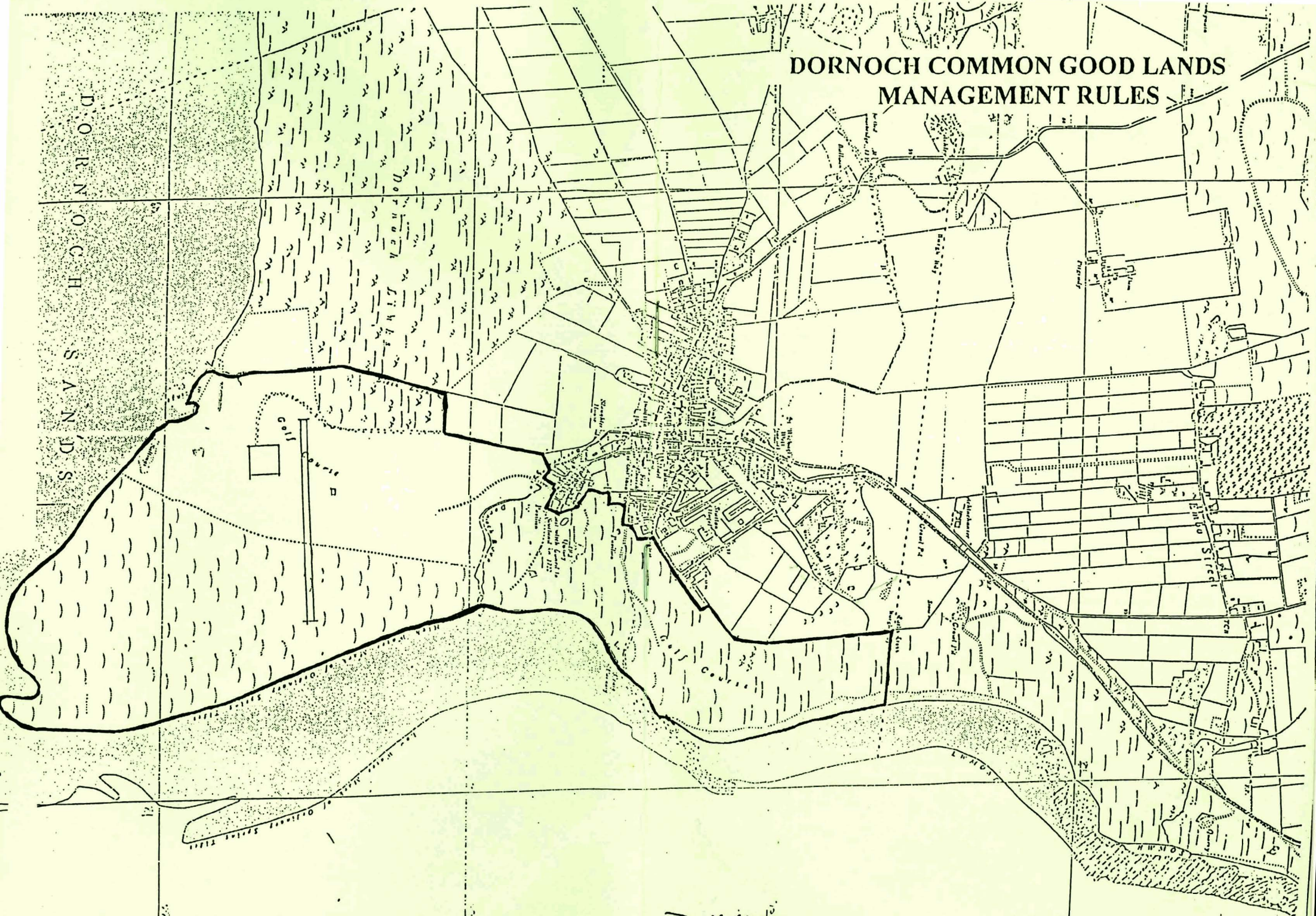


# DORNOCH COMMON GOOD LANDS MANAGEMENT RULES



## MANAGEMENT RULES

### DORNOCH COMMON GOOD LANDS, DORNOCH

The SUTHERLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL established in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 hereinafter referred to as 'the Council' by virtue of Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, (hereinafter referred to as 'the 1982 Act') and of all other powers authorising or empowering them on their behalf do hereby make and enact the following management rules for the preservation, management and regulation of the Dornoch Common Good Lands, Dornoch (hereinafter referred to as the 'Common Good Lands'). The Common Good Lands are shown delineated in black on the plan annexed hereto.

