

## Remembering Knockbain Parish Heritage



In 2014 people met to explore the heritage of Knockbain Parish on the Black Isle through courses, fieldtrips and sharing memories. In a short period of time, a great deal of information was collected about places in this often overlooked area of the Black Isle. The information in this document was collected during indoor sessions drawing on old maps and photographs, during walks to Munloch, Kilmuir, Easter Suddie and Belmaduthy, and on visits to Highland Archives and Groam House Museum.

Many of the sites are long forgotten, and some are deteriorating. The information has also been submitted to the Highland Council Historical Environment Record (the HER; [her.highland.gov.uk](http://her.highland.gov.uk)), the database of all known heritage in the Highlands, and will lead to the creation of 70 new records. Later it will be submitted to Canmore, the Scottish database of heritage ([canmore.rcahms.gov.uk](http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk)). The group has also produced a walking leaflet for Munloch Village, available locally. There is still more to learn, and further research and sessions to collect memories would expand this picture.

The project was organised by Knockbain Community Council with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Highland Council. Courses and fieldtrips were led by Susan Kruse of ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands). We would also like to thank the Highland Archives, Groam House Museum and the Taylor family. But most of all, thanks to the many people who contributed information, either during the sessions or even as we were passing their houses.



### Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record

| No. | Site name/<br>location | Site Type | NGR   | HER No.  | CANMORE | Condition                  | Description and comments  | Name of contributor   |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|---|----------|---------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 3   | Mill pond (upper)      | MILL POND | NH<br>64747<br>53243                            | MHG52526 | -       | Gone;<br>now a car<br>park | The mill pond was a much-loved feature in the village, known locally as the dam. Swans used to swim in it. Cars were known to have skidded into it coming down from the station on icy days. It was drained - possibly in the 1970s. It is now a car park.  | Joy Cossar<br><br>Alasdair<br>Cameron   |
| 9   | Mill pond (lower)      | MILL POND | NH<br>64754<br>53151<br>to NH<br>64816<br>53171 | -        | -       | Gone                       | A second mill pond is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, connected to top pond (MHG52526), with a sluice heading towards the bay. The sluice was also fed by a burn.   | discussion<br>based on OS 1 <sup>st</sup><br>edition maps   |
| 7   | Munlochy mill          | MILL      | NH<br>6472<br>5320                              | MHG23812 | 112254  | Extant                     | The present buildings were reputedly built in two parts, with the building to the southeast, having the waterwheel, said to be the older. The building to the northwest, with the marriage stone, is said to be the later. The marriage stone records the date 1740, with the initials D MK to the left and E MK to the right. The mill house was working when Joy Cossar was young, when it was run by Hendersons, who lived in Mill House across from the mill. It stopped being a mill when he retired - c. 1960s. The mill had a good reputation, supplying meal to Henderson's in Dingwall. Part of the sluice and race are still there, as well as some of the equipment. The Paul family had the mill until recently and were driving the bruiser with the tractor belt pulley. Records from James Reid, Millwright, Dingwall, record repairs to the millstone drive spindle for James Fraser in 1924 (cost: £1-15). In 1926 he got 36 buckets replaced on this waterwheel.<br><br>The area to the southeast of the mill had a circus and other activities occasionally. | Gary Johnston<br>Alasdair<br>Cameron<br><br>Joy Cossar<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Participants on<br>public walk. |

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| 24  | Shoemaker's shop       | SHOP      | NH<br>64687<br>53196 | -       | -       | Extant    | The shoemaker's shop was in a building which has stone gables, but a brick wall on the eastern side. It fixed army boots, but also repaired canvas agricultural binders. (A binder canvas is part of the conveyor/elevator system on a reaper binder. It is a strip of canvas 1.5m x 4m that has some wooden slats riveted to it with copper rivets and leather straps with buckles to tension then over wooden rollers. They could be repaired by a cobbler or a saddler. ) The last cobbler was Heck Jack. Later the building became a pottery. It is now no longer a shop.   | Gary Johnston,<br>Alasdair<br>Cameron,<br>participants on<br>public walk |
| 23  | Munlochy coach shed    | SHED      | NH<br>64695<br>53188 | -       | -       | Extant    | This corrugated iron building was known as The Big Store. A local tradition is that it was used as a shed for the stage coach. It is believed to date from 1850's and was used by the Taylor family who had the store. As the Taylor background was in agriculture it housed some agricultural equipment that was for hire as well as items for sale. The horses were housed there and the horse drawn vehicles of the day which probably accounts for the tales of a stage coach.<br>When the main Taylor Building was divided, one part was let to Riddoch the grocer. The Big Store was divided to give storage to the grocer. Both had vans for deliveries. After WW1 Alexander Taylor, the second, kept his new Model T van there and the bigger and heavier agricultural items. | Frank Kremes,<br>Gary Johnston,<br>Alasdair<br>Cameron                   |
| 1   | Munlochy Shop          | SHOP      | NH<br>64668<br>53195 | -       | -       | Extant    | Alasdair Cameron came for holidays to Munlochy where his uncle (Mr Taylor) ran the shop. It sold agricultural goods, ironmongery, sweets, clothing etc. The other end of the building was Riddoch the grocers, who occupied the premises in the 1930s to 1960s. The Taylors had a shop in other parts of village before moving to the site of the present shop. Both Taylors and Riddochs had vans for delivery, kept in the corrugated iron building behind the shops.   | Alasdair<br>Cameron  |

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|-----|--|-----------|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---|--|
|     |  |           |                      |         |         |           | Allan Taylor has written a summary of the shop in the village, a family business for 170 years (supplied by Sue Jane Taylor; see Appendix 1 below.) The Highland Archives also have a large numbers of papers relating to the business and Munloch, deposited by the Taylor family.   |  |
| 90  | The Lodge,<br>Munloch                          | house     | NH<br>64630<br>53147 | -       | -       | Extant    | This house is reputed to have been occupied by the factor, perhaps of Kilcoy estate. There is a window in an internal door in the house with the lettering 'office' It has also been known in the past as 'The Cottage'. Mr MacLeod, a local fiddler who wrote the tune 'Munloch Bridge' also lived there.  | Current owner,<br>Hazel Chisholm<br>Joy Cossar         |
| 17  | Munloch Church<br>of Scotland<br>parish church | CHURCH    | NH<br>64666<br>53035 | -       | -       | Extant    | <p>The current Munloch Church of Scotland has a mixed history. Originally built as a Free church in 1886, it later became the United Free Church, and then in 1929 when the United Free Church joined with the Church of Scotland, became Church of Scotland, and replaced the Church of Scotland church built on the outskirts of Munloch village in 1764.</p> <p>It was built to replace the original wooden Free Church located in Bogallan (near current Munros Garden Centre). As a result of a dispute concerning the building of the new church, in 1880 the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland divided the congregation. One section and the minister moved to the new church and manse in Munloch, which was named then Knockbain Munloch Free Church. The other part built a stone church at Bogallan which also still survives. A document of 1881 discussing the proposed move notes that the estimated cost for the new church in Munloch was £1600, and a fundraising appeal was launched.</p> <p>Alexander Taylor snr at the local shop was so active fundraising for this church that he neglected business and it nearly collapsed.</p> | Alasdair<br>Cameron<br>John McDonald<br>Willie Gillies |

