

Using the clues below, match the Caithness Dialect words to the pictures.

This sea creature is as small as a child.

There is a myth that these animals can turn into humans when they take off their skin.


You'll need your wellies to do this.

If you're very good at this, you can make many ripples in water.

Commonly found along beaches, you can find it made into crisps in Caithness.


You may need a ladle to scoop one of these up, they are very wriggly.

1




silkie

3




bairnag

5



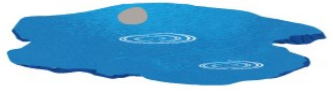
plouter

6



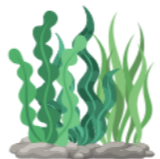
Paddie-ladle

4



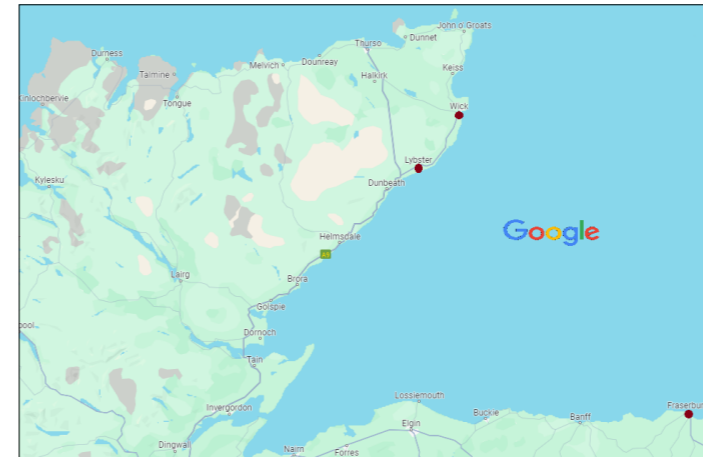
skeeter

2



waur

These words were taken from Iain Sutherland's 'Caithness Dialect Dictionary'



The herring fishing industry of the 19<sup>th</sup> century would make Wick Europe's largest herring fishing port, followed closely by Fraserburgh and Lybster.

In 1862, at the height of the herring fishing boom, Wick had a fleet of 1120 fishing boats! Over two days that year, the 3500 gutters or fisher lasses gutted 50 million herring!!

