

FOLLOW THE CASTLEHILL FLAGSTONE TRAIL



Visit the beautiful north coast of Caithness and explore Castlehill, by Castletown, the birthplace of the Caithness flagstone industry. Castlehill may be peaceful nowadays but it was once a very busy place. Follow the fascinating Flagstone Trail and discover the traces of a 19th Century "factory" which once employed hundreds of people.



For information on accommodation and other services for visitors contact:
The Highlands of Scotland
Tourist Board, Wick
Tel: 01995 602596 or
Thurso 01847 892371

To find out more about Castlehill's flagstone history, follow the signs for Castletown Heritage Centre.

The Castlehill Flagstone Trail is managed by:
The Highland Council
Planning and Development Service
Glenurquhart Road Inverness IV3 5NX
Tel: 01463 702250 Fax: 01463 702298
e-mail: planning@highland.gov.uk
www.highland.gov.uk



Castletown
Heritage
Society

Design: Artysans, Inverness 01463 226502. Interpretation: Rowan Tree Consulting, Inverness 01463 715225

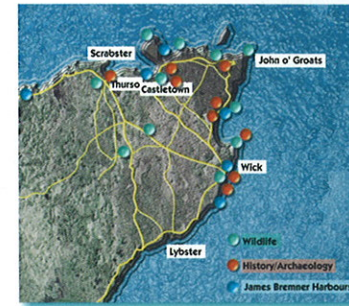
EXPLORE THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE CAITHNESS FLAGSTONE INDUSTRY

Visit the beautiful
north coast of **Caithness**
and explore
Castlehill, the birthplace
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Caithness **Flagstone**
Industry



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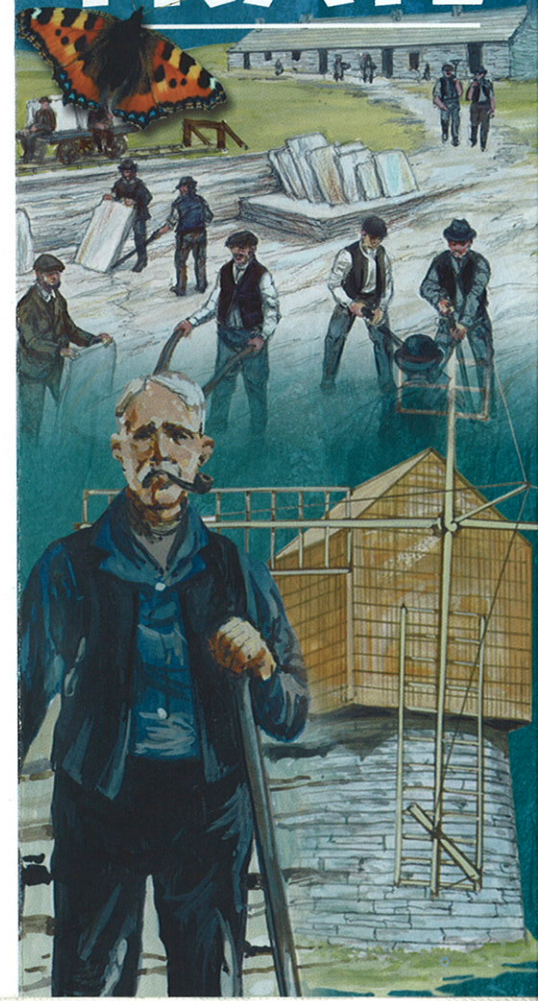
...then start exploring further...



The north-east corner of Caithness is packed with places where you can explore the area's rich heritage – including other sites with remains of flagstone works, harbours bearing witness to the 19th Century importance of the flagstone and fishing industries, and buildings demonstrating human presence here since prehistoric times. Wildlife is also here in abundance – explore the superb local landscape and see how many animals, birds and plants you can spot!



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Thanks to Castletown Heritage Society for their help in preparing the interpretation for the Trail.

Admission free. Open all year. Come and enjoy the Trail whenever you like!

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Explore the place
where **enterprising**
Caithness
folk used their
special geology
to create a
world-famous
industry

See for yourself
the **ingenious**
system developed
at **Castlehill** to make
Commercial **flagstone**
production
possible more than
150 years ago



ENTERPRISING PEOPLE... ADAPTABLE WILDLIFE... SEE FOR YOURSELF!

Find out what life
was like for the **people**
who lived & worked here



Discover how to spot
flagstone's many uses
in Caithness & further afield



FOLLOW THE CASTLEHILL FLAGSTONE TRAIL



Meet the
neighbours...

the **wildlife** residents
for whom **Castlehill** is the
Perfect home



FOLLOW THE CASTLEHILL FLAGSTONE TRAIL

Quarry/woodland sculpture trail

Enjoy the community woodland and sculpture trail in a former flagstone quarry.

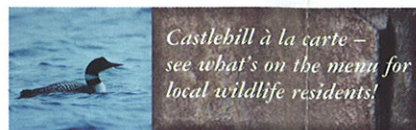
1 Start of trail

Don't be fooled by the peace and quiet here nowadays – Castlehill was once an extremely busy place.

See for yourself the birthplace of Caithness's flagstone industry, and explore the remains of the thriving self-contained flagstone "factory" which employed hundreds of people.