#### Protection of Property

- 1 No person shall on the Common Good Lands remove, displace, damage, deface or alter any building, structure, or other property whether moveable or immovable including any notice forming part of the Common Good Lands.

#### Litter

- 2 No person shall deposit rubbish or refuse or leave litter of any description on the Common Good Lands.

- 3 No person shall deposit on the Common Good Lands any substance or article likely to cause injury or damage to any person or property.

#### Vegetation

- 4 No person shall cut, displace or remove any sand, soil or turf or any tree, shrub or plant situated or growing within the boundary of the Common Good Lands.

#### Wildlife

- 5 No person shall wilfully kill, take molest or cause harm to any wildlife on the lands or disturb any animal or bird therein or remove eggs from any bird's nest or destroy such nest in contravention of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

#### Dogs

- 6 No person shall cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter upon or remain within the Common Good Land area unless such a dog be and continue to be under proper control and is effectively restrained from causing disturbance to any person and from worrying or disturbing any other animal. Such person shall be responsible for uplifting any excrement deposited by his dog.

No person shall take or allow his dog(s) onto the area of beach opposite the car park and children's play area.

#### Vehicles

- 7 No person shall, without written lawful permission, ride, drive or park a mechanically or electrically propelled vehicle or draw, push or cycle or cause to be drawn, pushed or cycled any trolley, trailer, car or other wheeled vehicle or motor cycle or moped (other than one used for the carriage of a child or children or disabled persons) over the Common Good Lands except on a part so designated or set out and made up for the parking of vehicles.

#### Camping and Caravanning

- 8 No person shall, without lawful permission, camp or erect a tent, shed or similar structure or use any vehicle including a caravan and caravanette as sleeping accommodation or occupy such a vehicle overnight on the Common Good Land other than within the boundary designated as a caravan site.

#### Buildings

- 9 The construction of any building on the Common Good Lands shall be precluded except with prior written permission notwithstanding any statutory consents received. There will be a presumption against any building south of River Street.

#### Disturbance

- 10 No person shall wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt or annoy any person in their peaceable and proper use or enjoyment of the Common Good Lands or interrupt, disturb or obstruct any authorised official or any person employed by or acting on behalf of or under the authority of the Council in the proper discharge of his duties or in the proper execution of any work connected with the improvement, maintenance or regulation of the Common Good Lands.

### Fires

- 11 No person shall, except with prior written permission, light any fires or stove or similar apparatus or place or throw any lighted match or any flammable substance or material near to any grass, fern, heather, bushes or trees or any structure on the Common Good Lands or undertake any other activities likely to cause damage by fire

### Firearms

- 12 No person shall carry, discharge or use any firearm, including gas or air operated devices, anywhere within the Common Good Lands unless authorised to do so.

### Sale of Goods

- 13 No person shall, without prior written permission, use or permit to be used any vehicle or structure on the land for, or in connection with, the advertisement or sale of any animal, article or other commodity and without prejudice to the foregoing generality any building or land or offer any services for reward.

- 14 No person shall affix or write any advertisement, bill, placard or notice within the boundary of the Common Good Lands unless with prior written permission.

### Control of Games etc

- 15 No person shall play or make preparation to play any organised game or take part in any sport or organised form of recreation on the Common Good Lands except in those areas designated for those purposes unless with prior written approval.

### Control of Meetings

- 16 No person whilst on any part of the Common Good Lands without the prior permission of the Council shall deliver or utter any speech or lecture or hold or cause to be held or take part in any lecture, religious service or public meeting, assembly procession or demonstration.

### Control of Use of Radios etc.

- 17 No person on the Common Good Lands shall operate any record player, cassette, radio or television or similar apparatus, sing or play any musical instrument in such a manner or to such a degree as may cause annoyance to other persons within the lands, unless with prior written permission.

### Control of Performances and Exhibitions

- 18 No person shall give or take part in or attempt to give or take part in any performance or exhibition on the Common Good Lands except with prior written permission.

### Special Permission

- 19 Any application for special permission in terms of the foregoing management rules may be refused or granted by the Council subject to such terms and conditions as the Council may think fit to impose.

20 Any special permission required by the management rules must be exhibited on demand to any police officer or authorised official.

21 Applications for special permissions shall be made to the offices of Sutherland District Council at The Meadows, Dornoch or Main Street, Golspie or to the successors of Sutherland District Council at such location or locations as may be prescribed by the successor.