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| 94  | Munlochy Old Manse     | MANSE     | NH<br>64565<br>53131            | -        | -       | Extant    | The United Free church manse is depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map. It is now a private home.  |  |
| 18  | Munlochy POW Camp      | POW Camp  | Centred on NH<br>64698<br>53094 | -        | -       | Destroyed | <p>A prisoner of war camp was built in the church glebe fields towards the end of the war. There were first Italian POWs and later German POWs who worked on local farms. The German POWs gave toys to some of the local children. Italian POWs made raffia shoes – and German POWs felt shoes.</p> <p>After the war the camp was used for displaced persons; some people remember Poles and others remember people from eastern Europe including the Kosovo region. There would be dances at the camp, but when police were called it was generally the locals from Muir of Ord who were causing the trouble.</p> <p>The camp was used in the 1950s for boys brought up from Glasgow to help with the potato harvest. G Local children avoided them.</p> <p>Foundations of around three huts were all that was left by the 1990s (still rubble in 1994).</p> <p>Behind the camp there was a footbridge across the burn, but it is no longer there, perhaps disappearing when Munlochy was flooded in 1960s/70s.</p> | <p>Willie Gillies<br/>Gary Johnston<br/>Joy Cossar<br/>Catriona Gillies<br/>Marion Alasdair<br/>Cameron<br/>John McDonald<br/>John Fraser<br/>Sandy Taylor,<br/>Margaret Taylor,<br/>Jenny Macleod</p> |
| 80  | Munlochy Mains         | FARMSTEAD | NH<br>6485<br>5315              | MHG22413 | 107839  | Extant    | <p>There has been extensive draining work done over the years. In fact, the lower fields of Munlochy Mains are reliant on one way drains to keep them from being flooded. Irish workers used to come yearly to clear the drains.</p> <p>The Black Isle Show was held at Munlochy Mains in 1949, the first show after the war. A license was required to allow timber to be purchased. There were c. 5000 visitors, and the show dance was then held in Munlochy Hall.</p>  | <p>Alasdair<br/>Cameron,<br/>Hazel Chisholm</p>  |

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| 10  | Nursery                | NURSERY   | NH<br>64784<br>53182<br>to NH<br>64896<br>53202 | -       | -       | Gone      | Two nurseries in Munloch are depicted on the 1st edition OS map. The southern nursery was a wood with small house in it within memory. It may have been for trees, since the landowner, the Kilcoy estate, was keen on planting (a record mentions a drying facility for cones somewhere on the estate). This nursery is also depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.   | Joy Cossar<br>Alasdair<br>Cameron  |
| 21. | Tidal Mill             | MILL      | NH 649<br>526                                   | MHG8815 | 13578   | Gone      | <p>The exact location of the tidal mill is not known, but there are embankments in the area which may relate to it. Slagacharn (now called Bayhead) is at the head of the bay. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map it is at NH 65608 52696. Bishop Forbes diaries mention two mills in the area in 1765, suggesting there may have been a second tidal mill. A lease was granted in 1812 to the miller Andrew Provost by Mackenzie of Kilcoy, and mentions that the lease will expire when the proposed new road across the head of the bay is made, because that will prevent the mill from grinding, suggesting interference with the tides. The road described may be the current one. The old road would have gone past Easter Taeweg. The miller was then given land somewhere near Tore. Alasdair Cameron notes that Provost changed his name to Mackintosh; they are thought to have been Huguenots. The family gravestones are in Suddie Churchyard.</p> <p>The exact location of the mill(s) is still not clear. There has been extensive draining work done over the years. In fact, the lower fields of Munloch Mains are reliant on one way drains to keep them from being flooded</p> | Willie Gillies<br>Alasdair<br>Cameron<br>Sandy Taylor<br>John Fraser<br><br><i>The Live and Journals of Bishop Robert Forbes of Ross 1708-1775</i> |
| 47  | Church of Scotland     | CHURCH    | NH6459<br>5225                                  | MHG7969 | 13605   | Ruin      | After the Kilmuir and Suddie parishes were united in 1756, a new Church of Scotland was built by Alexander Ross in 1764 on the outskirts of Munloch (near the present war memorial). The Old Statistical Account describes it. It remained Church of Scotland until 1934,   | John McDonald  |

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|-----|--|-----------|----------------------|----------|---------|-----------|--|---|
|     |  |           |                      |          |         |           | when the congregation transferred to the present church, which had become Church of Scotland when the United Free Church merged in 1929. After the move, the roof was removed  |   |
| 48  | Knockbain House<br>- original Church<br>of Scotland<br>manse | MANSE     | NH<br>6454<br>5214   | MHG16284 | 107301  | Extant    | The manse was situated close to the ruined church. The last minister, Mr. Dow, died in 1938. He bought the manse and after his death it passed to his daughter and her husband. When Alasdair Cameron was a boy, he explored the loft and found boxes of communion tokens. He also remembers seeing some carved stone round objects, which in retrospect might have been Neolithic carved stone balls; however, no further information is available as to where they were from or what happened to them. | John McDonald<br><br>Alasdair<br>Cameron                            |
| 91  | Greenhill<br>Cottage,<br>Munlochy                            | HOUSE     | NH<br>64565<br>53131 | -        | -       | Extant    | This house appears on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map. It was the home of John Ban Mackenzie, who retired there in 1861-4. He was a piper, at Allangrange, Tulloch Castle, and then for the Marquis of Beadalbane at Taymouth Castle – and is said to have refused employment with Queen Victoria.  | Hazel Chisholm;<br>info on<br>familytreemake<br>r.genealogy.co<br>m |
| 8   | Munlochy School  | SCHOOL    | NH<br>64582<br>53151 | -        | -       | Extant    | Munlochy public school is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. It is still in use as a school today. During WWII, POWs from the camp came and helped clear the garden.   | Catriona Fraser   |
| 43  | Munlochy Hotel   | HOTEL     | NH<br>64615<br>53158 | -        | -       | Extant    | Currently called the Allangrange Arms. The building is labelled hotel on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map. It appears on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, where it is labelled P.H. (public house) but not named. It is said to date to the 1700s, and reputedly was a coaching inn. The hotel had a tennis pavilion and tennis courts behind it, pictured on some old postcards.  | Participants on<br>public walk.                                     |

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| 27  | Bakery                 | SHOP            | NH<br>64659<br>53220 | -       | -       | Gone                     | The bakery was located opposite the stores and to the west of the bank. Mrs Catherine Helen Miller created the bake shop, bake house, stores and living quarters. The current building on the site, comprising four houses, is from around the 1960s or 1970s, and when built had to cope with deep foundations of the bakery. There was another bakery earlier in the village, further along the road to the east. | Joy Cossar,<br>Terry Johnston,<br>Helen Macrae                                     |
| 84  | Munloch, Former Bank   | BANK            | NH<br>64678<br>53230 | -       | -       | Extant                   | This building was a bank from the late 1800s until 2014. It is not clear if it was purpose built. It had an extension on the side which was demolished. The building always had two doors, one for the bank, and one for the premises for the Bank Manager who lived there.   | Hazel Chisholm   |
| 87  | The Millhouse, Munloch | house           | NH<br>64693<br>53238 | -       | -       | Extant                   | This house situated on the opposite side of the road from the mill is said to have been occupied by the miller. It has a date plaque of 1903.   | Hazel Chisholm   |
| 25  | Rose Cottage, Munloch  | HOUSE AND DAIRY | NH<br>64673<br>53264 | -       | -       | House extant; dairy gone | There was a dairy on Back Street (now Burn Place), situated behind Rose Cottage, but appears to have been incorporated into the present structure. A photograph of Rose Cottage in the Taylor collection of Highland Archives, perhaps from the 1880s, shows a thatched roof.   | Joy Cossar<br>Hazel Chisholm   |
| 26  | Hillview, Munloch      | House           | NH<br>64685<br>53275 | -       | -       | Extant                   | Cameron the coal merchant had premises near Munloch Station on Back Street (now Burn Place). The house is now known as Hillview.  | Willie Gillies<br>Joy Cossar<br>Hazel Chisholm                                     |
| 6   | Smiddy, Back Street    | SMITHY          | NH<br>64673<br>53287 | -       | -       | Now a house              | There are two smiddies depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, and they are not labelled as such on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map. The western smiddy was up on Back Street, now Burn Place, next to a burn, with a house attached. It was operated within living memory, until the 1950s. The smiddy has now been incorporated into the house. The burn has been culverted over at this point.        | Joy Cossar<br>Margaret Taylor,<br>Sandy Taylor,<br>Hazel Chisholm,<br>Marlene Lees |

