



Strathnaver Museum

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Geocache

Created as part of the Strathnaver Museum Artist in residence programme 2012.

www.strathnavermuseum.org.uk
www.strathnaver.blogspot.co.uk
www.geocaching.com

In order to bring the landscape into the museum and the museum exhibits/information out into the landscape I decided to make two related objects for each locality, one to be held by the museum, the other to be concealed at the location.



STRATHNAVER MUSEUM EST. 1976

Journey from Strathnaver's mystical past, through the emergence of the Clan Mackay to the tragedy of the Highland Clearances.

RARE ARTEFACTS . UNIQUE COLLECTION . EXHIBITIONS . TOURS . GENEALOGY . ENQUIRIES . DIGITAL ARCHIVES . LIBRARY . SCOTTISH CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY . GLOBAL . RESEARCH . COMMUNITY . VISIT



Artist Liz Myhill

Museum objects and information were linked to, finding out more about the layers of time and web of connections which link places, people, objects, stories and history.



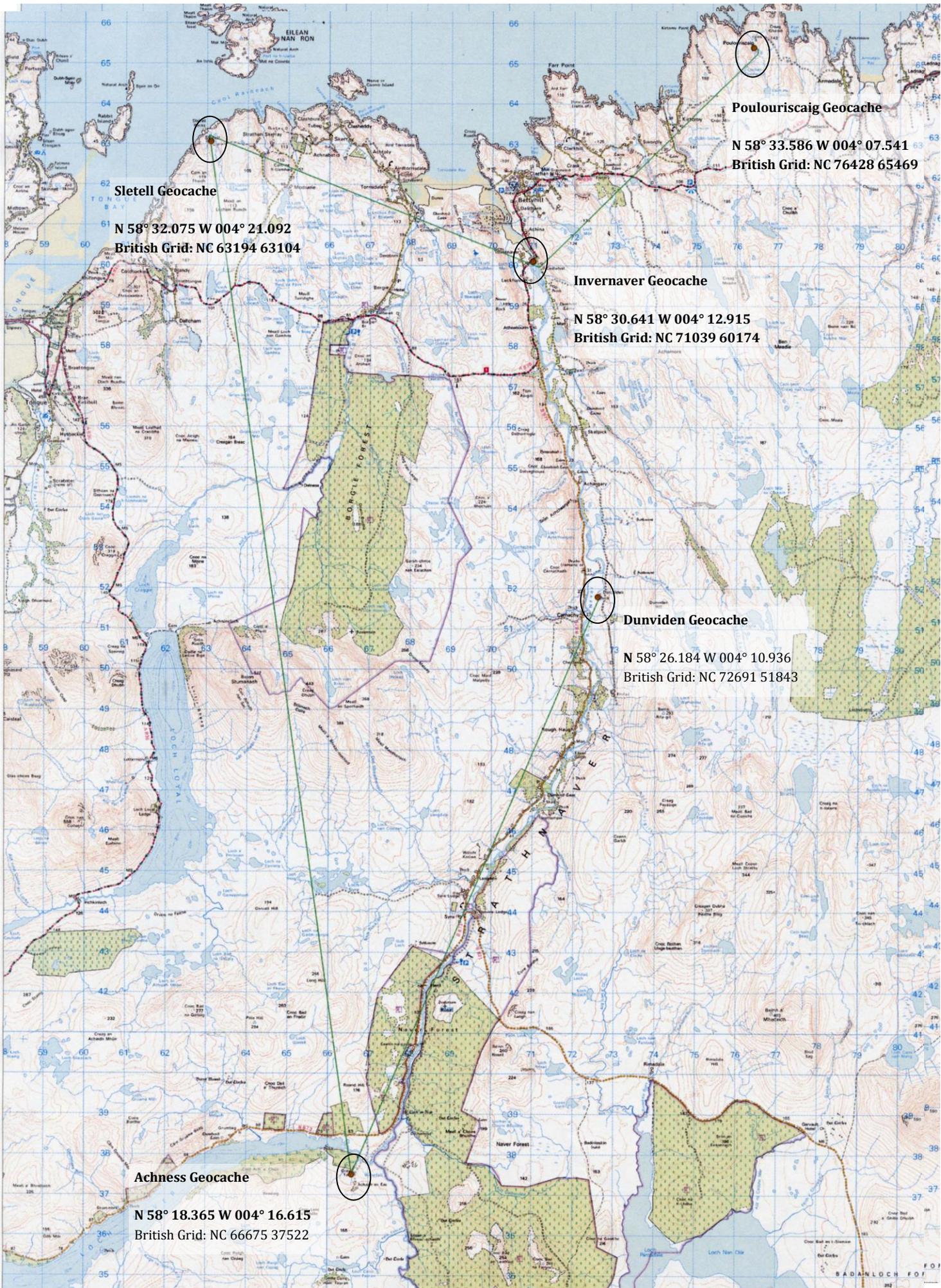
Using information or objects in the museum as a lead I found myself particularly drawn to five specific locations; the oral history and photographs relating to life at Sletell and Poulouriscaig, pre-history objects and reconstructed cist which I related to the numerous Stone, Bronze and Iron Age sites in close proximity at Invernaver, coins from Loch Mo Naire and the text by Rev Donald Sage relating to Achness.