#### Council Officer and Employees

22 It shall not be deemed contrary to these rules for any person or any servant of any person employed by or acting on behalf of or with the authority of the Council to perform any act necessary to the proper execution of his duties within the boundary of the Common Good Lands.

#### Observance

23 No person shall disregard or disobey any directions or instructions relating to or in pursuance of the Management Rules given by any authorised officer in the proper exercise of his duties.

#### Exceptions

24 The terms of these rules shall not apply to members of the emergency services while in the performance of their official duties.

#### Exclusion Orders

25 Where a person has persistently contravened or attempted to contravene these rules that person shall be made the subject of an exclusion order under Section 117 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. The exclusion order shall have effect for a period not exceeding one year.

#### Leases

26 The terms of any lease of any part of the Common Good Land entered into prior to the commencement of these rules shall have precedence where contrary to any term of these rules.

#### Offences

27 Any person who has been required to leave the Common Good Lands by an authorised officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that person has contravened or is about to contravene any of the forgoing rules and fails to leave or being an excluded person enters or attempts to enter the common Good Lands shall be guilty of an offence. Such a person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50 as prescribed by Section 118 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 or such other sum as may be prescribed from time to time in any statutory amendment thereto.

DORNOCH  
HERITAGE SOCIETY  
SCOTLAND

~~DNHHL:2002.094~~

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/027E

ROYAL BURGH OF DORNOCH

A meeting of interested parties was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 29th March, 1994, at 7.30 pm, in order to discuss the management of the Dornoch Common Good Lands.

The area concerned, which is shown on the attached plan, stretches in the east from the Point, up the coast, until level with the mid-way of the 12th fairway of the Championship Course; in the north along the right of way which crosses the 12th and 5th fairways; in the west along the edge of the course from the 5th tee to the Club house, down the tarmac drive beside the bowling green, along the edge of the Struie Course to the road gate beside the Sewage Dept Depot, along the wall of the Glebe Field to the Black Burn, and along the Black Burn to the sea; and in the south along the coast from the Black Burn to the Point.

Designated roads and tracks are shown on the attached plan.

*Old cart tracks*

Mr Fraser-Simmonds of Scottish National Heritage spoke of the national and international importance of the Dornoch Firth area as a whole, but in particular of the part covered by the Common Good Lands. The whole of it was an area of great scenic beauty and, in addition, the salt marsh area to the south of the airfield was designated as a Site of Scientific Interest for its bird and plant life, much of which was quite unique. He stressed that the area was suffering from an explosion of vehicular and pedestrian use, much of it destructive, which, if not checked, would result in the ruination of an environment which we all wished to preserve. He stated that Scottish National Heritage had the power to enforce legal safeguards but it preferred to work through persuasion and co-operation. He recommended that all the parties concerned should get together and take steps to minimise the dangers facing the area.

The wide ranging discussion which followed, including a most comprehensive letter from Mr. T. McCulloch, indicated quite clearly that the principal problem lay with vehicular abuse of the area.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed to set up a management committee which would monitor the situation and make recommendations to the District Council, or its successor. The committee would consist of the Dornoch Councillor as Chairman, three members of the Council, and one representative each from the Heritage Society, the Golf Club, the Caravan Site, and the Agricultural Society. The committee will meet from time to time but not less than once every six months.

*Water Board  
Funeral Director - Dist. Council*

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COMMON GOOD LANDS OF DORNOCH OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LINKS.

1. No motor cycles are permitted in the Dunes in any part of the area.
2. Vehicles and motor cycles must use designated tracks or roads and must not depart from them.
3. No vehicles or motor cycles are to be permitted on the airfield.

4. No vehicles or motor cycles are to be permitted in the area to the south of the airfield, with the following exceptions:-  
*Wild fowling - Car park beside Water Board Bldg.*
  - (a) Vehicles belonging to, or having business with, the Sewage Works. These vehicles must keep to the tarmac road.
  - (b) Vehicles owned by the Golf Club must use designated tracks to reach the area which is leased to them south east of the airfield.
5. No fences may be erected within the area without the prior written permission of the committee.
6. All external boundary fences must have an adequate provision of kissing gates and/or robust stiles in order to allow a proper freedom of access.
7. The cutting of turf and the extraction of bent outside the golf club lease must cease forthwith.
8. The cutting of turf in the salt marsh area within the golf club lease will require the prior written approval of the committee.
9. The extraction of bent from any area of the Dunes within the golf club lease must cease forthwith.
10. The extraction of sand from any part of the Dunes will require the prior written approval of the committee.