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| 15  | Munlochy Station and goods yard | STATION   | NH 646 533     | MHG22412 | 107838  | Gone      | The station was on the Muir of Ord to Fortrose branch line. It opened on 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 1894 and closed in 1951 to passengers and in 1960 to freight. The tank is shown to the north of the tracks on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, built for the steam trains. The station was situated where the playground currently is.<br>The station used to be very busy, full of carriages bringing in coal, fertilizer, animal feed and groceries, and returning with potatoes, corn and, during the 1940s and 1950s, sugar beet, as well as regular loads of cattle, sheep and pigs.<br>The station Goods Yard was taken over by haulage contractor Alec Mann who did lime spreading and had the first mobile self-propelling concrete mixer. He had a goods shed and possibly put up other buildings. | Joy Cossar,<br>Alasdair Cameron<br><br>Kernahan, Jack 2013. <i>The Black Isle Railway</i> |
| 14  | Munlochy young men's club       | HALL      | NH 6463 5338   | -        | -       | Gone      | The young men's club hall used to be near station, but burnt down. There are pictures of it in the book on the Black Isle railway. It was a wooden building. It held Burns suppers and dances, and the travelling cinema used to come there.<br>A picture on the Am Baile website shows the hall.  | Joy Cossar,<br>Alasdair Cameron<br>Kernahan, Jack 2013. <i>The Black Isle Railway</i>     |
| 19. | Station master's house          | HOUSE     | NH 64654 53366 | -        | -       | Extant    | The station master's house is across the road in the triangle created by roads.  | Alasdair Cameron  |
| 45  | Road Bridge                     | BRIDGE    | NH 65474 53357 | -        | -       | Extant    | The road bridge going over the railway is still there, but filled in underneath with earth.  | Gary Johnston   |
| 28  | Nurse's House                   | HOUSE     | NH 64730 58291 | -        | -       | Extant    | The District Nurse's house housed a district nurse from 1930; it belonged to Knockbain and Killearnan Nursing Association. In 1961 it was gifted to Ross & Cromarty county council, when an extension and surgery were built. It continued as a nurses' residence until 1988 and is now a private home. An old postcard in local collection  | Anne Hodgson,<br>Joy Cossar,<br>TerryJohnston   |

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|     |                                    |                   |                      |         |         |           | shows a thatched roof. A plaque on the front of the building records when the house was handed over to the NHS.   |  |
| 83  | Munloch,<br>Bakery                 | BAKERY            | NH<br>64744<br>53296 | -       | -       | Extant    | This house was reputed to have had a bakery at some time. The eastern part of the house was known as Acorn Cottage, and the western part Acorn House. The 1879/1880 valuation roll lists Ann Ross, baker, in the village, and may refer to this building.   | Hazel Chisholm   |
| 4   | Munloch<br>Former post<br>office   | Post Office       | NH<br>64761<br>53304 | -       | -       | Extant    | The post office was on the north side of the main street, run by Mrs McNaughton within living memory. In the 1911 census it housed the chemist (Archibald McDonald) and postmaster (Angus Cameron). The post office moved across the street in the 1950s.   | Joy Cossar<br>Hazel Chisholm<br>Marlene Lees   |
| 89  | Drapers shop,<br>Munloch           | House and<br>Shop | NH<br>64776<br>53311 | -       | -       | Extant    | A draper's shop was on the main street from at least the beginning of the 1900s. In the 1911 census it was occupied by James Ross and his wife. It is currently (2014) a blinds shop.   | Joy Cossar,<br>Hazel Chisholm  |
| 5   | Saddler's' Shop,<br>now Craigievar | Sadler            | NH<br>64783<br>53314 | -       | -       | Extant    | The house with two doors on the main street was built in 1897, by the saddler when he reputedly moved from lower down the street. The right hand door and the ground floor behind it was the saddler's shop. The rest was the house. Between the doors is a plate with the initials of the owner, Donald MacSwayed. Later this property became known as Caberfeidh, and is now known as Craigievar. | Terry Johnston,<br>Fred Fraser,<br>John Fraser,<br>Hazel Chisholm,<br>Marlene Lees,<br>Current owner |
| 38  | Smiddy,<br>High Street             | SMITHY            | NH 647<br>533        | -       | -       | Gone?     | There are two smiddies depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, and they are not labelled as such on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map. The eastern smiddy is on the High Street (now Millbank Road) near the saddler's. The exact site needs to be identified.   | John Fraser,<br>Margaret<br>Taylor   |

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| 88  | Sunnybank,<br>Munlochy  | House                | NH<br>64805<br>53335 | -        | -       | Extant           | This house was built in 1896 by William McIntosh, a carpenter/contractor. It was reputed to have taken six years to build.  | Current owner,<br>1911 census          |
| 86  | Sugar Hill,<br>Munlochy | House                | NH<br>64835<br>53348 | -        | -       | Extant           | This house was known as Sugar Hill, because the owners made their fortune in growing sugar on South African plantations.  | Hazel Chisholm                         |
| 22. | The Pole                | HOUSE                | NH<br>64878<br>53408 | -        | -       | Extant           | The cottage where Joy Cossar was brought up was known as 'The Pole' because it had a pole for mail, which the stage coach would grab when passing by. It is now known as Pole Cottage. There are remains of a well on the east side of the house. The railway line ran just to the west of here in a deep cutting, with a bridge for the road to cross over it.   | Joy Cossar                             |
| 12  | Volunteer rifle range   | FIRING RANGE         | See notes            | MHG30241 | -       | Gone             | A long volunteer rifle range is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed OS map. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, a flagstaff is depicted at NH 65179 52677, a marker's butt at NH 65200 52665 and a target at NH 65222 52659. There used to be a footbridge from the shore to the targets. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map the range followed a field boundary, going from NH 64993 53201 to NH 65219 52656. On the 2nd edition map it starts along the embankment and then across open fields to the lower end of the road up to Bayhead/Slagacharn, from c. NH 65314 53233 to NH 65464 52710. |  |
| 42  | Munlochy Saltings       | SALT PRODUCTION SITE | NH<br>65458<br>53142 | -        | -       | Unknown          | Appears on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed OS map  |  |
| 29. | Jetty, Munlochy Bay     | JETTY                | NH<br>6658<br>5293   | MHG19903 | 94931   | remnants visible | On the south side of Munlochy Bay is a gravel tongue with the stumps of a wooden jetty at the end connecting it to the main channel. There are a large number of brick and clay tile fragments around the jetty and gravel tongue.  | Willie Gillies<br><br>Alasdair Cameron |

