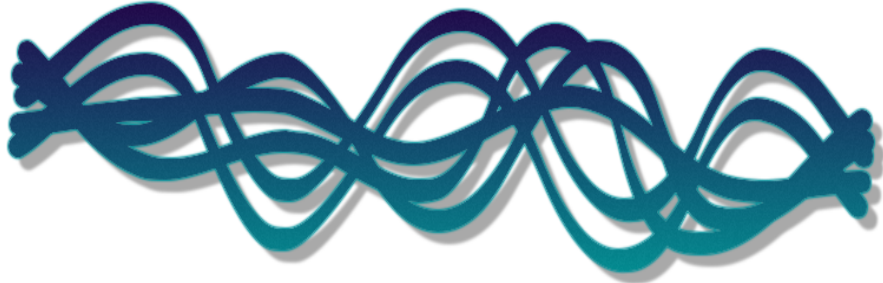


Arceòlas



Archaeology, built heritage, cultural landscapes

A'Chomraich/Applecross

Archaeology

and

Built Heritage Audit

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Preface

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess the archaeological and cultural heritage assets of Applecross and recommend a strategy for appropriate conservation, restoration, interpretation and educational access opportunities that may be taken forward as part of the Applecross Landscape Partnership Scheme Plan.

This report summarises the extent of the known archaeology and built heritage of Applecross and highlights links between cultural heritage and landscape of the peninsula. In view of considerable gaps in current knowledge this can only be a provisional outline.

In keeping with the Highland region, Applecross has a distinctive cultural identity considerably derived from local heritage, Gàidhlig language and its relationship to landscape. There is plenty scope to raise its profile and to provide a dynamic cultural environment for the benefit of both residents and visitors. Sufficient opportunities for local people to participate in cultural heritage activities throughout the area are needed. This report begins to identify the value of the heritage resource to enhance heritage access, education and support cultural tourism.

There is also a need to safeguard the existing heritage as a vital part of Applecross's future. In addition to contributing to maintaining the area's identity, and thereby increasing its attraction to visitors, there are also the more direct economic benefits of creating and reviving local traditional skills and sources of knowledge and expertise in the heritage field.

The built heritage is made up of a number of components including archaeological sites, listed buildings, historic gardens and designed landscapes as well as Archaeological Heritage Areas. In accordance with the HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme criteria, a number of strategic themes are identified which will seek to preserve and promote the built heritage as a valuable educational, recreational and tourist resource wherever possible.

Applecross possesses a wide and varied archaeological and built heritage. It ranges from remains of Mesolithic middens created after the last Ice Age, about 9,000 years ago, to 20th Century industrial and domestic structures. In some areas, entire ancient landscapes survive.

In 1991 there were over 14,700 Gàidhlig speakers in Highland region, in 2001, this had declined to around 8,000. There is an opportunity to recognise the contribution of Gàidhlig culture to the unique identity of the area. There are also potential significant benefits to education, the arts, tourism and industry in doing so.

As in many parts of Highland region, very little archaeological survey work has been carried out in Applecross, and where it has, large numbers of previously unrecorded features have been noted (for example, Scotland's First Settlers Project). Also Applecross Archaeological Society have conducted

field survey and hold information on unrecorded sites. Added to this is the wealth of local knowledge some of which may be recorded, but just as much is most likely unrecorded. Therefore, there is high potential for unrecorded archaeology, and unrecorded oral tradition and knowledge.

In some areas, entire ancient landscapes survive to an extent probably unique in Europe. Archaeological and historic sites and features are cultural and environmental resources for research, information, education, local identity and economic development. In many cases, sites and monuments have developed important habitats for wildlife. For eg Applecross Church has become a bat colony for both pippistrelle and long-eared bats.

It should be noted that Historic Scotland is going through a review regarding input as an agency into HLF type projects at present. Until this review has been completed, they are unable to agree to partnership in any projects (Source: Laura Hindmarch, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland).

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1. STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Preamble

Where the record of human existence in the past is tangible in the landscape of the present, there is no better narrative on human-land relationships over time.

The natural and cultural heritage of Applecross holds an imprint of the past that is an important and finite resource for present and future communities. Its many archaeological and historic sites and features are cultural and environmental resources for research, information, education, local identity and economic development. The rural landscape in its remote setting is a defining characteristic of the place and the point where natural and cultural heritage interests converge. The cultural heritage landscape is unique – formed through time by the human relationship with the surroundings and natural resources on offer.

The physical environment of Applecross has clearly had an important role in shaping this intriguing landscape, its flora and fauna and subsequent land-use, which merge together to make the area so visually appealing, and in cultural, historical and ecological terms, distinctive in the British Isles. It is to the legacy of the last Ice Age that the land surface derives much of its physical character and significance; scenic features; glaciated valleys; paucity of soils; difficulties of landward passage; coastal character of settlement.

The upward recovery of the land in the Applecross Peninsula following the last Ice Age has resulted in the formation of raised beaches and a fringe of fertile land between sea and hill slope. This landscape feature proved of immense value to the west coast communities of the peninsula and the contours of the land subsequently shaped the character of human settlement. Overlying the natural landscape are the remains of millennia of habitation, scattered across the peninsula and its offshore islands, forming a poignant and powerful reminder of a past way of life where the relationship with the sea was an important dynamic.

Historic landscape

The diversity of landscapes within the peninsula store an imprint of many communities and cultures, past and present. This human presence is in evidence from the coastline, through to the moor and peat lands and the upland and more mountainous areas. The various interrelationships between people and the coast, sea, and inland areas are fundamental to understanding the landscape in its present form.

Key aspects of the tangible heritage of Applecross are present in the monuments, structures and field systems that provide direct, visible evidence of the past 8 - 9,000 years of human habitation. These provide a sense of time-depth to its historic landscape. It is the combination and diversity of remains, their density and good condition in the landscape, enhanced by the natural setting that is the source of their significance.

The archaeological heritage of the area provides evidence of habitation over at least the past 8 - 9,000 years ranging from ephemeral hunter gatherers vestiges to the more recent industrial past. Prehistoric stone monuments such as standing stones, stone circles, cairns, duns and brochs comprise an observable and enduring element of the landscape. Other visible features include drystone dykes, field walls, and stone dwelling remains – their date is poorly understood. These cultural links to landscape history and human exploitation of local resources provide the prospect of balancing both natural and historic landscape interests.

Dispersed along the coast are remains which indicate a complex of prehistoric and later landscapes. Here lie a series of important localities focal to the remains of a prehistoric landscape and seascape, together with important prehistoric settlement evidence of a more ephemeral character in the form of middens and rockshelters.

The more ephemeral heritage is less directly obvious, such as the evidence of earliest human habitation known for example from examination of midden material at Sand which has detected the first archaeological evidence of Mesolithic activity in the peninsula dating back several millennia. Sites such as this offer a rare glimpse of the earliest human environments of the British Isles and Europe, and tell us that the local environment underwent considerable changes.

In and around Applecross Church and Old Burial Ground is the focus of a concentration of heritage sites which justify unravelling for interpretation and understanding of their archaeological, historic, architectural, aesthetic, spiritual, social and cultural significance. *“Ecclesiastically, there is no spot in Ross, nor, indeed with the exception of Iona, in Scotland, more venerable than the churchyard of Applecross, which contains according to Dr Reeves, the site of the monastic settlement which was founded by Malruba, and from which he laboured as the Apostle of the North. Malruba’s grave ... is marked by two low round pillar stones”* ... In the vicinity of this spot was excavated a cist burial. Watson mentions the survival of a traditional belief that earth from the saint’s grave held certain powers and ensured the bearer a safe return to Applecross (Watson, W.J. 1904). *“Next to Colum-Cille or Columba, Maol Rubha is described as the most renowned saint in the Scoto-Irish Church”* (Gordon, S. 1935, 48).

The graveyard also contains a series of memorial monuments, grave markers and unmarked graves as well as the remains of a chapel or burial enclosure thought to date to the 15th century. Interpretation will require respect for the sanctity of the church and burial grounds and consideration of how to

preserve such atmospheres and intangible aspects of the heritage. A wealth of knowledge and oral tradition is associated with the area, much of which defines the spirit of the place through the centuries and to the present day.

The old forms of the name Applecross suggest the meaning to be ‘estuary of the Crosan’, and Watson was given the name of the Applecross River as Abhainn Crosan, the usual explanation of Crosan being “The Place of the Crosses” however, Watson implies the name was pre-Christian. (Watson, 1904, 201).

“The parish, however, in Gaelic, is always spoken of as ‘a Chomraich’, the girth, from the right of the sanctuary extending, it is said, for 6 miles in all directions, possessed by the monastery founded by Malruba” (Watson, 1904, 201). This girth was formerly marked by stone crosses and the last of these crosses stood on the dùn at Camusterach. This stone was over eight feet in height and showed traces of a cross on its western face and was destroyed by the religious zeal of a Stornoway mason (Gordon, S. 1935). ‘A Chomraich’, The Sanctuary, is now for many people but a name, however, it must have been widely known and revered, and a significant landscape feature.

Restoration and repair work of Applecross’s most significant heritage asset will safeguard its future, and enable potential for the Church to be utilized more often as a community resource, for religious ceremonies, and for example as a meeting venue and perhaps to support musical performances – its use might also be considered to extend to display temporary exhibitions related to ongoing research, conservation works or regeneration in the area of the Sanctuary, and the wider peninsula – a present day sanctuary for contemplation of the area’s past and future. Exploring this capability for local use will help the building extend its life and renew and enhance its role in the wider community.

In the past, and up until the Clearances, the coast was still the main centre of population as this was where the most fertile land lay. Even later grouped settlements such as Shieldaig assume a linear form, with houses following the line of the raised beach. The reorganisation of patterns of land tenure and the clearances during the 18th and 19th century have left a distinctive trace on the landscape and offer a visual amenity. Many abandoned settlements are perceptible and links to these persist, preserved in oral tradition. The 19th century was the period when the emblematic image of the landscape in terms of planned crofting settlements emerged. At Lonbain, a partly occupied and farmed substantial settlement includes a B-listed thatched building recently brought into the ownership of the National Trust and represents a significant restoration, heritage interpretation and education opportunity.

The peninsula was inaccessible by road until the late 18th Century; today there are two means of access by road – one route, the Bealach nam Bó (or Bealach na Bà - Pass of the Cattle) at 625m (2035 feet) is one of the highest roads in Scotland, and in 1822 was one of the last Parliamentary roads to be completed. It was originally a drove road and represents the finest example of drystone revetment walling in Scotland (Alasdair MacCowan, pers. communication).

There exists a unique industrial heritage associated with copper mining at Rassal; with North Sea oil exploitation at Kishorn; with the fishing industries; and with endeavours connected to Applecross Estate; all of which are of significant cultural and economic importance in terms of their impact on the landscape.

Some of the earliest plantings on the Applecross Estate date back to before 1750 and form an important element in the Applecross landscape (“the beech avenues, notably the trees lining the top of the bank of compartment 15, ‘Beech Bank’, and south of the road above compartment 17, ‘Smithy’”). An archaeological evaluation of areas of existing and proposed forestry (Dagg, C. 2004) indicates that the gardens and policies are the remnants of one of the earliest designed landscapes in Wester Ross, dating back to the beginning of the 19th century. Identified is potential to enhance or restore certain features of the 18th and 19th century historic designed landscape including:

- the beech avenues
- replanting of the original policy areas with a similar mix of tree species
- views to and from the house - one of the main factors in the original landscape design.

National context

Statutory Designations

Certain elements in the historic environment in the peninsula are designated: the archaeological and built heritage includes a number of Listed Buildings (19) and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (3) indicating national importance.

Historic Scotland has a commitment, laid out in SHEP 2 (Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2 – Scheduling), to add monuments to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments through a strategic, normally area-based programme run on a 30-year cycle. The agency’s corporate plan sets out the areas to be tackled over the plan period. Historic Scotland’s analysis of the Schedule of Ancient Monuments suggests that Applecross is not a present priority for a scheduling project. One of the reasons given for this is that it has a comparatively high density of schedulings compared to other areas of Scotland. Consequently, there are no plans to undertake a scheduling project in Applecross in the next ten years, although it is included in the 30-year cycle. (pers. communication: Laura Hindmarch, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland). However, Applecross may contain further sites, monuments and landscapes which may be of national importance and have yet to be legally recognised as such.

Analysis of the Non Statutory Register codes (NSR) assigned to the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) by Highland Council suggest that further sites may be of national importance (possibly 34 sites) and a further 134 are potentially of regional importance, pending further enhancement and definition of their status (see Tables 1-4 below, pages 6-14 for identification of these sites).

Archaeological Heritage Areas

There are three Archaeological Heritage Areas (AHA's) (see Appendix 3 for AHA's map). Two AHA's are situated on the peninsula, the third is centred around Lochcarron. Certain areas in Highland are of exceptional archaeological and historic significance by virtue of the importance, number and location of features, density of monuments/sites and opportunities for interpretation. Such areas are related to features from prehistory to the 19th Century Clearances. In recognition of this, key areas of concentration merit appropriate zonation in Local Plans as Archaeological Heritage Areas. The AHA's for Highland were produced in 2005 and based on data available at that time. Outwith these areas there are plenty of archaeological sites, these areas represent only a focus. The AHAs have no statutory status within the planning system, however Highland Council's structure plan policy states: Policy BC3 – "Local Plans will identify and zone areas of exceptional archaeological and historic interest and make appropriate provision for the protection and interpretation of features of interest." (pers. communication, Dorothy Maxwell, Highland Council Archaeologist).

Regional context of findings

There are almost 3,000 listed buildings in Highland, 170 of which are of national importance. The number of protected Scheduled Monuments presently stands at 852. There are a further 26,000 locally important archaeological sites.

The archaeological inventory shows a total of 357 records for Applecross based on data drawn from the local Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (see Appendix 2: Archaeological Inventory).

A major challenge is posed in terms of enhancing and updating the value of this important data resource, which in turn informs our understanding of the peninsula's heritage resource, and the telling of Applecross history and heritage. A primary concern lies with bringing about an increased understanding of those existing records as well as enhancing and upgrading knowledge through further research and fieldwork.

Increasing the value of archaeological and built heritage resources in Applecross will require a heritage development phase to facilitate a programme of survey and data enhancement to fill the many gaps in our knowledge and augment existing records which are poorly defined. Targeted surveys and research aimed at plugging the gaps in the archaeological and historical record are needed to help the local community build on and develop further their heritage resource and facilitate the development of access and educational opportunities. Regional priorities may include those sites under threat by coastal erosion.

