

*Beauly
in
Bloom
1995*

Beaully... floral gem in the Highlands.

Beaully is a floral gem in the Highlands, appreciated by both residents and visitors alike, with its designation as an area of outstanding conservational value as well as natural beauty. It is a village with a rich and interesting history, attracting visitors from all around.

Overlooking the centre of the village is the remains of Beaully Priory, founded in 1230, and later became the burial place of the Mackenzies of Kintail. In 1571 there were four monks and a Prior in the house but by 1633 the church was 'wholly decayed'.

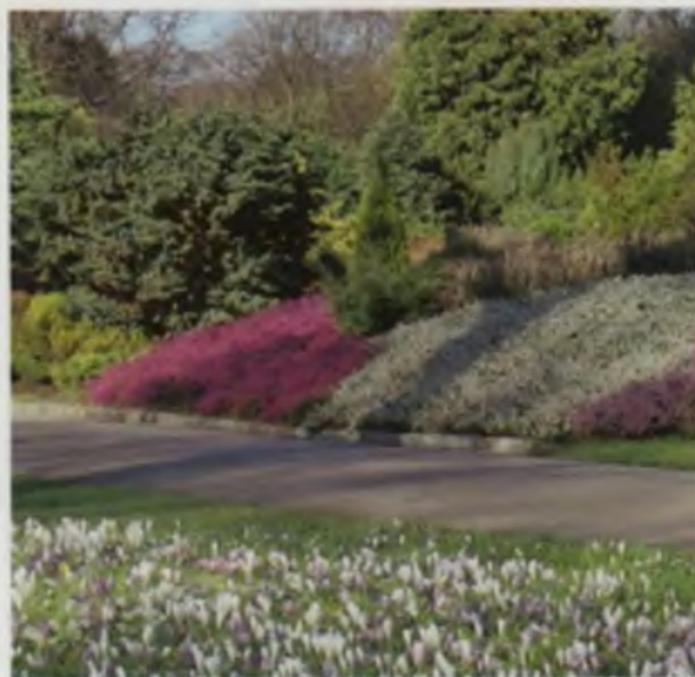


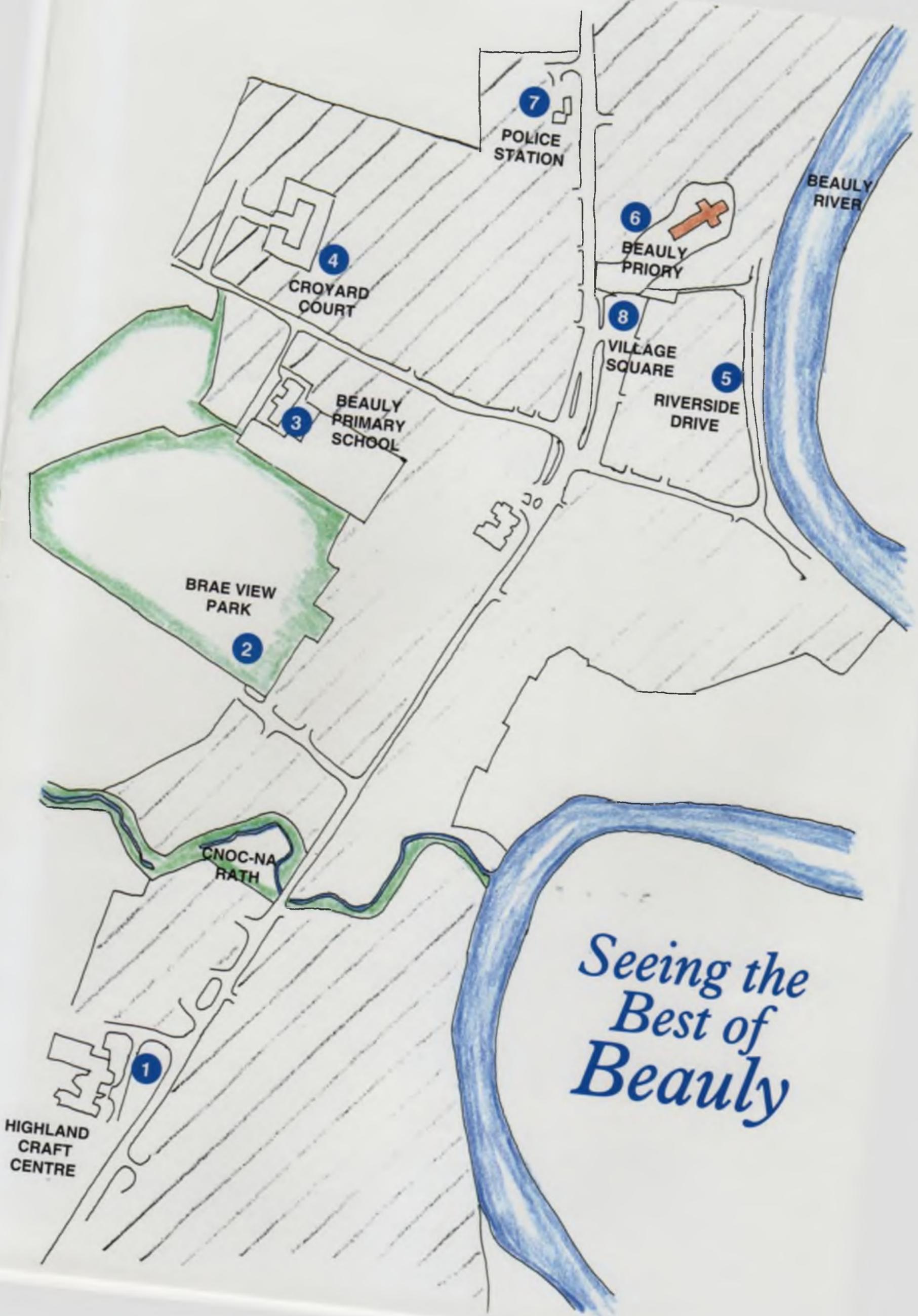
It was said that Cromwell demolished the building to provide materials for his fort in Inverness. In 1901 the North Transept was restored and the ruin is now maintained by Historic Scotland.