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|     |                        |                             |                      |          |         |                  | Alasdair Cameron has found an advert from 1880 where Kilcoy Esates invited estimates for executing field drains at Tore Mains, driving the tiles from Munloch storehouse, and for discharging the cargoes of tiles and pipes and putting them into the storehouse. The storehouse is nearby (MHG51662), suggesting that the jetty was used to unload cargoes of tiles. However, Willie Gillies was told there was a tile works here as well, though no buildings in the immediate vicinity are obvious other than the storehouse.  |  |
| 30  | Storehouse             | STOREHOUSE                  | NH<br>66465<br>52921 | MHG51662 | 294680  | Foundations only | This building is roofed in the 1 <sup>st</sup> ed OS map, but unroofed in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Willie Gillies was told that it was a storehouse. Only overgrown foundations remain today.   | Willie Gillies   |
| 92  | Viewmount, Munloch     | HOUSE                       | NH<br>64993<br>53470 | -        | -       | Extant           | Viewmount was the home of Dr Brodie and then Dr Stewart. Dr Brodie had the first car in the village. Ryefield and Tulloch Ard were later homes of doctors in Munloch.  | Joy Cossar,<br>Hazel Chisholm,<br>Marlene Lees               |
| 13  | Munloch village hall   | DRILL HALL,<br>VILLAGE HALL | NH<br>6487<br>5332   | MHG54175 | -       | current hall     | The origins of the hall – whether for community use or a drill hall – remain unclear (sometime between 1870 and 1904). Even when a drill hall, it was also used as a community facility for concerts and dances. Under the hall there is a room that was used as a rifle shooting gallery. It was used by both the territorials and the regular army. In 1914 it was drill station for 'H' Squadron, 2nd Lovat Scouts and base for 'C' Company 4th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders ( Info Munloch Hall website, citing HS/RCAHMS World War One Audit Project (GJB) 18 July 2013). Later this area was used as a bar. The lower room now has outdoor access, but it used to be reached by a hatchway and steps close to current stage. This entrance was probably closed off when stage moved to its current position, perhaps after 1970 when the community took ownership of the hall. There used to be | Terry Johnston,<br>Joy Cossar<br>John Fraser<br>Sandy Taylor |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location         | Site Type       | NGR                              | HER No. | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments  | Name of contributor                               |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---|---|
|     |                                |                 |                                  |         |         |           | a balcony at the current stage end where cloakrooms were located.<br>There used to be a Nissen Hut in the garden to east of hall that was used as armoury.<br>The current kitchen and store area at the western end of the hall used to be a house, which was lived in by the local sergeant/ drill master who ran the cadets. The rifle club stored their ammunition under the house.  |   |
| 81  | Milestone,<br>Munlochy Village | Milestone       | NH<br>64832<br>53249             |         |         | Extant    | A milestone is recorded on the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and current OS maps. It is still there, a stone with triangular front and semi-circular back. There is no lettering.   |   |
| 82  | Munlochy,<br>carpenter's shop  |                 | Approx..<br>NH<br>64810<br>53310 | -       | -       | Gone      | There was a wooden building between the old garage (now demolished) and the Village Hall. A carpenter, Mr Stables, was there within living memory. He was also the local undertaker. The building was demolished after the war, perhaps in the 1960s.   | Hazel Chisholm,<br>Joy Cossar                     |
| 78  | Munlochy Garage                | Garage          | NH 648<br>533                    | -       | -       | Gone      | Charlie Fraser's garage was located to the south of the Drill Hall / current Village Hall. Young John Fraser remembers operating the hand cranked pump – fine for the motorbikes but hard work for the army vehicles transporting POWs. Later the business moved in the early 1950s to its current location on the A832. It was then used for a time as storage for the drapers across the street. When new housing was built to the south of the site, the area of the garage was dug out, making it look more of a drop than it was originally. | John Fraser<br><br>Participants on<br>public walk |
| 101 | Munlochy Post<br>Office        | Post Office     | NH<br>64756<br>53275             | -       | -       | Extant    | The post office moved from across the street in the 1950s.  | Joy Cossar<br>Hazel Chisholm<br>Marlene Lees      |
| 16  | Munlochy curling<br>pond       | CURLING<br>POND | NH<br>63596<br>53497             | -       | -       | Gone      | The original curing pond for the village was north of Munlochy in the woods. Later, probably sometime between the 1870s and 1904, it moved closer to the  | John Fraser                                       |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location                  | Site Type    | NGR                              | HER No. | CANMORE | Condition  | Description and comments   | Name of contributor  |
|-----|---|--------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|--|--|
|     |   |              |                                  |         |         |            | village. The minutes of the Belmaduthy Curling club survive and discuss the move to the new pond.  |  |
| 93  | Munlochy curling pond                   | CURLING POND | NH 644 532                       | -       | -       | Over-grown | A curling pond is depicted near the village on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map surveyed in 1904, but not the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition. It was used in living memory. It is in a hollow and still there, but overgrown. There is a ruinous wooden shed on the steps leading down to it, perhaps originally associated with the curling pond. There was also a pavilion on the side of the pond, now gone. The pond was in use until the late 1960s. The local club was known as the Belmaduthy Curling club, and its minutes survive from the late 1800s in private possession. Curling was very popular in the village, including by the Minister, Mr Dow. There used to be an annual curling ball until the 1970s in Munlochy Hall. | Terry Johnston<br>Gary Johnston<br>Joy Cossar<br>Margaret Taylor<br>Jenny MacLeod<br>Sandy Taylor<br>John Fraser |
| 11  | Nursery                                 | NURSERY      | NH 64670 53362 to NH 64735 53289 | -       | -       | Gone       | Two nurseries in Munlochy are depicted on the 1st edition OS map. The northern nursery, situated opposite a smiddy, does not appear on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.   |  |
| 79  | Forestry Commission Sawmill and Offices | SAWMILL      | NH 6405 5332                     | -       | -       | Gone       | The Forestry Commission was main employer on the Black Isle, and Munlochy accommodated a lot of the workers, many of them in Forestry Commission Houses. Administration, storage and a small saw mill were situated where Highland Birchwoods are now on the Littleburn road.  | Alasdair Cameron   |
| 40  | Drill Hall, Munlochy                    | DRILL HALL   | NH 65198 53583                   | -       | -       | Gone       | The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map shows a drill hall beside Wester Gateside, to the northeast of Munlochy village. In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, the building has been absorbed the farm, and the drill hall has moved to the village (MHG54175)   |  |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location                            | Site Type | NGR                  | HER No. | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments   | Name of contributor  |
|-----|---|-----------|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--|--|
| 44  | Reservoir,<br>Munloch                             | RESERVOIR | NH<br>64476<br>53553 | -       | -       |           | A reservoir is depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, and labelled Ross & Cromarty County Council. It is located on a burn which fed the mill pond for the grain mill (MHG23812)  |  |
| 53  | Munloch<br>Village, possible<br>original location | VILLAGE   | NH 64<br>52          | -       | -       |           | There is a local rumour that the original village may have located to the southwest of the current village, but was flooded, and therefore moved to its current site. There is certainly a long tradition of flooding in this area, and extensive water management from Munloch Mains to the west. Such a location might also relate to the location of the original Church of Scotland built in the 1700s. No known estate maps which might help shed light on the matter are known. (Approximate grid reference only)  | Sandy Taylor<br>John Fraser  |
| 2   | original Free<br>Church, Bogallan                 | CHURCH    | NH<br>63520<br>50481 | -       | -       | Gone      | <p>The first Free Church was a wooden temporary structure, situated near current Munro's nursery. This site was originally owned by the Baillie family who were the only landlord who would give them the land. It was in Killearnan at this time. In 1889 there was a parish boundary change - so that it then became allocated to Knockbain parish.</p> <p>The church was said to have been erected c. 1843, and replaced with two stone built churches in the 1880s due to a dispute in the congregation. A sketch on the document of 1881 shows a one story building with two bays. It had a tarred felt roof. The original Free Church in Killearnan was similar in design. Only a pile of stones survives of the original free church at Bogallan.</p> | John McDonald<br><br>Document of<br>1881 supplied<br>by Alasdair<br>Cameron<br>John McDonald |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location  | Site Type                    | NGR                | HER No.             | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments   | Name of contributor  |
|-----|---|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|--|--|
| 41  | Knockbain Free Church, Bogallan<br><br>(called Bogallan Free Church on HER) | CHURCH                       | NH<br>6351<br>5049 | MHG16691            | 111323  | Extant    | The original Free Church was located in a wooden building nearby. In the 1880s the congregation planned to build a new church in Munloch (which later became the Church of Scotland). As a result of a dispute concerning the building of the new church, in 1880 the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland divided the congregation. One section and the minister moved to the new church and manse in Munloch, which was named Knockbain Munloch Free Church. The main part of the congregation was renamed Knockbain West Free Church, and built the church at Bogallan in 1888. The term West was dropped from the name in 1908, and it was known then as Knockbain Free Church, and continues under that name today. In 1994 the church moved to North Kessock. | John McDonald<br><br>Knockbain Free Church website<br><a href="http://www.knockbainfreechurch.org">www.knockbainfreechurch.org</a> |
| 20. | Allangrange House   | MILITARY HQ                  | NH<br>6283<br>5205 | MHG16150            | 104601  | Extant    | Allangrange was the headquarters of the Indian Mountain Regiment in WWII, with Sikhs and their mules. The Sikhs often carried out night exercises moving wheeled guns with mules and horses. They lived mostly under canvas at various locations There were also Poles and Norwegians at Allangrange House.  | Alasdair Cameron<br><br>Sandy Taylor   |
| 58  | St John's Chapel, Allangrange   | CHAPEL                       | NH<br>6252<br>5150 | MHG7493<br>MHG40732 | 13609   | Ruin      | The chapel is reputed to be Knights Templar. The design harks back to Medieval design. The chapel would have been for Allangrange House.   | John McDonald<br>Joy Cossar<br>Martin MacKay   |
| 62  | Allangrange Mains   | FARM<br>STEADING,<br>BREWERY | NH<br>6226<br>5147 | MHG48249            | 271444  | Extant    | The new grain store at Allangrange Mains was extended and converted to become the new location of the Black Isle brewery.  | Alasdair Cameron   |
| 63  | Taeblair steading   |                              | NH 631<br>513      | -                   | -       | Extant    | Taeblair steading was adapted to become original location of Black Isle Brewery, which has now moved to Allangrange Mains  | Alasdair Cameron   |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location                | Site Type                | NGR                  | HER No.             | CANMORE | Condition              | Description and comments   | Name of contributor  |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------------|--|--|
| 31  | Possible former burial ground         | GRAVEYARD                | NH 68<br>42          | -                   | -       | Unknown                | At Craigiehowe, at the entrance to Munloch Bay on the promontory, there is a local tradition that there was a burial ground. This hill used to be full of feral goats which have been shot. It was also formerly used as a pheasant shooting estate, and birds are still there.  | Willie Gillies<br>John McDonald<br><br>Gary Johnston                 |
| 32  | WW2 outlook post                      | LOOKOUT                  | NH<br>66024<br>52199 | MHG8231             | 13593   | Extant                 | At Drumderfit on the top of hill is an outlook post from WW2 – a dug out with a corrugated roof.   | Gary Johnston,<br>Willie Gillies, A.<br>Cameron                      |
| 50  | Drumderfit Hill,<br>Millstone cutting | QUARRY?                  | NH 65<br>52          | -                   | -       |                        | Millstones were cut on Drumderfit Hill. At the bottom of the hill is an undressed millstone which reputedly got away (NH6558 5276). Rotary Querns have been found in the area.   | Alasdair<br>Cameron<br>Susan Kruse                                   |
| 33  | Arrie long house                      | HOUSE                    | NH<br>6827<br>5159   | MHG56502            | -       | Ruinous –<br>only wall | At the end of Craigiehowe at Arrie are the remains of a well built long house with chimney and gable still standing. Planning permission has been granted to build in front of it.   | John McDonald<br>Willie Gillies<br>Catriona Gillies<br>Gary Johnston |
| 34  | Taindore<br>farmhouse                 | FARMSTEAD                | NH<br>67947<br>51196 | MHG53517            | -       | Gone                   | Taindore farmhouse is now (2014) a modern house and all the yard walls of the former house are gone.   | John McDonald  |
| 54  | Kilmuir Manse                         | MANSE                    | NH<br>67808<br>50726 | -                   | -       | Ruin                   | The only remains of the manse are wall remnants a foot or two high   | John McDonald<br>Martin MacKay                                       |
| 55  | Kilmuir Church                        | CHURCH                   | NH<br>6768<br>5013   | MHG8233<br>MHG31601 | 13591   | Ruin                   | Probably erected in 15th Century - but might have been earlier. Descendants of the occupants of Old Drynie house were buried there in a mausoleum converted out of part of the disused church in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Currently (2014) ivy obscures almost all details. | John McDonald  |
| 105 | Lookout, Kilmuir                      | MILITARY<br>INSTALLATION | NH<br>67752<br>50166 | MHG30808            | -       | Extant                 | World War II lookout. Note: grid reference corrected for HER record.   |  |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location | Site Type | NGR                  | HER No.  | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments  | Name of contributor       |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|---------|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| 56  | Old Drynie House       | HOUSE     | NH<br>67063<br>49576 | -        | -       | Destroyed | The Grahams owned Drynie estate from the 1500s. In 1852 Paul Graham built an imposing mansion house on the road leading to Kilmuir village. The estate was bought by George MacLean in 1875. In 1952 the house was struck by lightning and burnt down. Only the portico remains of this house. A new house was later built on the site.   | Research by John McDonald |
| 106 | Phone Box, Kilmuir     | KIOSK     | NH<br>67453<br>49725 | -        | -       | extant    | Residents of the village protected the BT phone box from being removed. It has now been adopted by the community, and serves as an information kiosk.   |                           |
| 102 | La Pergola             | House     | NH<br>67308<br>49709 | -        | -       | Extant    | This was the only house in the village with a room large enough to accommodate a crowd, and was said to have been used for church services in the early 1900s. Its most colourful occupant was probably Ridley Latimer Colenso, a New Zealander who rented the house as a holiday home from his North Kessock home O Whare Nehu (renamed by later owners Kessock House). He later moved permanently to La Pergola.                    | John McDonald             |
| 103 | The Boathouse, Kilmuir | Boathouse | NH<br>67329<br>49687 | -        | -       | Extant    | The Boathouse was part of Rose Cottage property. When it was occupied by the Macleay family it housed the boat with which they sometimes commuted to Inverness to run their taxidermy business.   | John McDonald             |
| 104 | The Neuk               | House     | NH<br>6736<br>4972   | MHG16164 | 111326  | Extant    | The Neuk and Chisholm cottages, dating from the time Drynie House was built in 1852, were intended for the gamekeeper and gardener (the garden was to the east) but came to be used by a variety of tenants, sometimes as holiday homes. The Neuk was occupied by Alex Macdonald, the estate factor, and for many years after his death by his widow Lizzie. She was still there in 1957 when electricity was installed at the house. | John McDonald             |
| 57  | Chisholm Cottage       | House     | NH<br>6735           | MHG16177 | 111325  | Extant    | The Neuk and Chisholm cottages, dating from the time Drynie House was built in 1852, were intended for the  | John McDonald             |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location | Site Type | NGR                  | HER No.              | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments  | Name of contributor |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------|---|---------------------|
|     |                        |           | 4971                 |                      |         |           | gamekeeper and gardener (the garden was to the east) but came to be used by a variety of tenants, sometimes as holiday homes.   |                     |
| 35  | Kilmuir, Mill          | MILL      | NH<br>67137<br>49563 | -                    | -       | Gone      | The southern end of Kilmuir was called Milntown. In 1786 there were only two houses in Milntown, and Munro the Miller and his family were the only inhabitants of what is now Kilmuir village. The mill was located at the southern end of Kilmuir, and went out of use in the late 1800s The 1851 lists the miller as Alexander Munro; he died 1883. There are remnants of concrete at the burnside from the mill, and remains of two dams upstream. The 1st edition OS map records a sluice to the west. on the site. John McDonald has done research on the building and family. The bungalow made from the WWII building from Alness (MHG51194) was erected on the site of the mill. Later a bungalow made from a WWI building from Alness was erected on the site of a mill. There are remnants of concrete at the burnside from the mill, and remains of two dams upstream. | John McDonald       |
| 57  | Drynie Farmhouse       | HOUSE     | NH6610<br>5051       | MHG16193<br>MHG46019 | 238642  | Extant    | The Grahams owned Drynie estate from the 1500s. Mackenzies lived in the house previously. Their plaque on the house is upside down. It is built on the site of Drynie Mains , Capt. Maclean's home.   | John McDonald       |
| 75  | Cuilish                | Quarry    | NH<br>6676<br>4952   | -                    | -       | Gone      | Donald McLennan recalls a quarry situated near Cuilish.   | Donald McLennan     |
| 76  | Kilmuir                | Butchers  | NH<br>66891<br>49406 | -                    | -       |           | Donald McLennan recalls a butchers or a bakers situated at this location to the south of Kilmuir village  | Donald McLennan     |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location          | Site Type          | NGR                   | HER No. | CANMORE | Condition             | Description and comments  | Name of contributor  |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---|--|
| 72  | PATH                            | PATH               | GRID<br>REF<br>NEEDED | -       | -       |                       | Between Craigduff and Croftdownie there is a footpath that goes diagonally up the cliff. Currently it is locally known as 'the Funeral track', a coffin path for taking coffins to Kilmuir Church. However, Catriona Gillies never heard this, and instead was told the coffin path was along the shore.  | Owen Smith<br>Catriona Gillies<br>Willie Gillies<br>Donald<br>McLennan |
| 73  | Photographer's<br>Rock          | NATURAL<br>FEATURE | GRID<br>REF<br>NEEDED | -       | -       |                       | A place at highest point of the path known locally currently as 'the Funeral Track' (see no. 72), is known locally as 'Photographer's Rock'. It is not known when got its name, but after the introduction of photography in late 1880s.  | Owen Smith   |
| 74  | Cuilish                         | FARMHOUSE          | NH<br>66261<br>49697  | -       | -       | Gone?                 | On the first edition OS map, Cuilish is labelled south of Viewbank, at NH 66262 49697. But by the time of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1904, the name Cuilish is applied to a site at NH 66617 49575. There is no indication of any buildings at the original site, not even unroofed.  | Donald<br>McLennan   |
| 36  | Knockbain Free<br>Church School | SCHOOL             | NH<br>66188<br>49801  | -       | -       | Founda-<br>tions only | The Free Church wooden school on the road down to Kilmuir became an ordinary school in the 1870s for 5 or 6 years until a school was built in the village. The foundations of the school are still there. The owners have cleared trees from it, so that it can be seen. It is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map in the midst of trees, but is unroofed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. | John McDonald  |
| 37  | Drumsmittal<br>School           | SCHOOL             | NH<br>64775<br>49086  | -       | -       | Gone                  | A school is depicted on the Drumsmittal road on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, but not the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map. It was set up as a result of the 1972 Education (Scotland) Act. The school board minute books are available in Highland Council archives   | John McDonald  |
| 64  | Croft Downie, nr<br>Kilmuir     | HOUSE              | NH<br>6669<br>4882    | MHG7961 | 13397   | Extant                | This house was formerly called Craigton Cottage. The actor James Robertson Justice lived here for a while, where he entertained royals. He moved to Spinningdale afterwards.  | Joy Cossar<br>John McDonald<br>Catherine<br>Cumming                    |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