Conclusion

The role of people in organising landscapes form a distinctive part of the history and culture of the peninsula and the 21st century is the time to achieve another chapter in the landscape that will be instrumental in fostering and sustaining connections between the past, people, places and the landscape.

Table 1. Scheduled Ancient Monuments

SAM NUMBER	PARISH OR BURGH	ADDRESS	MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
5666	Applecross	Rassal, Copper Mine 900m Ne Of	Selective Management Of Vegetation
5667	Applecross	Couldoran, Settlement 1050m E Of	Removal Of Bracken Is A Potential Positive Management Action
2802	Applecross	Applecross Old Churchyard, Monastery	

Table 2. Listed Buildings

HB NUMBER	PARISH OR BURGH	ITEMNO	ADDRESS	ENTITY_REF	CATEGORY
427	Applecross	10	Lonbain Thatched Cottage	Lonbain, Thatched Cottage	B
428	Applecross	11	2-7 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 2 - 3 Shore Street	C(S)
428	Applecross	11	2-7 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 4 Shore Street	C(S)
428	Applecross	11	2-7 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 5 Shore Street	C(S)
428	Applecross	11	2-7 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 6 Shore Street	C(S)
428	Applecross	11	2-7 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 7 Shore Street	C(S)
430	Applecross	13	13-17 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 13 Shore Street	C(S)
430	Applecross	13	13-17 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 14 Shore Street	C(S)
430	Applecross	13	13-17 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 15 Shore Street	C(S)
430	Applecross	13	13-17 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 16 Shore Street	C(S)
430	Applecross	13	13-17 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 17 Shore Street	C(S)
434	Applecross	17	By Shieldaig Camus An Eilein	Camas-An-Eilein	C(S)
458	Applecross	3	Applecross, Camusterrach Manse (Church Of Scotland)	Camusterrach Free Church Of Scotland Manse	C(S)
460	Applecross	5	Applecross House Gardener's Cottage And Walled Garden	Applecross House, Gardener's Cottage	C(S)
460	Applecross	5	Applecross House Gardener's Cottage And Walled Garden	Applecross House, Walled Garden	C(S)
7257	Lochcarron	5	Drochaid Mhor Bridge Over River Kishorn	Drochaid Mhor, Bridge	C(S)
7265	Lochcarron	13	Tornapress	Tornapress	C(S)
426	Applecross	10	Applecross Applecross Mains Millpond Dam	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross, Millpond Dam	C(S)
456	Applecross	1	Applecross, Old Parish Church And Burial Ground	Applecross, Chapel	B
456	Applecross	1	Applecross, Old Parish Church And Burial Ground	Applecross, Parish Church	B
456	Applecross	1	Applecross, Old Parish Church And Burial Ground	Applecross, Parish Church, Churchyard	B

HB NUMBER	PARISH OR BURGH	ITEMNO	ADDRESS	ENTITY_REF	CATEGORY
7266	Lochcarron	14	Tornapress Bridge Over The Allt Mor	Tornapress Bridge	C(S)
7256	Lochcarron	4	Courthill Episcopal Chapel	Courthill House, Episcopal Chapel	C(S)
425	Applecross	9	Applecross Applecross Mains Steading	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross Farm	C(S)
429	Applecross	12	8-12 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 8 Shore Street	C(S)
429	Applecross	12	8-12 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 9 Shore Street	C(S)
429	Applecross	12	8-12 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 10 Shore Street	C(S)
429	Applecross	12	8-12 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 11 Shore Street	C(S)
429	Applecross	12	8-12 (Inclusive) Shore Street	Applecross, 12 Shore Street	C(S)
461	Applecross	6	Applecross Estate Office Garden Walls And Boat House	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross, Estate House	B
461	Applecross	6	Applecross Estate Office Garden Walls And Boat House	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross, Boat House	B
463	Applecross	8	Applecross Mains "Crac" Barn	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross Farm, 'Crac' Barn	B
435	Applecross	18	Shieldaig Kirkburn (Former Church Of Scotland Manse)	Shieldaig, Church Of Scotland Manse	B
457	Applecross	2	Applecross, Former Parish Manse (Church Of Scotland)	Applecross, Parish Manse	B
457	Applecross	2	Applecross, Former Parish Manse (Church Of Scotland)	Applecross, Parish Manse, West Service Wing	B
457	Applecross	2	Applecross, Former Parish Manse (Church Of Scotland)	Applecross, Parish Manse, East Service Wing	B
459	Applecross	4	Applecross House	Applecross House	B
462	Applecross	7	Applecross Mains Top Barns	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross Farm, Heather Thatched Barn	B
462	Applecross	7	Applecross Mains Top Barns	Applecross, Mains Of Applecross, Barn	B

Table 3a. Sites of National Importance

14 sites are almost certainly sites of national importance based on SMR data (C)

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Church;	7661	171350	845840	NG74NW0005	NG74NW0007	Applecross Old Parish Church
Broch;	7658	171183	844331	NG74SW0002	NG74SW0002	Broch, Applecross (Borrodale)
Broch;	7670	183620	840440	NG84SW0002	NG84SW0002	Broch, An Dun
Building; Monastic Settlement; Tree;	7660	171670	844950	NG74SW0001	NG74SW0001	Applecross - Four Trees
Cairn; Cist;	7673	183630	840640	NG84SW0005	NG84SW0005	Cairn w cist, Lag an Duin
Chapel;	7614	171394	845887	NG74NW0003	NG74NW0003	Applecross Churchyard, chapel
Chapel; Cross Slab; Cross, fragment; Font; Graveyard;	7669	183040	840580	NG84SW0001	NG84SW0001	St. Donan's Chapel, Courthill
Chapel; Enclosure;	7606	169640	834720	NG63SE0001	NG63SE0001	Chapel, Camas na h-Annait
Cross Slab; Grave; Gravemarker;	7612	171336	845805	NG74NW0002	NG74NW0002	Applecross - cross slab
Hut Circle;	7620	171380	843020	NG74SW0009	NG74SW0009	Hut circle, Torr Mor
Hut Circle;	7622	170900	843000	NG74SW0007	NG74SW0007	Hut circle, Torr Mor
Hut Circle; Shieling Huts;	7667	169100	845800	NG64NE0003	NG64NE0003	Hut circle etc, Rubha Na Guailne
Mill Lade;	7659	170715	843860	NG74SW0010	NG74SW0010	Milton (Applecross)

Table 3b. Sites of National Importance

20 sites are very probably of national importance but a visit is required for confirmation (V)

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Barn;	17746	171190	844290	NG74SW0027	NG74SW00217	Top Barns, Mains of Applecross
Barn; Abattoir;	23595	171330	844390	NG74SW0024	NG74SW00211	'Crac Barn', Mains of Applecross
Boathouse;	26945	171123	844582	NG74SW0023	NG74SW00215	Applecross Estate Office, Boat House
Boundary Marker; Cross Slab;	7656	170960	841600	NG74SW0005	NG74SW0004	Applecross Sanctuary Cross, Camusterrach
Bridge;	15191	171380	839820	NG73NW0005	NG73NW0000	Clapper Briedge, Poll Creadha
Church;	25343	181830	854150	NG85SW0017	NG85SW0016	Free Presbyterian Church, Shieldaig
Clearance Cairn; Field System; Township;	7671	183500	840500	NG84SW0003	NG84SW0003	Doone township
Cottage, thatched;	26947	168690	853138	NG65SE0012	NG65SE00032	Lonbain, Thatched Cottage

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Crannog;	63150	170457	852327	NG75SW0002		Lochan Dubh
Graveyard;	16997	171376	845849	NG74NW0006	NG74NW0000	Applecross Old Burial Ground
House;	17681	171106	844560	NG74SW0026	NG74SW00214	Estate Office, Applecross
House; Country House;	17533	171883	845694	NG74NW0007	NG74NW00130	Applecross House
Hut Circle;	7607	169130	846600	NG64NE0002	NG64NE0002	Hut circle, Rubha Na Guailne
Hut Circle;	15167	184730	843160	NG84SW0013	NG84SW0023	Rassal
Hut Circle; Enclosure;	7668	169300	846270	NG64NE0001	NG64NE0001	Hut circle, Rubha Na Guailne
Icehouse;	63485	172085	845635	NG74NW0021		Icehouse, Applecross House
Manse;	17296	181587	854148	NG85SW0007	NG85SW0021	Kirkburn (Fo Church of Scotland Manse), Shildaig
Manse;	17330	171298	845775	NG74NW0008	NG74NW0012	Fo Parish Manse, Applecross
Standing Stone;	7652	172400	860670	NG76SW0002	NG76SW0002	Possible Standing Stone, Fearnmore
Stone Circle;	63478	171013	844203	NG74SW0065		Stone Circle? S of Broch, Applecross
Stone Circle; Stone Circle, double;	7683	181500	853800	NG85SW0003	NG85SW0003	Double stone circle, Shildaig

Table 4. Sites of Regional Importance

134 sites are almost certainly of regional importance (R)

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Bank (Earthwork);	62881	171082	844368	NG74SW0061		Outworks beyond broch, Applecross
Bone; Cave Site;	60978	186000	844400	NG84SE0010		Cave, Glasnock
Bridge;	17186	183777	842065	NG84SW0028	NG84SW0020	Bridge Over the Allt Mor, Tornapress
Bridge;	17628	183414	842308	NG84SW0017	NG84SW0021	Drochaid Mhor Bridge, over River Kishorn
Building;	15154	174500	844060	NG74SW0014	NG74SW0000	Allt Beag
Building; Farm, steading;	25358	171250	843460	NG74SW0032	NG74SW0014	Allt Na Larach
Building; Hut Circle;	63481	171340	844417	NG74SW0068		Circular feature, by Crait Barn
Cave Site;	63483	171164	844200	NG74SW0070		Caves (southern), Applecross
Cave Site;	63484	174015	847996	NG74NW0020		Caves (north), Applecross
Cave Site;	70631	170500	840360	NG74SW0088	NG74SW0044	ARD-DHUBH
Cave Site; Rock Shelter;	70629	170100	837500	NG73NW0021	NG73NW0017	AIRD MHOR

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Cave Site; Still; Trough;	63889	170012	857934	NG75NW0037		Trough (still?) in Cave Cuaig, Applecross
Chapel;	17555	183175	840663	NG84SW0014	NG84SW00191	Courthill Episcopal Chapel
Clapper Bridge;	64043	175720	857380	NG75NE0024		Clapper Bridge, Kenmore
Clearance Cairn;	15153	168700	851100	NG65SE0006	NG65SE0000	Salacher
Cottage, cruck-framed;	24037	170400	857600	NG75NW0012	NG75NW00021	Cuaig, Cruck Framed Cottage
Cottage, cruck-framed; Sheepfold; Township;	19682	178300	856000	NG75NE0012	NG75NE00010	Ardleshaig
Cottage, thatched;	24038	170400	857600	NG75NW0009	NG75NW00022	Cuaig, Ruined Thatched Cottage
Cottage;	17099	171027	844417	NG74SW0021	NG74SW0030	8-12 Shore Street, Applecross
Cottage;	17158	171016	844377	NG74SW0022	NG74SW0031	13-17 Shore Street, Applecross
Cottage;	17267	175273	858366	NG75NE0006	NG75NE0005	Camus an Eilein, By Sheildag
Cottage; Garden; Walled Garden; Park;	17608	172155	845715	NG74NW0009	NG74NW00131	Applecross House – Gardener’s Cottage & Walled Garden
Crofting Township;	7665	168600	853000	NG65SE0003	NG65SE00030	Lonbain, general
Crofting Township;	25362	171600	840300	NG74SW0029	NG74SW0011	Culduie
Cultivation Remains;	61107	177800	855800	NG75NE0016		Ardheslaig
Cultivation Remains;	61111	175500	857500	NG75NE0010		Kenmore
Cultivation Remains;	61114	173700	859400	NG75NW0034		Fearnbeg
Cultivation Remains;	61118	170500	857500	NG75NW0036		Cuaig
Cultivation Remains;	61121	168600	850300	NG65SE8446		Salacher
Dam; Mill Lade; Mill Pond;	17027	171312	844296	NG74SW0019	NG74SW00216	Millpond Dam, Mains of Applecross
Deserted Settlement;	15159	176300	856200	NG75NE0003	NG75NE0000	Abhainnchracaic
Deserted Settlement;	15163	179900	854500	NG75SE0001	NG75SE0000	Rhuroin
Deserted Settlement;	15165	180600	853500	NG85SW0006	NG85SW0006	Doire-Aonar
Deserted Settlement;	59832	176210	856390	NG75NE0014	NG75NE0007	Abhainn a' Chracaich
Enclosure;	7621	171140	843300	NG74SW0008	NG74SW0008	Enclosure, Torr Mor
Enclosure; Field Wall; Farmstead;	25224	185700	844800	NG84SE0007	NG84SE0007	Glasnock
Farm Kiln, corn-drying?	59820	181600	855300	NG85NW0036	NG85NW0031	Coen drying kiln, Camas-Beithe
Farm, steading;	23594	171250	844350	NG74SW0039	NG74SW00210	Mains of Applecross
Farm, steading;	63488	172391	846820	NG74NW0024		Buildings, NE of Hartfield, Applecross
Farm, steading;	63489	172211	846886	NG74NW0025		Buildings NE of Hartfield, Applecross
Farm, steading; Watermill;	17838	171256	844377	NG74SW0025	NG74SW0000	Steading, Mains of Applecross
Farmstead;	23475	183020	851370	NG85SW0009	NG85SW0008	Reidh-Nan-Uaig

