few English shillings, dating 1620-1638. This cottage was pulled down as it obscured the view from the castle. The finders sold the coins, and A. Matheson bought several, then gifted the Tain museum examples to the donor's grandmother who had them made into a brooch. The whereabouts of the other coins are unknown. The discovery of the hoard is recorded in The Morning Post April 1852.		MHG61671	
95	POW camp, Kildary	NH 7508 7631	Some buildings remain	WWII POW camp. Mike Stainke's father job was to taxi POW;s to and from local farms for their work. Did any work at Ardross farms? HER record with links to memories of one of the prisoners there, but the link currently does not work.		MHG54231	Alasdair Cameron, Stewart Campbell, John McHarg, Mike Stainke, George Mackay, Richard Smith
96	Stone axe, Ardross	Findspot not known	Surviving	Neolithic stone axehead purchased by NMAS (now National Museums Scotland) in 1894. It has accession no. X.AF 420		MHG8015	
97	Stone axe, Millcraig	NH 6549 7119	Surviving	Neolithic stone axehead, found in a field on Millcraig farm, probably c. 1852. Now in Tain Museum. (Poor) photo in HER.		MHG8038	

98	Carved stone ball, Beinn Tharsuinn	NH 6059 7919	Surviving	Neolithic carved stone ball found at the top of Beinn Tharsuinn before 1904. In National Museums Scotland, X.AS 153	MHG8168	
99	Carved stone ball, Balnaguisich	NH 6680 7099	Surviving	Neolithic carved stone ball found while digging a garden of a croft in 1998. In Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, 1999.093	MHG29374	
100	Carved stone ball, Contullich	NH 6370 7050	Surviving	Neolithic carved stone ball found on cultivated field on Contullich farm. Now in National Museums Scotland, X. AS 158	MHG8016	
101	Flint arrowheads, Cnoc Crask, near Lealty	NH 6038 7346	Lost	Recorded in Old Name Book 1874, saying found at SE extremity of park. Could be Neolithic or Bronze Age	MHG8658	
102	Flint knife, Strathie, Ardross		Surviving	Oval Neolithic flint knife found when ploughing 'in the valley of Strathie' in 1881. In National Museums Scotland, X. AA 81. Was in possession of Maclean, then sold to museum in 1894. Photo on Highland Regional ScARF. Note: HER with misleading grid ref NH 61 74	MHG8014	
103	Chambered cairn, Stittenham	NH 649 743	Largely removed	Neolithic chambered cairn of Orkney-Cromarty type (recorded by Maclean as a stone circle)	MHG8023	
104	Chambered cairn, Knockfionn, to E of Glaick	NH 6351 7442	Virtually destroyed	In good condition in 1886 when mentioned by Maclean but now little remains and in dense forest	MHG8022	
104 a	Chambered cairn, Baldoon	NH 6330 7591	Much mutilated	Now in forestry. ONB records that it had a cist with human remains in 1883.	MHG8166	
105	Chambered cairn and/or cist burial, Carn Fionntearnach		Destroyed	Large cairn on Mains of Ardross, removed in 1848. Reports of a central cist, other bodies, good preservation of bones and arrowheads. Either a chambered cairn reused in the Bronze Age, or a Bronze Age burial cemetery. No trace of finds. HER with misleading grid ref	MHG7995	
	Chambered cairn Carn na Croiche			See description no. 77	MHG8163	
	Chambered Cairn, Carn na Feinne			See description no. 49	MHG7993	

