



CAIRT

Issue 34
January 2019

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

In this issue:

- **New website resources and user survey**
- **Lovat Estate Map Project**
- **George Taylor's Plans of Aberdour Estate, Aberdeenshire 1774**
- **Admiralty Charts in the Sutherland Papers**

SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

The Forum was initiated by the National Library of Scotland in 2002:

♦To encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers

♦To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections

♦To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context

♦To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests

♦To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont

CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17th century Scots for map.

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OS 1:10,560 National Grid maps of Scotland, 1950s-1960s

In October we added 2,800 new maps online at six-inch to the mile scale which cover extensive parts of Scotland in the post-War period. These maps show excellent detail of the urban and rural landscape, including farms and settlements, roads and railways, rivers and watercourses, administrative and field boundaries, woodland and land use, as well as contour lines. Buildings are simplified in urban areas but many street names are also shown.

They are especially useful for more remote rural areas, where this is the most detailed scale of OS mapping. This online addition includes all our out-of-copyright maps at this scale, published over 50 years ago. We hope to extend our online coverage of this series to England and Wales in early 2019.

- Home page: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/national-grid/index.html>
- Georeferenced layer: <https://maps.nls.uk/openlayers/?m=1&id=193>



O.S. 1:10,560 map of South Queensferry, 1957, before the construction of the Forth Road Bridge (seen through our maps website Spy viewer). The Queensferry Crossing is under construction on the far left.

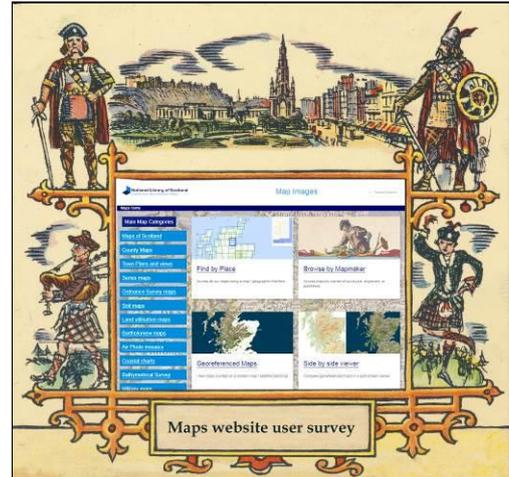
Other new website resources

Maps Website User Survey (14 January – 25 February 2019)

Are you a regular user of our maps website?
Do you have a spare 10 minutes to share your views with us?

As part of a long-term strategy to develop and enhance our maps website, we are gathering information about who is using the website, what their main purposes for doing so are, and what they think are the main priorities for improvement.

- User Survey: <https://maps.nls.uk/survey>



Frederick Douglass in Edinburgh and Scotland - map viewers

A screenshot of the 'Our Bondage and Our Freedom' map viewer interface. The interface shows a historical map of Edinburgh and Scotland with a text panel on the left. The text panel includes a portrait of Frederick Douglass and a description of his life and work. The map viewer includes a search bar and a 'Browse places' section.

Frederick Douglass was one of many Black abolitionists who came to Scotland in the 19th-century to campaign for social justice and freedom. In October we put online three map viewers to accompany the *Strike For Freedom: Slavery, Civil War and the Frederick Douglass Family in the Walter O Evans Collection* treasures display in George IV Bridge, which runs until Saturday 16 February 2019.

The interactive map viewers allow you to view the specific buildings where the abolitionists' speeches and events occurred. You can also view the overall geographic distribution of these places within Edinburgh and Scotland. The viewers include descriptions of the events that took place, along with contemporary

photographs and pictures of some of the people and places referred to. The default background Ordnance Survey maps date from the 1850s-1900s, when these events took place, but they can be easily changed to show present-day mapping too.

- Frederick Douglass map viewers: <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/douglass/index.html>
- Strike For Freedom display: <https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/treasures/frederick-douglass>

Open-source viewers for *Putting Historical Maps Online*

These map viewers were put together in September for a half-day workshop using open-source tools for making maps available online and displaying georeferenced maps. They could be useful for other institutions or projects too – just add a little Javascript and some content to make your own maps website.

- *Putting Historical Maps Online* map viewers: <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/geocart2018/>

Library Search

In October 2018 the National Library of Scotland replaced the previous main catalogue with **Library Search**. This brings together, in a single search, details of our printed, manuscript and archive, moving image and digital collections, as well as high quality e-resources and databases from a range of publishers.