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Farmstead;	23476	181500	852360	NG85SW0010	NG85SW0009	Ceann-Locha
Farmstead;	23651	168700	852150	NG65SE0007	NG65SE0006	Allt Mor
Farmstead;	25175	183580	841010	NG84SW0020	NG84SW0012	Lagnacopaig
Farmstead;	25212	183220	840740	NG84SW0021	NG84SW0013	Courthill Cottage
Farmstead;	25225	184980	843990	NG84SW0024	NG84SW0016	Couldoran
Farmstead; Building; Sheepfold;	23652	168760	851100	NG65SE0010	NG65SE0007	Salacher
Farmstead; Enclosure;	25307	172600	846600	NG74NW0012	NG74NW0011	Farmstead, E of Hartfield
Farmstead; Field System;	25204	171218	843637	NG74SW0037	NG74SW0019	Milton
Field System;	25178	182300	841000	NG84SW0023	NG84SW0015	Russel
Field System;	25207	171400	843600	NG74SW0045	NG74SW0027	Allt Breugaireachd
Field System;	25363	173310	847980	NG74NW0015	NG74NW0008	Srath Maol Chaluim
Field System;	61113	174500	858500	NG75NW0033		Arinacrinachd
Fish Trap;	62625	171495	845017	NG74NW0019		Fish trap, Applecross Bay
Grain Mill;	62543	170744	843876	NG74SW0059		Cornmill, Milton, Applecroiss
Grain Mill; Threshing Mill;	22505	178060	856150	NG75NE0020	NG75NE00011	Corn & Barley Mill, Ardleshaig
Head Dyke; Township;	8503	183700	843300	NG84SW0008	NG84SW0006	Tornapress
Holy Well;	7655	171700	844990	NG74SW0011	NG74SW0005	Applecross Holy Well
House;	17088	171039	844459	NG74SW0020	NG74SW0029	2-7 Shore Street, Applecross
House;	17153	183756	842268	NG84SW0015	NG84SW0022	Tornapress
Hut Circle;	7610	171800	836800	NG73NW0001	NG73NW0001	Hut circle, Allt Loch Meall Nam Feadan
Ironstone Mine;	64402	184100	842200	NG84SW0037		Tornapress Iron Mine
Ironstone Mine;	64403	183801	840499	NG84SW0038		Upper Sanachan Iron Mine
Limekiln;	28563	172500	844800	NG74SW0052	NG74SW0000	Limekilns, Applecross
Manse;	17451	171124	841707	NG74SW0018	NG74SW0028	Camusterrach Free Church Manse, Applecross
Manse;	25344	181810	854140	NG85SW0018	NG85SW0017	Free Presbyterian Manse, Shieldaig
Mine;	28564	184035	840667	NG84SW0031	NG84SW0000	Lower Sanachan Copper Mine
Monastic Settlement; Holy Well;	60842	171840	845860	NG74NW0016		Stroupan a' Bhile
SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Preaching Site;	62675	181580	854430	NG85SW0028		Preachers Wall, Shieldaig
Preaching Site;	64165	171160	841980	NG74SW0075		Camusterrach
Rig and Furrow;	15161	175200	858300	NG75NE0005	NG75NE0000	Camas an Eilean
Rig and Furrow;	61117	170000	858400	NG75NW0035		Rigs, Cuaig
Rig and Furrow; Enclosure;	61106	178600	855300	NG75NE0015		Inverbain

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Saw Mill;	65212	172177	845810	NG74NW0027		Applecross Mains
Saw Mill; Sluice;	65211	171938	845229	NG74NW0026		Applecross Mains
Settlement;	15164	178600	854900	NG75SE0002	NG75SE0000	Inverbain
Settlement;	27007	170000	843000	NG74SW0050	NG74SW0032	Milton, General
Settlement;	61119	169300	854500	NG65SE8444		Kalnakill
Settlement;	63479	171375	844336	NG74SW0066		Borrodale Settlement, Applecross
Settlement;	63480	171554	843800	NG74SW0067		Languel Settlement, Applecross
Settlement;	64211	183543	840582	NG84SW0036		Kishorn
Shell Midden;	61917	182490	854300	NG85SW0027		Ob Mheallaidh
Shieling Hut;	23655	177440	851770	NG75SE0003	NG75SE0002	Possible Shieling Hut, Loch an Rain
Shieling Hut;	23656	177620	852540	NG75SE0004	NG75SE0003	Possible Shieling Hut, Allt an T-Srathain
Shieling Hut;	25221	184500	849000	NG84NW0004	NG84NW0004	Possible Shieling Hut, Glen Shieldaig
Shieling Hut;	25354	169520	837980	NG63NE0003	NG63NE0002	Possible Shieling Hut, Eilean Na Ba
Shieling Hut;	25357	179500	841160	NG74SE0001	NG74SE0001	Possible Shieling Hut, Coire Na Ba
Shieling Huts;	7608	169950	852510	NG65SE0001	NG65SE0001	Shielings, Allt Na Moine
Shieling Huts;	7617	174650	850920	NG75SW0001	NG75SW0001	Shielings, Lochan Na H-Airighe Riabhaich
Shieling Huts;	7637	183200	849200	NG84NW0002	NG84NW0002	Shielings, Allt A' Mhill Bhrie
Shieling Huts;	7638	183600	849800	NG84NW0001	NG84NW0001	Shielings, Allt A' Mhill Bhrie
Shieling Huts;	7681	181600	852100	NG85SW0001	NG85SW0001	Shielings, Glen Shieldaig
Shieling Huts;	8321	172600	837500	NG73NW0004	NG73NW0004	River Toscaig
Shieling Huts;	14324	173200	857200	NG75NW0003	NG75NW0004	Loch Na Larach
Shieling Huts;	23643	177960	853560	NG75SE0005	NG75SE0004	Allt an T-Srathain
Shieling Huts;	23654	175010	850500	NG75SE0009	NG75SE0001	Allt Na H-Airighe Riabhaich
Shieling Huts;	25222	184700	848600	NG84NW0005	NG84NW0005	Glen Shieldaig
Shieling Huts;	25223	185750	846980	NG84NE0001	NG84NE0001	Abhainn Dubh
Shieling Huts;	25268	174200	848600	NG74NW0010	NG74NW0009	Srath Maol Chaluim
Shieling Huts;	57196	174400	844000	NG74SW0055	NG74SW0033	Allt Beag
Shieling Huts;	59503	183000	849100	NG84NW0006	NG84NW0006	Allt a' Mhuill Brie
Shieling Huts;	59778	180100	840100	NG84SW0033	NG84SW0024	Allt Chumhaing
Shieling Huts;	59831	176510	855290	NG75NE0013	NG75NE0006	Abhainn a' Chracaich
Shieling Huts; Township;	14344	180400	842750	NG84SW0009	NG84SW0007	Allt Coire Nan Arr
Shieling;	8391	168390	835740	NG63NE0001	NG63NE0001	Eilean Beag
Shieling; Township;	7657	172200	844600	NG74SW0003	NG74SW0003	Applecross
Smithy;	23597	171440	844358	NG74SW0017	NG74SW00213	Mains of Applecross Farm, Smithy

SITE_TYPE	ID	EASTING	NORTHING	SMR_NO	NMRS_NO	NAME
Township;	7609	169260	854610	NG65SE0002	NG65SE0004	Township, Kalnakill
Township;	7618	170400	857600	NG75NW0004	NG75NW00020	Cuaig settlement
Township;	7672	184700	842300	NG84SW0004	NG84SW0004	Township, Rassal
Township;	15156	174500	858500	NG75NW0005	NG75NW0000	Arinacrinachd
Township;	15158	178300	856000	NG75NE0002	NG75NE0000	Ardheslaig Township
Township;	15160	175700	857400	NG75NE0004	NG75NE0004	Kenmore Settlement
Township;	15162	172700	860700	NG76SW0004	NG76SW0000	Faingmor
Township;	19041	172400	860600	NG76SW0006	NG76SW0003	Fearnmore, General
Township;	19042	173600	859700	NG75NW0006	NG75NW00030	Fearnbeg, General
Township;	23477	182500	854600	NG85SW0011	NG85SW0010	Doire-Chlaiginn
Township;	23601	179860	854410	NG75SE0008	NG75SE0007	Rhurain
Township;	25183	180760	837740	NG83NW0007	NG83NW0007	Kishorn Island
Township;	25187	184180	842850	NG84SW0019	NG84SW0011	Rassal
Township;	25211	176000	836100	NG73NE0001	NG73NE0001	Meall Na H-Uamha
Township;	25214	182080	840400	NG84SW0018	NG84SW0010	Russel
Township;	25353	169500	835060	NG63NE0004	NG63NE0003	Eilean Mor
Township;	25360	171100	841650	NG74SW0030	NG74SW0012	Camusterrach
Township;	25361	170650	842290	NG74SW0031	NG74SW0013	Camusteel
Township;	28283	170030	838630	NG73NW0007	NG73NW0006	Coillegillie
Township;	56576	171200	838550	NG73NW0010	NG73NW00030	Toscaig, general
Township;	64041	178360	856742	NG75NE0023		Ardheslaig (N)
Township;	64162	170870	843845	NG74SW0074	NG74SW0022	Milton
Township; Sheepfold;	23614	178640	854910	NG75SE0006	NG75SE0005	Inverbain
War Memorial;	25347	181690	854270	NG85SW0021	NG85SW0020	Shieldaig, War Memorial
Watermill; Pond;	62548	171308	845677	NG74NW0018		Embankments, S of Church, Applecross
Well;	62538	171188	845867	NG74NW0017		Fountainhead, NW of Graveyard, Applecross

2. Statement of Conservation Issues

Applecross lacks large-scale development and this is partly the reason for preservation of a unique record of landscape evolution through time. However, a combination of conservation threats and needs, and the change in pace and type of development on the peninsula, make production of a comprehensive record for future conservation management both timely and necessary.

Conservation Threats

1. Planting/forestry
2. Encroaching undergrowth
3. Development threats
4. Animal burrowing damage
5. Livestock/deer damage
6. Loss & ruin of drystone walls
7. Loss and ruin of archaeological remains and historic buildings

Uplands

Upland peat is coming under increasing pressure from a range of mechanisms, including land management techniques and climatic changes.

Conservation Resources

There is an abundance of sites, monuments and landscapes which are currently poorly understood and for which there are few records and little documentation, due to lack of local resources to carry this work out. This seriously hinders heritage and conservation management and constitutes a threat to survival of the heritage resource.

Conservation Principles

For cultural heritage interests, proposed conservation action within the Landscape Partnership Scheme will need to define the basis of minimum intervention required to retain the significance of a place. This will allow for a variety of conservation approaches from recording to consolidation and repair. This principle observes the need to conserve intangible aspects such as atmosphere and spiritual significance by arresting decay, and considers respect for the original/authentic fabric. For those sites selected for conservation works, a policy of consolidation to structures is desirable, otherwise much of the impact and immediacy of these remains would be diluted.

3. THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND BUILT HERITAGE OF APPLECROSS

This section of the report seeks to summarise the extent and character of the known archaeology and built heritage of Applecross and highlight links between cultural heritage and the distinctive landscape. In view of considerable gaps in current knowledge this can only be a provisional outline.

INTRODUCTION

Much of the unwritten history of Applecross can be read in the landscape through its physical and material remains. National and regional records indicate a significant number of sites representing many different aspects of the past. Such sites indicate the potential of the landscape in archaeological terms and provide more than a hint of the hidden, unknown and forgotten landscape elements that yet wait to be discovered.

Many sites may offer an opportunity to investigate further their significance, how people utilised the landscapes in which the remains are preserved, and how the landscapes around the sites have since been used and are perceived in the present.

Archaeological evidence provides a picture of habitation over at least the past 8- 9,000 years ranging from ephemeral hunter gatherers vestiges to the more recent industrial past. Roughly nine tenths of the habitation history occurred prior to written records therefore, archaeology remains a key method through which to unravel the significance of material remains contained within its landscape.

Possibly in the region of over 300 generations may have lived during this time, adopting an estimation of 27 years per generation (after Parker Pearson, 2004, 189). The first written records date back about thirty generations, comprising only a tenth of the entire habitation history of the area. Only six generations ago, the Clearances were happening.

For much of history the peninsula was accessible only by sea. When the sea was the main highway and communication route to and from the peninsula, cultural and political connections would have prevailed over those routes with which we are familiar with today; archaeology can help illustrate these connections and geographies.

The isostatic uplift of land following the last Ice Age is visible in the formation of raised beaches and a fringe of fertile land between sea and hill slope along the west coast of the peninsula. This landscape feature shaped the character of settlement of Applecross communities, many of which are strung out along the line of the raised beaches. Where rivers and burns have deposited alluvial sediments carried

down from the hills, lie areas of fertile croft land, the junction being emphasised in places by the presence of the stone dyke or *head dyke* dividing the productive land from the grazing land on the slopes up above.

The placename *Applecross* has been the subject of much debate, and is thought to be a corruption of the ancient *Aporcrossan* or *Abercrossan*, the most northerly of all the Scottish *abers*. In the 7th century AD St. Maelrubha, an Irish monk, founded a community here which continued for two centuries but was destroyed by Viking invaders. Founded in 673, St Maelrubha, from the Irish monastery of Bangor, made this his centre for the evangelisation of all the western districts between Lochs Carron and Broom (Skene, *Celt. Scot.*, ii. 169 and 411,412). Some relics and archaeological features of that early historic period remain & are now in the adjacent Applecross Heritage Centre. A relic, probably, of this Columban monastery is an upright slab in the churchyard, bearing the figure of a collared cross. The roofless, ivy-clad, building in the graveyard was possibly a chapel or burial enclosure dating from the 15th century, but the church itself was built in around 1817.

Broch towers were built throughout most of North and West Scotland and the Northern Isles during the Iron Age. The site of a broch above Applecross Village was the subject of recent archaeological survey and excavation by the Channel 4 Time Team/Applecross Archaeological Society (2006). Excavation has continued on a seasonal basis by Applecross Archaeological Society.

STUDY AREA

Applecross occupies a remote location on a peninsula between Loch Torridon in the north and Loch Kishorn to the south, facing the Isle of Raasay and Skye to the west across the waters of the Inner Sound. The parish is situated on the coast of Wester Ross in Highland Council Area. The peninsula was inaccessible by road until the late 18th Century; today there are two means of access by road – via the Bealach nam Bó (or Bealach na Bà - Pass of the Cattle) which at 625m (2035 feet) is one of the highest roads in Scotland, and was one of the last Parliamentary roads to be completed in 1822. The Bealach nam Bó was originally a drove road and represents the finest example of drystone revetment walling in Scotland, it requires a programme of conservation works to restore and consolidate its outstanding walling and parapets (Alasdair MacCowan, pers. communication). The peninsula can also be reached via the long coastal road from Shieldaig to the north. Until the coastal road was opened in 1975, triggered by an MOD development at Sand, the peninsula was effectively split north and south (MacKenzie, 2003, 3). According to the evidence in the Napier Commission report of 1884, the basic need for a road was identified to prevent population decline, about 400 people lived in the north coast of the peninsula at that time.