106	Chambered cairn, Millcraig	NH 6585 7102	Only a few remains	Large Neolithic cairn removed c. 1854. Map records human remains found in 1854	MHG6314	
107	Chambered cairn, Balnagrotchen	NH 5813 7357	Ruinous	Smallest of 3 chambered cairns on the Boath road. Short-horned type with polygonal burial chamber. Obscured by vegetation	MHG6361	
108	Chambered cairn, Boath (short)	NH 5832 7394	Surviving remains	One of 3 chambered cairns on the Boath road. Short-horned type with polygonal burial chamber. Central cavity open. See MHG25209 for arrowhead and MHG30948 for whorl found in this cairn or Boath long cairn	MHG6353	
109	Chambered cairn, Boath (Cairn Liatha / Boath Long)	NH 5814 7383	Very robbed	One of 3 chambered cairns on the Boath road. Long horned cairn. Modern shooting butt at E end of cairn	MHG6354	
110	Bronze Age cemetery?, Dalnavie	NH 6470 7350	Destroyed	Large number of 'urns' found when trenching waste ground in 1847, all destroyed 'through carelessness'. Neolithic stone axe also found and reputedly sent to National Museum in Edinburgh. Not clear if this is no. 96 or a different one.	MHG8015	
111	Bronze Age burials, Achnacloich castle	NH 6700 7347	Lost	The Old Name Book describes 3 stone cists with human remains, 2 'urns' and black pottery found when trenching the field in which the remains of Achnacloich Castle stood. Mentioned in Maclean 1886	MHG6321	
112	Bronze Age burial, Millcraig Farm	c. NH 65 71	Lost	The Old Name Book records a human skull and urn found 1852 about ½ mile to the west of Millcraig farm, and on the E side of the road	MHG6316	
113	Bronze Age burial, Moultaivie area	NH 6309 7170	?	2 cists with cairns recorded in 1875. Now in forestry and not located. See HER record for possible remains	MHG8017	
114	Cairn (? Bronze Age burial), Stittenham	NH 6535 7413	Lost	Large cairn c. half a mile north of Dalnavie removed in 1847-8, with only a mutilated mound remaining in the 1960s. HER record notes oak coffin, barbed arrowheads and shale disc found – but the source of this info needs checking.	MHG8159	
115	Bronze working site, Stittenham	NH 6539 7417	Moulds surviving	Smelting furnace, with 2 steatite moulds for casting Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age axeheads, found when men were trenching the moor in	MHG8165	

				1847. One in National Museums Scotland and one in Ashmolean Museum. Some uncertainty over exact findspot.			
116	Arrowhead, Ardross School	NH 64494 73247	Private ownership	Arrowhead found during potato lifting. Disclaimed from Treasure Trove, with note stating it appears to be a North American arrowhead.		Not in HER	
116 a	Arrowhead, Ardross		In Treasure Trove	Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead found c. 1950s somewhere in Ardross, possibly at Dalnavie.		Not in HER	Bill Simpson
117	Burnt mound, Aultanfearn	NH 5914 7571	Visible in 1989	Mound with burnt stone near water course. Probably dates to Bronze or Iron Age.		MHG8892	
	Cairnfield, Mains of Ardross	NH 609 745	Gone	See 45a		MHG7994	
118	Hut circle / roundhouse, Stittenham	NH 6541 7469	Foundations visible	Foundations of roundhouse. Image in report attached to HER record. Likely to date to Bronze Age or Iron Age		MHG6313	
120	Pictish symbol stones, Stittenham	NH 650 743	In IMAG	2 fragmentary stones were found built into an old wall before 1863, one depicting a wolf and one a deer. Both now in Inverness Museum.		MHG8162	
121	Pictish symbol stone, Dalnavie	NH 64679 73984	In IMAG	Stone ploughed up in 2002, with e incised symbols. Now in Inverness Museum. Picture on HER. The field this was found in has recently been planted with trees.		MHG30013	
122	Annular Brooch, Millcraig Farm	NH 655 712	Private ownership	Small medieval round brooch found by metal detectorist in 2013. The object was disclaimed by Treasure Trove No further info		MHG61725	
123	Medieval coin, Contullich		Private ownership	Silver coin (short cross penny) of Henry II or III. Disclaimed by Treasure Trove		MHG61592	

