

# NUCLEUS

THE NUCLEAR AND CAITHNESS **ARCHIVES**

## **Index to Collections**

Nucleus: The Nuclear and  
Caithness Archives

Highland Archive Service

# **NUCLEUS: THE NUCLEAR AND CAITHNESS ARCHIVES – INDEX TO COLLECTIONS**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THIS INDEX**

The index is divided into two parts. The first, shorter, section summarises the main collections in Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives as you might expect to find the catalogues arranged in the public searchroom. The second, much longer, section is an alphabetical index to persons, places and subjects featured in the main collections.

Collections can be any size. A single letter or printed book can be a collection – as can the records of a business, containing many thousands of items.

Please note therefore that this is an index to headings only – many collections contain hundreds or thousands of names, far too many to be listed here; so just because a person, place or subject doesn't appear in this index, it doesn't mean we don't have any records relating to it – only that we don't have an entire *collection* relating to it.

## **HOW TO USE THIS INDEX**

Suppose you are looking for any information on the 1986 public inquiry into the Dounreay nuclear facility. If you look up Dounreay in the index, you will be directed to the parish of Reay: this is because we group our information by the old parishes of Caithness. (Place-names are helpfully cross-referenced in the index, so you don't have to know which parish a particular place relates to before you start.)

Turning to the entry for Reay, you will find an entry under Dounreay for the public inquiry, followed by a catalogue reference in brackets: (P386). The "P" stands for Private Deposits, which are classified numerically in the order they were received. So P386 is Private Deposit number 386.

The next step is to look at the catalogue for the collection. The whole of the Highland Archive Service's catalogues are now available online here:

<https://archives.hIGHLIFEHIGHLAND.COM/calmview/default.aspx>

Our catalogues are also available as PDF's via our website:

<https://www.hIGHLIFEHIGHLAND.COM/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives/>

All catalogues are available to be viewed in the public searchroom at Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives.

**[N.B. it is strongly recommended that you contact Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives *before* travelling any distance to consult a particular catalogue in person; staff can advise you on the nature of the material contained in the catalogue, and may be able to save you what may be an unnecessary journey.]**

The catalogues list the individual documents that make up the collection. (Individual documents can then be requested in the public searchroom by filling in a document request slip for each item.)

Please note that some documents may not be available on any given day due to being removed for conservation, or for use in an exhibition, or for other purposes. If you wish to consult a particular document, or series of documents, you are strongly advised to consult Nucleus staff before setting out; staff will be pleased to advise you on the availability of the records you are interested in.

## **CLOSURE OF RECORDS**

Please note that all records containing personal information are **closed for 100 years**. This includes school admission registers and school log books. The catalogues will also show all closure periods in **red** to help identify when records have restricted access. Please check with staff who will be pleased to advise.

## **DISCLAIMER**

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this Index is accurate, the Highland Archive Service cannot be held responsible for any errors that may exist in the text. Researchers are strongly advised to contact Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives before planning their journey to check on the availability of any collection or item.

## HOW TO CONTACT US:

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## **PART ONE - SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS**

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#### **Caithness County Council**

- Commissioners of Supply, Caithness 1720-1929 (CC/1)
- Highway Authorities 1815-1915 (CC/2)
- Clerk's Department inc. Council Minutes 1890-1975, Justices of the Peace 1833-1975, licencing 1833-1975, Local Pension Committee, Education 1930-1962, Planning 1930-1977, Social Work, Water (North of Scotland Water Board), Police Joint Committee (CC/3)
- Treasurer's Department, inc. Valuation Rolls 1855-1975 (CC/4)
- Education Authority/Committee 1919-1930 (CC/5/1); School records, parishes of Bower, Canisbay Dunnet, Halkirk, Latheron, Olig, Reay, Thurso, Watten and Wick (CC/5/3); School Boards 1873-1918 (CC/5/4); School Management Committees 1918-1930 (CC/5/5); District School Management Committees 1930-1957 (CC/5/6); trusts, endowments and moritfications (Dunnet, Wick, Miller's and Manson bequests) 1877-1984 (CC/5/7); Libraries 1517-c.2000 (CC/5/9)
- District Councils 1930-1975, including applications for relief, (CC/6)
- Parochial Boards/Parish Councils: Bower 1845-1930, Canisbay 1898-1956, Dunnet 1845-1930, Halkirk 1845-1930, Latheron 1857-1960, Olig 1845-1930, Reay 1845-1930, Thurso 1845-1930, Wick 1840-1948 (CC/7)
- Social Work Department/Public Assistance Department, including applications for relief 1934 - 1948(CC/8)
- County Architects Department, Building warrants, planning applications, Plans, 1925-1986 (CC/9)

#### **Thurso Burgh**

Minutes 1861-1975, Town Hall minutes 1880-1904, 1973-75, Thurso River Harbour Trustees 1887-1971, Dean of Guild Court 1948-1990, and other records (BT).