We have created a guide to searching for maps in *Library Search*. This is available on our website at <https://www.nls.uk/catalogues/library-search/maps>

The maps team are also happy to assist if you are looking for maps – contact us at maps@nls.uk or by phoning 0131 623 4660.

Lovat Estate Map Project - initial online maps by Peter May and George Brown

We are very excited to have recently added to our website seven estate maps by Peter May (ca. 1724/33-1795), as well as a volume of 64 estate plans by George Brown (1747-1816), courtesy of Lovat Highland Estates, based in Beaulieu. This is an initial set of what we hope will grow to include over 300 Lovat estate maps during 2019, including a selection from neighbouring estates too.

Colonel David Watson, who instigated the Roy Military Survey of Scotland, was instrumental in recommending Peter May to survey the Annexed Estate of Lovat in 1755. The large, beautifully executed maps by May that resulted from this survey provide a wealth of detail about the pre-improvement landscape in the parishes of Kilmorack, Kiltarlity, Kirkhill and Urquhart and Glenmoriston, west of Inverness. They also testify to the very high quality of May's work – as well as his agricultural and cartographic expertise - and part of the rationale for regarding him as initiating a 'Northeast School of Land Surveying'.

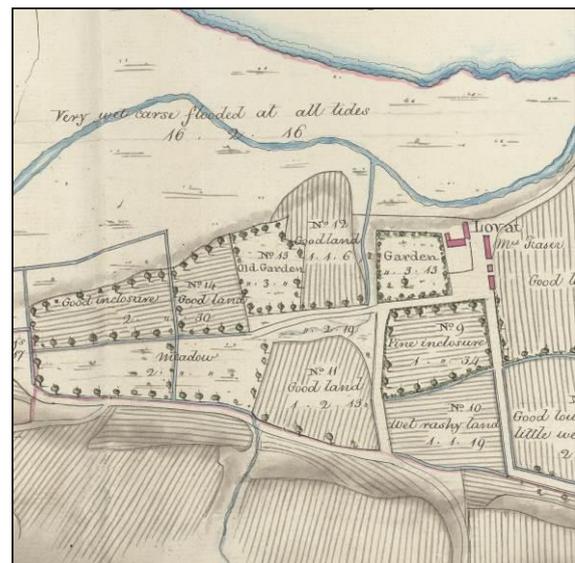
A couple of the surveyors apprenticed to May were the brothers Alexander and George Taylor (see pages 4-5); May also trained Thomas Milne and John Home, as well as George Brown, Peter May's nephew, who succeeded May's factorship at Elgin and farm at Linkwood when May left to work for James Stuart Mackenzie, Earl of Bute.

We are deeply grateful to Roland Spencer-Jones (Beaulieu) for coordinating the whole project, to Lovat Highland Estates for permission to display their maps online, and to the North of Scotland Archaeology Society and its volunteers for helping with the scanning.

- Read Roland's blog about the project at: <https://nosasblog.wordpress.com/2018/11/10/the-lovat-estate-map-project/>
- The Lovat estate maps are available on our *Estate Maps* page under Inverness-shire: <https://maps.nls.uk/estates/#inverness-shire>
- George Brown's Lordship of Lovat Estate Plans volume (1798-1800) is at: <https://maps.nls.uk/estates/lovat/index.html>



The farm of Wester Lovat recorded by Peter May in 1757 (above) and George Brown in 1798-1800 (below). Wester Lovat is a mile east of Beaulieu, on the south bank of the River Beaulieu, by the site of the former Lovat Castle.



Recent publications

Carolyn Anderson and Christopher Fleet, *Scotland: Defending the Nation* (Edinburgh: Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland, 2018).

Beata Medyńska-Gulij and Tadeusz Żuchowski, *European Topography in Eighteenth-Century Manuscript Maps* (Poznań: Bogucki Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 2018). Analyses the Roy Military Survey of Scotland in a wider European military mapping context.

David L. Walker, 'Nineteenth Century Mapping of Sutherland', *Scottish Local History* 101 (Autumn 2018), 27-35. A detailed examination of the work of Gregory Burnett and William Scott and their Sutherland county map of 1833 - its construction, funding, sources, broader context and later versions.

