

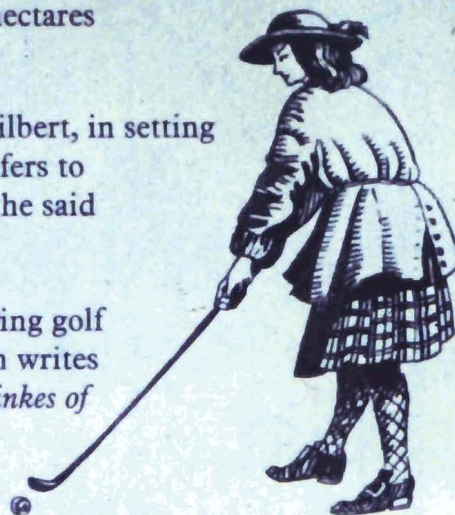
Dornoch Common Good Lands

History has given the inhabitants of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch a precious asset in some 200 hectares 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".

The young Earl of Sutherland was enjoying golf here in 1618. By 1630 Sir Robert Gordon writes that Dornoch has "the fairest and largest linkes of any pairt of Scotland, fitt for archery, goffing, ryding and all other exercise".



In 1654, General Middleton, recently landed at Little Ferry from Holland, was reviewing 5000 men gathered to support the cause of Charles II.

At various times the Town Council made rules to control the use of the Links:



In 1812 "The Pro-Fiscal (shall) prosecute any person who may presume to turr the soil or carry away feal or divot"



In 1895 "The inhabitants of the Burgh shall be entitled, as use is, to graze horses and cattle and their followers but not sheep – paying the Common Good – the dues therefor".

The golfer "shall not raise the turf of the teeing ground"!

The coming of the railway and a vigorous Golf secretary, John Sutherland, brought prosperity to Dornoch attracting 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 that has been yours on Dornoch Links.