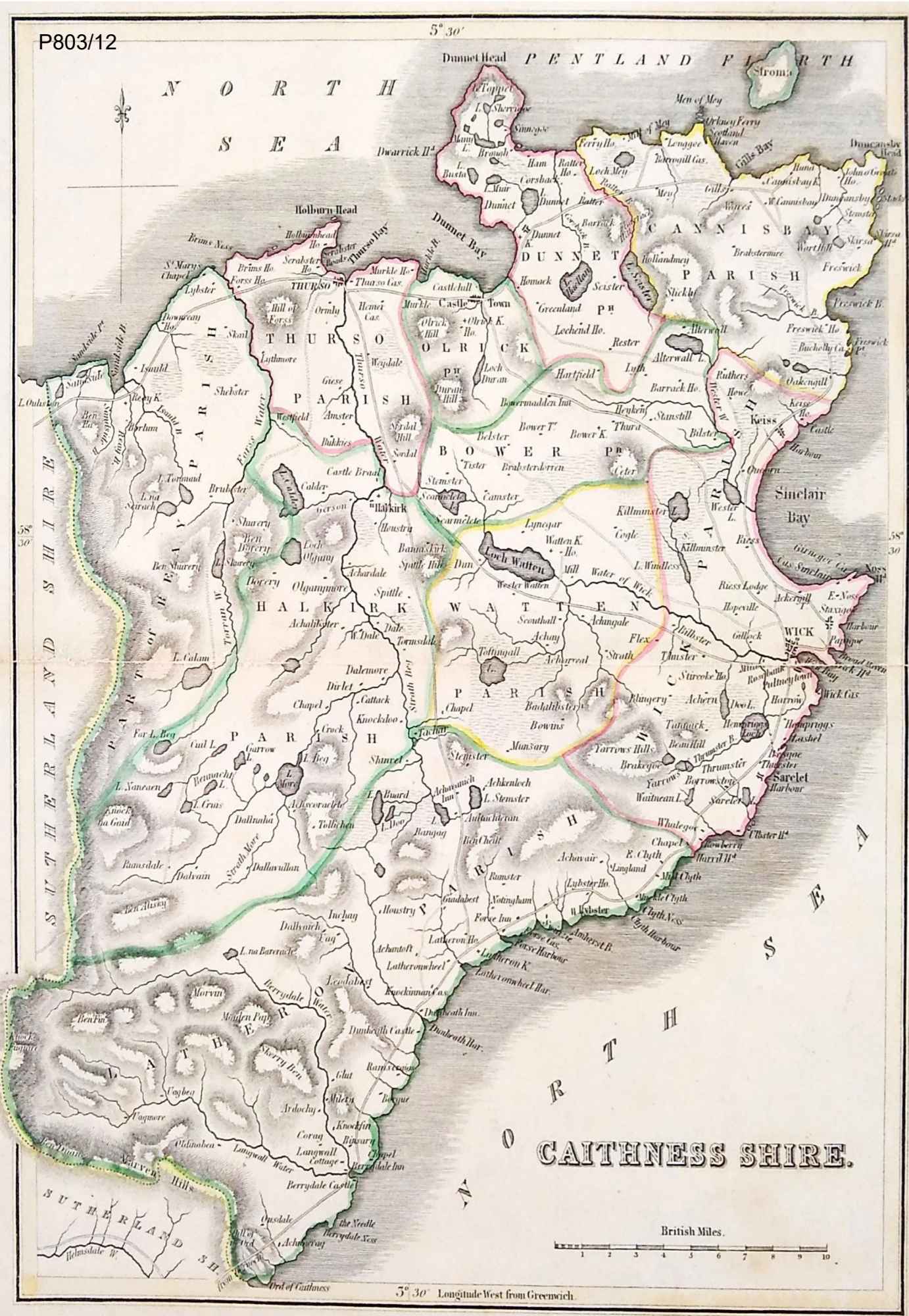


It is said that you could walk from one side of the harbour to the other without touching the water there were that many vessels crammed in.





P803/12



NUCLEUS

# Caithness Harbours

THE NUCLEAR AND CAITHNESS ARCHIVES

**Caithness had approximately 30 harbours historically**  
 Below is a list of just some of the harbours in Caithness, how many can you find on the map? Write in some that were missed from the list.

- |                          |                               |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Wick</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Keiss</b>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Ackergill</b>              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Latheronwheel</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Castlehill /Castletown</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Lybster</b>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Dunbeath</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Scrabster</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Gills Bay</b>              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Thurso</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>John O'Groats</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Clyth</b>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Dwarick</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Huna</b>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                |



There are 10 differences in the picture below, can you find them all?

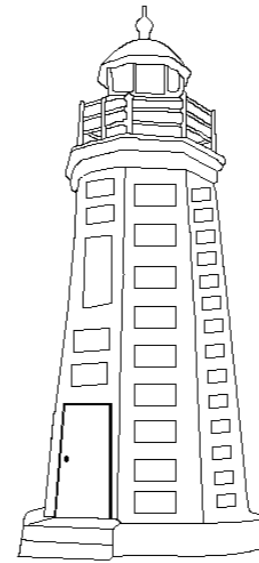
Am Baile 33572



Am Baile 33572

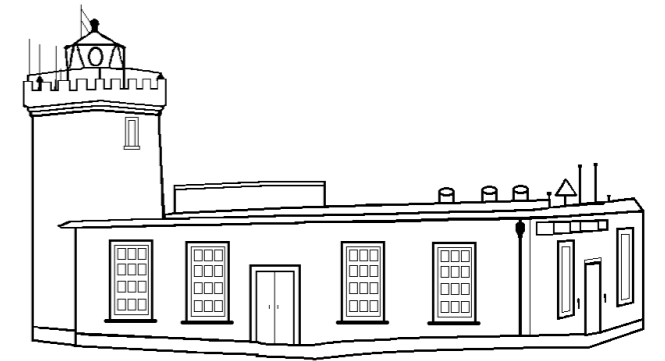


Below are three different lighthouses from along the Caithness coastline. Look carefully at them. Now design your own lighthouse in the box below.