George Taylor's Plans of Aberdour Estate, Aberdeenshire 1774

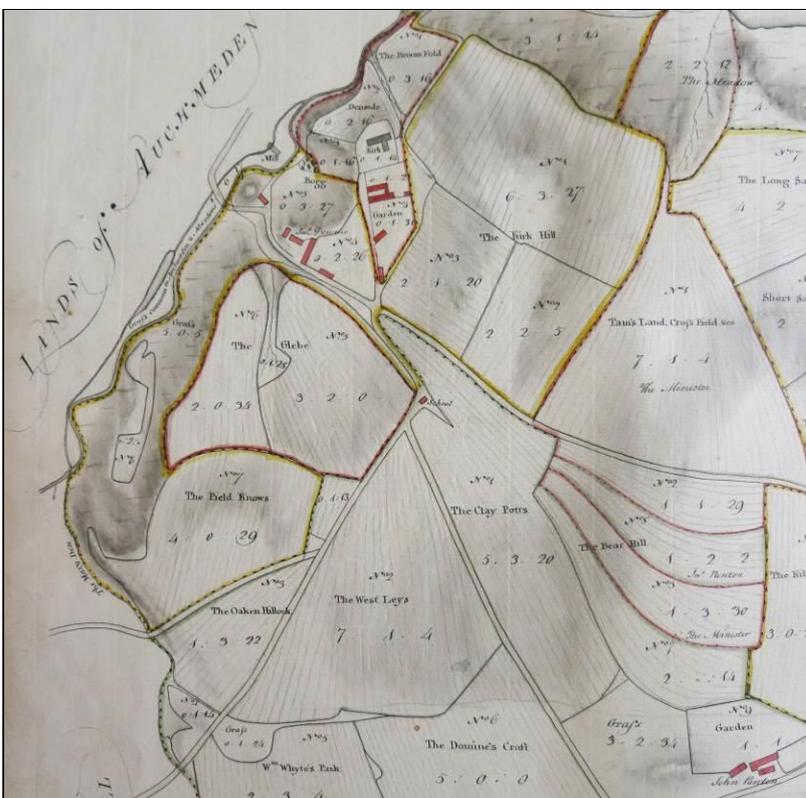
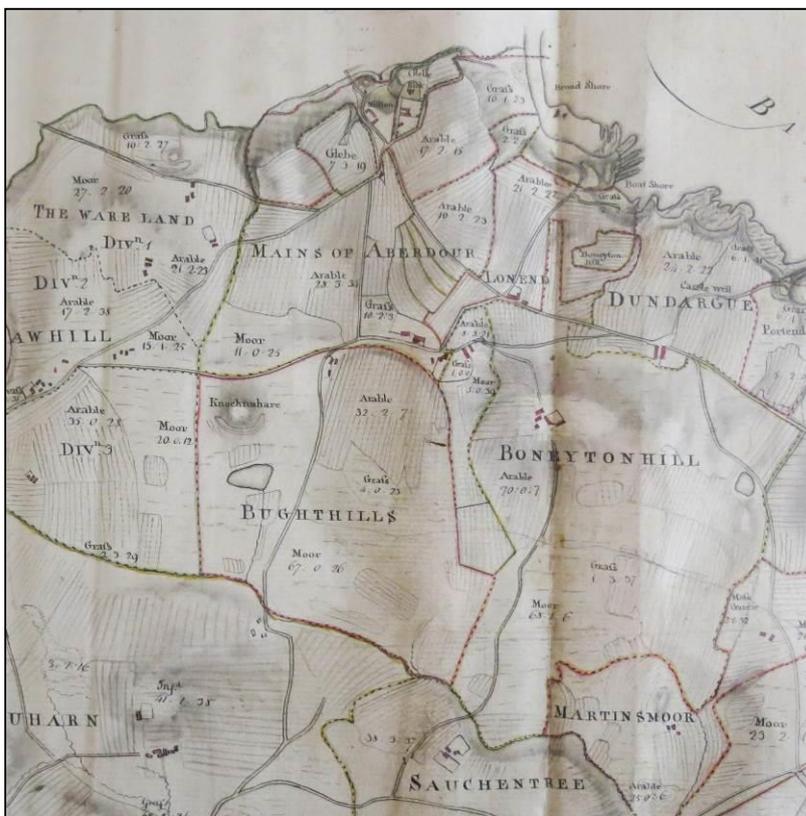
Douglas Lockhart discusses the importance of Taylor's survey as part of a sequence of maps, illustrating the pre-improver landscape around the planned village of New Aberdour