124	Easter Ardross house and steading	NH 6386 7378	Still there	Early 19 th farmhouse. 1 st ed OS maps show substantial complex with mill		MHG16202	
125	Mound in woods to S of Ardross Castle	NH 6089 7388	Still there?	Mound in woods on S side of river below Ardross Castle, reported in 2002. Not a natural feature but date and function unknown. HER with photos.		MHG31273	
126	Struie Road; Dalneich Bridge; Strathrory Bridge	NH 6411 7160 NH 6603 7756	Still in use	Maps show a track in early 1700s, but the route was upgraded by Telford in the early 1800s, with two substantial bridges, one at Dalneich (much repaired; MHG7999) and one at Strathrory (MHG8183). The Dalneich bridge is known locally as Newbridge.		MHG7999 MHG8183	Simon Arnold
127	Limekiln, Boath	NH 5691 7349	?	Depicted on 1 st ed OS map, but not the 2 nd ed. Unclear if any remains		MHG20469	
128	Lealty Ironworks 	NH 6045 7401	?	High quality iron deposits are mentioned in the OSA and NSA. An advert in Inverness Courier advertised the mine site for letting (by Andrew Munro of Lealty). The Inverness Advertiser (26/6/1849) reported that Matheson was clearing it out with the aim for further assessment; by this date Matheson had purchased Lealty. On the Alness river there is a pool marked Ironrock Pool, with a nearby area labelled on 1 st and 2 nd ed and modern OS maps Iron Rock, suggesting this is the probably location. Further research needed to see if this was ever worked commercially.		Not in HER	
129	Loch Dubh 	NH 609 751	Still there	Artificial loch constructed to supply water to Ardross Castle c. 1860, and then later used for the hydro scheme (see no. 18). On the 1 st ed OS map, 4 islands are shown, with the southernmost one labelled Fountain, suggesting it was used as an ornamental feature. The 2 nd ed OS map shows a boat house at the northern shore. In 1900 this was known as 'The Dam' (Ross-shire J. 14-12-1900).		Not in HER	
130	John McKenzie's birthplace, North Glaick	NH 62892 75549	Gone	The location was shown to Simon and Victoria by a longtime Ardross resident who is a descendent of New Zealand politician John McKenzie who emigrated 1860. The site is depicted as a gravel quarry on the 1 st ed			Simon Arnold

				OS map of 1874 . There are various detailed sources available about John McKenzie – see the binder for further information..		
131	Kildermorie Lodge 	NH 5190 7786	Rebuilt recently	The estate was part of Novar, and was cleared, becoming a sheep farm by 1791, which led to Ross-shire insurrections and ‘The Year of the Sheep’ described in several books (see Estate summary). It became a hunting/fishing lodge, which is still the case, with also forestry operations. By the time of the NSA (1838) there was little population, and the 1 st ed OS map shows only unroofed buildings nearby. An archaeological survey by Cathy Dagg is attached to EHG3168. Canmore has images of the former lodge which has been rebuilt in recent years, and the steading converted. The Evanton Oral History Project has reproduced photos from 1905 when it was under the ownership of F. Shoolbred.	MHG25208	Kerry Kendell
132	March stone near Holly Island	NH 63563 72591	Still there	On Novar side of Averon River. Simon with picture 	Not in HER	Simon Arnold
133	Bridge near Dalneich Bridge/ part of boardwalk 	GRID REF NEEDED	Surviving	A small bridge of stone/wood is still visible on the north side of Averon River, near the Dalneich bridge. This was part of a boardwalk along the river for the estate, although some local memories relate this to a rail track running from the Newbridge towards Alness, perhaps for timber or iron ore. Remains of the boardwalk can still be traced in some locations along the river. Some concrete foundations for the boardwalk are preserved also, suggesting that these may have been built by Perrins. Carolyn with picture of people standing on it.	Not in HER	Simon Arnold, Carolyn Samsin
134	Bridge foundations	NH 6184 7359	Surviving	Concrete foundations exist on either side of the Averon river, though no road or bridge known at this location. 	Nor in HER	Simon Arnold
135	Baddans farmhouse	NH 6177 7238	Ruinous	On the 1 st & 2 nd edition OS maps, where they are depicted as roofed. 	Not in HER	Fiona Stephenson