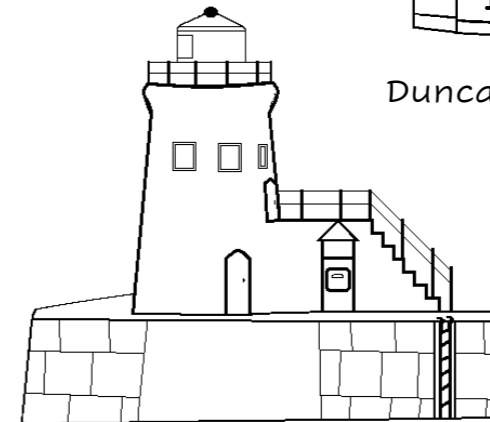


Lybster Lighthouse

Wick Lighthouse



Duncansbay Head Lighthouse





# Fortune Telling

Local historian Iain Sutherland speaks about a Spey Wife at Wick telling fortunes for his mother in an oral history recording (P/SUTH/5/58). The person seeking to have their fortune read would have to gather water from Cairndhuna Well without speaking a word and pour it into a glass bowl. The Spey Wife would then put the white of an egg into the water and tell the person's fortune.

*Tasseomancy is when you read fortunes in Tea Leaves. Look at the cup, what symbols can you see amongst the tea leaves?*



# Symbols & Meanings



Acorn—good fortune



Apple—long life



Horse-shoe—a lucky journey



Cup—celebration



Crown—Success and honour



Ring—marriage



Ladder—a sign of travel



Snake—bad luck



Compass—sign of travelling as a profession



Hat—success in life



Pig—good and bad luck mixed



Scissors—quarrels



Ship—a successful journey



Broom—changes in life



Camel—a burden to be patiently borne



Dragon—Great and sudden changes

# Caithness Water

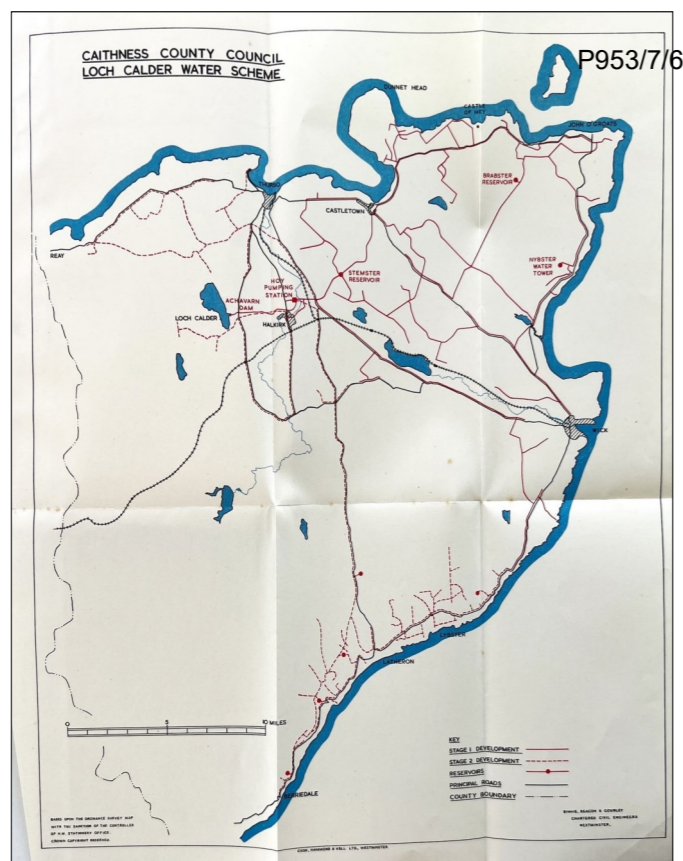
## Loch Calder

Before 1930, in rural areas of Caithness, people relied on wells or springs for their water supply. In the 1930s, Caithness County Council investigated the possibility of a public water scheme for the whole county to improve living conditions.

A survey was undertaken by Mr George Smillie, an Engineering Inspector with the Department for Health for Scotland, who proposed a scheme to use Loch Calder as the main water supply for Caithness.