George Taylor is perhaps best known for his *Survey and Maps of the Roads of North Britain or Scotland* (1775-6), a collaboration with Andrew Skinner, with its 61 plates of strip maps showing roads in Scotland. However, before emigrating to Ireland and America by 1779, he also surveyed plans of towns and rural estates in Scotland. Among the collection of estate and family papers of the Dingwall Fordyce family of Brucklay in Buchan, Aberdeenshire that have recently been deposited in the Special Collections Centre at the University of Aberdeen are a significant number of plans including some by George Taylor¹. During the nineteenth century the family purchased land beyond the core estates at Brucklay including New Deer (Ferguson of Pitfour); Pitsligo (Garden Campbell) and Aberdour. The surviving plans reflect this and one of the most interesting is a book of plans of the modest estate of just under 5,500 Scots acres of Alexander Gordon of Aberdour which was surveyed by George Taylor in 1774. Aberdour estate lies seven miles west of Fraserburgh, on the coast between Pennan and Rosehearty, and the early plans show a landscape before improvement had taken place with enclosure only around the laird's house (Figs. 1-3).

Unfortunately no documents that shed light on Taylor's survey have been located. Perhaps this is not surprising as Aberdour estate was in the hands of the Dingwall Fordyce family from 1814 until 1934 when it was sold to Thomas Place of Sowber Gate near Northallerton, a timber merchant, noted for purchasing and breaking-up landed estates.

Above right: Fig. 1 Excerpt from the reduced plan of Aberdour Estate, orientated with WNW to the top.

Right: Fig. 2 Kirktown of Aberdour, orientated with NNW to the top. The site of the planned village is on the southern extremity.



¹ Cataloguing and conservation work on the Brucklay Estate Papers is continuing and the collection is not open to researchers.

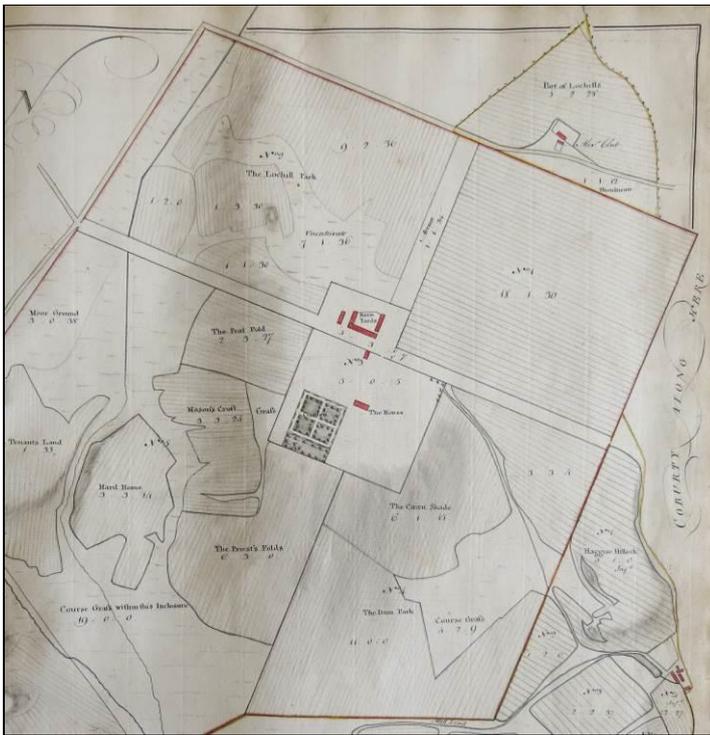


Fig. 3: Aberdour House, which lies a mile to the east of the Kirktown orientated with NNE to the top.

However the discovery of Taylor's survey provides an opportunity to study changing settlement patterns and landholdings as a plan of the estate surveyed by George Robertson in 1816 (**Fig. 4**, below) can be consulted in the National Records of Scotland while a further benchmark is the Ordnance Survey map of 1871 that was published in 1874 (see *Scotland: Mapping the Nation* p.140 and <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74478457>).

Perhaps the most striking example of change is the founding in 1797 by Gordon's son, William (1772-1839) of the planned village of New Aberdour with its distinctive L-shaped layout on high ground less than a mile from the kirktown and next to the turnpike road linking Fraserburgh, Rosehearty and Macduff (B9031).

Together with detailed advertisements in the *Aberdeen Journal* in 1797, the village regulations transcribed by this author in *Scottish Planned Villages* (pp. 89-91) and annual rentals of Aberdour estate from 1844 it will become possible to study the transformation of a pre-improver pattern of infield and outfield into village building plots

and an adjacent lotted land field system. This is significant because so far most comparisons of this kind have been of more ambitious village development on very large properties such as those documented in the Richmond and Gordon; Seafield and Fife estate management papers.



