

The crofting township of South Erradale



Centred on NG 74400 71268

The Gairloch Estate map of 1845 shows that before the crofts were established there was an area of settlement where crofts 25/26 are now situated and just outside the present township boundary.



South Erradale is one of the crofting townships created by John Mackenzie in 1845. The Gairloch estate map shows a cluster of settlement where crofts 25/26 are situated with some buildings outside the present township boundary. An old track leads to this settlement.

South Erradale is mentioned in the Tain and Ballygowan documents of 1660 and the remains of old turf buildings were found close to the older settlement proving that the area has been settled for a long time. (for more detail read 'Exploring Gairloch's South side' available in Gairloch Heritage Museum and local outlets)

As with most of the townships the income was supplemented by fishing and the remains of a slipway with winch can be seen on the shore.



There was iron working in the area although the exact location of this remains unknown. It seems this was a local industry using the limonite found in the location mainly the SE of the township. Here there is the 'Garradh Iarunn' the iron dyke which has large chunks of bog iron in its construction and several piles of bog iron nodules can be found.



The township is located on either side of the Erradale river which has changed its course several times as in 1877. The river is crossed by the listed arched bridge constructed in the 19th century.



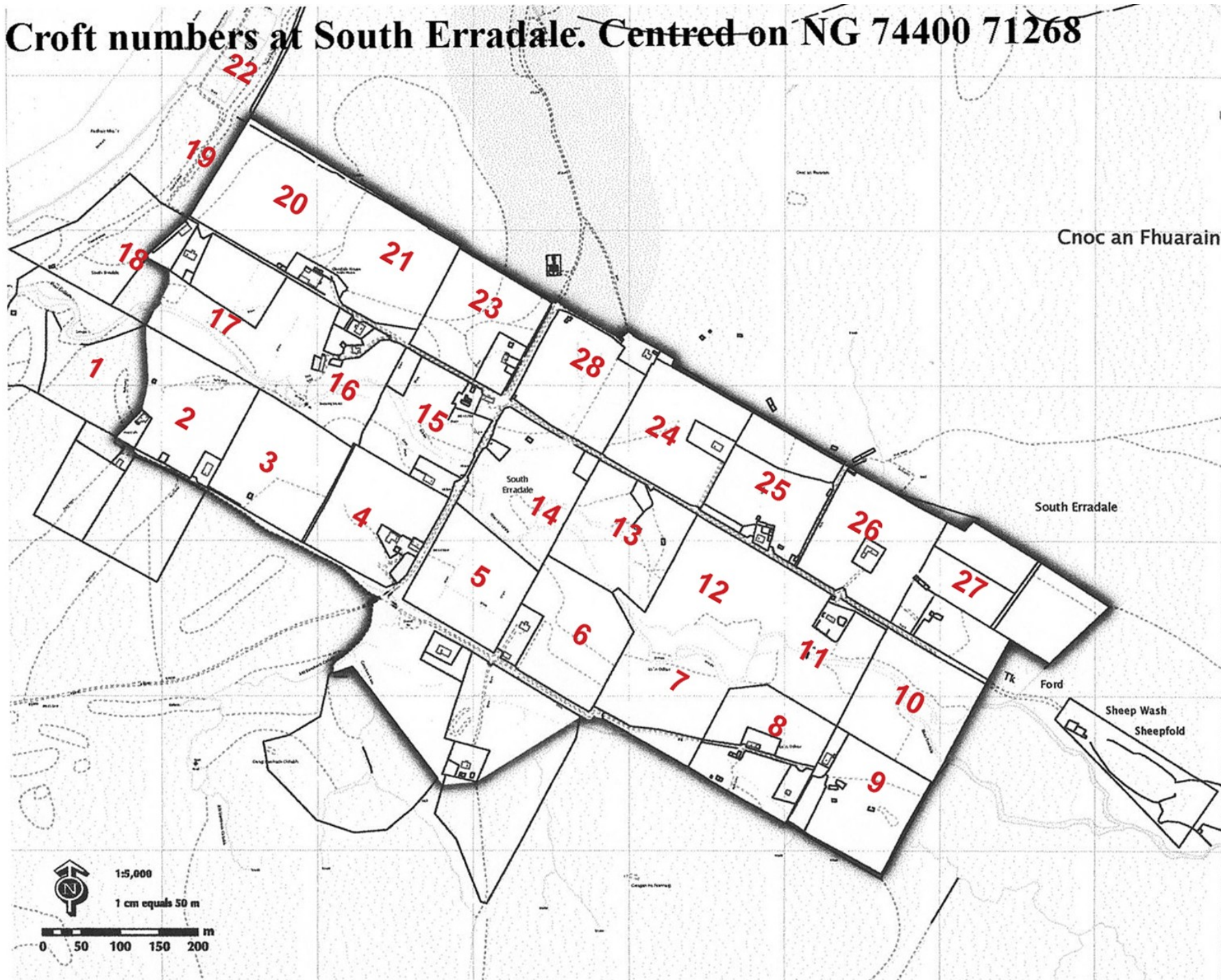
Although the river has at times proved hazardous to the local people when in flood and a nuisance when changing its course washing away fences, it has also provided some very fertile ground on the floodplain. Arable crops were grown and the area was known for its potatoes, horses, and livestock. Today there is only some livestock grazing.

Once there was a shop, slaughter house, fish curer, meeting house, but the children went to school at nearby Opinan.



Looking out on to good fertile arable ground

Croft numbers at South Erradale. Centred on NG 74400 71268



The names of the South Erradale crofts

- 1/2 Lot An Bhain or Fair John's croft
- 3 America, Lot An Ghlais or America, Grey John's croft
- 4 Lot 'An Duinn or Brown John's croft
- 5 Lota Banntrach Aili or Alick's Widow's croft
- 7 Lota Curstaidh Ruairidh or Kirsty daughter of Roderick's croft
- 8 Lota Choinnich Fhearchair or Kenneth son of Farquhar's croft
- 9 Lot Aili Eachainn or Alick son of Hector's croft
- 10 A' Lub Dhubh or The Black corner
- 11 Lot a' Ghille or The Red Lad's croft
- 12 Lot Iain Mhic Ruairidh, a' Lub Riabhach or John son of Roderick's croft – The Grey Corner
- 13 Lot Alasdair Eachainn or Alasdair son of Hector's croft
- 14 Lot 'An Ceat or John son of Kate's croft
- 15 Lota Ruiridh Bhig or Small Roderick's croft
- 16 Lota Dhomh'ill Eachainn or Donald son of Hector's croft
- 17 or 18 Lota Banntrach Eachainn or Hector's widows croft
- 19 and 22 A' Faithir Mor or Large crofts by the beach
- 20 A' Faithir Ur or New croft by the beach
- 21 A' Bhroch Ruadh or The Red Bank
- 23 Lot Alasdair Bhuidhe or Yellow Alasdair's croft
- 24 Lot Iainidh or Iainidh's croft (from Iain)
- 25 Lot an Droghair or The Drover's croft
- 26/27 Lota nan Griogalath or The Macgregors croft
- 28 Am Blar or The Plain (peaty field)