#### **Wick Burgh**

Minutes 1660-1975, Legal records 1589-1962, Pulteneytown Improvement Commissioners 1882-95, Dean of Guild Court 1933-75, Valuation Rolls 1855-1961 and other records (BW).

### **Northern Constabulary**

Caithness County Constabulary 1858-1990; Burgh of Wick Police 1911-75; Burgh of Thurso Police 1841-1962; WW2 War Incident and Home Guard records 1941-58 (NC)

### **Wick Harbour Trust**

Minutes 1880-1998; Treasurer's records, inc. accounts and correspondence 1879-1990; Engineer's records, inc. details of harbour works and personnel records 1879-1990; Secretary and general business records, inc. correspondence and diaries 1879-1990; Harbour Master's records, inc. diaries, registers of vessels and correspondence 1879-1990 (WHT)

### **CENSUS RETURNS**

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), and those from 1841 to 1911 are open to the public. Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives holds microfilm copies of the following censuses for the counties of Caithness and Sutherland for the years 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901. Caithness parishes covered include Bower, Canisbay, Dunnet, Halkirk, Latheron, Olig, Reay, Thurso, Watten and Wick. There is also an Orkney census for 1901. Highland Region including Caithness 1983 (P676)

### **OLD PARISH REGISTERS**

Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives holds microfilm copies of Old Parish Registers for all Caithness parishes (as well as for those in Sutherland):

#### **Caithness Parishes:**

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Dunnet: Bap 1751-1854, Mar 1802-1854, Deaths 1751-1756

Halkirk: Bap 1772-1854, Mar 1772-1854, Mission Registers 1790-1819

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Reay: Bap 1732-1854, Mar 1745-1854, Deaths 1783-1791

Thurso: Bap 1647-1718, 1721-1817, 1820-1854, Mar 1671-1854, Deaths 1671, Free Church Baptisms 1843-1854

Watten: Bap 1714-1854, Mar 1714-1854

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## **PRIVATE DEPOSITS**

### **Private Deposits (P1-P1000+)**

Collections purchased by, donated to or deposited with Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives on all aspects of the history of Caithness and its people. Collections can range from a single item to many boxes. The smaller collections have a running number prefixed by the letter P, while the larger collections have been given their own reference numbers and are listed below.

Catalogues are available in the public searchroom, alternatively consult the index in Part Two of this guide for some of the persons, places and subjects covered in P1 to P981.

### **P/GEO – Georgesons Solicitors**

This is a collection of records from the firm of solicitors covering the whole of Caithness. It includes title deeds, executries as well as estate papers and many other items. At the time of writing the collection is in the process of being catalogued and is not yet available to the public for research.

### **P/MOW – John Mowat Papers**

Folders on a variety of local history subjects, including transcriptions of documents (P/MOW).

### **P/MUN – Henrietta (“Hetty”) Munro Collection**

Historical documents, including Thurso Cricket Club financial statements 1883-5, assorted bills and letters C19-C20; War Diaries from her time as a volunteer in the ATS Corps in Orkney 1939-45; Caithness Field Club bulletins 1973-88; assorted manuscripts, articles and notes 1960s-90s; ephemera, including scrapbooks and newspaper cuttings; and a selection of printed material on local subjects (P/MUN).

### **P/SUTH – Iain Sutherland Collection**

Mostly research material for, as well as notes and drafts of books and plays by, Iain Sutherland. Themes include agriculture, biographies, Dounreay, fishing and harbour development, licencing, Wick and Lybster Railway, theatre, correspondence, as well as a substantial collection of slides of local places and wildlife, as well as CDs of oral history tapes of local persons (P/SUTH).

## **Other Records**

### **SM – Sinclair Macdonald Collection**

Sinclair Macdonald and Sons, Architects of Thurso: a large collection of hundreds of plans and drawings of Caithness buildings c.1880-c.1960s (SM) Ian Macdonald (Eldest Son of Sinclair Macdonald) war service papers/letters 1896- 1968 (P848)

## PART TWO - INDEX TO CATALOGUED COLLECTIONS

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