

Croft 19 Laide



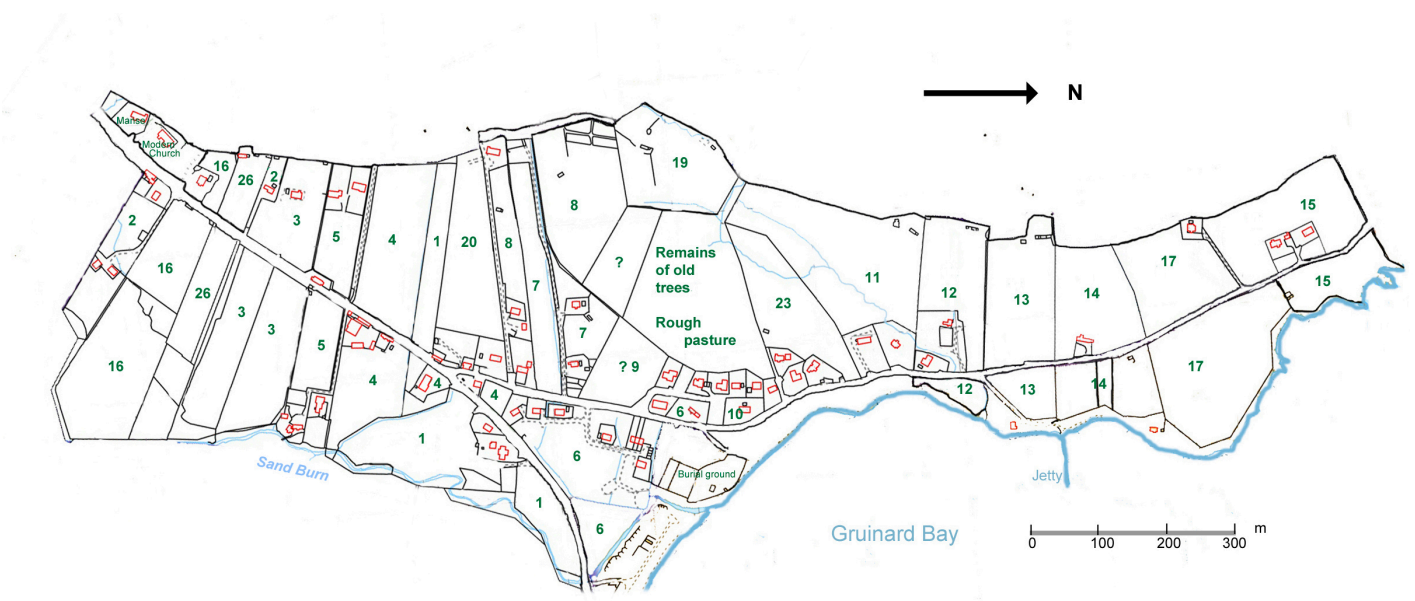
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