The most intriguing thing I found to be the marks which had been left in the landscape by successive generations of inhabitants, forms often repeating, resources being reused and always the sense of there being the possibility of discovering something which may have lain undiscovered for many, many years. In such a sparsely populated landscape this notion of exploration, discovery and of walking over ground which no other human has trodden for many years is easily appreciated.

In order to bring the landscape into the museum and the museum exhibits/information out into the landscape I decided to make two related objects for each locality, one to be held by the museum, the other to be concealed at the location.

Having collected various natural materials such as grasses, seaweed and grit while out walking on location I decided to incorporate these into the artwork by making collagraph prints – constructing a printing block from collage elements. Each print depicts a panoramic view taken from one of my sketchbooks and incorporates a section of ordnance survey map increase understanding of the topography of the location as well as being rather appropriate given the quantity of time I spent consulting one while out searching for various landmarks!

The object for concealment at each location would take the form of a “geocache” in which a series of small scale artworks and snippets of information relating to the place and its history plus a log book would be placed in a box and hidden at the source. The co-ordinates then logged onto the international geocaching website and made available to the museum to enable people to search for and discover the box themselves.



Sletell Geocache
N 58° 32.075 W 004° 21.092
British Grid: NC 63194 63104

Poulouriscaig Geocache
N 58° 33.586 W 004° 07.541
British Grid: NC 76428 65469

Invernaver Geocache
N 58° 30.641 W 004° 12.915
British Grid: NC 71039 60174

Dunviden Geocache
N 58° 26.184 W 004° 10.936
British Grid: NC 72691 51843

Achness Geocache
N 58° 18.365 W 004° 16.615
British Grid: NC 66675 37522

Sletell Geocache

N 58° 32.075 W 004° 21.092
British Grid: NC 63194 63104

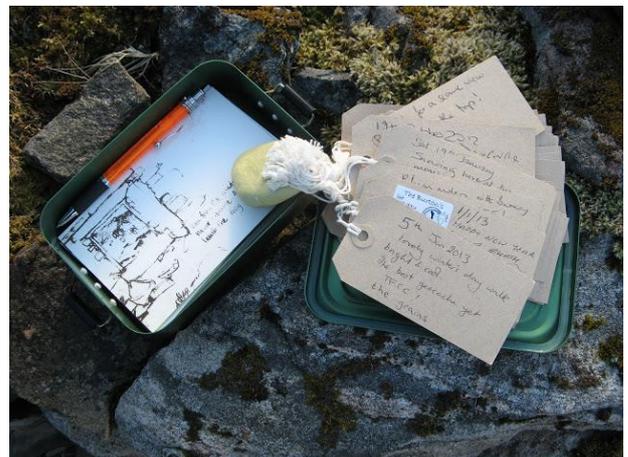


A beautiful walk across the hill to the abandoned settlement of Sletell where heather moorland gives way to green pasture and formerly cultivated land. There is a well-marked path but conditions are a little rough and boggy in places with a small parking area at the end of the road where the path begins. Suggest you allow two to three hours and spend some time exploring the village and coastline.