Fig. 4: Excerpt from Plan of the Lands of Aberdour, 1816. [RHP86] orientated with NE to the top.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank the Dingwall Fordyce family for their assistance on my visits to the former estate office at Shevado, Maud. National Records of Scotland and Special Collections, University of Aberdeen are thanked for permission to reproduce excerpts from plans.

Douglas G. Lockhart

Admiralty Charts in the Sutherland Papers

During research on *The Nineteenth Century Mapping of Sutherland*¹ by the author last year, a surprising discovery was made of several detailed manuscript charts in the Sutherland papers² which pre-date the published Admiralty charts of these areas by several years. These include a chart of the Dornoch Firth dated 1837³ by Commander M.A. Slater, not published by the Admiralty until 1853, and four charts of the west coast extending from Cape Wrath to the Point of Stoer⁴, dated 1846-48 but not published until 1856-7. Correspondence with the Hydrographer to the Admiralty Board, Captain Francis Beaufort, has subsequently been found which provides new light on their unusual and interesting provenance.

Beaufort managed his abundant interests around the world through a prodigious correspondence, which remains well organised in the archive of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO). This includes a letter, dated 10 May 1842, from James Loch, MP for the Wick Burghs and factor to the Duke of Sutherland. He reminded Beaufort that he had previously asked about obtaining a copy of the survey of the Dornoch Firth which he had seen in Commander Slater's hands several years earlier, when Slater resided at Golspie. Beaufort, wisely adaptable in the face of superior influence, assured Loch on 21 May that the Lords of the Admiralty had ordered Lieutenant Otter to allow any proper person appointed by Loch to make a copy of the Dornoch chart, subject to their Lordships' desire that this should not be published.⁵ After Slater's unfortunate death earlier that year H.C. Otter had taken his place in charge of the survey of the coast of northern Scotland, a post he held until 1863.

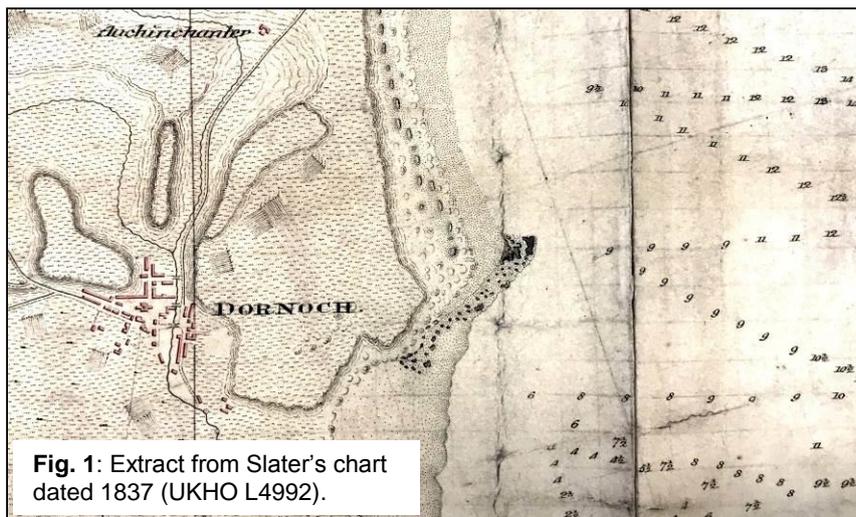


Fig. 1: Extract from Slater's chart dated 1837 (UKHO L4992).

This episode demonstrates that the Dornoch chart in the Sutherland papers is an authorised copy of Slater's fair copy, made before the fair copy was completed by Otter. Its title, coverage and content is directly comparable. But why did Loch want this, when a map of Sutherland already in his possession⁶ provided much better detail of the land? A comparison of Slater's chart (extract at **Fig. 1**) with the Sutherland copy (extract at **Fig. 2**) shows that the Sutherland copy faithfully recorded Slater's soundings (albeit slightly thinned) and other navigational detail, and indeed improved the chart by tinting the inter-tidal zone.⁷

