

LOCH LARO.

Loch Laro or Loch an Lairidh (Loch of the ruins) is the source of the Evelix River some 5 miles due north of Bonar Bridge. From source of mouth its catchment area contains significant archaeological remains of varying age from Bronze Age hut circles to the possible site of the grave of Sigurd the Mighty and on to the many many sites of abandoned crofts, one of which members of the Dornoch Heritage Society, in particular Dr. Struan Robertson, surveyed and mapped here near Loch Laro. This particular site adjoins closely, and may in fact have been included as part of Puill Fraocch though, we have named it Cnoc Garbhairigh. This site and the Rhian site farther down the Evelix Valley and shown on an adjacent sheet are typical of the sites which should be recorded and where possible preserved from the forestry plough.

We have not been able to identify when this settlement was established but the Criech Parish Register tells us that on July 22nd, 1810 “Donald Ross, tenant at Pillfrich (sic) had by his wife Nelly Munro – a daughter Katherine” and that “John Ross of Garvary married Catherine Ross of Pilfruich (sic) on 30th January 1849”. The 1841 census lists 32 people living at Pilfroich (sic) but by 1884 the Sutherland Valuation Roll lists the “House and land – Filleidhfraoich” as being rented by “Heirs of Alexander Ross” for two guineas and sadly by 1887 there is no mention of a house and the grazings had reverted to the estate.