Previously, the only connections were by footpath which can still be seen notably between Cruary and Sand. Many similar footpaths occur all over the peninsula (ibid, 3). Bealach an t-suidhe – Pass of the Sitting or Resting, was the route of pedestrians between Applecross and Shieldaig. Coire nan àradh –

ladder corrie, where before the Bealach nam Bó road was formed, a ladder-like path was ascended by tiers of steps in the rocky face (Watson, 1904).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AUDIT

Methodology

The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record was investigated for information on the Applecross Peninsula and its coastal islands. The results were analysed alongside those of the online National Monuments Record for Scotland and the online Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings database maintained by Historic Scotland.

Specific objectives in this assessment included:

- Producing an inventory of known sites and monuments based on the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and the National Monuments Record of Scotland
- Evaluating the archaeological significance of the peninsula's heritage in terms of its national, regional and local importance

Audit summary

The Applecross Peninsula contains archaeological and historic sites spanning several millennia - a fascinating range of heritage assets have survived – and this represents only a sample of Applecross heritage, as the bulk of the peninsula has not been comprehensively surveyed and many sites are not recorded.

Available data on the Applecross Peninsula's archaeological assets poses considerable problems of recognition and categorization due to poor definition within existing records of known sites.

A summary of the known assets is listed below, bearing in mind that judgments on archaeological interest and importance depend on what happens to be visible at the time of inspection, on the survival of associated archaeological evidence and on modern and often transient research interests (see Appendix 2: Archaeological Inventory for the full dataset).

Known heritage assets

There are in the region of 45,000 known sites recorded in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. Those recorded for Applecross number 357. Currently, 22 of the known Applecross sites are protected and are therefore of recognised importance. Many known sites are currently poorly understood and/or poorly recorded, therefore their importance has yet to be assessed and evaluated. In

addition, the peninsula has a wide range of other archaeological and historic sites, monuments and landscapes which await identification.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Of the 22 protected sites, 3 are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS). The SAMS comprise a settlement site (Couldoran); site of an early Christian monastery (St Mael Rubha's in Applecross Old Churchyard); and an industrial copper mining site (Rassal) which is the only scheduled industrial site. The monastery site in Applecross Old Churchyard is the only scheduled ancient monument within the study area and is of National Importance.

Listed Buildings

Highland region has almost 3,000 listed buildings, of which around 170 are Category A. For Applecross, there are 19 listed buildings of Local/Regional Importance recorded; 9 are B-listed and 10 C(S) listed. The listed buildings within the study area are composed of religious, educational, transport and maritime structures as well as a number of residential and domestic buildings. Churches, manses, schools and school houses feature; also a walled garden, and a bridge.

PREHISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

For several thousand years after the last glaciation, Britain and Ireland were connected to Europe by land bridges. Around 8,000 years ago the Scottish mainland would not have the characteristic heather, bog and bare rock uplands of today. After the last Ice Age, open grassland vegetation would have been followed by woodlands.

The arrival of the first trees (circa 8000BC) indicates the end of the Ice Age (Pleistocene) and start of the Holocene geological epoch, (which continues to the present day). As the climate warmed wooded habitats were slowly evolving with birch, hazel and oak becoming established by about 8,000 years ago. From environmental and pollen evidence as well as remains of trees found at the base of peat bogs, a picture of a tree-filled wilderness is conveyed, and a coastline devoid of sand.

Some 6000 years ago slightly wetter cooler conditions may have influenced woodland decline and replacement by acid grass and heathland communities. Between 6000BC and 2500BC the woods disappeared entirely, aided in part by human deforestation.

Peat formation

A key element of the landscape today is peat. Following the Post-Glacial climatic optimum (circa 3500 BC) conditions over wide areas gave rise to the emergence of blanket, or climatic peat. The period during which the climatic peat developed is not entirely understood, but some indications are available from the archaeological record.

Due to the climate change to damper weather, sea levels rose. On land waterlogged by higher rainfall, peat began to form - the partially decomposed remains of vegetation – it started to grow at a rate calculated at 1 inch every 60 years. It lies to a depth of over several feet in some parts and conceals the earlier landscape.

Tree roots can still be found in peat banks, and in some places in Scotland, under the sea. Of major importance, is the evidence for an extensive area of prehistoric woodland.

EARLY SETTLERS

Prehistoric sites ranging chronologically from Mesolithic to Iron Age are represented in the earliest archaeological records for Applecross and include domestic sites such as middens, rockshelters and settlements as well as ritual and funerary sites such as Cairns, Standing Stones, Stone Circles.

Prehistoric stone monuments such as standing stones, cairns, duns and brochs comprise observable and enduring elements of the landscape. This is partly as a result of the durability of the materials used in their construction. Prehistoric settlement evidence is more ephemeral and difficult to detect. Other visible features include drystone dykes, field walls, and stone dwelling remains – their date is poorly understood. Evidence of the early habitation survives most visibly in the form of these early stone monuments, stretching along the coast. The ritual and funerary sites probably belong to the broad tradition of communal ritual monuments known in the Later Neolithic. The remains of a number of duns and brochs provide evidence of the later prehistoric period known as the Iron Age.

Early settlement sites

The rock shelter site of Sand, just to the north of Applecross, provides considerable evidence of one of the earliest recorded habitations in the peninsula (Hardy, K. and Wickham-Jones, C., 2001). The importance of the sea in the Mesolithic, both as a resource and for transport, is a dominant feature of these early landscapes. On a clear day the locations of the Mesolithic sites at An Corran on Skye and Loch a Sguirr on Raasay are visible from the top of the Sand rock shelter and indicative of the wider world inhabited by people of the Inner Sound.

The site at Sand comprises a deeply stratified shell midden with stone tools suggesting Mesolithic activity (radiocarbon dates obtained on bone tools showed that this site and Loch a Sguirr on Raasay are about 8,000 years old.) The unconsolidated nature of the midden and the absence of any interruptions or stabilisation layers suggest that it built up over a short, possibly continuous, period of time, perhaps over a bad winter. Excavation showed that the first visitors to the rockshelter were working antler and stone to make tools. Shellfish collection, mainly of local limpets, was very important, and gradually the large midden pile built up over the early remains. The shellfish seem to have been cooked, demonstrated by abundance of fragments of stone “pot-boilers” in the midden,

together with bevel ended bone tools that were used for extracting and processing the flesh. At the same time, the knapping of stone tools continued and items of jewellery and worked shell indicate that there was also time for other pursuits. Fine beads had been made from seashells, while ochre pigment and a particular species of dog whelk that may have been used for the extraction of purple dye suggest concern with decoration. It is clear that activities at Sand were not restricted to obtaining and processing food alone.

Sand represents the earliest (Mesolithic) settlement of Scotland at the end of the last Ice Age - an area where there are large gaps in our current knowledge. Scotlands First Settlers (SFS) was set up to look in more detail at the Mesolithic settlement of the western seaboard (Hardy, K. and Wickham-Jones, C., 2001). The project focused on the area of the Inner Sound, the body of water between Skye and the mainland. SFS is a seascape project examining the relationship between the early inhabitants of the area and the sea, concentrating on the coastal areas, taking into account both current and ancient coastlines, in order to gather information on the lifestyle of the Mesolithic dwellers who used these coasts 9,000-5,000 years ago. It involved three main types of work: coastal survey; test pitting; and excavation. Results indicate that there are many more surviving sites than had been expected.

Nine of the new sites on the Applecross peninsula and on the Crowlin Islands were test pitted in order to assess preservation and date. Interestingly, finds from the test pits are not only Mesolithic showing that many of the rockshelters were in use in recent times and these contain relatively modern remains. Others contain evidence of earlier activity such as a fragment of Norse comb.

It is clear that the inhabitants of Sand were part of Mesolithic communities that operated across the Inner Sound and further afield. A source of bloodstone used in their stone tools originates from Rum (30km to the S) and other materials from Staffin on Skye (10km to the W, a source of baked mudstone and siliceous chalcedony). In addition they also used local stones: cherts; quartz; and agates. Other significant sites are located at Sheildaig in Torridan, and Loch a Sguirr on Raasay. Analysis of such finds can help identify the patterns of contact, communication and movement in this part of west of Scotland (Hardy, K. and Wickham-Jones, C., 2001).

Climate change

In Scotland the Mesolithic was a time of dynamic climate change and this is something that has resonance for us today. Geomorphological survey has identified 4 relict Holocene shorelines around Sand. These provide evidence of the changes in sea level that have taken place through the ages. Preliminary analysis of the shape of a sample of prehistoric shells indicates that violent wave action and high storm frequency may have been prevalent at the time of collection. Detailed analysis of the environmental remains from the midden can provide a picture of the conditions on the Applecross peninsula in the Mesolithic and local vegetation. Even the weather can be deduced from information on the types and conditions of mammals, shellfish and other remains.

The midden at Sand is dated to a very early part of the Mesolithic. This early date, and the rapidity of its accumulation, suggest that it differs from midden sites of later in the Mesolithic, such as those on Oronsay that had built up over many years and where evidence of shelters was found within the mounds of midden material. The period when Sand was in use has been shown elsewhere to be a time of worsening environment. It is possible that the build up of shellfish at Sand represents a local, seasonal, response to worsening climatic conditions. Sites such as that at Sand are vital to broadening our understanding of the existence of some of Scotland's earliest, and perhaps least known, inhabitants and the environment in which they lived (Hardy, K. and Wickham-Jones, C., 2001).

Settlement evidence of the Bronze Age

Around five thousand years ago, people began increasingly to live a more settled way of life, cultivating fields and clearing land.

The characteristic settlement evidence of the Bronze Age on the west coast is the hut circle, and these have a presence on the peninsula for example, at Torr Mor; Rubha Na Guailne; and along the banks of Allt Loch Meall Nam Feadan. Elsewhere in Scotland whole Bronze Age landscapes of field walls, field boundaries and clearance cairns have survived intact in Perthshire and Sutherland. Such landscape elements are likely to be present on the peninsula but are poorly recorded and understood and would benefit from investigation.

Throughout mainland Scotland, the late Bronze Age was a period of large scale expansion into marginal areas and it is highly improbable that this should not also have happened in the Applecross area.

Earth houses or souterrains

Sites of "earth houses" or souterrains are thought to date as far back as the Iron Age. One has been uncovered on recent excavations at the broch at Applecross.

EARLY MONUMENTS, RITUAL AND FUNERARY SITES

Chambered cairns

There are currently no records of chambered cairns for the Applecross area. Chambered cairns and chambered tombs are known to have been built during the Neolithic period between around 4000-2000BC (Armit, 1996) and represent the earliest stone monuments.

Standing stones, stone circles and cairns

These ritual and funerary sites probably belong to the broad tradition of communal ritual monuments known in the Later Neolithic.

A standing stone is recorded at Fearnmore, a double stone circle at Shildaig, and a possible stone circle south of the broch at Borrodale – if the status of these sites could be clarified they are probably of national importance according to the SMR though they are not protected sites. The surrounding landscape may hold the remains of further monuments and would require field survey to establish their presence.

Duns and brochs

A series of *duns* and broch-like structures lie along the west coast of mainland Scotland and on the coastal islands offshore, these sites are thought to demonstrate evidence of the later prehistoric period known as the Iron Age though it has been observed ‘the diversity of stone-built dwellings almost defeats the classification of brochs as a meaningful group’ (Parker Pearson and Sharples, 1999, 364).

The range and distribution of *dun* sites known around the coastline show clearly the significance of the sea and coast and suggest a role in shielding the approach from the west to the Inner Sound. Some of the islet and crannog sites may have been in use earlier in the Bronze Age and Neolithic, as well as in the Iron Age.

At the highest point of a low ridge, west of Applecross Mains Farm, the remains of a broch are noted in the SMR as early as 1968, and earlier, as this site may possibly be the 'dun' mentioned by McQueen (NSA, Rev J. MacQueen, 1792). By 2003, it is recorded as a substantial mound containing stone, but no visible outer walling, although fine worked blocks are noted as having been reused in the area. A substantial structure is recorded as running from the broch NW, as far as the beach according to local tradition. This has the appearance of a pair of large parallel walls, apparently once ditched on the E side. According to local tradition, a hereditary line of lay abbots re-used the fortified site at Borrodale: *‘MacBeolan, owing to the turbulent times, had a castle or fortalice built in Applecross. It was in the form of a circular tower. A goodly portion of it was still standing in 1800, but during the next decade it was demolished and the stones used to build park walls. It was on the hillock close by the present farm buildings and the site is still traceable, with a park wall through one segment’* (Rev. Allan MacArthur, Lochcarron) and quoted from Dagg, C. 2004, 4).

The site, known as Applecross Broch, at Borrodale, was the focus of a Time Team excavation (2005) and is currently the subject of seasonal excavation by the local archaeology society led by professional archaeologists, John Wood and Catherine Dagg. No other broch in this region of Scotland has been excavated using modern methods of investigation and it represents a unique opportunity to use up to date techniques of investigation and analysis on this type of site which is unique to Scotland.

As the concept of multi-periodicity for such sites was very poorly developed prior to the mid-20th century the Borrodale broch has potential to yield significant structural and artefactual information which will contribute to our understanding of the Scottish Iron Age. The history of broch interpretation has been much concerned with a number of preoccupations rooted in antiquarianism: the fascination with the original height of brochs, the overriding concern with architectural typology and the view that brochs were outwith the day-to-day settlement patterns of the period, all of which have their origins in the 19th century (Armit, 182, 1991). A broader classification has been proposed for the round-houses of Atlantic Scotland using the term *Atlantic roundhouse* to cover the range of roofed structures known as brochs, duns and galleried duns (Armit, 1992).

Other dun or possible broch sites are known at local level at Toscaig, Camusteel and Camusterach. Nowhere is the prehistoric architecture of the West Highlands better preserved than at brochs further south on the west coast at Glenelg; Dun Telve and Dun Troddan and there is potential to link a heritage trail here.

Once excavation is completed, the site at Borrodale will benefit from consolidation and conservation works to secure its long term future as a heritage resource for the Applecross community, it will offer great educational and interpretive potential. Brochs are among the most visually striking of later prehistoric monuments in Scotland and there is potential to link interpretation to other sites in the area as part of a heritage trail and to set the site in its wider regional and national context.

EARLY HISTORIC HABITATION

Norse influences

It is likely that the monastery at Applecross did undergo (unrecorded) raids at some point in its history - the succession of its abbots ceases to be recorded in the Irish annals during the course of the ninth century.

