

INVERGORDON MUSEUM



Invergordon in World War II


Sites and Features Listing







The Invergordon in World War II project run by Invergordon Museum investigated wartime activity in Invergordon during the Second World War. Over 900 sites were identified, with information recorded in an Access and GIS database linking maps and information. This listing provides a summary of the key structures which still survive, and the evidence of selected others which no longer do so. Details have been submitted to the Highland Historic Environment Record, and once accessioned will then be forwarded to Canmore. Further information can also be found in resources at Invergordon Museum, on the Highland Historic Environment Record (her.hIGHLAND.gov.uk) and in the booklet produced by the project: *Wartime Invergordon: a Town Transformed*. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Fund and a private donor.








1. Selected sites with surviving remains





A number of sites were re-used from World War I, including parts of the bone mill, both hospitals, the Naval Recreation building and fields, the drill hall, church hall, Seabank tank farm, parts of Park School, the Invergordon Arts Centre (former town hall), and three of the officers' housing; see the World War I sites and features listing for more information.

Note: many of these buildings are on private property, and permission must be requested to visit.

	<i>What is it?</i>	<i>What remains?</i>	<i>Date if known</i>	<i>Source of information</i>	<i>Other comments</i>
	Seabank Tank Farm, with 45 oil tanks.	All but one tank survives – casualty of bombing raid in February 1941	Some are pre WWI, 4 from 1930s	Plans, memories	During WWII the tanks were encased in bricks. Most were removed after the war.

	Castle Gardens Camp / Polish Camp.	Only foundations of some of the huts, with remains of nissen huts.	Built early in WWII	Memories, aerial photographs, photographs, military documents	Used first as an Army transit camp. At the end of the war, it was used for Polish regiments. See display in Invergordon Museum and www.theinvergordonarchive.org for photos and memories.
	Groundsman's Hut, grounds of Invergordon Academy	Corrugated iron hut		Memories, aerial photographs	A number of playing fields surrounded the Naval Rec building. Plaque on building erected by the groundsman's son.
	Air raid shelter, grounds of Invergordon Academy	Shelter survives, though no entry			This was one of two near the Naval Rec building.
	Air raid shelter, Joss Street	Brick building jutting into the east end of Joss Street		Memories, aerial photographs	May also have been a Watch House for WRENS. Later adapted as coal shelters and sheds for houses opposite.
	Anderson Shelters, Clyde Street sheds are in some back gardens but visible from the road	Anderson shelters now above ground		Memories, town council minutes, aerial photographs	
	Pillbox on shore near Donkey Bridge	Pillbox with gun emplacement inside			Not in original site. It is reasonably intact suggesting it was not moved far.

	Pillbox in woodland to South of King George Street				In overgrown wood with difficult access. Presumably used to protect road and rail blocks near Donkey Bridge.
	Pillbox on Tomich Road				This would have guarded the approach road from the north, as well as providing protection for the oil pipeline from Inchindown.
	Rail block remains near Donkey Bridge	Fragments of the rail block lie between the road and railway		Aerial photos, military documents	There was also a road block situated nearby.
	Naval Garage and workshops.	Several nissen huts, a framed building and an air raid shelter survive.		Aerial photos, memories	The main garage building with a Belfast Truss roof probably dates between the wars.
	Trailer Pump Houses, to east of car park near the church and to west of Admiralty pier, in tank farm	Distinctive buildings with wide doors		Aerial photos, memories, military plans	
	Brick and corrugated iron storehouse on stilts	Currently the Pier shop	WWII	Aerial photos, military plans	This building was situated at the terminus of railway sidings (now gone). On plans it is listed as the N.S.O. Transit Shed, transferred to the S.C.E. and B.A.O. Stores.
	Two brick wartime buildings to the east of the Admiralty Pier	Two buildings survive, though one is in poor condition.	WWII	Aerial photos, military plans	Military plans say that the eastern one was used as a sick bay and N.S.O. office while the western one as a dining room and tractor garage.

	Buildings between Admiralty and Central pier	Several wartime buildings survive in this area, all in use, including the old boat shed, a long brick building and a smaller brick building.	WWII	Aerial photos, military plans	The boat shed has been reclad. Military plans show that the long brick building was an engine workshop at the north, and various workshops and offices to the south.
	The Wrennery	The building is housing.	Started just pre-WWII, and converted in early WWII.	Memories, Town Council Minutes, military plans, aerial photos.	This was used for housing for WRNS personnel. There were also nissen huts behind the building as far as Joss Street, also used by WRNS.
	Inchindown Tank Reservoirs	6 huge underground oil reservoirs, and a few other brick buildings on the surface.	First tank completed 1941, last one probably 1943	Memories, military archives	One of only three such facilities in Britain. The oil was pumped up from Invergordon, then fed back down when needed.
	Northfield Ammunition Depot	3 brick ammunition storage units, still preserving camouflage paint, plus brick buildings, fencing and modified guard house..	Possibly just before WWII	Military archives	Capable of storing a large amount of ammunition, and therefore perhaps served other military installations in the area.

2. Selected Sites which no longer survive

	<i>What was it? Where was it?</i>	<i>How long did it survive?</i>	<i>Built when?</i>	<i>Source of information</i>	<i>Other comments</i>
	Cromlet Tank Farm, with 13 tanks, behind Cromlet Drive	Demolished and land decontaminated in 1991	12 in 1930s, 1 post war	Newspaper accounts, aerial photos	Also said to have been encased in bricks, like Seabank Tank Farm
	Links Camp. On site of the then golf course.	Until late 1950s. Demolished when the distillery was built.	Early in WWII	Memories, aerial photographs, military documents	Initially used by RAF. When they moved to Dalmore it was taken over by the Navy.
	RAF Camp in Park School playing fields	Shortly after the war, although at least one building survived into the 1950s.	Early in WWII	Memories, aerial photographs, military documents	Other school buildings were taken over by the RAF and Navy as well.
	RAF Camp behind Naval Rec (roughly where Invergordon Academy is now)	Invergordon Academy was built in 1961, so any surviving buildings were destroyed then.	Early in WWII	Memories, aerial photographs, military documents	Probably vacated when RAF moved to Dalmore in 1943, and unclear if they were used after that.
	Rosskeen Battery, in field near where current Yacht Club is located	One building survived into 2000s, but rest gone by 1970s. No traces.	Early in WWII	Memories, aerial photographs, military documents	One of two large AA batteries protecting Invergordon, one at Rosskeen and one at Saltburn.
	Saltburn Battery, in field at east end of Saltburn	Gone by 1975. No traces survive.	Early in WWII	Memories, aerial photographs, military documents	One of two large AA batteries protecting Invergordon, one at Rosskeen and one at Saltburn.