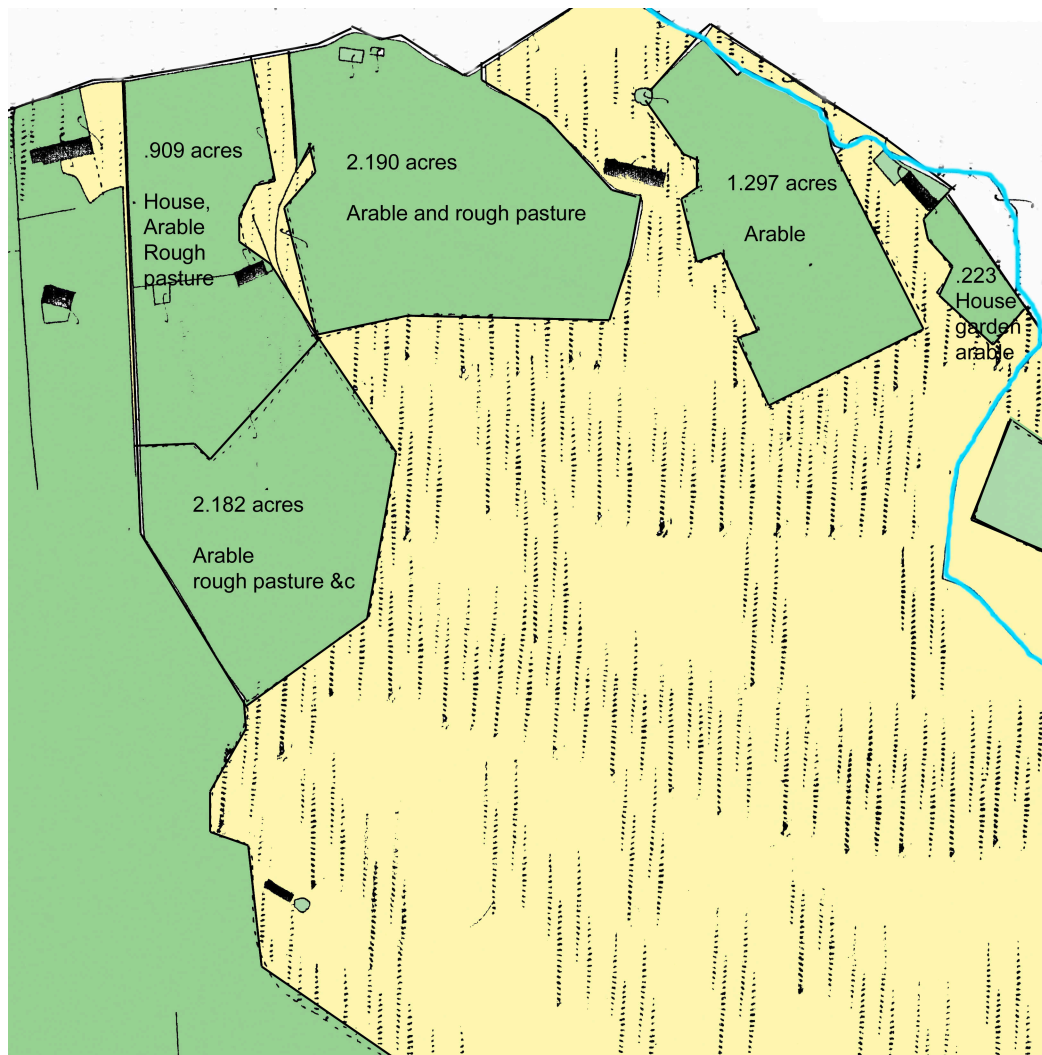
Croft 19 lies at the centre top of Laide village, bounded to the west by the head dyke.