The earliest reference to an attack on a Scottish monastery is recorded in the Annals of Ulster for 617, “the burning of Donnan of Eigg with 150 martyrs”. The question of whether this was pre-Viking Norse activity or Pictish raiders has never been determined. Nearly 200 years pass before the Annals record raids on Iona, in 795, 802, and 806AD. Documented raids on, for example, Lindisfarne in 793, ‘all the islands in Britain’ (probably the Hebrides) in 794 and both Rathlin Island and the Isle of Skye in 795 are recorded. The monastery at Applecross is thought to have been abandoned at some point around 800AD probably as a result of raiding.

Caithness, the coastal areas of Sutherland and Wester Ross, and the Hebrides all came under Norse control as can be seen from many surviving placenames. Norse settlements are not, for reasons which we do not entirely understand, easily recognizable. There are very few known Norse settlement sites in Scotland despite many place names having Norse origins. For example, Shieldaig, sild-vik – herring

bay, also Borrodale from the Norse, borg, or burgh/stronghold – indicating a defended place - there is a possible presence of two Norse barrows nearby the broch at Borrodale according to local tradition (pers. communication Nick Goldthorpe).

According to local knowledge the area around Mains of Applecross & Crait barn was the site of the old settlement of Borrodale. According to Listed Building records all the current buildings are circa 19th century, so earlier below ground deposits can be expected.

Applecross Church and Old Burial Ground

Most evidence for the evolution of Christian beliefs before 1000AD comes not from the remains of churches but from stone slabs and crosses, used to mark preaching sites, burials and religious boundaries. The early church sites, Whithorn, Applecross, Dunkeld, and many others, are marked by surviving slabs; the evidence of buildings is confined to ambiguous and largely undatable traces of small rectangular foundations in circular enclosures. Early Christianity in Scotland was linked to the Welsh and other British churches in the 6th century, but dominated by Ireland and the missions of St. Columba from his visit to Iona, 563, also St. Maelrubha to Applecross, St. Moluag to Lismore, St. Donuan to Eigg.

A major gap in understanding the full cultural significance of the peninsula concerns the landscape surrounding Applecross Church and Old Graveyard which is the site of an early monastic settlement of the 7th century and a Scheduled Monument. Interpretation informed by new research and survey would aim to explain relationships within this landscape through time and between various sites.

The monastery of Applecross was founded in 673 by Maelrubha, a monk of Bangor (Co.Down), who had left Ireland two years earlier. His death in 722, and those of later abbots up to the early 9th century, are recorded in the Irish annals, and it is clear that the connection with Bangor was maintained. At the time of its foundation, however, the monastery was probably in Pictish territory, and dedications to Maelrubha are found in Easter Ross, Sutherland and the north-east as well as being widespread on the W coast and at Ashaig in Skye (Reeves, 1862).

The monastery was situated about 250m from the head of Applecross Bay, on the NW bank of the Applecross River and opposite what are now the policies of Applecross House. Watson says "*the four trees in the form of an oblong with a (supposed) crabapple in the centre was absurdly propounded as the origin of the name Applecross. This is the supposed site of Maelrubha's cell and is called 'Lagan na Comraich', 'the little hollow of the sanctuary'.*" (Watson, 1904).

This scheduled monument, situated at the east end of what is now known as Applecross village, comprises an enclosed burial ground, a comparatively modern church built around 1817 partly on the site of an older church extant until 1792, a ruined chapel or burial enclosure, and a fine incised cross-slab. The scheduled area extends 200m NE-SW by approximately 120m NW-SE and includes all of the above. The scheduling is based on a 1963 field survey that located an external oval vallum, traces of

which can be seen in the south of the burial ground running out and under the wall to the east. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted to fell the scheduled area of a timber plantation. The original plough furrows from the forestry planting are visible in the landscape and a clear embankment, rather than a vallum is visible running east to south outside the existing wall.

The district is known in Gàidhlig as a 'Chomraich, 'the Sanctuary', and the sanctuary of the monastery is said to have extended for six miles. It was marked by crosses, one of which survived at Camusterach, 4km to the south, until about 1870. The cross at Camusterrach was described as a 'rude monolith' about 2.5m high and 'showing traces of a cross on the west face' (T S Muir 1855, 32). It may be represented by a broken slab 0.4m high and 0.6m wide in a croft standing at NG 7096 4160 (NMRS database NG74SW 4).

On entry to the graveyard, stands a sculptured stone on the left, known as 'Clach Ruaridh mhoir Mhic Caoigean'. Local tradition says it formerly stood near the mouth of the river, and marked the grave of an ancient chief, Ruairidh Mor Mac Caoigen. Macrow (B G Macrow 1953) says it was moved about 1800. T S Muir 1855; W Reeves 1862, W J Watson 1904; B G Macrow 1953. Also carved fragments of a cross shaft displaying spiral, fret and interlaced ornament, were found built into the wall of the small chapel-like building to the east of the church. Reeves (W Reeves 1862) believed that it was the cross of Mac Oigi, Abbot of Bangor and formerly of Applecross, who died in 801.

The remains of the monastery established by St Maelrubha at Applecross in 673 was thought to have survived in 1963 (A C Thomas 1971) as an oval enclosure, almost ploughed out; and a low mound known as Claodh Maree was alleged to contain St Maelrubha's grave. A low curving mound in the W part of the burial-ground may represent a small enclosure described by W Reeves, who also recorded that a 'little hillock' named Claodh Maree, the supposed burial-place of the saint, lay S of the 'chapel'. The topography is thought to suggest that the modern church, built in 1817 partly on the site of an older church extant until 1792, occupies the site of the actual monastery. It has been suggested that aerial photographs indicate a larger curvilinear enclosure measuring at least 180m from NE to SW by 140m, but the area S and E of the burial-ground was planted with conifers in the 1960s and though these have now been felled, the area is covered with the remains of stumps which will take possibly 30 years to decay, unless a decision is made to chemically treat these.

Reeves (W Reeves, 1862) mentions a low nearly circular embankment, about 30' diameter internally, south of the cross (NG74NW 2) and on the opposite side of the road. It was said to be venerated and to contain human remains. Embankments near the river in the meadow below the church, were alleged to be connected with the Abbot's Mill; and a mound a short distance NE of the east boundary of the churchyard was said to have been used as an altar. He also mentions the alleged remains of St Maelrubha's tomb consisting of red granite fragments, some lying about the churchyard and others built into the manse.

MacRae (K MacRae, 42 Denny, Inverness) whose great grandfather supplied Reeves with his information states there never was anything ancient visible outwith the modern graveyard, except a pool, now drained, S of the old manse which was known as the "Pool of the Coracles". However, the north arc of the circular embankment noted by Reeves (D Reeves 1862) survives in the south corner of the modern graveyard and is shown on Thomas' plan (A C Thomas 1971).

According to MacRae this area was not venerated as stated by Reeves (W Reeves 1862), indeed the opposite as a suicide was once buried in the enclosure. MacRae thought the whole area between the east gable of the chapel (NG74NW 3) and the graveyard wall is known as Clodh Maree and there have never been burials in this traditionally venerated area. He is uncertain of the origin of the two small pillars which occur here at distances of 11.5 and 13.5m from the gable. It was in this area (some 4 to 5 yds from the gable) where he found a long cist in 1934 which he believes was Maelrubha's grave. At that time there were visible traces of three walls of a building some 10 ft wide, whose W end he believes was overlaid by the chapel. He thought it represented an oratory. There was reputed to be a film made of these excavations but this has yet to be confirmed.

MacRae says that in the area immediately SW of Clodh Maree where the most northerly of the modern graves occur, several similar, but not so well constructed, stone cists have been found over the years. One which he uncovered about 2ft down, was constructed above another at a lower level. It was in this same locality that from time to time he found five sculptured cross fragments which were preserved in the modern church although only two of them are there now, (are now in the Heritage Centre). A third preserved there, the largest of three, was discovered built into the wall of the chapel. All the fragments seemed to be from different crosses. Orig Paroch Scot 1855; W Reeves 1862; A C Thomas 1971; Information from A C Thomas to OS 26 October 1966.

Applecross Church and Old Burial Ground - Condition

A matter of priority is the condition of the church itself (B-listed) which requires a comprehensive programme of conservation works. Serious problems with water ingress were noted at east and west gables (September 2007). This matter could be addressed by immediate replacement of downpipes/guttering in order to avoid more serious damage to the interior of the church over the winter months, and would allow the interior to dry out. Otherwise it could become a bigger problem requiring greater expenditure.

Advice from John Duncan, Conservation Architect at Highland Council, suggests that listed building consent would not be required if like for like works were carried out as repairs or replacement of the rainwater goods. If these are presently cast iron in this case, cast iron would be expected as a replacement, particularly if these works were to be funded by HLF. At least two holes were visible in the roof from the interior. The windows have had to be reinforced temporarily but are clearly rotten and require replacement. The roof and internal galleries are also in need of repair.

Bat droppings were in evidence – and the presence of both pipistrelle and long-eared bats has been confirmed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) October 2007. The church is an example of a heritage site that has become a habitat for wildlife. Bats are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the 1994 Conservation Regulations. If the roost is in a structure that is not a dwelling, such as a church or a barn or a tree, then a Habitats Regulations license will be required in advance of any conservation works (see Appendix 6 for Scottish Natural Heritage advice and list of licensed bat surveyors).

Providing the downpipe and guttering work can be undertaken during the winter months when the bats are unlikely to be present and it will not result in any damage or disturbance to the roost area or loss of bat access to the roost, there is no need to apply for a licence and work can commence. Should you discover bats during the work you must stop immediately and contact SNH for further advice. Failure to do this could lead to a breach of legislation.

If work other than the installation of downpipes is proposed this winter further information will be required by SNH in order to establish the possible effects this may have on the existing bat roost and access into the roost. Prior to any works consultation with John Duncan and Historic Scotland will be required. John Duncan, Conservation Architect, Planning & Development Service, The Highland Council tel:01463702281 fax: 01463702298 e-mail: john.duncan@highland.gov.uk

The roofless, ivy-clad, building in the graveyard was possibly a chapel or burial enclosure dating from the 15th century, has suffered from severe and extensive ivy growth. Whether ivy clearance could be carried out without building collapse would need to be determined to safeguard its future and improve conservation management of the site.

THE COASTAL ISLANDS

Off the south west of the peninsula are three islands; on 'Croulin Beg' (St. Rufus' Island on Thomson's map),(J Thomson 1832) according to Reeves, there is a church of which a fragment of walling 30ft. long and 1ft. high remains. No burial ground is evident but a green patch below the site is said to have been a garden. (W Reeves 1862) Watson (W J Watson 1926) draws attention to name 'Port na h'Annaide' on Eilean Mor which suggests site of an ancient chapel and/or burial ground. W Reeves 1862; W J Watson 1926; J Thomson 1832.

There is no trace of a chapel on Eilean Beg (Croulin Beg), the only building on island being a shieling-type structure at NG 6845 3572. On Eilean Mor, however, on a small plateau 50ft above and the W of Camus na h'Annait at NG 6964 3472, there are remains of a building and enclosure similar to those described by Reeves who presumably confused the islands. Only the N side of building can be traced as an overgrown bank 10m long, 1.3m wide, and 0.3m high, through which facing stones protrude. The enclosure, to the N, consists of a bank of earth and stones. The surrounding area shows signs of cultivation with clearance heaps, etc. A township on Eilean Mor, comprising thirteen roofed buildings,

one unroofed structure and four enclosures is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire 1880, sheet cxv). Thirteen unroofed buildings and one enclosure are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971). Eilean Meadhonach contains a rockshelter and midden investigated under the Scotlands First Settlers project.

North of the Crowlin islands is Eilean na Bà (island of the cattle) and further north again is Eilean na n Naomh (island of Saints) which is reputedly where Mael Rubha and his monks first made landfall.

Opposite Shieldaig, stands Eilean Shieldaig, bought by the National Trust in 1970 as it represents a small surviving sample of the ancient Caledonian pine forest that once covered the region.

LATER HISTORIC HABITATION

A variety of settlements, shielings, and steadings which may date back to the medieval period and earlier await field investigation and desk-based research to understand their development and relationship to other settlement evidence. These represent an invaluable record of rural life during a fascinating period of change that spans the agricultural and industrial revolutions and the clearances.

It is beyond the scope of this report to undertake detailed examination of abandoned rural settlements in the area, however, it is clear from the SMR records that these remains form a significant landscape feature in the peninsula and an important heritage resource. Detailed archaeological survey and historical investigation aimed at enhancing understanding and access to this particularly rich heritage resource would be best taken forward as part of the Landscape Partnership Scheme perhaps under the auspices of Scotland's Rural past project which can assist with provision of training and equipment. <http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk>.

From the early 1200s Applecross was part of the earldom of Ross which spanned land stretching from the east to the west coast. In the fifteenth century the earldom, and Applecross, passed to the Lords of the Isles. The earls of Ross were descended from Farquhar MacTaggart, who, it is believed, was probably the 'lay abbot' of Applecross. With the forfeiture of the Lord of the Isles, Ross, including Applecross, belonged to the Crown, and there are records of crown grants of the church revenues of Applecross to various people starting in 1515 with the presentation of the chaplainry of Applecross to Sir Alexander MacLeod recorded in the Register of the Privy Seal. Little is known about the early MacKenzie lairds of Applecross, though Iain Molach MacKenzie, laird from about 1646 to 1685, is well known in oral tradition and song. The MacKenzies lost Applecross, temporarily, after the Jacobite rising of 1715 and did not join the final 1745 rebellion, even though the ship which brought Bonnie Prince Charlie to Scotland called at Applecross on its way back to France.**

* Source: Allan Gillies, Culduie, 2005 <http://www.geocities.com/bjgillies/history2.html>

The sanctity of the A'Chomraich (The Sanctuary) is thought to have been respected throughout the turbulent clan wars of the middle ages and early modern period, with the exception of one clan raid by the MacDonalds, at Toscaig in 1597. This story is told in a manuscript written by the MacKenzie laird of Applecross known as Iain Molach, in 1667. After the failure of the Jacobite rising of 1745 at the battle of Culloden, many families came to A'Chomraich seeking refuge from the Duke of Cumberland's army. When Flora MacDonald was eventually captured by the authorities she was imprisoned and questioned on board HMS Furnace, moored in Applecross Bay.

Settlements, shielings, steadings and townships

Dotted around the hill slopes can be seen the remains of *airighean* or summer shielings, and the ruins of many pre-clearance houses still remain to be seen in the landscape. The shortage of cultivable land is echoed in the presence of shieling remains above the coastlands, this seasonal transhumance took pressure off the better land.