Chartered Civil Engineers Messrs Binnie, Deacon and Gourley were then tasked with developing this proposal and recommended developing Loch Calder to 'provide about 1½ million gallons per day of water for domestic purposes and about 5 million gallons per day of water for power to pump the domestic supply to two large service reservoirs from which it would gravitate to all but a very few of the populated parts of the County'.

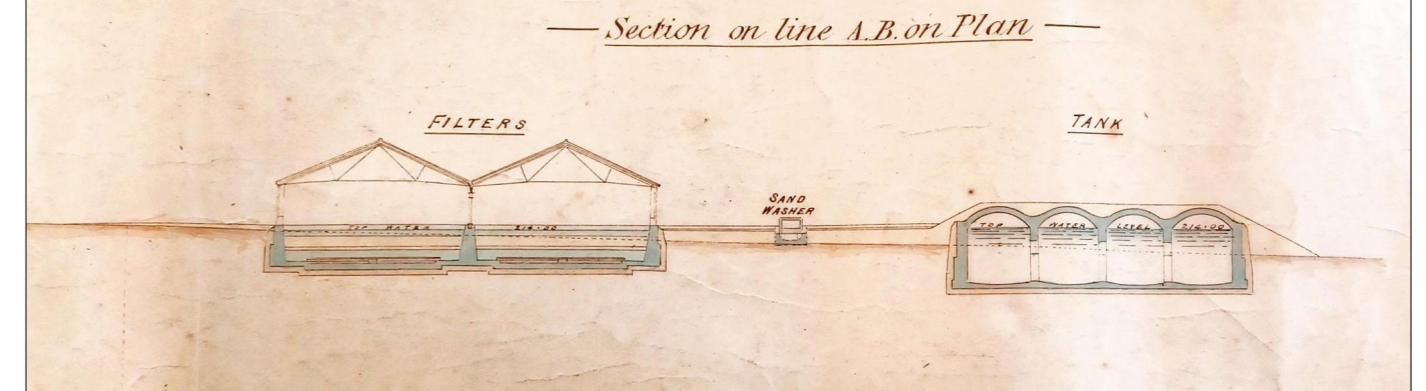
Loch Calder now provides water from John O' Groats to Tongue.



# Caithness Water

## Loch Hempriggs

P854/1/1/7



Thomas Telford designed the Mill Lade which was to carry water from Loch Hempriggs to the new settlement of Pulteneytown c. 1807. It ran through the lands of Hempriggs to Roxburgh Road where it entered the Distillery and then down to the Harbour via an underground channel. The work was carried out by architect George Burns, including mills that made use of the water.

The lade channel is constructed exactly as Telford specified, using Caithness slate in horizontal dyking. Telford also very cleverly designed the lade so that drainage from fields does not pollute it by adding in culverts that run underneath the lade.


In 1845, piped water finally became available for Wick and later in 1906, Loch Yarrow was connected to Loch Hempriggs to cater for the rising population, a new piping system was also installed.



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- 1** There is a myth that these animals can turn into humans when they take off their skin.
- 5** You'll need your wellies to do this.
- 4** If you're very good at this, you can make many ripples in water.
- 2** Commonly found along beaches, you can find it made into crisps in Caithness.
- 6** You may need a ladle to scoop one of these up, they are very wriggly.

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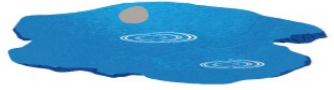
plouter