National Grid Reference 89702 91954

The ground slopes down from an elevation of 42 metres at the head dyke, to 32 metres at the boundary with the rough ground in the centre of the village



**Diagram showing the land and buildings in the area of 19 Laide
as depicted on the 1st OS map of 1875.**



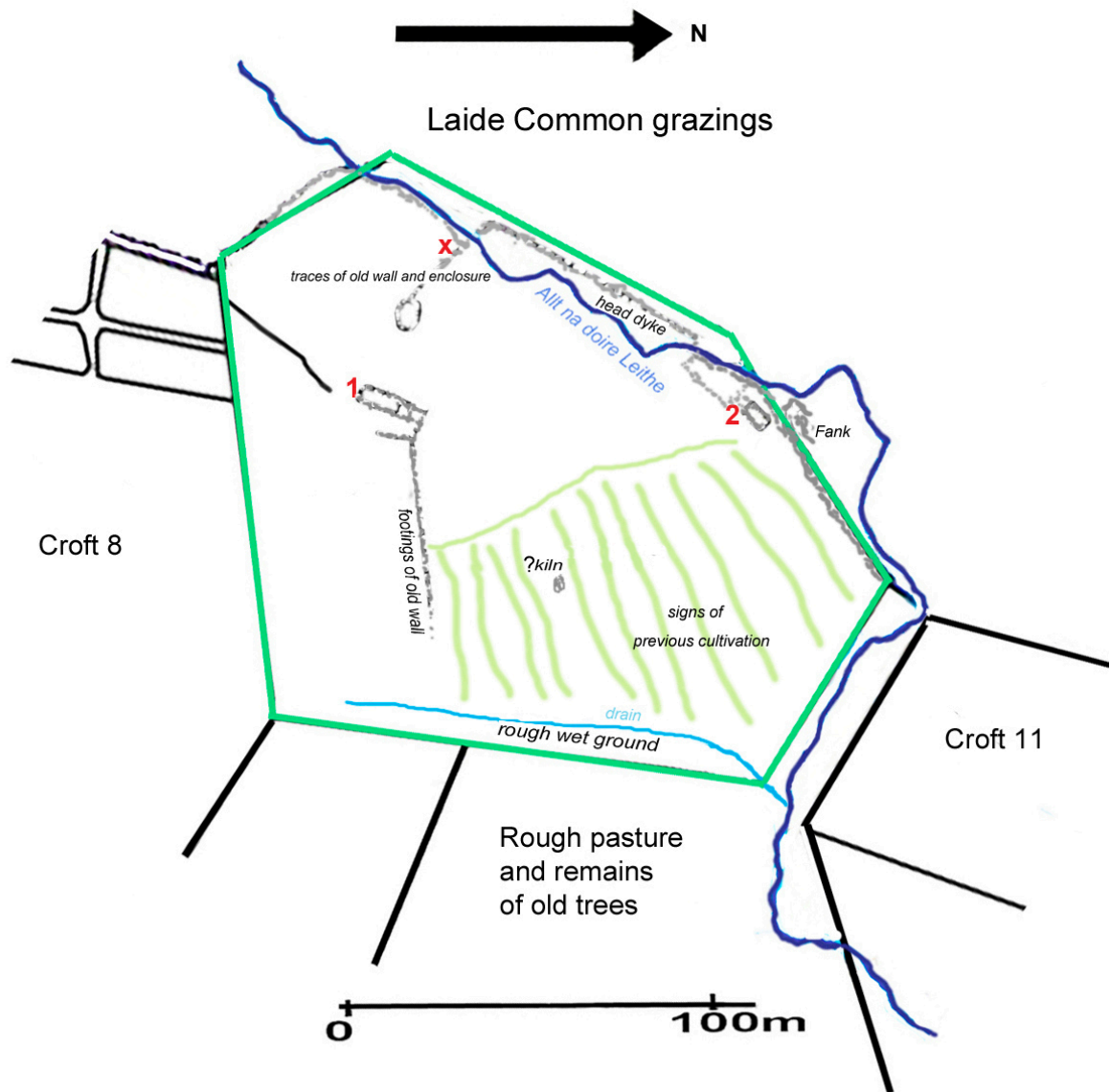
At this time, before the First Crofter's Act of 1886 became law, giving the crofters security over the land they occupied, the croft boundaries were not all as demarcated as they became later.

The areas were numbered, and the numbers, with the corresponding acreages and type of land, are listed in the
Book of Reference to the Plan of the Parish of Gairloch in the County of Ross
by Major-General John Cameron, C.B., R.E., F.R.S.
Director-general of the Ordnance Survey, published 1876.

The green areas on this sketch are the better agricultural land.

The yellow areas are generally poorer land and rough pasture.

Croft 19 sketch plan



Building 1

This is seen on the 1st OS map as a rectangular roofed building. Although now partially ruined, it is a house with a two-compartment attached barn/byre.

Building 2

On the 1st OS map this is also roofed with two attached enclosures, at least one of which is described in the Book of Reference as a garden. At present, in 2013, it is a ruin of a small rectangular building with a doorway partially preserved, facing southeast. Some of the walls of the enclosure are visible in a variably ruined state.

The croftland is mostly rough grass, with evidence of previous cultivation in the lower part. A drain across the bottom takes the issues to the burn, Allt Na Doire Leithe, and below this drain the area is very wet and boggy.

There is the ruin of what is probably a small corn-drying kiln just below the centre of the croftland.

Just outside the boundary of croft 19, on the common grazing close to building 2, are the remains of the fank used by the crofters of Laide to collect and dip sheep. This was still in use in the second half of the 20th century.

Photographs of building 1



Front view shows a window, a doorway and the attached two compartment barn/byre



View from behind the house looking over Gruinard Bay



On the left is a window opening
and above is a view of the
south gable from the inside of the house.

Photographs of building 2



The building from behind the boundary fence, looking southeast.



This shows the building and the remains of the enclosure walls.
The fank is visible on the left, over the boundary fence.



From the front

Croftland



The area at the top of the croft, marked **X** on the croft plan, shows the point at which the head dyke crosses the burn. The modern croft boundary fence is visible behind.