The settlement pattern and characteristics of early dwellings show a remarkable adaptation to physical conditions. The practice of transhumance is well documented in oral tradition and probably continued until perhaps the 18th century, though the remains of shielings associated with this transhumance are poorly understood. On Skye shielings have provided dates ranging from the 12th-15th centuries and the first millennium BC (Armit, 1996).

Taigh dubh, single storey double walled thatched dwellings (known as black houses), some deserted and some ruined, can be seen. After around 1850, houses were built with single walls and were known as *taighean geal* or white houses. At Lonbain, a substantial settlement is still partly occupied and farmed and includes a thatched building which is B-listed and formerly occupied by the late Duncan Mackenzie. This building has recently come into the ownership of the National Trust and represents an opportunity for restoration, heritage interpretation and education. Stone clearance cairns are a conspicuous landscape feature of the arable enclosures at Lonbain (Stell G. and Beaton, E. 1984).

Cultivation probably extended as far N as Kalnakill though rig traces are only evident as far N as NG 690 537. The S end of the main cultivation is marked by a dyke at NG 685 522 to the S of the Ard na Claise Moire, though there are traces of cultivation extending further to the S. Situated near the high water mark directly in front of the thatched house is a kiln, at the base of the bowl shaped structure is an air vent, presumably to feed the fire that probably dried grain. A dried skin at the top of the structure would build it up beyond its present level. There is a better example of such a building at Fearnmore. Twenty-one roofed, ten unroofed buildings, four enclosures and a length of field wall are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1969).

It was previously thought that runrig dated far back into antiquity but is now considered to replace an earlier system of enclosure. The edge of uplands is a good place to find abandoned cultivation rigs. Like the pre-Clearance settlements, the rigs await detailed recording and analysis for to understand their development and relationship to other settlement evidence such as enclosures, boundaries and fieldsystems.

Agricultural changes; farms, barns and steadings

Agricultural remains form an extensive component of the archaeological record to survive in the landscape today and are responsible for shaping much of the surviving detail of earlier archaeological sites within that landscape. And yet, this category of evidence, ranging from boundaries and enclosures to cultivation remains, tends to be the least studied source of information about the past.

Tacks of the mid-18th century required tenants to enclose and sub-divide the farms for both arable and pasture, and also to maintain a boundary around their farms. Enclosure was the process whereby farmland was divided into areas, each surrounded by dykes (walls). Stone was an abundant natural resource and therefore widely used to form the enclosures by building dry-stone walls which are such a feature of the landscape. Thus it is fairly certain that some of the dykes date from that period (Barber, 2001).

Scotland's cultural landscape has been defined as having a threefold structure termed the Improved Landscape, the Ridged Landscape, and the Prehistoric Landscape, each with its own characteristics in terms of differential preservation and archaeological potential. The first element in this structure is usually made up of the walled fields, plantations and policies that came into existence with the agricultural "improvements" some two hundred years ago. This is the most complete cultural landscape that survives, recorded in close detail on early editions of Ordnance Survey maps (Halliday, 2001).

Many of the 19th century agricultural changes have left their greatest mark on the landscape particularly on the larger estates such as Applecross, evidenced in the tree planting programmes, and improved farm houses and steadings together with the stone dykes which enclose the fields and plantings.

Applecross Mains

Applecross Mains is a mid 19th century farm and associated buildings including cruck-framed ventilated stone barns. The Crac Barn had wattled and louvred openings, a pair of earlier stores known as Top Barns up on a knoll to take advantage of the drying winds are rubble-walled and were once thatched with heather. A sluice and disused saw mill are depicted on the current edition OS map, also a smithy and mill pond dam (listed). The dam and sub circular pond all stone made & lined. The mill wheel is attached to the side of mains buildings, & a channel ran from here under lane with outlet above burn. This portion under the lane was removed during laying of new pipes by Scottish Water. Remains of water mill machinery on the lane (N) side and wheel pit. Some mill wheel machinery was

retrieved from the Crait Barn site that was being re-developed and re-sited at the caravan park according to the SMR.

The distribution pattern of ventilated cruck-framed barns spreads throughout Applecross, Lochcarron, Kintail and Glenelg as well as Gairloch where they are always found in association with more prosperous holdings, the better farm or laird's estate rather than at the level of subsistence agriculture. The damp climate created a need for well ventilated barns in which to store or dry hay and unthreshed corn vital for overwintering cattle feed for livestock destined for the south where they would be taken by drovers. These 18th and 19th century barns are cruck-framed, to carry the weight of the heavy heather-thatched roof as the louvred or wattle-panelled walls providing the ventilation are barely load-bearing (Baldwin, J.R. 1994).

Long low rubble byres and barns with corrugated iron roofs replacing the original thatch, can still be seen amongcrofting settlements in the area, even wherecrofting has ceased as they provide useful stores. Aound the Applecross Mains Farm, Crac Barn in the farm square is mid-nineteenth century, a stone barn with ventilated openings. Crac otherwise "Crait" Barn complex also included a slaughter house and was the subject of alteration and conversion to social housing.

Two earlier barns, which were heather thatched, are on higher ground to catch the wind better. The heather-thatched barns are currently in a derelict condition. These buildings have significant potential for restoration – they form a significant landscape feature. Circa 1976, these were heather-thatched, and wattled ventilation panels were in place. (Baldwin, J.,1994).

A number of villages were cleared to make way for Applecross Mains Farm which was one of the very early model farms of its day. The settlement of Langwell once lay in this area, with map evidence available among the Applecross estate papers. There are a series of house remains on the ground and a double field boundary approaching from the N which was the old access track. The former populations of Borrodale, Langwell, Achachork and Keppoch were thought to be resettled in Milton and Shore Street (Dagge, C. 2004).

The proximity of a number of heritage sites, including the cleared villages, the broch at Borrodale, Applecross Mains Top Barns and the ruinous barn buildings lend an opportunity to read in the landscape the story of profound cultural, political and economic change and have potential as part of a heritage trail in the area.

The Clearances

Land has been held and utilised in complex ways throughout the centuries. Prior to the creation of crofts following the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, land tenure and settlement was characterised by the farming township, or *baile*. These housed a small community of tenant farmers and associated land holding was in many cases organised around a runrig tenure system and infield/outfield cropping,

probably introduced around the 13th century (Dodgshon, 1993; 1996) such as at Langwell, Achicork, Borrodale, and Keppoch. Some areas have a more dispersed pre-crofting pattern of settlement associated with enclosed fields (Dodgshon, 1996) and may have pre-dated the runrig system of tenure (Dodgshon, 1993; 1996).

The type of clearance that occurred in Applecross appears to have been the relocation of large numbers of people off the best land onto more marginal land although there are no written records of it. The crofting villages of Culduie, Camusterrach, Ardubh and Camustiel came into existence as a result of resettlement. This population shift dates to around 1810. Local tradition in Applecross tells us that the clearances were carried out by John MacKenzie, the seventh laird, who had been brought up in Easter Ross and learned his farming methods, and techniques of 'agricultural improvement' there.

The effects of agricultural improvements on the survival of earlier sites and the regional diversity of pre-improvement settlement in the upland areas are poorly understood. Developing our understanding of the archaeology and history of rural settlement will help to guide the future management of this resource.

The many ruins of deserted settlements are a poignant reminder of the changes in the rural landscape in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The human population was severely depleted during the clearances of the 19th century which had a great impact on the cultural landscape.

The remains of two pre-improvement settlements: Airigh-drishaig and Drairag (as recorded on John Thompson's map of 1823). The 'airigh' placename element suggests an original shieling site later permanently occupied. Both settlements appear to have been cleared by John, 6th Mackenzie laird of Applecross, and Airigh-drishaig converted to a small sheep farm of 2500 acres, with 3-4 acres of arable land. Most of the abandoned buildings of the sheepfarm and the earlier townships are recorded on the present OS map (Dagge, C. 2004).

Achichork is an example of a township cleared to make way for improved fields, with the stones from the township buildings re-used to build the field dykes. Those who didn't emigrate established villages such as Ardbain, Culduie, Ardubh and Coillieghillie on previously uncultivated land in isolated coves around the Applecross shoreline. In 1803 emigrations are recorded from Applecross to Nova Scotia in Canada, on the "Polly". Some houses in Culduie are thought locally to have been cleared as a result of disease such as typhoid or tuberculosis (pers.communication Janet MacDonald, Ragged Acre, Culduie).

The fertile lands became sheep farms, and the remains of farm steadings are visible at places such as Milton where a farmstead comprising one unroofed, one partially roofed and two roofed buildings, an enclosure and a length of field wall is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire 1880, sheet cii). Two unroofed buildings, an enclosure and a field-system are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971).

In less than two generations, the entire social map and pattern of settlement of the Highlands and Islands were transformed. The 19th century was the period when the emblematic image of the landscape in terms of planned crofting settlements emerged. The pre-existing system of joint tenancies and communal agriculture was terminated between c. 1760 and c.1860 and a strategy devoted to the formation of individual smallholdings or 'crofts' which were allocated in 'townships' or crofting settlements [Hunter, 1976]. The houses were often built as part of the dykes that divided the arable land from the common pasture.

The later historic economy of was dominated by the crofting system as well as a reliance on fishing. The village of Shieldaig was founded in 1800 to attract families to fishing and to raise and train sailors for the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. Crofting is a unique system of land tenure largely established as a result of social and political changes following the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. The manner in which the tenant works the plot of land (croft) and shares rights to common grazing with other tenants has been less detrimental to the archaeological monuments than more intensive agriculture. Crofting townships cluster on the fertile coastal soils and were central to the crofting system which relied upon communal labour and shared grazings; the remnants of this communal spirit are still felt today and represent an important cultural legacy in many parts of the Highlands and Islands.

Following the Napier Commission in 1883, the Crofters Commission was set up to see that crofters were given security of tenure, a fair deal on rents and compensation for any loss of land. The Crofters Act of 1886 gave tenants security of tenure, the right to pass on the land to heirs and to claim compensation for improvements from the landlord. As well as having the sole tenancy of the croft, the crofter usually also has a share in an area of common grazing along with the other members of the crofting community - commonly called a township.

Changes in ecclesiastical organisation, in local settlement patterns, in developments in agriculture and fishing, as well as links to the MacKenzie family are evident in many of the buildings around the village today known as Applecross, complete with Milton just to its south, which grew largely to service the needs of the Applecross Estate. Many of the buildings in this vicinity are of a traditional character meeting ecclesiastical, domestic, farming and fishing needs over three centuries or more. Some building traditions are local in origin; M-gable (Applecross House); cruck-framed barns (Applecross Mains). Other buildings such as the parish churches have Highland counterparts. At Shore Street, in what today is known as Applecross village, lies a mix of one and a half storey houses, together with single storey houses, with later added dormers and windows, many of which are listed buildings.

Later historic sites feature a range of maritime and industrial structures which highlight the importance of crofting, transport, fishing, and marine-related trade. A number of buildings are associated with the fishing industry, including an ice house. The rubble pier at Camusterrach was built in about 1800, but much of today's fishing activity takes place from the less tidally dependant slipway at Ard-dubh.

Applecross House, gardens and policies

A contrasting heritage is provided in the form of Applecross House and associated structures, the original house on the site of the present Applecross House probably dates back to 1582 and the acquisition of the Applecross lands by the Mackenzie. This may have originally been a fortified tower though by 1675 what is still the central part of the present house was built, with features of fortification. It was redesigned in c.1730-40 and the first improvements to the surrounding landscape were probably made at this time. The house was serviced entirely from the sea. An archaeological evaluation of areas of existing and proposed forestry (Dagg, C. 2004) indicates that the gardens and policies are the remnants of one of the earliest designed landscapes in Wester Ross, dating back to the beginning of the 19th century, this report examines the development of many associated landscape features on the estate and is attached for reference to Appendix 7 (Dagg, C. 2004). The village today known as Applecross, complete with Milton just to its south, grew largely to service the needs of the Estate and associated structures. Today the estate attracts visitors both with its walled garden and the garden restaurant within it.

Coastal Defence

Located in the Inner Sound at Sand, the British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre (BUTEC) was designated in the 1970s as a range for testing torpedoes and other equipment such as sonar.

Earlier in the 20th century, coastal defences were established for defence purposes associated with the Second World War, and remains of these structures are visible dotted around the Scottish coastlines. Whether there were any such defences sited in the peninsula is presently unrecorded.

There is also scope to enhance awareness and promote the maritime heritage.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Rassal

Elements of this landscape, such as the Copper Mine, are of national importance as indicated by scheduled monument protection. Other features such as the possible roundhouse or the house sites to the north of the wood (and also perhaps connected with the copper workings) are of significance. The retention of the open areas of the woodland as areas of wood pasture is also a significant part of this historic landscape. Set in their historical context, these are of significant cultural importance.

Rassal has been the subject of a Council for Scottish Archaeology case study: Rassal NNR Wester Ross, Nature Conservation management in a Historic Landscape. According to this report the copper

mine at Rassall was first mentioned in 1767 and closed soon afterwards because of ore transportation problems. However, a leasing Mineralogist, Williams in 1810, described it as the '*best copper ore he had ever seen*' suggesting it was still being worked into the 19th century. Examination of the mine suggests it is more likely to have been abandoned due to flooding and the direction of the lode. A processing area has been exposed by erosion to the south close to a longhouse building and these lie with the mine in an area protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The placename Rassal is thought to be of Norse origin. A group of four buildings, unmarked on the 1st edition map survey lie just north of the enclosed woodland. The woodland itself has traces of a dyke surrounding it suggesting grazing was restricted in this area. Though woodland is shown here on the Roy map of c1750, Peterken recognised that the current trees were unlikely to originate in closed canopy woodlands. It is suggested that these ash trees are a small relict survival of the 18th century woodland policies, a colonising group from the Alt Mor gorge woodland to the east or even a deliberately planted group, perhaps connected with the exploitation of the copper mine. The crucial factor in their survival seems to be the dyke defining the eastern edge of the wood.

Kishorn Yard

A key industrial site in the exploitation of North Sea oil lies just at the entrance to the Applecross Peninsula. The Kishorn Yard was a fabrication yard for oil platforms. The yard was owned by Howard Doris and was operating from 1975 to 1987. Commercial activity at Loch Kishorn began in the 1970s when the North Sea oil industry commenced. This is a significant industrial site, comprising a construction yard and dock for the production of oil platforms. A two mile stretch of road was built to provide access in just 12 days - by 1977 over 3,000 people were working here. The Ninian Central Platform still holds the record as the largest movable object ever created. This weighed 600,000 tonnes and required seven tugs to tow it to its location in the North Sea, where it still operates today. A decline in oil production during the early 1980's forced closure of the Kishorn Yard in 1987 and clearance of most of the buildings on the site by 1990. Later, in 1992, the dry dock was utilised in the construction of the bridge footings for the Isle of Skye bridge.