Gaelic Name (*Manachain*): 'Place of the Monks'.

The monks called it 'Bellu Loas' (*Beautiful Place*): 'Beau Lieu'.

Beaully originally had a harbour which was built by the monks. It was used until World War I and exported farm produce, while importing coal and lime.





7
POLICE
STATION

4
CROYARD
COURT

6
BEAULY
PRIORY

3
BEAULY
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

8
VILLAGE
SQUARE

5
RIVERSIDE
DRIVE

2
BRAE VIEW
PARK

CNOC-NA
RATH

1
HIGHLAND
CRAFT
CENTRE

BEAULY
RIVER

*Seeing the
Best of
Beaulieu*

Entering Beaulieu from Inverness the first building on the left side of the road is the Highland Craft Centre¹ (see map).

From here it is a short stroll to Braeview Park², a main centre for sports and play surrounded at all access points by beautiful gardens and floral displays.

Adjacent to the playing field on the other side is Beaulieu Primary School³, whose commitment to environmental themes as well as the village's floral initiatives can be clearly seen with their own display.

Beyond this road are the remains of Beaulieu Priory⁶, on the way to the Police Station⁷, where a great effort has been made to make this a welcoming place to visit for help and assistance.

The route retraces its steps to the village square⁸ to visit the three dimensional floral model of the Monk, a major fund raiser in Beaulieu and the new fountain feature by the MercatCross.

From here there is a variety of establishments where one can round off a visit with some light refreshment.



Opposite the school playground is the entrance to Croyard Court⁴, a sheltered housing development, designed and built by the District Council and containing both raised beds and ornamental statuary in a peaceful setting.

Leaving Croyard Court it is a short walk down to Riverside Drive⁵. This is a pleasant road adjacent to the river and contains several fine gardens and floral displays which complement the public floral displays in the area.



The village of Beaully is first recorded around 1420 with the setting up of the Mercat (Market) Cross. In 1813 road communications were improved by George Burn, one of Telford's engineers, when he built the Lovat Bridge.

The village was improved in the 1840s by Thomas Fraser of Strichen who laid out the wide market square with streets in a grid pattern. The village was becoming an important staging post in the Highlands, heightened by the opening of the railway link from Inverness to Dingwall, which passed through Beaully.

In 1900 Lord Lovat raised the Lovat Scouts to fight in the Boer War. With the skill of the Highlanders at spying, stalking and shooting, he thought they could defeat the Boers at their own game. The Lovat Scout War Memorial was erected in the 1900s to commemorate those lost in the Boer War. This was paid for by funds raised by the local community and has recently been restored to its former glory.



Beauly... an area of outstanding beauty.

Beauly as a community has for several years been committed to enhancing and improving its green and managed environment.

This can be seen by the dedication of its watering team whose numbers have risen from 24 in 1993 to 42 this year and whose members come from all sectors of the community.

Situated at the mouth of the Beauly Firth, and despite being only six degrees south of the Arctic Circle, Beauly has always taken a pride in the green and floral environment of the village.

With a population of 1802, Beauly consistently demonstrates its commitment to the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom and the Britain in Bloom initiatives, with a list of achievements to its credit.

The Building of the Kessock Bridge by-passed the village, causing concern to the residents over the loss of their livelihoods, but this has been overcome by the Beauly in Bloom initiative, a community-led project, which has enabled economic regeneration of the village.



The Community Council have been well aided by the whole community, both financially and with practical help in watering and upkeep of the plants around the village. As the village has been designated an area of outstanding conservational value and natural beauty, the villagers feel that the flowers are a natural extension to the area's attraction.

The village is a 'floral gem' in an area of outstanding natural beauty, and will continue to blossom with the support of the local community and tourists who visit the area.