**6**



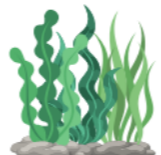
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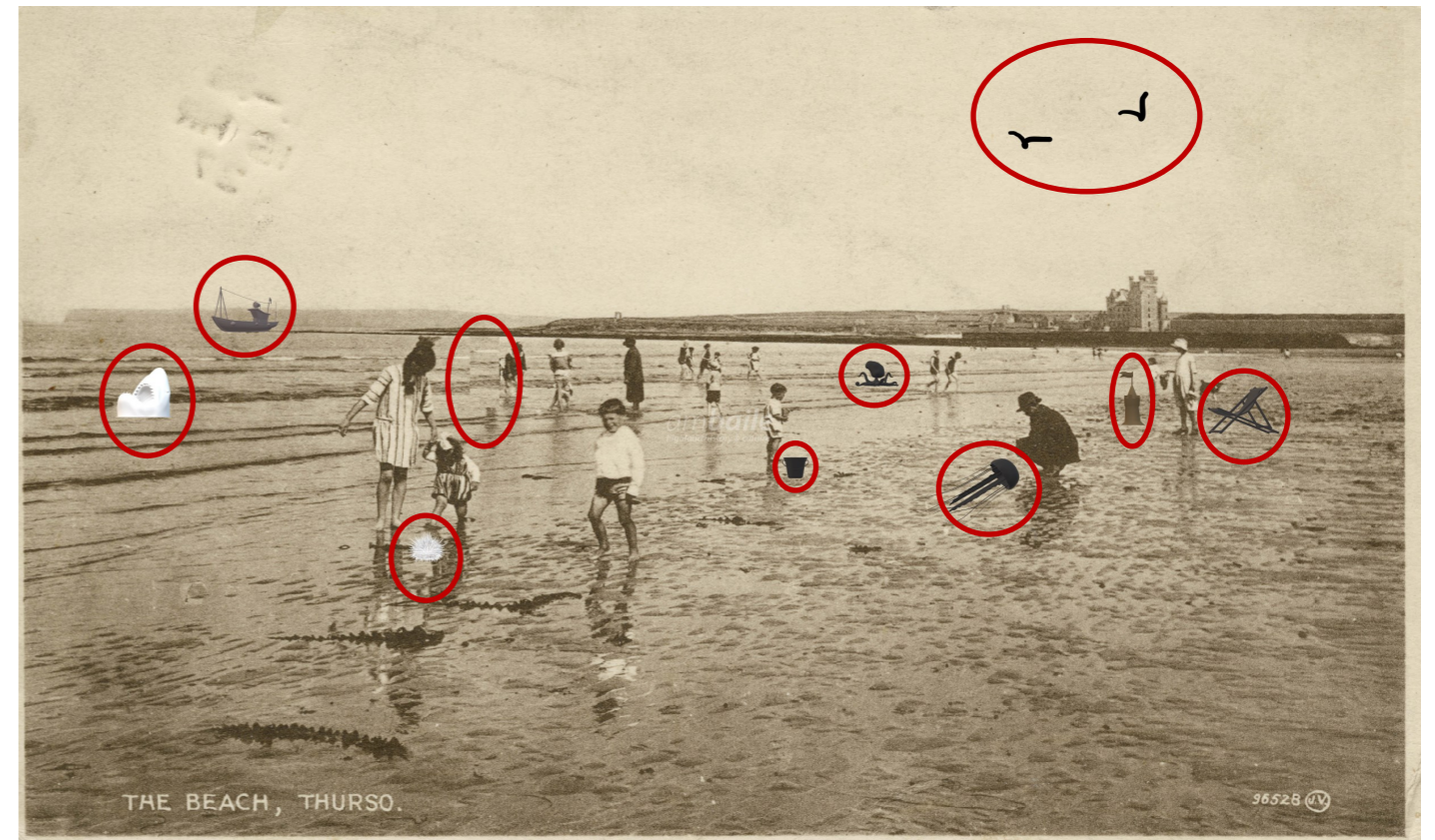
skeeter

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These words were taken from Iain Sutherland's 'Caithness Dialect Dictionary'



## Caithness Harbours List

Caithness had approximately 30 harbours historically, here are some you could find from the map.

**Wick**

**Ackergill**

**Castlehill /Castletown**

**Dunbeath**

**Gills Bay**

**John O'Groats**

**Dwarick**

**Berriedale**

**Sandside**

**Sarclet**

**Freswick**

**Staxigoe**

**Papigoe**

**Skirza**

**Dunnet**

**Keiss**

**Latheronwheel**

**Lybster**

**Scrabster**

**Thurso**

**Clyth**

**Huna**

**Gill's Bay**

**Harrow/Phillip's**

**Ham**

**Auckengill**

**Brough**

**Latheron**

**Forse**

