

MACKAY COUNTRY



Map Courtesy of MackayCountry.com

Mackay Country is one of the most sparsely populated districts in Europe, greater in area than the city of London but home to fewer than 2000 people. The district anciently occupied by the Clan Mackay, and known from the name of its chief as the Lord Reay's country, extended along some two-thirds of the broken north coast of Scotland, from Reay itself on Sandside Bay, some ten miles west of Thurso, along the wild loch indented coast to Cape Wrath, and as far southward as Eddrachillis Bay on the West Coast. The Mackay's at one time possessed the stretch of land known as "Lord Reay's Country" from Drimholisten to Kylescue. It is what is recognised as the true Highlands of Scotland. The Medieval province of Strathnaver, comprising present-day northern Sutherland, was a focus for settlement from the early medieval period through the centuries of Viking activity and Norse colonisation, into the medieval period. Our understanding of the changing nature of that settlement from A.D. 500-1500 is poor over much of Scotland, and this area is particularly understudied. Documentary and place name evidence for medieval settlement is strong throughout the province. Exploratory work in the valley of Strathnaver and around Durness has also shown the potential for good archaeological evidence.

(An excerpt for their Mackaycountry.com website)

Be sure to visit MackayCountry.com for great information for hiking, driving and visiting Mackay Country. Their site is a great reference for history and places to see in Mackay Country.