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|-----|--|------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 46  | Ord Hill Caves<br>near – Croft<br>downie | CAVE<br>DWELLING | NH 665<br>488         | -        | -       | Gone -<br>collapsed    | In the late 1800s/early 1900s a travelling family, James Stewart, his wife and his adopted daughter, lived in caves at Ord Hill. He was a tinsmith who travelled about and traded. They stayed there year round with one cave for family and one for the. They were friendly with the Macdonald's who came to look after Craigton Cottage whilst the owners were away south. Mrs Macdonald was very fond of gardening and Mrs Stewart was interested. She planted snowdrops which Mr Macdonald gave her. These are still there - but the 'caves' have gone as a result of stones rolling down the hill. | Catherine<br>Cumming |
| 67  | Bellfield Farm                           |                  | NH<br>64046<br>48681  | MHG50059 | 284903  | Extant                 | Water came from Croftnacruich to the dam near Bellfield farm to drive a threshing mill on the farm, before being channelled to the mill dam (MHG43998) which drove the Charleston Corn Mill below (MHG31199).<br>The farm house is still there, but currently (2014) boarded up as the housing development engulfs it.  | Willie Gillies       |
| 68  | Bellfield Quarry                         | QUARRY           | <b>NH 639<br/>488</b> | -        | -       | Partially<br>destroyed | The 1880 valuation roll mentions the quarry, which is let to Alex Mackenzie, a builder from Inverness, at a £10 rental. There is still a hole where the quarry was, but most of it is gone as a result of the upgrading of the A9 to dual carriageway. During the building of the A9 the quarry site was used as an encampment for construction workers.  | Willie Gillies       |
| 69  | Charleston Mill<br>Pond and lades        | Mill Pond        | NH 643<br>484         | MHG43998 | -       | Gone                   | From the threshing mill at Bellfield Farm, a lade took the water to the millpond. The millpond is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, with a sluice marked at the southern end on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition. Both millpond and lade no longer survive. The millpond then fed two mills below (MHG31199).   | Willie Gillies       |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