136	Ardoch farmhouse	NH 6142 7243	Ruinous	On the 1 st & 2 nd ed OS maps.		MHG18717	Fiona Stephenson
137	Dalneich farmhouse	NH 6381 7251	One building survives	The 1 st and 2 nd ed OS maps show a farmhouse at this location with several buildings, but aerial photos only show one surviving. The 2 nd ed OS map depicts a jetty to the S in the Averon River at NH 6374 7244. A more recent footbridge, date unknown, now crosses the river at this location.		Not in HER	
138	Oak Cottage	NH 63968 72513	Surviving	Buildings are noted at this location in both the 1 st and 2 nd ed OS maps, and labelled on the 2 nd ed. Picture supplied by Nancy Kinloch		Not in HER	

Other information

Wartime:	
Memorials	Ardross church war memorial has names from both Ardross and elsewhere. This has been the study of another local project (see below)
People	<p>1. Veda McClorey recalls her grandfather and uncles: Our grandfather, Roderick Ross, died 30/11/62. He was awarded the military medal in 1st World War but refused to go to Buckingham palace to be presented with it. This medal was passed to my mother Mrs Rhoda D Simpson on his death as she was called after him. She graciously passed this to her nephew who is called after Granda and I believe he has passed this now to his son, my late grandfather's great grandson.</p> <p>My grandparents had a family of seven. 4 sons and 3 daughters. The youngest, uncle Duncan, lied about his age in order that he could join his 3 brothers in the army at the start of World War 2. He was 17. The 4 Ross brothers are mentioned in the Story of the Lovat scouts 1900-1980 by Michael Leslie Melville. They were split up from 4 being together to 2 and 2. Our family were fortunate to have them all returned home – George was badly wounded but recovered to do well in forestry eventually ending his career at Cawdor Castle estates as head forester.</p>



Veda McClorey

	<p>Our grandfather was involved in security work at the camp in Evanton during World War 2 and it believed the officer he rescued in World War 1 visited the Camp unaware that our grandfather was there and Granda did not make his presence felt. Believe it or not he was quite a shy man.</p> <p>2. Col Cuthbert. See no. 65. Carolyn and Evelyn also with some research material</p> <p>3. WWI men commemorated on the Ardross war memorial in Ardross church: research and photos on Ross and Cromarty Heritage Website: https://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/home/easter-ross-communities/ardross/ardross-libraries/wppaspec/oc3/cv0/ab482</p>	
Landgirls and Lumbergills	<p>There were landgirls and lumbergills in Ardross in WWII. Jane Smith's mother worked for the Perrins' in Ardross in the summer months, and in Malvern during the winter. She came home for the war and worked as a land girl. She received an award at Buckingham Palace when the contribution of landgirls was acknowledged in 2009. Richard was told by a former local resident that 10 landgirls stayed at a bothy at Fox Farm. The group thought that there were lumbergills, perhaps at the bothy, but further research needed. The WEA publication Alness Living Memories (2005) has memories of a local woman who worked in the forestry, so there were some employed even outwith the war. The ladies probably stayed in farm accommodation, just as the men would have, but it is thought that the Dublin hall/ bothy was used to accommodate land girls at some point as well (Veda and Marie), maybe before the forestry men occupied the bothy.</p>	Jane Smith, Richard Smith, Veda McClorey, Marie Sutherland
Requisitioned properties:	<p>Ardross Castle (no. 62) was accommodation for British Army personnel during WW2, and had nissen huts were built in the grounds. King Hakkon visited from Carbisdale Castle where he stayed during the war.</p> <p>Achandunie (no. 33) was taken over by the Norwegians.</p> <p>Simon asked is anyone else had heard that there was a radar station in Glaick? George had not heard this.</p> <p>It is unclear where troops were billeted – more research required</p> <p>Novar estate was used for manoeuvres – Simon has seen an old plan relating to this. Novar House was used by the RAF</p>	Simon Arnold, Veda McClorey Victoria Arnold, Carolyn Samsin, Jane Smith, Susan Kruse
Kildary POW camp	See no. 95	
Newfoundlander Forestry camps	See nos. 82, 83, 84	
Child labour in the forestry	During the war, during school holidays children from schools in the central belt would come to Ardross during the school holidays, live in the school, and work in the forestry.	Carolyn Samsin
Peacetime:		

