

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE BROCH

2000 years ago, Caithness was home to over 200 Iron Age buildings known as brochs. **Unique to Scotland**, brochs were huge drystone towers, built by a mysterious group of people. Their purpose is still debated – were they defensive, or status symbols? Now many of these brochs have disappeared – but several still stand, silent sentinels in the 'Land of Caith'.

We have chosen some of our favourites, and at each site you can learn more with our own interpretive panels. We hope this booklet will encourage you to go out and discover more about these fascinating structures!

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CAITHNESS BROCH PROJECT

REMEMBER! FOLLOW THE SCOTTISH OUTDOOR CODE:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively
- care for your environment
- keep your dog under proper control

The Caithness Broch Trail has been created by the Caithness Broch Project (CBP), who aim to develop and promote the heritage and archaeology of Caithness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CBP, FOLLOW US ON:

www.thebrochproject.co.uk

Facebook.com/caithnessbrochproject

@thebrochproject

OR CONTACT US ON:

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WITH THANKS TO:

A and E Sutherland Quarry, Alan Braby, Alex Sanmark (UHI), David Simon, Keiss Estate, Crossreach Achvarasdal Care Home, Gary Oag, Derek Oag, Barry Scollay, Niall Smith (Caithness Voluntary Group), Caithness Print Service, The Park Hotel, Y-not Bar and Grill and The Highland Council

THE CAITHNESS BROCH TRAIL



Please be a responsible visitor at the sites mentioned in this booklet. We ask that you consider the local environment and farmland, and please deter from activities which may damage the monuments, or put you at harm. All visits to the sites mentioned are taken at your own risk.

KEISS

Containing not one but TWO brochs, the Keiss shoreline is a real archaeological treat. The remains of Keiss Castle and two pillboxes can also be seen in the area, signifying how strategically important this stretch of coastline has been through the ages.

These huge brochs were excavated in the later 19th century by Francis Tress Barry – painted pebbles, Roman pottery and human remains were all found here. Follow the route below to find out more...

DID YOU KNOW...

A bear tooth was found in nearby Kirk Tofts Broch

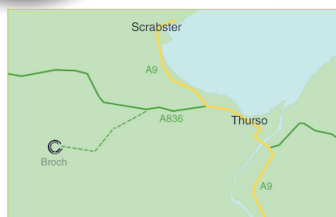
HOW TO GET THERE



- > Take the A99 north to Keiss
- > Turn right before the zebra crossing
- > Drive straight to the harbour
- > You will see a green sign to the shore

THING'S VA

2000 years ago the inhabitants on this land built this broch as their home. 1000 years later it was re-used as a Viking Parliament! Things Va is a corruption of the Old Norse 'Thing's Vollr', translating as court or assembly. Find out why the Vikings chose to recycle this broch as you soak up fantastic views across the Pentland Firth to Dunnet Head.



- > Head west from Thurso along A836
- > Take a left towards Hill of Forss
- > Around 1 mile up the road you'll see an entrance on the right
- > Park here - you'll see the mound of Thing's Va in the distance

ACHVARASDAL

A secret monument nestled deep within Achvarasdal Woods - Achvarasdal broch provides a both a pleasant meander and intriguing archaeological site: not only is Achvarasdal one of the best preserved brochs in Caithness, but this has one of the largest diameters in all of Scotland! Don't forget to check out the nearby mysterious non-standing stones after visiting the broch - what do you think their purpose was?

DID YOU KNOW...

Achvarasdal means 'field of Barr's dale'



- > Head west from Thurso along A836
- > Turn left before Reay, heading towards Shebster
- > Head towards Achvarasdal. Parking can be found on your left.
- > Follow the road to the care home. The broch is on the right

THE BROCHS OF CAITHNESS



SITES CURRENTLY PROMOTED BY CAITHNESS BROCH PROJECT

- ① Achvarasdal
- ② Things Va
- ③ Keiss Broch

Other sites of interest

- ④ Greystell Castle
- ⑤ Tulach Mor
- ⑥ Cairn Merk
- ⑦ Wag of Forse
- ⑧ Bruan
- ⑨ Yarrows Broch
- ⑩ West Watten Green Hill
- ⑪ Bridge of Lyth
- ⑫ Nybster
- ⑬ Skirza Head
- ⑭ Dunbeath Broch
- ⑮ An Dun Broch