The small settlement of Sletell lost its last resident in 1960 and has been slowly disappearing back into the landscape since then.

The cache consists of two containers, one a traditional geocache containing small items to trade, the other will allow you to discover more about Sletell and its inhabitants- please do not remove the items from the latter as they are for future visitors to enjoy.



Poulouriscaig Geocache

N 58° 33.586 W 004° 07.541

British Grid: NC 76428 65469



A walk across the hill to the abandoned settlement of Poulouriscaig, take the signposted track from Armadale which will take you most of the way following the old road. Well marked but rough track and path, quite boggy in places.

Suggest at least two to three hours and spend some time exploring the village.

Poulouriscaig was settled during the Strathnaver clearances and abandoned in the mid-1900s due to its remote location, resettlement of the strath and lack of amenities.



The cache consists of two containers, one a traditional geocache containing small items to trade, the other will allow you to discover more about Poulouriscaig and its people - please do not remove the items from the latter as they are for future visitors to enjoy.



Invernaver Geocache
N 58° 30.641 W 004° 12.915
British Grid: NC 71039 60174



At the crossing point of the River Naver and site of habitation since pre-historic times, this is a quick cache to find very close to the road with information relating to things to look for and explore up and down the Naver within walking distance.

The River Naver has played an important role in the lives of the people who chose to settle here since the Mesolithic period and there are many sites where evidence of their habitation can still be found in the landscape. The cache also refers to more modern times and Strathnaver life within living memory.



There is plenty of parking at the Bettyhill end of the bridge.

For nearby walks either follow the single track road toward Skelpick and use the Strathnaver Trail information boards or cross the bridge, take the Invernaver road and footpath to the beach and walk to Baile Marghait plateau directly ahead for Bronze and Iron Age sites.

The cache consists of three containers, one a traditional geocache containing small items to trade, the others will allow you to discover more about Invernaver and its people- please do not remove items from the latter as they are for future visitors to enjoy



Achness Geocache

N 58° 18.365 W 004° 16.615

British Grid: NC 66675 37522



Take a short walk from the road to discover the site of Achness village. The track is in reasonable condition if a little rough in places.

To visit the cache itself would require no more than 40 minutes but you could take the time to explore the site and also visit nearby related locations at Dalharrold, Rosal and Syre which form part of the Achness story.

Achness shows signs of habitation since at least Bronze Age times until its population was evicted during the Sutherland clearances in the early 1800s. This geocache tells just some of the story of Achness and the surrounding area.

The cache consists of two containers, one a traditional geocache containing small items to trade, the other will allow you to discover more about Achness and its people- please do not remove the item from the latter as it is for future visitors to enjoy.

Dunviden Geocache

N 58° 26.184 W 004° 10.936

British Grid: NC 72691 51843



Dunviden...the castle broch, also site of a Neolithic burial chamber and pre-clearance settlement. Find these three historic sites clustered in a short distance from the healing waters of Loch Mo Naire.

A walk up the Strath to a beautiful location of historic significance. Park near the end of the road at Skelpick, no official car park but plenty of places to pull off, taking care to be considerate to residents access. Follow a rough but easily passable track with lovely views of the River Naver.

Allow 2-3 hours to complete a direct walk or alternatively make a day of it and walk a circular by parking at Invernaver and following part of the Strathnaver Trail along the road to Skelpick, continuing past Dunviden to Rhifail and returning by road on the other side of the Naver. Would also be achievable on mountain bikes.

Nearby Loch Mo Naire has an interesting significance in the history of the area and the ruins at Dunviden chart centuries of human habitation, the cache contents relate to some of the "Highland wisdom" and practices associated with this location.

The cache consists of two containers, one a traditional geocache containing small items to trade, the other will allow you to discover more about Dunviden and its people- please do not remove items from the latter as they are for future visitors to enjoy.



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Tha am pròiseact seo air a mhaoineachadh leis a' Chrannchur Nàiseanta, Taigh-tasgaidh Shrath Nabhair, Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus le prògram Leader na Gàidhealtachd Choimhearsnachd Eòrpach 2007-2013. Supported by Comunn na Gàidhlig, Iomairt na Gaidhealtachd's nan Eilean and CVS North