The following procedures for the protection of the airfield are suggested for discussion and possible recommendation:-

1. The ditch that runs from the Black Burn eastwards, parallel with the airfield, should be extended to the Dunes, with footbridges for pedestrian use. The approval of Scottish National Heritage to be sought first.
2. The edge of the tarmac road to be fenced from the culvert crossing the ditch to the boundary of the Sewage Works, or
3. A ditch to be dug instead, in which case the approval of Scottish National Heritage to be sought first.
4. A locked gate to be provided for entry to the south side of the airfield.

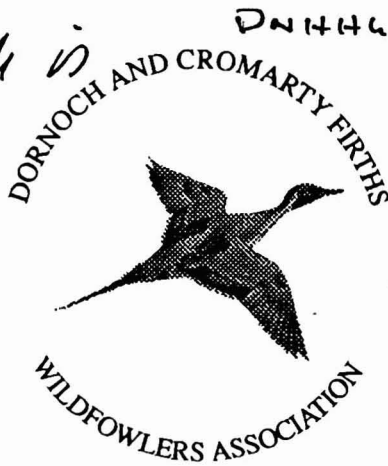
The Management Plan, as finally approved, is to be submitted to Sutherland District Council, or its successor, for approval.

Signed

*Arbitration*

District Councillor.  
Chairman, Dornoch Links Management Committee.

Mr. Tom McCulloch is  
unwell and sends  
his letter.



"SEAFIELD"  
4 RIVER ST.  
DORNOCH.

28/3/94.

Dear Mr. Allison,

Thank you for your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.  
referring to the use of the Common Lands of the  
Royal Burgh of Dornoch.

From the point of view of our club members,  
most of whom are local rate-payers, the  
deterioration of the whole lower links area  
is of concern but we are particularly interested  
in the plants and animals of the salt marsh  
and sand flats area. Here we see damage  
caused by 4-wheel drive vehicles and by tractors  
and trailers removing turf for use on the golf  
course. The original track has now given way to a  
proliferation of deeply rutted tracks made by  
heavily loaded vehicles + trailers.

Erosion damage to the sand dune area is being  
caused by groups of motor cyclists using the  
dunes for "rough-riding". This usually takes place  
on the weekend to the annoyance of people  
on the beach area and <sup>those</sup> enjoying a walk  
through the dunes. Signs of wind erosion through  
the sand hills are now becoming increasingly apparent.



2)



In Dornoch we have some of the finest dune-slacks in Scotland and it should not be beyond us to devise some degree of regulation in their use by the public. It should be incumbent on those who use this area for recreation to exercise a sensible restraint.

In the past at this time of year many species of birds nested with very little disturbance but now we have increasing numbers of cars arriving from areas outwith the town and county each containing several dogs which are let loose to roam and disturb all the wildlife. The caravan site also has to bear the blame in season. The number of Lapwings, Oystercatchers, Redshanks has now been reduced to a handful and how they cope with the amount of disturbance is amazing.

I believe there are bye-laws made a very long time ago which could be up-dated to meet new developments and posted at such places as the Caravan Site and the various gates and access points. Stricter enforcement regarding access of cars to the airplane runway is also needed.


(3)



Enforcement is not always easy, however desirable, and involves a presence on the spot at key times. As far as the saltmarsh area is concerned it may be possible for the wildfowl club, with the backing of the council to institute a voluntary warden scheme in the hope of limiting undesirable behaviour. Some of our members who have politely requested people to obey the signs already there were met with considerable hostility on one or two occasions.

It is a marvellous area and should be used by locals and visitors alike for recreation each respecting the rights and feelings of the other while keeping damage to nature to a minimum.

Yours Sincerely,  
J. McCulloch.

  
Dornoch Common Good Lands

History has given to the inhabitants of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch a previous asset in some five hundred acres of Common Good land.

As early as 1224 Bishop Gilbert in setting up rules for his diocese refers to "the common pastures of the said city of Dornoch." By 1630 Sir Robert Gordon writes of Dornoch Links as "the fairest and largest linkes of any pairt of Scotland fitt for Archery, goffing, ryding, and all other exercise."

From a receipt dated 1618, we know that the young John Glas, Earl of Sutherland enjoyed golf and archery here.