Meeting places:	Where did people meet before the community halls or Dublin Hall? Dances were held in a number of steadings, including Dalnavie, Achandunie, Cullich (Easter Ardrross) remembered by several people. Carolyn's father ran the taxis to and from dances to the hall and also to other dances in Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Dornoch etc, usually always stopping at Aultnamain.	
Burns Suppers:	John McMillan, who was former secretary and chair of the Social Union of Ardrross, composed satirical poems for Burns Night suppers held at the Village Hall. The mischievous poems feature local characters and events, for example 'The Ack Ack Gun' which was based on an incident in 1988 when an RAF plane had to release its bombs at a field at Achnacloich (because he could not do so at Tain bombing Ranges, and could not take them back to Lossiemouth). John. published a book of the poems in 1998 to raise money for charity.	John McMillan
Music:	Veda's father played the saw and her family was involved in bands. Music at the original hall was supplied by the original Ardrross Dance Band which featured: Bill Simpson (Veda's father) on accordion; Pat Simpson (Florence's father) on accordion, Donc the drummer from Alness, and usually if anyone could play then they were put to work. Sometimes out of area bands would be employed. Later Ian Shearer, Jamsie Mackay, and friends became the Ardrross Dance Band and had a long and busy career, starting in 1968 and going 44 years.	Veda McClorey, Florence Sutherland, Carolyn Samsin, Ian Shearer
Food deliveries.	Although there was only the shop at the smiddy, food and other supplies came by delivery vans. These included the grocer twice a week (Rod Macgregor and his son Alastair visited with a grocer's van), Slaters from Invergordon (bakers), Mr Monteith from Alness (bakers on Alness High Street), Alex Reid from Evanton (baker), Grants from Tain, Liptons, Wrights from Alness, with Farquar Ewen the message boy. Charlie Munro from Alness was one of the delivery men, as was John Ross of Alness (Mike Stainke). One of the Noor brothers who had a shop in Dingwall used to arrive on his scooter with a small suitcase on his back. He peddled haberdashery, dish cloths, towels, aprons etc. He was killed in a road accident near Foulis Point returning to Dingwall one night, and is buried in Fodderty Cemetery (Carolyn Samsin). Jane Smith adds: In my youth I remember how valuable it was for my mother (Alix Allison) to have the Grocery van delivery service. She relied on them as she didn't drive. She supported as many vans as she could in order to keep the service going. I remember Rhind's, especially Jack Rhind, would battle many a harsh winter and would even arrive in his car with an order if the van couldn't make it. Other vans remembered include Lipton's from Dingwall, Wrights Alness (Farquhar Ewen), Rhinds Invergordon and MacGregors Invergordon. We did have a milking cow but when pasteurised milk came available the Milk Van delivered to the door 2/3 times a week. Being on the farm we were self sufficient with lamb hens and eggs. My father took my mother once a week to Alness - a Saturday afternoon was the only free time he had for shopping. I can remember it being a special occasion for me to go to Alness. Hughie Mackenzie small family grocery shop in Alness comes to mind. HM was very good at tempting me with sweets and dolls which meant my parents buying items they didn't want hence it was easier to leave me at home.	Carolyn Samsin, Jane Smith, Mike Stainke
Transport	There was a bus service on Saturday and Tuesday, Tain –Alness via Scotsburn and Ardrross, timed to allow shopping.	Florence Sutherland