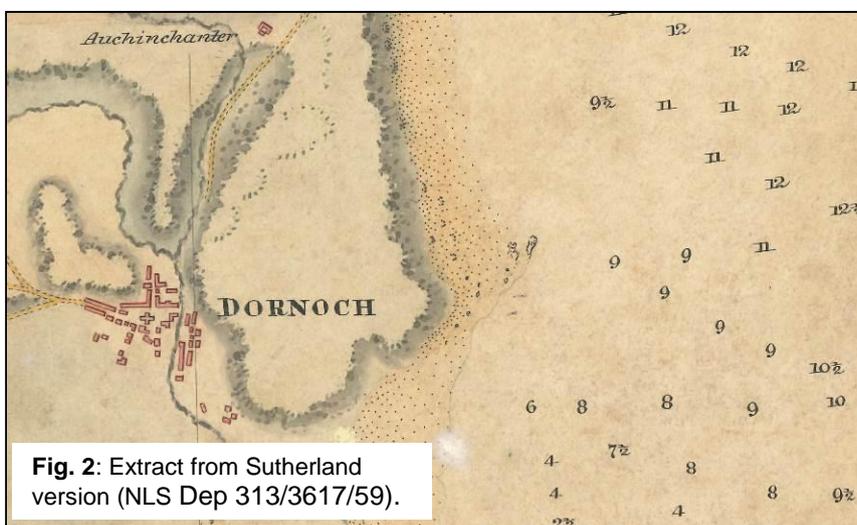


Fig. 2: Extract from Sutherland version (NLS Dep 313/3617/59).

¹ David L Walker, 'Nineteenth Century Mapping of Sutherland', *Scottish Local History* 101 (Autumn 2018), 27-35.

² The Sutherland estate papers are held on deposit at the NLS, including a substantial collection of maps and plans held in the Map Library that are catalogued in the NLS Guide to Manuscript Collections (Sutherland Estates Papers, Dep.313 and Acc.10225).

³ UKHO, Frith [sic] of Dornoch, L4992 51a, is dated 1837 and attributed to Slater but annotated by Otter in 1845.

⁴ NLS, Frith [sic] of Dornoch, Slater, 1837, Dep.313/3617/59 - <https://maps.nls.uk/view/189001235>; Handa Island to Rhu Stoir, Otter, 1846, Dep 313/3631/2 - <https://maps.nls.uk/view/143283472>; Lochs Cairn Bahn, Glen Coul, and Glen Dhu, Otter, 1846, Dep.313/3631/3 - <https://maps.nls.uk/view/189001232>; Loch Laxford, Smith and Otter, 1846, Dep.313/3631/4; Croc Huish to Karra Garrow, James Jeffrey, 1848, Dep.313/3631/5 - <https://maps.nls.uk/view/189001238>.

⁵ UKHO, [incoming] Letters pre 1857, LP 1857 L, f 323 and [outgoing] Letter Books, LB 10, p 429.

⁶ Burnett and Scott, *Map of the County of Sutherland etc.*, 1833 (<https://maps.nls.uk/counties/rec/5825>).

⁷ The stretches of rocky shoreline omitted from the Sutherland copy were annotated by Otter on Slater's chart in 1845.

So it seems that Loch sought hydrographic data to assist his evaluation of the scope for developing trade and/or fishing in the Dornoch Firth as part of his county-wide policy of promoting coastal employment.

Six years later, Otter, now a commander, wrote to the Hydrographer, now Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, from Loch Inver on 1 August 1848 about another approach.⁸ The Duke of Sutherland, then at Loch Inver in his yacht, was revising his map of the county and wished to make use of Otter's coastline and topography. Otter was reluctant to share in a 'reconstruction' but ready, if Beaufort agreed, to allow Hector Morrison, the Duke of Sutherland's surveyor, to look over Otter's charts of the coastline and from these to correct his (Morrison's) work by eye 'without committing the Hydrographical department by mentioning that any data has been received from that quarter.' Only eight days later, Beaufort responded that 'the Duke of Sutherland is quite welcome to the information you propose giving him from your charts – and he begs you will thank His Grace in his name for the map'.⁹ This was Burnett and Scott's map of Sutherland dated 1833, that Otter had been asked to forward to Beaufort.

The UKHO accession ledger (volume 3B) records Otter's completion on 29 March 1847 of the four 'fair copies' shown on **Fig. 3**, which correspond with the titles of the four charts in the Sutherland papers at Dep.313/3631/2-5.

A close comparison of one pair, between Otter's chart of Handa Island to Rhu Stoir (extract at **Fig. 4**) and the Sutherland version (extract at **Fig. 5**) suggests that the Sutherland version is a copy of Otter's work.

