

Maps

Ordnance Survey (O.S.) Maps

There are two editions of Ordnance Survey maps; the First Edition made in 1872, and the Second Edition made in 1903.

They are available available free online via the National Library of Scotland website - <https://maps.nls.uk/>

Ordnance Survey Name Books

Were compiled in conjunction with the 1st edition OS maps and contain brief descriptions relating to properties and place names which feature on the 6-inch and 25-inch OS maps. Name Books are particularly useful when researching rural properties.

They can be accessed via ScotlandsPlaces

<https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books>

Inland Revenue Survey (IRS) Maps

The IRS and accompanying Field Books were compiled as a result of the 1910 Finance Act, which required all property in Scotland to be surveyed to ascertain the value of all land in the country.

They are specially updated 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps with property boundaries marked in red, along with assessment numbers referring to the corresponding entries in the Inland Revenue Field Books. Enabling them to act as a graphic-index to the Field Books which record situation, size, ownership, tenants and occupiers, charges on the land, valuations and other particulars.

Complete copies of the maps and Field Books are held at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Nucleus holds an incomplete collection of IRS Maps relating to Caithness. As well as a variety of other maps throughout our collections.

Further Resources

Private Deposits

The Caithness Archive currently holds over 1000 Private Deposits. Full details of these collections can be found in the Searchroom catalogues and online.

Electoral Registers

Provide confirmation of residence for property inhabitants registered to vote.

www.nls.uk/guides/using-voters-rolls/

Post Office and Street Directories

Supply information on where people lived and the location of domestic and commercial premises. Available through The National Library of Scotland digital.nls.uk/directories/

Dictionary of Scottish Architects

<http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/>

Historic Environment Scotland (for information on listed buildings)

<http://www.historicenvironment.scot>

Registers of Scotland (ROS) (for title documents)

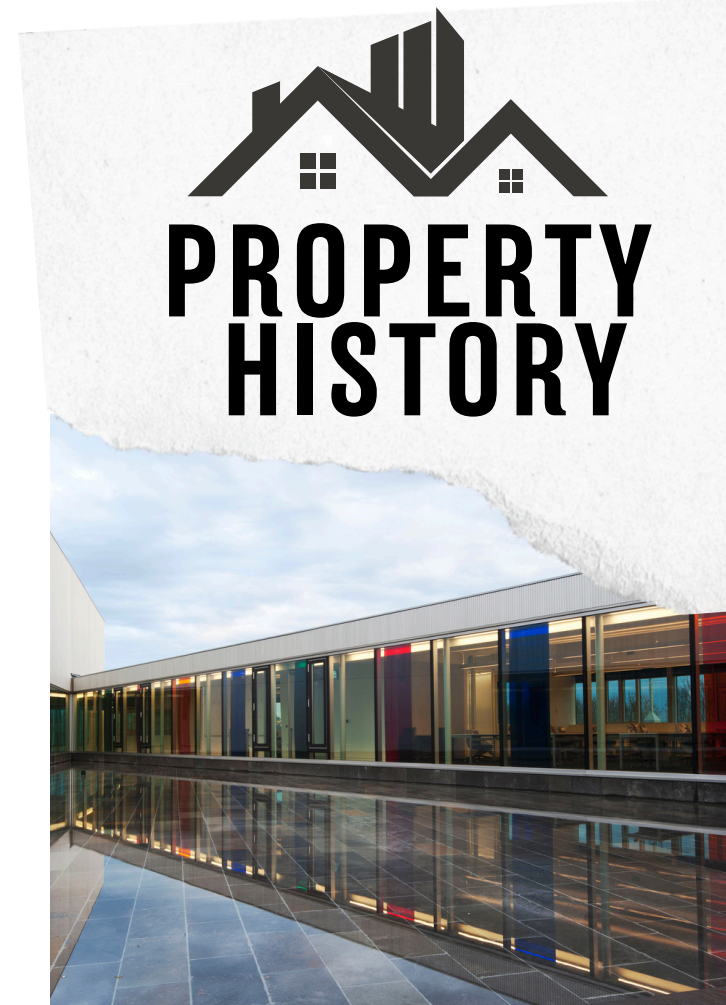
www.ros.gov.uk

Scotlands Places

<http://www.scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/>


Canmore


<https://canmore.org.uk/>



NUCLEUS

THE NUCLEAR AND CAITHNESS ARCHIVES

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 <https://www.highlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives/>

Valuation Rolls

Compiled annually for taxation purposes since 1855, Valuation Rolls give details of properties, owners and tenants/occupiers, and give an annual rental value.

They can be used to establish when a building was built, demolished or altered, to trace property ownership and to learn what a building used to be.

Nucleus holds copies of Valuation Rolls from 1855 to 1970 for the county of Caithness (microfilm for 1855-1880, hard copies for 1880-1970). They are organised by Parish, and then geographically and only list the names of the primary tenant, not the names of everyone who lived there.

They also do not always give a specific address, and the name of the address may change throughout different years e.g. *house with land* could become *Freswick House* the next year.

Census

A national census has been taken every 10 years since 1841, recording details of all persons living in a household (including occupation, age and place of birth).

Those from 1841 to 1921 are open to the public. Nucleus holds microfilm copies of the 1841-1901 censuses for the counties of Caithness and Sutherland.

The 1911 and 1921 census are available via the Scotland's People website
www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk

The census can also be digitally accessed for free on the Freecen website
<https://www.freecen.org.uk/>

Abridgement of Sasines

The Sasines are the oldest national public land register in the world, dating from 1617.

The Sasines show the ownership of lands and property, and the passing of ownership from one individual to another. They give the names of the parties, the property and some boundary information. They do not give information about who lived at a certain house in a certain year. A property transfer of no monetary value may still be registered in the Sasines.

The full Instruments of Sasines are held by the National Records of Scotland, in Edinburgh.
www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/sasines

We hold the Abridgements of Sasines for Caithness here at Nucleus, they date from 1649-1970. An entry in the Abridgement of Sasines will typically include details of the person selling the land/ building, the purchaser and some information about the property and the sale price.

The Land Register of Scotland, based on the Ordnance Survey map, was introduced in 1981 and is slowly replacing Sasines.
www.ros.gov.uk/our-registers/land-register-of-scotland



Burgh Records

Caithness has two burghs: Thurso, and Wick. Thurso was created a burgh of barony under the Earl of Caithness in 1633. Wick was elevated to Royal Burgh status in 1589.

The Wick Burgh (collection reference BW) and Thurso Burgh (collection reference BT) Collections contain documents with a date range of 1660-1995.

This includes the **Town Council Minutes** for Wick (covering 1660-1975) and Thurso (covering 1861-1975).

Dean of Guild Court records for both Wick and Thurso include Building Warrant Registers and Minor and Major Warrants, which may contain plans and sketches. (c.1940s - 1980s)

*Note: there are two registers of Major and Minor Building Works covering the Burghs of Wick and Thurso and these form part of the Caithness County Council Architect's Department CC/9/1/1/1-2

Sinclair Macdonald

Sinclair Macdonald and Sons, Architects of Thurso is a large collection of thousands of plans and drawings of Caithness buildings c.1880-1960s. (collection reference SM)

The architectural firm designed: schools, churches, agricultural buildings, public buildings and houses across the county and over the Pentland Firth. Secondary offices were later added in Wick and Kirkwall.

The collection is held at Nucleus under Charge and Superintendence from Historic Environment Scotland.