Croft 19 seen from the south end of Croft 11.
Centre right is the area of Building **2** and the fank outside the Croft 19's boundary.
The ruin of Building **1** is visible with signs of modern building operations to its right.

Corn drying kiln

The shape of this suggests that it may be the remains of a small corn-drying kiln. The sides appear to have been built up, and, although some unwanted stones may have been discarded into it later, the cavity shape suggests its former use.



CORN DRYING KILN: a structure used for drying cereals. It is normally circular and may be freestanding, built into a natural slope or forming part of a kiln barn.

From scotlandsruralpast.org.uk

Croft 19 occupiers and tenants from a selection of Valuation Rolls (VR) with rentals, the 1897 Estate book and Census

Before 1886, the occupier will have been the Proprietrix for varying numbers of tenants under £4 0 0

Yearly Rent £ s d

1847 Tenants list Laide

A Roderick Fraser is listed but there were no croft numbers at this time

1886-87	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Roderick Fraser, weaver, tenant and occupier	3 3 0
1887-88	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Roderick Fraser, weaver, tenant and occupier	3 3 0
1889-90	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Roderick Fraser, weaver, tenant and occupier	2 4 0
1890-91	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Proprietrix tenant, Occupier Donald McIver	2 4 0
1891-92	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Donald Maciver, tenant and occupier	2 4 0
1892-93	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Donald Maciver, tenant and occupier	2 4 0

1897 Estate Book

Croft 19 and Roderick Fraser not found on list

1900-01	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Roderick Fraser, weaver, tenant and occupier	2 4 0
1914-15	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Roderick Fraser, weaver, tenant and occupier	2 0 0
1918-19	VR	House and Croft 19 Laide. Roderick Fraser, tenant and occupier	2 0 0

Census

The census before 1911 appears in places inaccurate and unreliable, as in some cases houses have been numbered rather than the crofts, which may have more than one house per croft. The entries do not always correlate with the occupiers and tenants listed on the Valuation Rolls, which provide a more accurate database.

In 1841, 1851 and 1861, no specific croft numbers are given, but the Fraser family were living in Laide from at least 1847.

1851 Schedule 28. Laid.

Ann Fraser	Head	Widow, age 60.	Crofter 4 acres	Born Poolewe
Roderick Fraser	Son	Unmarried, age 30	Hand loom weaver	Born Poolewe
John Fraser	Nephew	Age 2	HLW's nephew	Born Poolewe

1861 Schedule 15. Laid Udrigle.

Roderick Fraser	Head	Married, age 40	Crofter 4 acres	Born Gairloch
Margaret Fraser	Wife	Married, age 25	Crofter's wife	Born Gairloch
John Fraser	Nephew	Age 12	Scholar	Born Gairloch
Ann Fraser	Daughter	Age 3		Born Gairloch
John Fraser	Son	Age 9 mths		Born Gairloch
Ann Fraser	Mother	Widow, age 60.	Crofter's mother	Born Gairloch

1871 Schedule 14. No 12 Laid. This will be a house number rather than a croft

Roderick Fraser	Head	Widower, age 50	Weaver	Born Laid
Ann Fraser	Daughter	Age 12	Scholar	Born Laid
Jessie Fraser	Daughter	Age 10	Scholar	Born Laid
John Fraser	Son	age 4	Scholar	Born Laid
John Fraser	Nephew	Unmarried, age 20	Servant	Born Laid

1881 Schedule 10. No 20 Laid. This will be a house number rather than a croft

Roderick Fraser	Head	Widower, age 62	Wool weaver	Born Laid
Jessie Fraser	Daughter	Unmarried, age 18	Farm servant	Born Laid
John Fraser	Son	Unmarried, age 16	Ag labourer	Born Laid
John Fraser	Nephew	Unmarried, age 29	Ag labourer	Born Laid

1891 Schedule 10. 11 House House with two room with one or more windows.

Roderick Fraser	Head	Widowed, age 70	Weaver and crofter	Born Laid
John Fraser	Son	Married, age 25	Railway labourer	Born Laid
Christina McKinon	Daur-in-law	Married, age 24		Born Portree
Margaret Fraser	Grand-daur	Age 3		Born Paisley
Effy Fraser	Grandchild	Age 1		Born Paisley
Jannet Fraser	Daur, widow	Age 27		Born Poolewe
Donald McKenzie	Grandchild	Age 3	Widow's son	Born Lochbroom
Margaret McKenzie	Grandchild	Age 1	Widow's daughter	Born Lochbroom

All except children spoke Gaelic and English

1901 Schedule 35. 19 Laide. House with two rooms with one or more windows.

Mary McKenzie	Head	Single, age 68	Annuitant	Born Gairloch
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Mary spoke Gaelic and English

 Schedule 40. 19 Laide House with three rooms with one or more windows.

