

KIDS'

TRAIL!!

PART 1



Welcome – Fàilte!

I am Gadgie Cof — the museum's special guide for kids. I am going to show you some of my favourite things in the museum. Ready? Then let's get started!



1. THE CONAN STONE

A stone with two stories

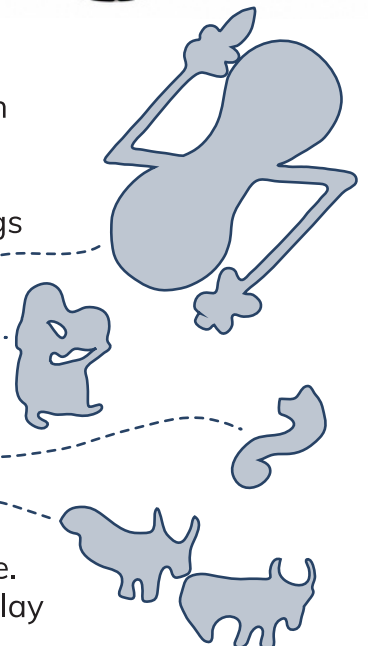
Someone first carved this stone about 1,200 years ago when Pictish people lived in this area. Pictish stones often have animals, symbols and mysterious creatures carved on them. I don't think anyone really knows why. Look at all the carvings on this stone – what do you think they mean?

See if you can spot:

- a double disc and z rod symbol
- a warrior with an animal head, shield and sword
- a hippocamp (Was it based on a dolphin?)
- two oxen

The stone was re-used about 200 years ago as a gravestone. Can you see the names Hugh McAulay and Alexander McAulay along with a date?

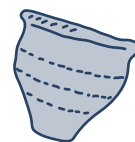
Write the year carved on the stone here



B A X J Z C J B M S
 A R E T E B A E A M
 R R V Q P S X A T P
 T O O S A S E D T R
 X W T M U B H S H I
 B H A O L T E S I O
 B E A R O J A D A L
 Q A H P Z L D H S L
 U D T T H E S E N A
 B Z J Y R E T T O P

BEADS AXEHEAD POTTERY
 ARROWHEAD TOOLS

3. PREHISTORY



Bogs, beads and beaker pots

If you were standing here thousands of years ago, you would probably be wet and muddy! This is because this area used to be very boggy – so boggy that people couldn't live here. And this in turn means that we don't have any prehistoric objects from Dingwall itself.

However, we do have things found at prehistoric sites on higher ground nearby. These show that people have been living in the Dingwall area since Neolithic (New Stone Age) times — that's 6,000 years ago!

I have hidden the names of five types of prehistoric objects found near Dingwall in this wordsearch.

Can you find them?

5. SMIDDY

An important local place

This was a busy place in Dingwall 100-150 years ago. You would go here if you needed something made out of metal by the blacksmith for your home or work. It was also the place to catch up on the local news and gossip.

Can you unjumble the words below?

The answers are all things you can see in the display.



vlani Iron or steel block for hammering and shaping heated metal. _ _ _ _ _

mmhaer The blacksmith used this to beat metal into the shape he wanted. _ _ _ _ _

gonts For holding hot metal while it was shaped. _ _ _ _ _

ohser hosse Made by the blacksmith and attached to horses' feet to protect their hooves. People also hung them above doors for good luck. _ _ _ _ _

acktyet oobt Blacksmiths made metal studs for this footwear – to make them last longer and gave them a better grip _ _ _ _ _

7. MILITARY ROOM

Soldier stories

In this room you can see objects which tell stories about soldiers from Dingwall and Ross-shire. See if you can find:



a cannon captured in the siege of Khartoum in Sudan, Africa (1884-1885).



the Victoria Cross (VC) medal awarded to Sergeant John Meikle in 1918.

The Victoria Cross is the highest military honour a British soldier can receive.



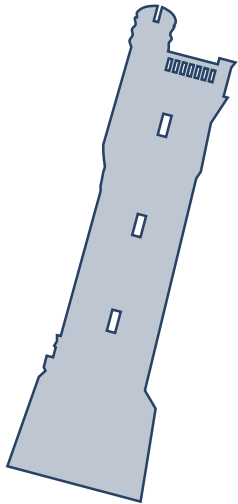
a death penny (memorial plaque) for Sergeant James Ross. Death pennies were sent on behalf of King George V after World War I (1914-1918) to the families of the 1.3 million men and women who died as a result of fighting in the war.



a Seaforth Highlanders' cap badge with a stag and the words 'Cuidich'n righ' (Gaelic for 'Help the king'). The badge is said to commemorate a Mackenzie clan chief saving King Alexander III from an attacking stag in 1263.



a portrait of Major-General Sir Hector MacDonald (1853-1903) of the Gordon Highlanders' regiment. He was a crofter's son born near Dingwall and a rare example of someone who rose from being a private (the lowest rank in the British army) to the senior rank of major-general. The tower monument on Mitchell Hill overlooking Dingwall was built in 1907 to commemorate him.