Electricity	came to the village probably in the 1950s. The castle and church had long generated their own. The smiddy had a generator before mains electricity, and electricity men lodged in local houses while working on the pylons and electricity.	Bill Simpson, Jane Smith, Carolyn Samsin
Population changes:	John Edmondson notes: I am interested about the population change in Ardross I remember when I first moved up here looking at the population records for Strathrusdale as people had mentioned the Clearances, and that very few lived in Strathrusdale within living memory. But the Clearances reached Kildermorie and I could find no evidence for the rest of Ardross. The population figures showed a healthy population for Strathrusdale throughout the 19th Century and the decline in population took place between the Wars. This map seems to be confirm this: http://geogenealogy.ca/highland%20clearances.htm	John Edmondson
Farming life.	According to newspaper reports, Matheson set up club farms on 17 of the estates he owned, 3 on the East coast and 14 on the West. This was described as: 'A tract of say 50 or 60 acres of arable land is occupied by four or five tenants, each having his own separate croft, and attached to these 50 or 60 acres is a large outrun, upon which a "common" flock of sheep is kept' (Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 26-5-1877). Jane Smith: These were also times when we had farm workers on the farm, not huge machinery, and my mother would provide three meals a day. Lunch would be three courses and at hay and harvest time she would provide afternoon tea for the squad on the field. Life was constantly busy. She can remember the old twin tub on Monday morning wash day and ringer. Ploughing matches sometimes occurred. The Inverness Courier in March 1850 records one (providing a list of some participants and winners).	Jane Smith
Peat banks	Despite so much forestry work in the area over the years, most residents in living memory used peat, with cuttings above Wester Baldoon. Peats were also cut above Baldoon for use at Dalmore distillery, and then transported there. Other peat cutting for local use was remembered off the Kildermorie road from Strathrusdale. People at Dublin cut their peats above Stittenham.	George Mackay, Fiona Stephenson
Reuse of materials:	The closing of the Invergordon smelter in the 1980s enabled surplus buildings and materials to be obtained. A long conveyor belt had taken materials from the pier to the smelter, and has been recycled as a school running track at Alness (dry weather only), and in various farm buildings e.g., Glaick, Dalnacloich and Kinraig. Corrugated sheeting was repurposed for sheds e.g., at Dalnacloich .	Bob Baxter, George Mackay, Alasdair Cameron
Emigration	Simon supplied information about John McKenzie, 19 th c politician in New Zealand, born at Tollie. Victoria mentioned a number of local placenames in Perth, W. Australia suggesting there was emigration from our area.	Simon Arnold, Victoria Arnold
Cycle races	In the 2000s there were annual cycle races starting from the hall, which had up to 100 adults and children participating, with a short and long course.	Stewart Campbell, Bob Baxter

	Other memories	
Chickens	Jane Smith: I can remember many a Christmas when my mum would pluck and dress chickens to be sent to her brother Munro Mackay's family and other relatives in England. The kitchen would be full of feathers. These birds were sent in the mail and I still have the specially padded boxes where eggs were packed and sent by mail. No refrigeration then but they always arrived and were appreciated by the wider family. We didn't make anyone ill.	Jane Smith
Photos	Picture of Jess Mackay (Hasher) in Strathrusdale. She had a horse and gig (George Mackay). Alness Heritage has a number of photos. Other photos brought in by participants have been scanned.	George Mackay, Mike Stainke
ESTATES	See separate summary	
PLACENAMES	J. Watson's <i>Place Names of Ross and Cromarty</i> provides information on a number of placenames, most of which are Gaelic. Stittenham however is certainly not Gaelic, and Watson does not provide any light on why it appears here. Jane Smith's parents (the Allisons) thought that the name originated in Yorkshire. After further investigation and with the aid of the web Jane and Richard found a link: John Gower, a wealthy Yorkshire landowner in the vale of York, was elevated by the King to Baron Gower of Stittenham in 1620. The 1st Duke of Sutherland was a descendant of John Gower. There is a Stittenham in Helmdale and Gower Street in Tain. More map work and research might provide other evidence.	Richard Smith, Jane Smith
Slavery connections	Some people from the area were involved in slavery plantations, including the Ross brothers from Boath at Guyana. A gravestone in Nonikiln records the death of William Aird at a slave plantation in Jamaica.	Stewart Campbell, John McHarg

Notes on this transcript: The information here was collected in a course run by ARCH during autumn 2021. Information will also be submitted to the Highland Historic Environment Record <https://her.highland.gov.uk>. Binders with more information are in Alness Heritage Centre and Alness Library. A display was also produced which can travel, with the panels and further information on the Ardross Community Council website <https://www.ardross.community>.

Abbreviations used: ed: edition. HER: Historic Environment Record. ONB: Old Name Book.

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