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|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|--|--|
| 70  | Charleston Mill             | MILL      | NH<br>6432<br>4833   | MHG31199            | -       | Gone      | A Corn mill is depicted to the south of the millpond on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> OS maps. Willie Gillies was aware that there were two mills on the site, with the older one to the south.  | Willie Gillies   |
| 71  | Charleston Watermill        | MILL      | NH<br>64682<br>48251 | MHG31200            | -       | Gone      | The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts a lade going east from the mill pond (MHG43998), to a site marked Mill Croft at NH 64682 48251, and, on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map, another building called Millbank Cottage (still in use). Was this the site of another mill? Willie Gillies remembers a long house in this area called Mill House. It was located on the south side opposite Millbank Cottage, but is now demolished. | Willie Gillies   |
| 59  | Arpafeelie Episcopal Church | CHURCH    | NH<br>6101<br>5050   | MHG16610            | 105121  | Extant    | According to the listed building report, the church was built in 1810-16. The bell pull is outside the church. The current church is not the first church in the area.   | Joy Cossar<br>John McDonald  |
| 60  | Arpafeelie School           | SCHOOL    | NH<br>6106<br>5047   | -                   | -       | ?         | The school was located near the church. Mostly crofters' children in the area attended. Iain Macgregor's mother was a pupil teacher there. The last master of the school was a Scottish episcopalian minister.   | Catriona Gillies<br>Willie Gillies<br>John McDonald<br>Fred Fraser |
| 61  | Arpafeelie Manse            | Manse     | NH<br>6103<br>5053   | MHG16658            | 105120  | Extant    | The Bishop now lives at Arpafeelie, and attends episcopal churches at Cromarty & Fortrose, but when Catriona Gillies was young, he lived in Fortrose.  | Catriona Gillies   |
| 77  | Easter Gateside Smiddy      | Smiddy    | NH<br>66859<br>54229 | -                   | -       | Extant    | On the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition maps a Smiddy is marked at this location. The bellows for the Smiddy still survive. The smiddy is called Suddie Smiddy by the Kilcoy estate. In 1944 the blacksmith was Sween Macdonald, and his son Jock Macdonald became the blacksmith at Conon.   | Fred Fraser<br>Alasdair<br>Cameron                                 |
| 49  | Suddie Church               | CHURCH    | NH<br>6651<br>5473   | MHG8246<br>MHG31454 | 13577   | Ruinous   | Dedicated to St Duthac, according to the HER, the church is medieval in origin, with the east gable said to be medieval. The church was abandoned in 1762 when the minister died. His son then took over the newly united  | John McDonald  |