Gàidhlig culture and language

The more recent history of the area has been influenced by the clan system. Language and landscape are intimately linked. Language is a means to perceive less tangible heritage, from Norse – Gàidhlig place names as well as through oral traditions. The Gàidhlig culture is in danger of becoming a more intangible aspect of the cultural heritage of the region though a unique cultural identity is still evident, shaped by generations of historic, social, political and cultural factors. Aspects of local culture are still linked closely with the physical environment and geography of the area, the crofting system and, the Gàidhlig language.

While over the last 100 years there have been declines in population all over Highland region, with whole communities disappearing almost entirely, this has an adverse impact on population structure, community well being and social fabric. However, the Applecross area has more recently enjoyed

reasonable rates of in-migration. Much people still live in close proximity to the coast and its in-shore waters. Important local industries include tourism.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Our present knowledge of Applecross heritage, relies in part on the actions and interests of previous and recent generations of antiquarians, historians and archaeologists. Even though Applecross has not been the subject of so much attention by archaeologists, perhaps partly because of less archaeological visibility and higher proportions of buried structures, nonetheless, particular period interests, and broader research agendas as well as personal and professional interests, have all helped influence and establish our present knowledge.

The Applecross Historical Society was established in 1998 by a group of local people who were conscious that the historical, religious and cultural background of this unique and isolated Highland community was in danger of being lost in a rapidly changing world. The Historical Society has been supported by Applecross Trust, Leader II, Ross and Cromarty Enterprise and Highland Council in their aim to create a permanent record of Applecross from prehistory through to the recent and 21st century crofting and fishing community. A derelict building has been renovated to provide a location for the display of records and artefacts and functions as the Applecross Heritage Centre. The proximity of the Heritage Centre to Applecross Church and Old Burial Ground forms a meeting place of past and present, and is an important place both for commemorating and remembering the communities of the past but also reinforcing those of the present. In addition to the display panels which take the visitor through Applecross history, there are models, artefacts, and a computer available for visitors to access. The computer contains further historical and genealogical information about Applecross, old photographs and details of local accommodation. A limited amount of available material has been digitised. The community and visitors to the area would benefit from the centre's further development. In consultation with Alasdair MacCowan, Chair of Applecross Historical Society, some of the Society's potential projects have been discussed and drawn together later in this report in the section on Heritage Development Proposals. The Society has clear aims and objectives about the future directions of the Heritage Centre but lacks the necessary resources to develop these.

Channel 4 TV's Time Team, carried out an investigation of the site known as Applecross broch at Borrodale, in 2005. Applecross Archaeology Society was set up to discover more about the site and applied for a HLF Awards for All grant to continue the work by removing earth from the broch and identifying its chambers and passages. The Awards for All grant is to continue the archaeological project started by Channel 4's Time Team programme. The archaeology group promote the engagement of all community members in archaeological fieldwork on the broch site. A HLF grant of £10,000 in 2006 was to "contribute towards expert staff, specialist equipment, digging equipment, signage, reports and fencing". The archaeology society has a collection of field survey data that is currently not publicly accessible (pers. communication Nick Goldthorpe) and would benefit from being so.

PRESENT DAY HABITATION

The Crofting System

The remnants of the communal spirit associated with crofting and the emblematic image of the landscape as a system of planned crofting settlements represent an important cultural legacy. The rights of crofters to secure tenancies were extended in the early 20th century. During the mid 20th century, people continued to inhabit black houses though increasingly they were abandoned or were deemed unfit for human habitation by mid-20th century standards. A recent trend has begun to emerge in the Highland and Islands of traditional buildings and traditional construction techniques in the guise of contemporary designs in some instances. People still have croft tenancies, and manage livestock, though cultivation has declined and large areas are given over to deer. Tourism is an essential element of the local economy. Recent times have seen a strengthening of local democratic structures (Community Council's etc being formed). Since the turn of the millennium, wider political changes in Scotland such as the implications of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) are beginning to be felt on the landscape of certain crofting communities of the Highlands and Islands.

Applecross Estate

Although the area has changed hands a number of times since the early 20th century, the Applecross Estate has remained in single ownership. The Applecross Trust has responsibility for some 70,000 acres of Wester Ross covering much of the Applecross Peninsula and known as the Applecross Estate.

The Applecross Trust was first set up as a Scottish Charity by the owners of the Estate in 1975, following the Anglo-French Howard Doris Consortium's choice of Loch Kishorn as the location to build the world's largest concrete structure - the production platform for the Ninian Central oil field in the North Sea. What is distinctive about the estate is that the owners subsequently gifted the whole of the Estate to the Trust. It has been in the ownership of the same family since 1920 and have been run as a charitable trust since 1968. In keeping with many parts of the Highlands of Scotland, the role of the estate in relation to the local community has diminished. Up to 1938 as many as 50 people were

employed between the house, estate and dairy farm whereas today there are few employees. However, the establishment of a charitable trust has created a stronger link between the estate and the local community. The Trust has repaired and restored many of the buildings in its care at the centre of the Estate. It has also engaged in consultation on the future use and conservation of others of historic importance, including Clachan Church which marks the site of St Maelrubha's ancient monastery dating back to the year 673AD. The Trust has also been the impetus behind the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Bid.

Applecross, like many areas of the Highlands and Islands, differs from other rural areas in that access to the agricultural sector is somewhat limited by estate management and crofting and this is perceptible in the landscape. Regulations are in place to ensure local people retain control over the latter, though how effectively this is enforced is unclear as a market for croftland is increasingly apparent all over the Highlands and Islands. Applecross has seen considerable in-migration in the late 20th century and shows no sign of decline. The relative isolation of the peninsula is one incentive for people to either build or buy holiday homes in the area or settle long term. In common with other rural areas there is pressure on availability of affordable housing. In-migration can spur an increased interest in traditional culture, local history and local ways all of which are bound up with personal history, identity and collective life. The terms 'locals' and 'settlers' can conjure up stereotypes however, in keeping with other rural areas there is a sense of *a scale of localness* that forms a part of social and cultural identity in 21st century Applecross.

Over and above any differences, the term *local* can conjure up several meanings; from feeling rooted in a place, or an identity derived from a sense of kinship and belonging, or a sense of antiquity/continuity through time (MacLeod and Payne, in Baldwin, 1994).

Without this sense of past collective life and with the decline of first-hand knowledge of particular local ways of life, in turn this means that the heritage of Applecross in its many forms, its archaeology, built heritage, and oral heritage is increasing in importance as a resource with which to sustain that sense of identity and sense of place for all its people.

As with many important resources, heritage in particular is open to contestation and the process of defining heritage identity and interpretation often re-articulates as questions over politics and ownership. Such a context is often germane to the development of heritage. Placing local knowledge at the centre of heritage initiatives is thus the key to their sustainability, authenticity, and success.

4. Potential Opportunities For Heritage Development

Identification of potential sites and opportunities for heritage development and community involvement including training, access and education.

Introduction

The peninsula is a landscape of exceptional heritage diversity ranging over several millennia defined by its dynamic relationship with the sea, its geodiversity, and cultural roots. The overall purpose of the heritage development programme is to promote improved understanding, conservation management and enjoyment of the landscape heritage, which has been rather neglected until now – this will ultimately provide a valuable asset to Applecross communities.

The heritage development programme will help to define the special qualities of the landscape which may in future help to underpin a landscape strategy. It would establish a baseline for assessing impacts on the historic environment, and will ultimately assist with setting and monitoring conservation policies and actions. It will also provide an opportunity for communities to draw upon these combined unique resources to trace the nature and character of the landscape from its beginnings to the present day.

There is an abundance of sites, monuments and landscapes which are currently poorly understood and for which there are few records and little documentation, due to lack of local resources to carry this work out. What is clear is that there is a wealth of natural and cultural heritage reflecting changes in the wider natural environment and climate, economy, culture and social organisation, that all link together to form a unique resource.

Aims of the heritage programme

The programme will aim to deliver a series of projects to: assess the diversity and condition of Applecross heritage; arrange conservation projects; deliver training and educational packages; prepare methods to increase access to and understanding of the heritage in its landscape context; prepare interpretation materials and engage with local communities.

Heritage development projects will aim to include conservation, education opportunities, public access, survey, documentary research, place-name analysis and collection of oral traditions. Local knowledge and the oral heritage tradition is itself part of one of the more intangible aspects of Applecross heritage, it transmits significant heritage-related information which often perceives past and present landscapes as one continuum and offers a different perspective on the past.

Objectives

The programme will seek to:

1. Lay a baseline on which to build an understanding of the Applecross landscape, and the sites and monuments it may contain, in its local, regional, national, and international setting, highlighting conservation issues where applicable. Archaeological field assessment is a critical part of this work. Assessment will involve an integrated approach to landscape evolution. Address key HLF criteria: *encouraging more people to access, learn about, become involved in and make decisions on their landscape heritage.*

2. Select a core sample of sites, monuments and landscapes, addressing their conservation needs, access and interpretation options. Training in the skills required for each aspect of the conservation and interpretation process will be available to local people. Address key HLF criteria: *conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape.*

3. Prepare a development and learning programme with interpretation and educational benefits; public talks, guided walks, leaflets, multimedia, audio trail, training packages, craft entrepreneurship and non-intrusive forms of visitor interpretation. Develop and promote a network of heritage trails within these localities which will aim to make this hidden landscape accessible.

Work with local communities including businesses and public bodies to improve understanding of heritage diversity and conservation needs. Develop story lines and interpretative themes in consultation with local communities. Link craft entrepreneurship within the heritage development programme, for example, where consolidation and interpretation is required, training placements can be sequenced where appropriate.

Address key HLF criteria: *improving understanding of local craft and other skills by providing training opportunities.*

Outcomes

- Comprehensive reports, data, photographs, databases, on the significance, diversity and condition of Applecross heritage.
- Conservation of key heritage sites to safeguard their survival for the future.
- Displays, interpretation materials, and web-based media communicating heritage significance in its environmental, cultural and landscape context.
- Education and training skills and benefits.
- Integrated natural and cultural heritage tourism development.
- Improved access to Applecross heritage.

Summary

The objective would involve encouraging local communities to have a role in how their own areas should be interpreted to visitors through involvement of as many people as possible. In view of the many locations of interest and different points and levels of access and interest, a useful framework may involve adopting a 'dispersed' approach to interpretive planning.

The complexity of interpreting physical and social landscapes sometimes leads to simplification and in some cases, distortion. Interpretive messages would need to avoid creating places that are isolated from their 'real' physical and cultural surroundings.

One option might adopt an overall interpretive strategy to coordinate a series of peninsula-wide initiatives. Selecting key sites to reveal *how* and *why* a place, a site, a building, a habitat, is significant within the landscape as well as encouraging people to make connections between the various themes is the key. This strategy will depend on synchronising various strands and projects within the programme and will require significant networking, integration and partnership efforts.

Perhaps one of the most exciting 'potentials' of interpretation identified by Bramwell and Lane (1993) is the capability of interpretation to encourage a community to rediscover its heritage, increase a sense of 'ownership' of their locality and celebrate and share its past and present heritage with those who visit. This might best be encouraged in Applecross through the development of a number of low key, dispersed interpretive mechanisms involving local communities and located within communities rather than a single facility that may remain isolated from the local community and unused. It was noted earlier in the report that the Heritage Centre forms a meeting place of past and present, and is an important place both for commemorating and remembering the communities of the past as well as reinforcing those of the present, thus the work of the Heritage Centre should continue to be supported to further develop and form a key focus for heritage interpretation and as a learning environment on the peninsula. Capacity of, and availability of space within the Centre will benefit from assessment at the development stage of the bid, in order to identify what issues will be crucial to facilitate heritage development.

In adopting a suitable interpretation strategy, it is important that interpretation respects for example the *sanctity* of those elements in associated with religious sites such as churches and burial grounds and preserves these *intangible* aspects of their heritage. Sensitive interpretation involves recognizing places of worship and of burial as a focus for the living, some burial grounds were still in use until very recently visitors often include relatives visiting or tending graves, and living descendants of previous generations.

General recommendations

1. Establish eligibility of sites/buildings that would benefit from conservation works, for Historic Scotland grants.
2. Prepare an application to Historic Scotland for Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings Grants to assist with funding the conservation aspects. This should be put in place in advance of the HLF bid submission.
<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/grants.pdf>
<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/grants/buildingrepairgrants.htm>
(see Appendix 5 for further information).
3. At present there is a skills gap in Scotland concerning traditional thatching (pers.communication, Laura Hindmarch, Historic Scotland).

This skills gap could be seen as an opportunity to offer training or apprenticeships providing there is enough local interest and support. There may be scope for a partnership with the National Trust in relation to re-thatching the black house at Lonbain which has just recently come into the National Trust's ownership. Other opportunities which would be worth exploring concern what were heather-thatched barns in need of restoration at Applecross Mains.

This would be an opportunity to address capacity in traditional building skills and the future of thatching in Scotland - creating a sustainable living from this type of work would be a challenge and careful thought would require to be develop a training package or entrepreneurship which would equip the apprentice with a range of traditional building skills.

For information on available training in **traditional building skills** you should contact David Mitchell on david.mitchell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or 0131 668 8929. He is part of Historic Scotland Conservation Bureau.

For information on **historic building repair grants** you should contact Iain Anderson at Iain.Anderson2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

A link is attached to Historic Scotland's ancient monuments grant's leaflet on the web - <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/grants.pdf> and also a link to Historic Scotland's historic building repair grants - <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/grants/buildingrepairgrants.htm> and Places of Worship Repair Grants <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/grants/worshipgrants.htm> or see **Appendix 5** for Historic Scotland's Grants Sheets.