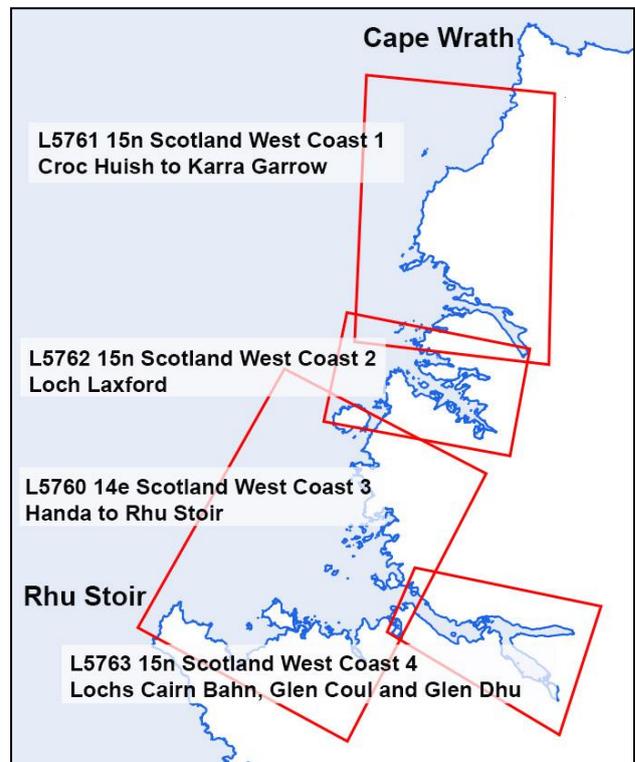
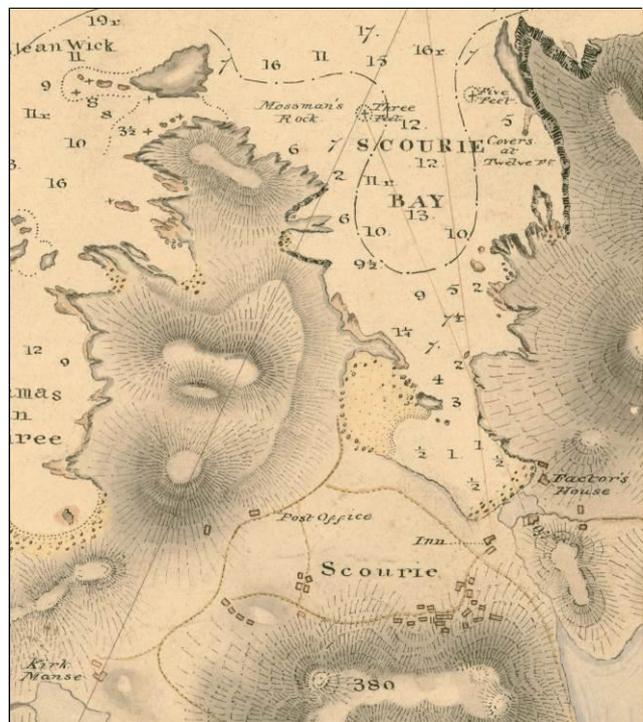
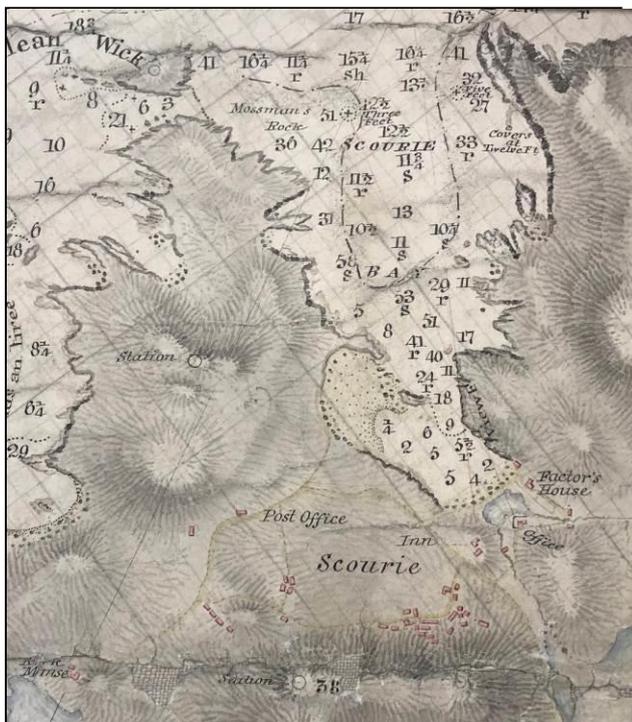


Fig. 3: Charts completed by Otter in 1847.