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| No. | Site name/<br>location | Site Type           | NGR                | HER No.  | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments  | Name of contributor   |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|-----------|---|---|
|     |                        |                     |                    |          |         |           | <p>parish, and stayed in the manse at Kilmuir.</p> <p>The HER has a fair amount of information about the church. The medieval font is said to now be at Collegiate Church in Tain.</p> <p>In the churchyard there is a burial enclosure dedicated to the memory of Mathesons of Bennetsfield (Avoch parish). Why were they buried at Suddie?</p> <p>Martin MacKay used to explore the church as a child. He remembers hole/vault under floor. There are remains of a path there leading to the church, and a wee bridge.</p>  | <p>Martin MacKay<br/>Sarah MacKay<br/>Joy Cossar</p>  |
| 51  | Roskill House          | HOUSE               | NH<br>6604<br>5455 | MHG16221 | 111327  | Extant    | <p>Martin MacKay was told that Roskill House is reputedly the oldest house on Black Isle and local folklore is that it was Bishops house. It certainly has low ceilings. However, according to the Listed Building report, it has a lintel stone inscribed 1753, and the house is dated to 1754.</p>  | <p>Martin MacKay<br/>Kate MacKay<br/>Alasdair<br/>Cameron</p>   |
| 52  | Easter Suddie          | MANSE,<br>FARMHOUSE | NH<br>6670<br>5497 | MHG21933 | 106339  | Extant    | <p>It is said that the farmhouse at Easter Suddie was originally the manse for the church. It is currently a house, but altered. Some of the walls of the house are very thick, and it is reputedly a very old house. The stone for the steading may have come from Arkendeith quarry above Avoch.</p> <p>The steading was rebuilt in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with large cattle accommodation and innovative roof structures (Glendinning and Wade Martins 2008). The weighbridge still survives.</p> <p>Miles Glendinning and Susanna Wade Martins (2008). Scotland's Farms 1750-2000. pp 154-5, 160.</p> | <p>Sarah MacKay,<br/>Martin MacKay<br/>Kate MacKay<br/>Alasdair<br/>Cameron</p>                       |
| 66  | Suddie Quarry          | QUARRY              | NH<br>6550<br>5400 | MHG29398 | -       | Extant    | <p>Suddie Quarry appears on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map as a defined area with a rectangular house. It is labelled as a quarry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Jack Kernahan's book on the Black Isle railway said that stone from Suddie quarry was used for Fort George, but this is not likely (see Munloch Bay quarry MHG29392). Joy Cossar heard that the stone</p>   | <p>Kernahan, Jack<br/>2013. <i>The Black<br/>Isle Railway</i><br/>Alasdair<br/>Cameron<br/>Donald</p> |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location | Site Type | NGR                  | HER No. | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments   | Name of contributor   |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--|---|
|     |                        |           |                      |         |         |           | <p>went down a chute to the sea. However, it is debateable whether boats could get so far into the bay to take stone away. There is an unusual wall behind the road at the quarry, where the larger stones were built on top of smaller stones. Angus Beaton wrote in 1885: The very fine sandstone quarry of Suddie is noticed by the late eminent geologist, Dr Page, as possessing the finest building stones in the north of Scotland.</p>   | <p>McLennan<br/>“An Illustrated Guide to Fortrose and vicinity” by Angus John Beaton (1885)</p> |
| 39  | Belmaduthy House       | HOUSE     | NH<br>65106<br>56229 | -       | -       | Destroyed | <p>Belmaduthy House is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. There was a substantial walled garden at NH 64725 55911, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map a Pheasantry is labelled near the garden at NH 64621 55868.</p> <p>The house was let out in the 1920s, and burnt down in 1935. Only cellars and odd floor tiles survive, the cellars more recently used as isolation pens. A local story relates that the furniture was removed before the fire, including a grand piano which ended up in the Culbokie pub. The gates reputedly ended up in Avoch Coronation Park (though there is also a tradition that they came from Rosehaugh), and some of the stone in the garden of Dungrianach, Munloch and at Avoch.</p> <p>A stone built tunnel survives from the house to the burn, approximately 60 metres long. It is not clear why it was built or what it might have been used for, though there are rumors of smuggling and tax evasion. It is also not known whether it is earlier than the house.</p> | <p>Catriona Gillies<br/>Willie Gillies<br/>Alasdair<br/>Cameron</p>                             |
| 96  | Belmaduthy Sawmill     | Sawmill   | NH<br>65043<br>56271 | -       | -       | Gone      | <p>There was a sawmill between Belmaduthy Mains and the site of Belmaduthy House in the 1950s and later. People remember it as being Wylie’s, who also had a sawmill in Avoch behind the old station. The sawmill had a number of wooden huts. Its exact extent is not known.</p>  | <p>Hazel Chisholm,<br/>Alasdair<br/>Cameron</p>   |

**Knockbain Heritage Memories – Site and Feature Record**

| No. | Site name/<br>location       | Site Type | NGR                  | HER No.  | CANMORE | Condition | Description and comments   | Name of contributor   |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|---------|-----------|--|---|
| 95  | Belmaduthy South Lodge       | LODGE     | NH<br>64820<br>55130 | -        | -       | Extant    | Called Easter Lodge on 1 <sup>st</sup> ed OS map, and South Lodge on 2 <sup>nd</sup> . The building has a Mackenzie crest over the door. The gates to the lodge had pulls which could be pulled to alert occupant the visitors wanted to pass up the drive. The curved stone walls on both sides of the roads survive but the gates are now in Avoch football field.   | Alasdair Cameron  |
| 99  | West Lodge, Belmaduthy House | LODGE     | NH<br>64372<br>55560 | -        | -       | Gone      | The West Lodge for Belmaduthy House situated on the Killen road is depicted on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> OS maps, but is only labelled on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition.  | Hazel Chisholm,<br>Alasdair Cameron   |
| 85  | Balnakyle Smiddy             | SMITHY    | NH<br>63916<br>55344 | MHG38967 | 103825  | Extant    | A smiddy is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, on the Killen road, where it is labelled Muirends. However, locally it was known in recent times as Balynakyle Smiddy.  |   |
| 97  | Free Church school           | SCHOOL    | NH<br>62510<br>55705 | -        | -       | Gone      | The 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map shows the Free Church School at this location, but it is not labelled as such in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map. Foundations can be seen on Google Earth.  |   |
| 98  | Upper Knockbain School       | SCHOOL    | NH<br>63015<br>55371 | -        | -       | Extant    | A school is labelled on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, and appears to be an extension on a building existing at the time of the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition map.  | Alasdair Cameron  |
| 100 | Lime kiln, Mouteagle         | Lime kiln | NH<br>63472<br>58056 | -        | -       | Gone      | An 'Old Limekiln' is depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, but not the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition. There is no known lime in the parish so perhaps it was imported. Further research, and exact location, needs to be undertaken.   |   |
| 65  | Munlochy Bay quarry          | QUARRY    | NH<br>6786<br>5316   | MHG29392 | 287468  |           | Munlochy Bay quarry, also sometimes known as Bennetsfield quarry, was reputedly used to provide stone for Fort George (Old statistical account for Avoch Parish, 1790s). Reputedly English employees were brought in to work the quarry and build Fort George, but also used the local workforce. The Bennetsfield Estate gave land for quarry. The cottages nearby were used by workers, and later used by Avoch Fishermen. | Joy Cossar<br>Alasdair Cameron<br>John Smith,<br>Brisbane via<br>Alasdair Cameron |

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### Other notes

- 1783 - David Aitken Map of Drynie Estate –when the land was owned by Colonel Graham shows nothing in Kilmuir except Mill and Mill Croft, glebe and manse
- Has the name Knockbain gravitated north? Current Knockbain was formerly called Upper Knockbain (Willie Gillies)
- The old statistical account 1790s says that 3 schools were in the area - parochial school, a society school, a sunday school - see account for more detail. No locations are given. The new statistical account of the 1830s mentions two established schools, one school at the episcopal chapel, and one itinerant school.
- The 1879-1880 Valuation Roll for Knockbain parish records the following shops in Munloch: shoemaker (John McDonald Finlayson), baker (Ann Ross), merchants (John McDonald Beaton, James Fraser, Alexander Taylor), saddler (Adam Paterson), chemist (Archibald Macdonald) and cartwright (Murdo Davidson)
- John Fraser and Sandy Taylor remember the tide breaching the sea walls and flooding the fields.
- Owen Smith notes that there was an earlier project researching some of the old schools in the area. This was not located for this project.
- In 1925 James Reid, Millwright, Dingwall, supplied a new Bamford Bruiser with driving belt and pulley to C Kemp, Gateside for £15-5-2 (Alasdair Cameron).
- Munloch had the main offices for the Forestry Commission and there are a number of forestry houses on Station Road and on the way to Littleburn. (Alasdair Cameron)