10. THE MART

Mart time

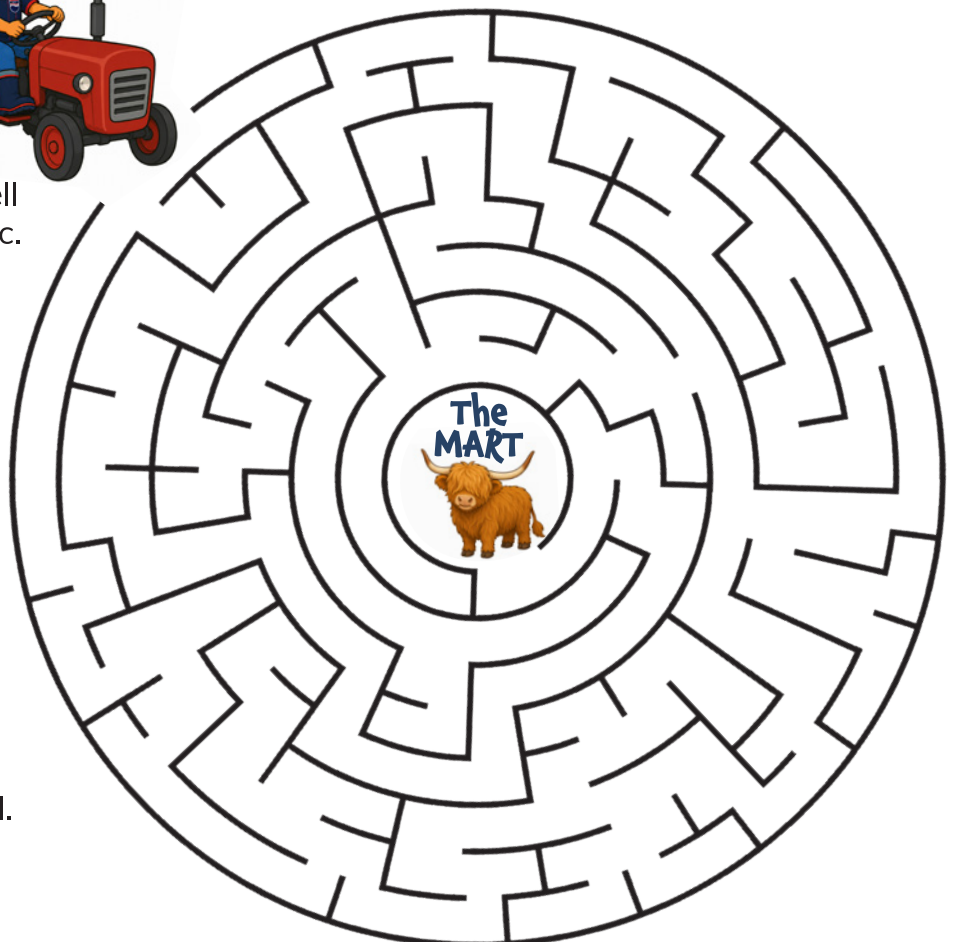
Dingwall has always been an important market town with people coming to buy and sell grain, vegetables, fruit and fish etc.

However, in the late 1800s, the town also became an important centre for selling cattle, sheep and pigs.

Livestock marts (markets) were originally held in the centre of Dingwall but since 2003 there has been a purpose-built mart building just outside Dingwall, on the road to Maryburgh.

This farmer has become a bit lost on the roads around Dingwall.

Can you help him find the mart?



11. COUNCIL CHAMBER

Star - or starfish?

How many stars can you see in this room?

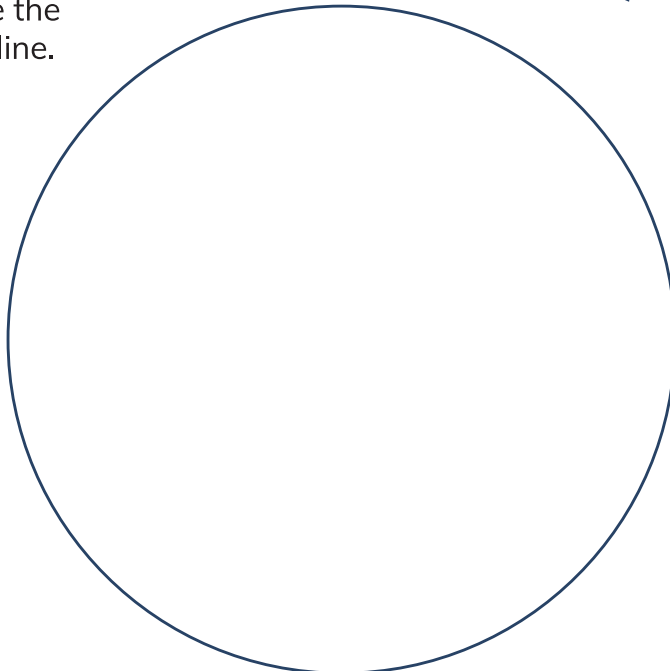
The star was the symbol of the burgh of Dingwall. It was used on the burgh coat of arms and also on official council seals, stamps and the chain of office worn by the Provost (mayor). However, some people think that it is not actually a star – they think it is a starfish like the ones you could find on Dingwall's marshy coastline.



What do you think?

If you were designing a seal for your important letters, what would it look like?

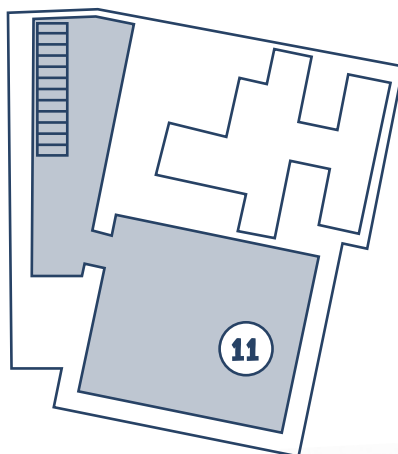
Draw your design inside here



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



KEY TO MAP

- 1. THE CONAN STONE
- 3. PREHISTORY
- 5. THE SMIDDY
- 7. MILITARY ROOM
- 10. THE MART
- 11. COUNCIL CHAMBER

I hope you have enjoyed touring the museum with me. Please come back again soon!

PS: there is also a Kids' Trail Part 2. Just ask for a copy at the front desk.

Gadgie