Roderick Fraser	Head	Widower, age 80	Crofter	Born Gairloch
Christina Fraser	Daur-in-law	Married age 33		
Maggie Fraser	G-daur	Age 12	Scholar	Born Uigg
Effie Fraser	G-daur	Age 11	Scholar	Born Paisley
Mary Ann Fraser	G-daur	Age 9	Scholar	Born Paisley
Chirsty Ann Fraser	G-daur	Age 6	Scholar	Born Gairloch
Roderick Fraser	G-son	Age 3	Scholar	Born Gairloch

Roderick spoke Gaelic only – the others all spoke Gaelic and English.

1911 Schedule 15. 19 Laide House with 3 rooms with one or more windows

Roderick Fraser	Head	Widowed, age 90	Crofter, weaver	Born Gairloch
Christina Fraser	Daur-in-law	Married, age 44	Housekeeper	Born Brogaig
Christy A Fraser	Grand-daur	Age 16	General servant	Born Gairloch
Roderick Fraser	Grand-son	Age 15	General labourer	Born Gairloch

Roderick spoke Gaelic only – the rest of the household spoke Gaelic and English

The Frasers of Croft 19 Laide

RODERICK FRASER (d. bef 1857) and ANN McIVER (b. abt 1801 d. abt 1870)

contracted to be married on 31 March 1816 in Gairloch parish

Ann's father was Donald McIver of Mellon Udrigle
Both Roderick and Ann were of Mellon Udrigle at marriage

Their son

RODERICK FRASER 1820-1914

married

MARGARET MACLENNAN (b. abt 1836-d.1869)

Daughter of MURDOCH MACLENNAN and MARY of Mellon Charles

on 15th March 1857

at Poolewe Free Church

Family of Roderick and Ann Fraser

ANN FRASER (b.1858 -

JOHN FRASER (b.1860 – d.1865)

Died in childhood

JANET (JESSIE) FRASER (b. 1862 -

Married

ALEXANDER MCKENZIE

of Badcaul, Lochbroom

Son of Donald McKenzie and Lexy Cameron

on 5th March 1885 in Aultbea

JOHN FRASER (b. 1866 – d. 1912)

Married

CHRISTINA MACKINNON (b. abt 1867 Skye – d. 1945 in Hillside, Montrose)

on 20 Jul 1888

at Barshaw Cottage, Paisley

Family of Jessie and Alexander McKenzie

DONALD MCKENZIE (b. abt 1888 Lochbroom

MARGARET MCKENZIE (b. abt 1890 Lochbroom

Family of John and Christy Fraser

MARGARET FRASER (b. 1888 Paisley d. Montreal, Canada)

Margaret married in 1911, had three children, and emigrated to Canada in 1924

EFFIE FRASER (b. 1889 Paisley d. 1945 Ontario, Canada)

Effie emigrated to Quebec 1914, married (firstly) in 1915 and had 2 children
She was widowed, and married (secondly) in 1919 with 3 more children

MARY ANN FRASER (b. Laide 1891 – d. Tayport, Fife 1953)

Mary Ann married and had a family

CHRISTY ANN FRASER (b. abt 1895, Gairloch Parish

Christy married and had family

RODRICK FRASER (b. 1896 Laide d. 1985 New Zealand)

Roderick emigrated to New Zealand 1923

KENNETH ALEXANDER FRASER (b. 1908 Laide d. 1980 Ontario, Canada)

Kenneth emigrated in 1924, married in 1934 and had family

RODERICK FRASER (1820 – 1914) was known as the Paisley Weaver

Local knowledge says that his daughter-in-law

CHRISTINA (Mackinnon) FRASER

was the local midwife and nurse in Laide.