Thirty six years later, some 3500 foot soldiers and 1500 horsemen were on the Links engaged in a grimmer sport than golf. They were being reviewed by Lieut. General Middleton and the Earl of Glencairn, who were seeking to restore Charles II to the thrones of Scotland and England. Another review took place round the sixteenth green when King Haakon of Norway addressed a force of Norwegians in 1942.

At various times the Town Council made rules to control the use of the Links and to provide revenue. The minutes of 1812 contained the following passage:

"And they (i.e. the Town Council) order that the Pro Fiscal prosecute any person who may presume to tirr the soil of the said Links or remove or carry away feal or divot or earth therefrom after this date." The turf referred to would be lifted with a cabar lar or flaughter spade and used in thatching or building the upper walls of houses.

The Bye-laws of 1895 stated that "The inhabitants of the Burgh shall be entitled, as use is, to graze horses and cattle and their followers but not sheep, on the Links, paying the Common Good of the Burgh the dues therefor".

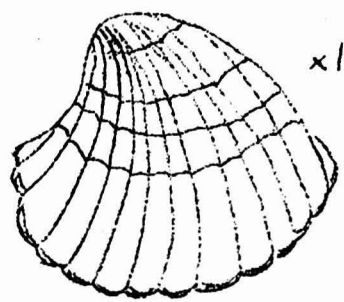
Turf cutting was still prohibited and vehicles had to follow specified tracks. Detailed instructions were given as to how golfers should conduct themselves; eg. the golfer "shall not raise the turf of the teeing ground"! Rents from the Common Good for quarrying stone, grazing animals, or from shooting rights brought in more income than the Burgh Assessments.

2002.094.002

The coming of the railway in 1902 and a vigorous publicity campaign by the then Golf Club Secretary, John Sutherland, brought prosperity to Dornoch, and golfing greats like J H Taylor, Harry Vardon, Joyce and Roger Wethered and more recently, Tom Watson, Greig Norman and Ben Crenshaw have sung the praises of Royal Dornoch world-wide. This means greater pressure on the Common Good lands for golf and other recreation. We hope that you will respect this environmentally sensitive area, thus maintaining for future generations the enjoyment, we hope, that has been yours on Dornoch Links.

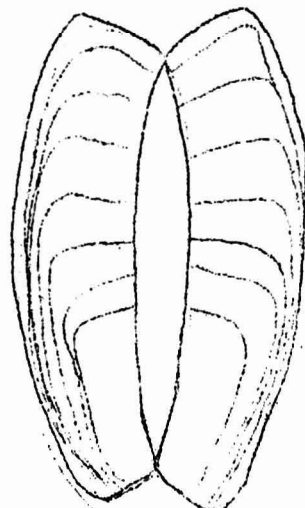
Sandy Shore.

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x1

Fig. I *Cardium edule*  
Common Cockle



x 1/2

Fig II *Ensis ensis*  
Razor Shell

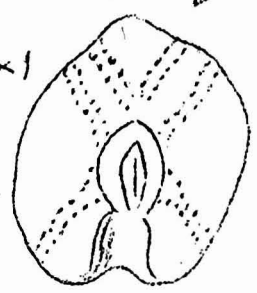


Fig. III  
*Echinocardium*  
*caudatum*  
Sea potato  
"skeleton."

Rocky Shore

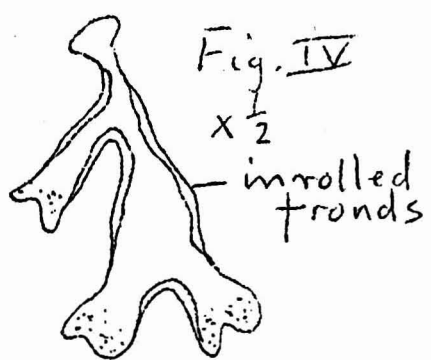


Fig. IV

x 1/2

inrolled fronds

*Pelvetia canaliculata*  
Channel wrack (Brown)