For information about **Thatching Grants** you should contact John Duncan of Highland Council. John.Duncan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk T. 01463 702281. Or if he is not available then try Ian.Walker3@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or Roger.Curtis@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

<i>Project title</i>	<i>Applecross Church and Old Burial Ground</i>
Project Purpose	<p>1.To conserve and protect one of the district’s major heritage assets by a programme of conservation works to the church and its setting, as well as investigation, interpretation, conservation and protection of the landscape in which it is placed.</p> <p>2. Offer training in the skills required for each aspect of the process above</p> <p>3. Curator post (s) and stonemason entrepreneurship to support delivery of work</p> <p>4. Obtain consultants’ recommendations about the scale of urgent conservation and development work required, and priority areas.</p> <p>5. Conserve a bat habitat within the church</p> <p>6. Conserve and protect a 15th century chapel/burial aisle within the graveyard.</p>
Project Description	<p>7. The scheduled area comprises an enclosed burial ground, a comparatively modern church, a ruined chapel, and a fine incised cross. The site is a key cultural heritage monument of the peninsula, a scheduled ancient monument and is evidence of the significance of Applecross during the early Christian period. The church building is in a poor state of repair, and suffering from water penetration. It is suggested the following actions will help protect the future of this heritage:</p> <p>8. The focus of works should be on conservation and consolidation of the church itself</p> <p>9. Assess and undertake consolidation measures to prevent further deterioration Key areas so far identified as requiring attention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dampness and water ingress • deterioration of window frames <p>10. Any conservation works will need to take account of the bat colony within the church which are protected species (pipistrelle and long-eared bats)</p> <p>11. Interpretation informed by new research and survey would aim to explain the relationships within different sites at the site through time and between other sites. Consolidation and interpretation focused on the church and burial ground would preferably form part of a coordinated strategy of investigation and interpretation encompassing broad themes and with the ability to articulate the stories of both the tangible and intangible historic heritage in an environmental context.</p>

	<p>12. Any investigative archaeological works will require to have a clear purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the outset there should be a re-analysis of any previous work including investigations that have taken place in and around the church and the surrounding locality as well as any records of wider landscape survey • A full topographical survey will be of use • Interpretation and any necessary consolidation of burial ground features, boundary walls, medieval stone sculpture
	<p>13. There is a lack of public toilet facilities throughout the peninsula.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic visitor facilities such as signage, interpretation, public WCs should be available at an obvious visitor stop such as the Heritage Centre car park. • Public toilets are also required to support visitor access to the Heritage Centre and Church. Planning permission was passed for these however; funding will be required for construction and an agreement put in place on maintenance or cost of maintenance. Without these basic facilities it is difficult to increase public access to the heritage and interpretation facilities contained within the Heritage Centre and burial ground. • Restoration and repair work will enable more potential for the Church to be utilized more often as a community resource, for religious ceremonies, and for example as a meeting venue and perhaps to support musical performances – its use might also be considered to extend to display temporary exhibitions related to ongoing research, conservation works or regeneration in the area of the Sanctuary, and the wider peninsula – a present day sanctuary for contemplation of the area’s past and future. • Exploring this capability for local use will help the building extend its life and enhance its role in the wider community.
	<p>14. Offer training in the skills required for each aspect of the processes above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonemason entrepreneurship to support delivery of work • Provide access to skilled curators, conservators and archivists to structure collections management in the Heritage Centre to professional standards. This could be achieved by: a curator in post at the Applecross Heritage Centre to support research, digitisation, survey, conservation, and interpretation aspects and facilitate outreach work developing public access to local heritage within schools, community groups etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainee curator – apprenticeship to equip a local person with necessary research, survey, conservation and archival skills to support and sustain the work above
	<p>15. There is an opportunity to present the sacred and spiritual aspects of cultural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation on site and also part of wider historic trail. • Ensure the full story of the site and stone is told in a way that adds value to the site and creates links with the landscape and with sites further afield for example sites connected with early Christianity and Maelrubha both in Scotland and Ireland.
	<p>16. The church is an example of a heritage site that has become a habitat for bats – an example of the co-existence of humans and nature. This situation has potential for joint partnership and educational/sustainable conservation opportunities with SNH.</p>
Recommendations	<p>17. Prepare an application to Historic Scotland for Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings Grants to assist with the conservation aspects (see Appendix 4 for further information on grants). Consult with SNH on the bat aspects.</p>
Project Costs	[TBC]
Project Partners	Applecross Historical Society, Applecross Trust, Highland Council, Historic Scotland (TBC), Scottish Natural Heritage
Outputs	<p>18. Enhanced conservation and understanding of one of the area’s historic sacred sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and heritage skills dividend provided by training. • Interpretation as part of heritage/medieval art/carved stone trail • Sustainable conservation of both a heritage site and a habitat for bats. <p>19. See Appendix 6 for Scottish Natural Heritage report and advice on bats in the church.</p>

Project Title	Network of Heritage Trails
Project Purpose	Develop and promote a network of heritage trails within particular localities of heritage significance to make hidden landscapes accessible by means of non-intrusive forms of visitor interpretation (guided walks; public talks; leaflets; displays; website; audio/multimedia; develop interpretation in consultation with local communities

Project Title	Heritage Centre Feasibility Study
Project Purpose	Assess the space, facilities and services the heritage centre needs to develop and expand its remit, expertise and resources

Project Title	Digitisation of Applecross Historical Society Archives
Project Purpose	To create an accessible digital archive of local heritage
	Development phase required: Scope existing data – feasibility study for expansion of existing resources

Project Title	Placenames Project: Applecross Historical Society
Project Purpose	To further develop the placename research project

Project Title	Genealogy Services Development: Applecross Historical Society
Project Purpose	To further develop genealogical research services

Project Title	A'Chomraich Monastic Settlement Project
Project Purpose	To investigate the monastic settlement and area known as the Sanctuary of Applecross
Development phase required	The presence of old tree roots would require to be dealt with prior to any field investigations of the monastic settlement – if left to naturally decay, it could take approx. 30 years for these to cease to be an obstruction.

Project Title	Applecross Old Churchyard Project
Project Purpose	To map monuments, memorial markers and features within the old churchyard

Project Title	Applecross Rural Past Project
Project Purpose	To record and map rural settlement and provide training
	Several thousand abandoned rural settlements and farmsteads across Scotland have been recorded and mapped by RCAHMS but they have not yet been

	<p>surveyed in any detail. Taken together, these represent an invaluable record of Scottish rural life during a fascinating period of change that spans the agricultural and industrial revolutions and the clearances.</p> <p>There is a need for local field survey training and equipment to build local capacity for recording heritage in Applecross. An initiative named Scotland's Rural Past set up to equip local heritage groups with skills and survey equipment is worth investigating as a suitable resource to help facilitate field survey work across the peninsula. Scotland's Rural Past, http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk/</p>
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Project Title	Bealach nam Bó/Bealach na Bà revetment restoration
Project Purpose	The Bealach nam Bó was originally a drove road and is the finest example of drystone revetment walling in Scotland, it requires a programme of conservation works to restore and consolidate the parapets (Alasdair MacCowan, pers. communication).

Project Title	Applecross "Top Barns" restoration
Project Purpose	To restore 2 ruinous buildings, provide training opportunities in traditional local building skills, and explore the potential uses of the buildings in a heritage context, and as part of a heritage trail

Project Title	Applecross Mains Farm Feasibility study
Project Purpose	To restore and create educational and training opportunities centred on heritage assets around Applecross Mains Farm
Development phase required	Feasibility study to develop heritage assets in the vicinity of Applecross Mains Farm

Project Title	Walled Garden, restoration of greenhouses
Project Purpose	To restore semi-ruinous buildings to original function

Project Title	Lonbain thatched cottage
Project Purpose	To restore building and offer training and education opportunities in traditional building techniques including thatching, a traditional skill which is suffering a national shortage of skilled workers

Project Title	Oral heritage project
Project Purpose	To collect disappearing local knowledge, customs, traditions, songs, aspects of Gàidhlig culture and heritage, with the aim of transferring this to digital collections within the Applecross Heritage Centre and making it more widely accessible via national digital collections

Project title	Applecross Broch
Project Purpose:	<p>1. Investigation and/or consolidation, interpretation and public presentation of a ruinous building.</p> <p>2. Offer training in the skills required for each aspect of the process above Potential to develop stonemason entrepreneurship to support delivery of work (supported by HS)</p>
	<p>3. To assess and undertake consolidation measures to conserve the remains of the building known at the site of Applecross Broch. Also to facilitate public access to the site by means of interpretation and public presentation. Any works to the structure will require consultation with the local authority. The maintenance of the site once consolidated and publicly accessible will require a long term management plan. This monument could be suggested to CSA as a candidate for the Scottish Archaeology Councils project 'adopt a monument' scheme. My understanding is that an agreement is in place for Applecross Heritage Centre to interpret and display material from the Applecross broch.</p>
	<p>4. The broch appears to be set in a complex concentration of heritage sites which justify unravelling for interpretation and understanding of landscape change. Interpretation informed by new research and field survey could help to explain the relationships within different sites through time and between sites.</p>
	<p>5. This consolidation and interpretation proposal would preferably form part of a coordinated strategy of interpretation encompassing broad themes and with the ability to articulate the stories of the tangible and intangible historic heritage of the area in an environmental context.</p>
Development stage required 2008	<p>6. Full permission and support of both the landowner and local archaeology society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority and Historic Scotland should be consulted and informed of any planned works Engagement of local community and community groups & preparation/consultation on likely training opportunities. • Completion of archaeological investigation is required well in advance of proposed consolidation works. This may involve full or partial excavation to expose the building structure, comprehensive survey, plan and photographic records of the standing building and buried features, supplemented by research and geophysics. Highland Council have advised excavation as far as the most recent Iron Age occupation layer (pers. communication Nick Goldthorpe - TBC) • Assessment of local capacity for display and storage of artefacts/excavation archives – feasibility study needed

	<p>7. A best practice approach would encompass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk based survey and site survey – to evaluate & supplement archaeological work previously undertaken outwith the LP objectives. • Engage with British Geological Survey to provide data on geodiversity aspects of site in its landscape context, also on stone used in construction. • Engage with ecologists to provide data on ecology of site in its landscape context and awareness of ecological sensitivity. • Structural and Building Survey and recommendations for consolidation
Access	<p>8. At present access is via a field adjacent to the campsite. Vehicle access is to be discouraged, and visitor access will require to be managed</p>
Parking	<p>9. Car parking may be available at the campsite but this is limited and would require consultation with the proprietor</p>
Project Costs	<p>?</p>
Potential project partners	<p>Applecross Archaeology Society, Applecross Historical Society, Historic Scotland, Highland Council, Council for Scottish Archaeology</p>
Outputs	<p>10. The above proposals will allow greater understanding of the use of the historic landscape as it changed through time. As they include consolidation of a recognisable set of ruins there will be significant conservation benefits in the form of physical stabilization of the site and its integrity in the landscape, as well as provision of a community-based training package. Interpretation will highlight the archaeology and natural history/biodiversity of the site and area.</p> <p>11. The project will also allow a focus on re-use of ancient sites and enhanced understanding of one of the peninsula's many historic centres, which have little or no facilities for interpretation. There is potential to link other early sites as part of a themed heritage trail.</p>

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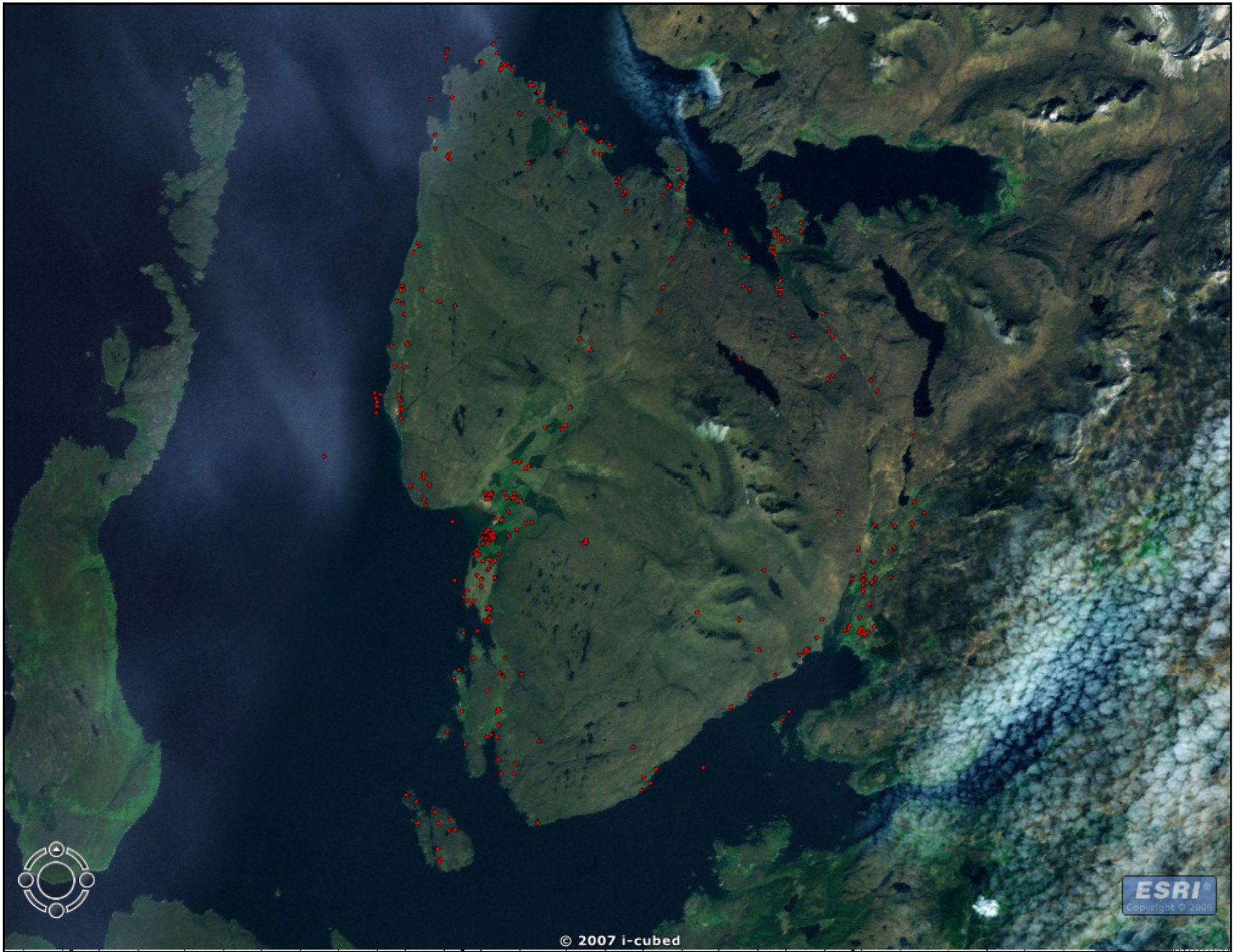
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