Sites recorded as part of Killearnan Memories project which are in Knockbain parish (not yet in HER). NB: grid refs needed:

|     |                              |                                  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 238 | SIDING AND<br>PARKING STANCE | Allangrange Station              | Railway Station                                  | Last visible in<br>living memory.<br>No longer<br>visible                | Used for transporting livestock by train. On 2 <sup>nd</sup> series<br>map   | Sandra Bain<br>Jean Cameron                |
| 239 | HOUSE AND<br>COTTAGES        | Allangrange Station              | Station House and 2<br>semi-detached<br>cottages | Present/No<br>longer visible.<br>Cottages<br>knocked down<br>1980's/90's | Station House existing. Two semi-detached cottages<br>with outside toilets at the back<br>New house built?   | Sandra Bain                                |
| 240 | RAILWAY LINE                 | Allangrange                      | Site of old railway<br>line visible in field     | Remains still<br>visible   | Position of line still visible from different colours of soil.<br>Young archaeologists from Inverness discovered flints<br>in field when field walking | Alasdair Cameron<br>Cameron                |
| 241 | BRIDGE                       | Allangrange Station<br>Map 100.6 | Railway Bridge                                   | Visible but<br>filled in   | Tore road crosses the bridge   | Sandra Bain<br>Alasdair Cameron<br>Cameron |

**Appendix 1:**

**A Taylor & Sons Munlochry  
(Text written by Allan Fraser Taylor, 5<sup>th</sup> generation)**

**William Taylor (1815 – 1909)**

**Lived until he was 95 years of age**

William founded Taylor's Munlochry in 1842 and he and his son Daniel also farmed Gateside Farm, by Munlochry Bay. He had various domestic servants, shoemakers and shop assistants. He moved from Gateside and set up the business in the Post Office Buildings, Munlochry where he ran a Post Office, General Merchants and Chemist.

Children: Alexander(1843-1928), Jessie (1845?), William (1846-1931), Ann(1850-?), John McDonald(1856-1857/8), Daniel(1858-19??), John McDonald(1859-1943)

**Alexander Taylor (1843 – 1928)**

**Lived until he was 85 years old**

Alexander is listed in Slater's Directory for 1891 – 1900 as a grocer, draper and tailor. He carried out the family business in the Post Office Building, Munlochry until he married and moved the business to its present location, the original part of which was built in 1878. The premises were enlarged in 1890 when the second building was erected adjoining the existing one. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century he helped build Munlochry Church of Scotland.

Children: John McDonald Taylor (26<sup>th</sup> January 1873- 28<sup>th</sup> March 1873), Catherine Taylor (29<sup>th</sup> December 1874 - ??), Maggie Taylor (17<sup>th</sup> November 1876 – 14<sup>th</sup> March 1877), Jessie Ann (1<sup>st</sup> February 1878-1977), William Taylor (21<sup>st</sup> June 1879 – 10<sup>th</sup> July 1879), Alexander Taylor (13<sup>th</sup> November 1880-1963), Margaret Campbell Taylor (20<sup>th</sup> October 1883 – 27<sup>th</sup> December 1908), James McLeod Taylor (3<sup>rd</sup> July 1887 – 19??)

**Alexander Taylor (1880 – 1963)**

**Lived until he was 83 years old**

Alexander junior took over the business from his father in 1922. He was a fully trained tailor and employed up to a dozen tailors and cutters. When factory-made clothing was introduced, he bought the first model T van in the area and started a van round on the west coast (circa 1925), selling drapery goods over a wide area from Torridon area up to Achiltibuie. His son Alastair continued this service until 1964. On the death of Alexander senior in 1928, the property was split between Alexander junior and his sister Jessie Anne McLeod, who was the wife of the stationmaster at Munlochry. (This property was distained for their brother Jim who was killed in the WW1 onboard a hospital ship which was torpedoed. It was said that he stayed below deck with the wounded who were unable to escape whilst the vessel sunk). Mrs McLeod rented her property and it was run for many years as a grocery shop by Mr James Riddoch, father of the ex post mistress Mrs Hazel Chisholm. Alexander junior, or Alick as he was better known as, ran the shop as a drapers and general merchants until 1961 making "Taylor's Munlochry" a household name throughout the Black-Isle and its environs and in many Wester Ross village. In his youth he was a very athletic man, winning the North of Scotland high jump championship. He was an elder of the church for 50 years, teaching as a Sunday School Superintendent and acting on occasions as a precenter. He married Mary Ann Fraser in 1907 and they had four sons:

Children: John McDonald Taylor FRCVS (1908 – 1981) who was Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at Dick Vet College in Edinburgh. He wrote three Anatomy books – publisher Dick Vet/University Press??, Colin Taylor (1910 – 1966) who was a school teacher and headmaster at Fraserburgh, Alastair Taylor (1914 – 2005) who continued the family business, Dr Charles Matheson Taylor (1921 – 2012) who set up a pioneering pilot NHS scheme in Harlow New Town.

**Alastair Taylor (1914 – 2005)**

**Lived until he was 90 years**

When he was young he was nicknamed 'clogs' as he wore wooden clogs He was dyslexic (not diagnosed then) and therefore was unable to continue in Fortrose Academy. He left school at 14 years to enter the business. He was sent to an Inverness school to improve his mathematic and literary skills. He then trained at Edinburgh in book keeping and in drapery business, qualified as a tailor. At 21 his father requested him to return to Munlochry and to join him in the family business. He served in WW11 In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Division driving food supply lorries at the front line in the Middle East, Italy and France. In 1947 he married Florence May Holm whose father was the stationmaster at Redcastle. He took over the business from his father 1962 and continued to run it as a drapery shop until 1964 when with the decline in the drapery trade. He converted the shop to a Spar grocery after purchasing the other shop from his aunt Mrs McLeod. He established the first self-service grocery business on the Black-Isle. He continued to run the business until 1974. He

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retired to spend more time on his hobby of beekeeping and at one stage he had 150 hives in his Black Isle Apiaries. Florence and Alastair had four children: Ann Elisabeth (born 1948-), Allan Fraser (born 1952-, who took over the business), Rosemary Davidson (1955 – 2006), Sue Jane (1960-)

Between 1974 – 1989 the shop was rented out but still traded under the name of A Taylor & sons

### Allan Fraser Taylor (1952 -)

Allan took over the business in 1989 after working in the oil industry for 15 years, 12 of which were spent abroad in countries such as Egypt, Brunei, Holland and Norway. In 1991 he expanded the business leasing Spar shop in North Kessock. He originally ran the business with his ex wife Gill and laterally between the two shops he employed up to 22 part time staff. In February 2012 he retired and the Co-operative took over the lease of the shop premises. A Taylor and sons formally ended trading after 170 years.

### Appendix 2

Extracts from “An Illustrated Guide to Fortrose and vicinity” by Angus John Beaton published 1885

“ This pretty little village, now fast rising into importance, is pleasantly situated at the head of Munlochy Bay, nestling picturesquely among the variegated foliage of the chestnut, the oak, and the elm.”

“The village has improved very much recently, being erected into a special water and drainage district. The supply of water is plentiful, and the sanitation good. Munlochy is distant five miles from Kessock Ferry and five miles from Fortrose. A mail coach runs daily, so that to any one wishing a quiet rural retreat this locality can be recommended. The village is well-lighted, has a public library and reading room, branch of the Royal Bank, post, telegraph, and money order office, a spacious hall, and a corps of volunteers. A new Free Church is being erected, which will be a very ornamental edifice. The other villages in the parish are, Kilmuir, now resorted to as a summer retreat, and Kessock village and Charleston, both in the vicinity of Inverness. Highland Games are held annually at Munlochy in August, and the Black Isle Volunteer Wapinschaw takes place here in June.”

“The present parish church was built in 1754 but since renewed. The two old churches of Kilmuir and Suddie are now in ruins, their yards being used as the parish burying grounds. There is a story current that the old bell from Suddie Church was stolen one night, but the jangling of the boat rung the bell so violently that the men were forced to throw it overboard somewhere near Craigiehow.”

Geology : There is nothing remarkable about the geology of this parish, except perhaps the distinct traces of ancient raised beach, with deposits of shell from 70 to 90 feet above sea level, and the clay deposits of the Munlochy and Allangrange valleys. The prevalent rock is old red sandstone and conglomerate. The very fine sandstone quarry of Suddie is noticed by the late eminent geologist, Dr Page, as possessing the finest building stones in the north of Scotland.”

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Population 1800 | 1703                                  |
| Population 1881 | 1866 of whom 171 were gaelic speakers |