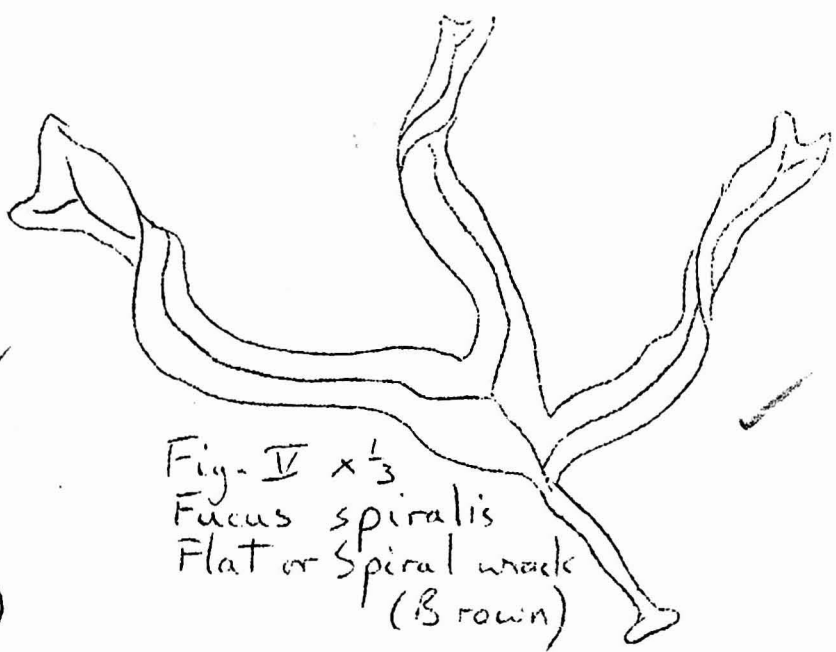


Fig. V x 1/3

*Fucus spiralis*  
Flat or Spiral wrack  
(Brown)

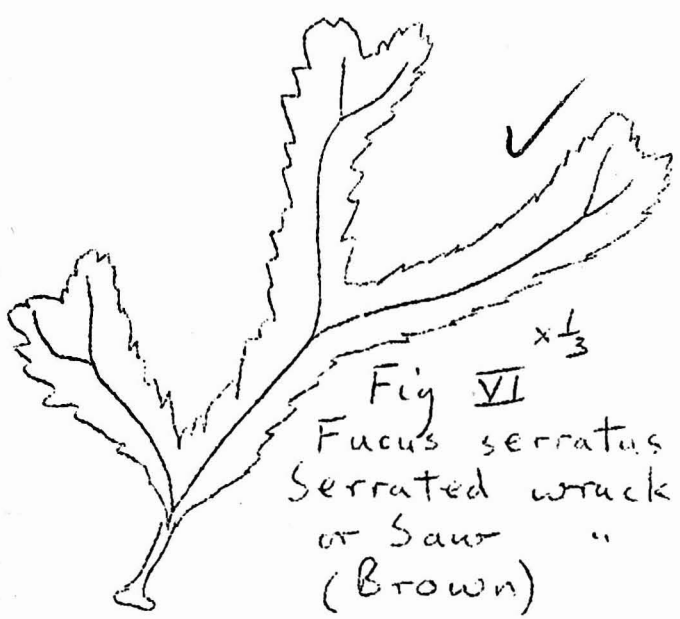


Fig VI

x 1/3

*Fucus serratus*  
Serrated wrack  
or Saw "  
(Brown)

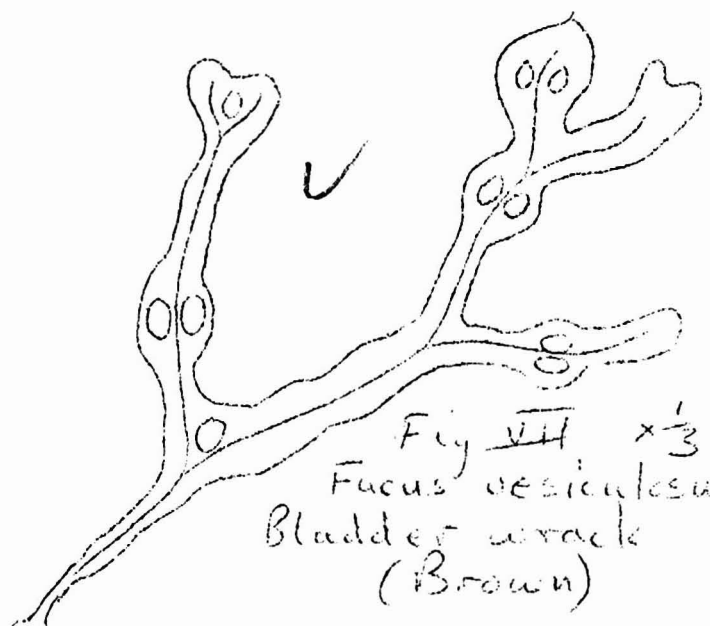


Fig VII x 1/3

*Fucus vesiculosus*  
Bladder wrack  
(Brown)