Below left. Fig. 4: Extract from Otter's chart (UKHO L5760).

Below right. Fig. 5: from Sutherland version (NLS Dep. 313/3631/2).



⁸ UKHO, Surveyor's Letters, Otter 1847-40, SL 31b, 1 August 1848.

⁹ UKHO, Letter Books, LB 15, p 290.

Admiralty Charts in the Sutherland Papers (continued from page 7)

Interestingly, the most significant difference is that, whereas the Admiralty showed deep water soundings in fathoms and shallow water in feet, the copy (to avoid confusion) shows all soundings in fathoms.¹¹

A further comparison was made between the styles of the Sutherland version and of Morrison's revision dated 1855¹² of Burnett and Scott's map. The strong resemblance in the orthography of hills and the style of names suggests that these came from the same hand, whether Morrison's or that of his assistant. Regarding content, Morrison's revision seems to have made use of Otter's work to amend and improve the accuracy of the coastline of Burnett and Scott's map, without copying the Admiralty's mostly inferior detail of inhabited land. As to the hills, these deserve more detailed comparisons.

Nothing has been found to show that Morrison either sought or received permission to copy Otter's charts, which would have amounted to more than the agreed 'look over'. Perhaps

permission was assumed from the correspondence six years earlier, or perhaps Otter, who spent many productive years on the Sutherland coast, judged it prudent to turn a blind eye.

It was suggested in the author's article in *Scottish Local History* (see p. 3) that Morrison, prior to 1855, played a much greater part in revising Burnett and Scott's map, dated 1833, than the impression given by the sub-title 'with additional names and corrections by Hector Morrison'. This is reinforced by finding that Morrison commenced his revision no later than 1848, and must have put considerable effort into copying Otter's work.

This study has devoted attention to only one of the group of four charts, making limited comparisons with the superb maps attributed to Burnett and Scott. The writer has not referred to the wealth of estate maps in the Sutherland papers, or to the Sutherland side of the correspondence. There is more to be enjoyed in those places, as well as in the Admiralty charts on the NLS website.

The author particularly thanks Dr Adrian Webb, Head of the UKHO Archive, and Chris Fleet at the NLS for their encouragement, advice and practical support. Illustrations are copied from archived documents by kind permission of UKHO, NLS and the Sutherland estates.

David L. Walker

¹¹ Another difference is that only Otter's chart shows a rectangular grid. The writer would welcome informed advice as to whether this grid was drawn by the hydrographic surveyor or added by the engraver to assist in copying and reduction.

¹² *Map of the County of Sutherland with additional names and corrections by Hector Morrison, 1855* (<https://maps.nls.uk/counties/rec/683>).

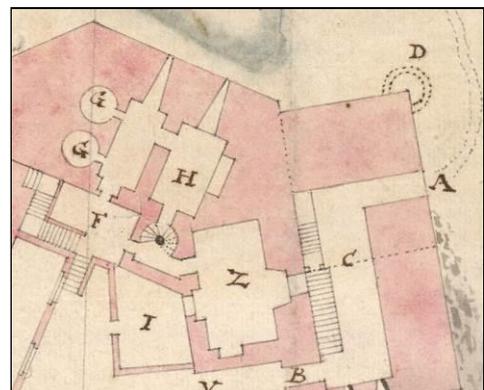
Two copies of *Scotland: Defending the Nation* to be won!

This recently-published book uses six centuries of military maps to provide insights into Scotland's unique and fascinating military history - further details at: <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/defending/>

To win a copy of *Scotland: Defending the Nation*, please provide details of the **map-maker** and **title** from which the extract on the right is taken.

Send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition* to maps@nls.uk or to the address on the front cover by 31 March 2019. Two winners will be picked randomly from the correct entries and informed by 15 April 2019.

Congratulations to Taco Nolf and Douglas Turnbull who each won a copy of *The Scottish Maps Calendar 2019* from last issue's competition, and thanks to all who took part. The detail shown was from Robert Greene's *A new map of Scotland with the roads* (1679).



The Scottish Maps Forum is planning to hold our next seminar in 2020. This year, other regular map talks and workshops will be advertised through our Events (<https://www.nls.uk/events>) and Workshop pages (<https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours>).

For *Scotland: Defending the Nation* talks see: <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/defending/index.html#talks>.