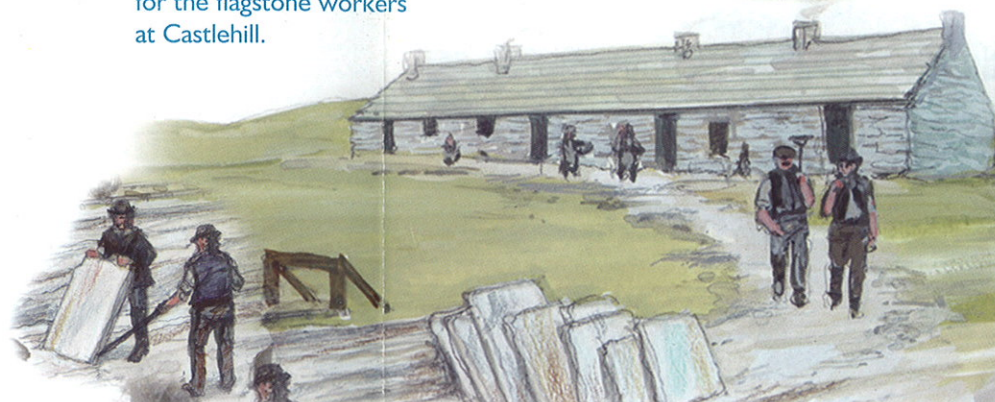
3 Windmill

Track down the clues which show how enterprising Caithness folk harnessed wind and water power to produce flagstone commercially 150 years ago.



4 Cottages

Find out what life was like for the flagstone workers at Castlehill.



Nature's neighbourhood drugstore – look out for natural remedies growing round about.



5 Dam & Sluices 6 Waterwheel 7 Cutting Yard

Flagstone goes global! Find out why it was in such demand with 19th Century builders. Learn about the local harbour builder whose engineering feats are still dotted around the Caithness coast.



2 Pilot's house

Find out how flagstone formed in Caithness many millions of years ago, and discover why it has been such a popular building material locally since prehistoric times. Learn to spot flagstone in many different guises as you travel round the county.



Discover what attracts swallows and house-martins to roost here in the summer.



8 Spoil Heaps 9 Bogie Track

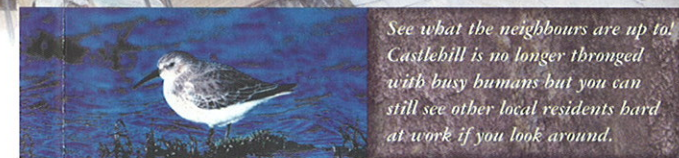
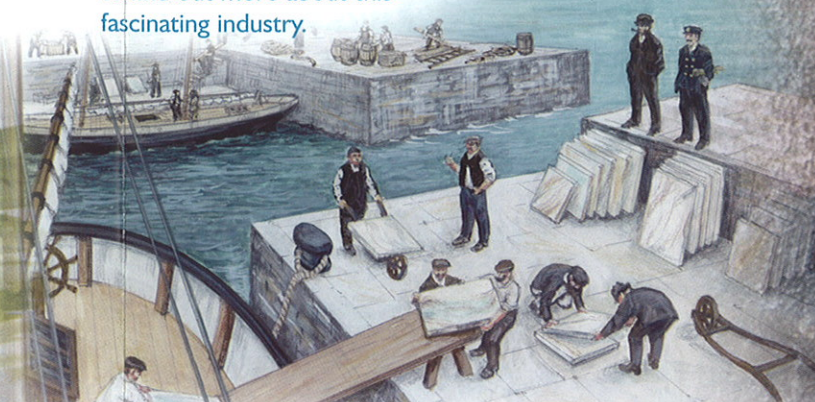
Find out how flagstone production boomed in Caithness in the 19th Century... and why demand started falling a hundred years ago.

Local tough guys – meet the delicate-looking plants which are tougher than you'd think!



10 Offices, houses & farm stabling 11 Harbour

Learn how flagstone's fortunes have revived in recent times – and find out where to find out more about this fascinating industry.



Don't feed the flagstones ...

Find out how to avoid becoming part of a new flagstone layer!



Admission
FREE
OPEN ALL YEAR

Come and enjoy the Castlehill Flagstone Trail whenever you like.

Dunnet Bay

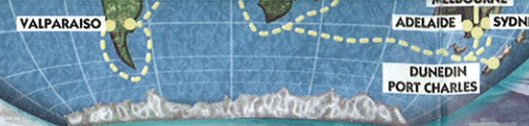
8 Spoil Heaps

Building material locally since prehistoric times. Learn to spot flagstone in many different guises as you travel round the county.

Discover what attracts swallows and house-martins to roost here in the summer.



Castlehill's the place for fussy ferns.



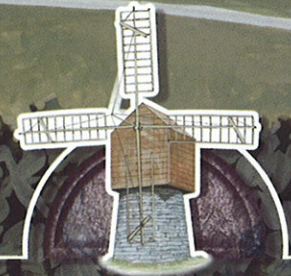
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Dunnet Bay

Spoil Heaps

Castlehill Harbour

To Dunnet



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Site Features

- ▲ Quarry/woodland sculpture trail
- 1 Start of trail
- 2 Pilot's House
- 3 Windmill
- 4 Cottages
- 5 Dam and sluices
- 6 Waterwheel
- 7 Cutting Yard
- 8 Spoil Heaps
- 9 Bogie Track to harbour
- 10 Offices, houses and farm steading
- 11 Harbour

Car Park

To Village Centre

Quarry/woodland sculpture trail