



## **SOME SINCLAIR SITES IN THE UK**

	<b>ENGLAND</b>
<b>Battle of Hastings, near Hastings, East Sussex, England</b>	<b>The Battle of Hastings had a huge influence in European history and was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of William, the Duke of Normandy, and an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson. Fighting with William were several St Clair knights and men.</b>
<b>Tower of London, London EC3 4AB</b>	<b>The Tower of London, officially Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London is an historic castle on the north bank of the River Thames in central London. After the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror built the White Tower, which gives the entire castle its name. It has housed many famous prisoners as well as Sir William Sinclair of Roslin following the Battle of Dunbar in 1296 (some say he died there three years later) and Henry Sinclair, Earl of Orkney in 1406 (a member of the household of King James I of Scotland who was also imprisoned).</b>
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>
	<b>ARGYLL AND ISLAND OF ISLAY</b>
	<b>Some argue that, despite long historical connections between the two areas, the Sinclairs of Argyllshire are not related to the Caithness Sinclairs at all, but rather that their origin stems from "Mac na Cearda", meaning son of the smith. The name changes in the 1700s but many historical sites and Sinclair connections to see here.</b>

	<b>CAITHNESS</b>
<b>Castle Sinclair</b> <b>Girnigoe,</b> <b>Noss Head,</b> <b>Wick,</b> <b>Caithness</b> <b>KW1 4QT</b>	<p>Majestically set on cliffs to the north of Wick. It is the only castle in Scotland to be listed by the World Monument Fund. A ruin since 1681, but from mid 1400s until then was the main residence of the Earls of Caithness.</p> <p>Conservation work has been undertaken and part is open to the public all year.</p>
<b>The Castle of Mey,</b> <b>Mey, Thurso,</b> <b>Caithness</b> <b>KW14 8XH</b>	<p>The only property owned by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Built by George, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness, in the late 1560s. In 1789 James Sinclair of Mey inherited the title of Earl of Caithness and the castle became the family seat. Now owned by a Trust run by The Prince's Foundation and open to the public in the summer months.</p>

	<b>EDINBURGH</b>
<b>Catherine Sinclair</b> <b>Monument,</b> <b>St Colme Street,</b> <b>EH3</b>	<p>This beautiful monument is situated on the southeast corner of St Colme Street and North Charlotte Street in Edinburgh's New Town, close to her childhood home. Catherine Sinclair was born in the 1800 and was a Scottish novelist and a writer of children's literature.</p>
<b>Holyrood Abbey,</b> <b>Canongate,</b> <b>Edinburgh</b> <b>EH8 8DX</b>	<p>Adjacent to the Palace (well worth a visit). A number of important Sinclairs are interred here, which was a rare privilege.</p>
<b>Rosslyn Chapel,</b> <b>Chapel Loan,</b> <b>Roslin, Midlothian,</b> <b>near Edinburgh</b> <b>EH25 9PU</b>	<p>Planned as part of a much larger church, the world-famous Chapel was founded in 1446 by William St Clair of Roslin, 1st Earl of Caithness. It remains a place of worship but it has also been a popular destination for visitors for</p>

	<p>generations.</p> <p>Spare time for a walk in Roslin Glen with its semi-natural ancient woodland.</p>
<p>Roslin Castle, Roslin, near Edinburgh EH25 9PU</p>	<p>William also had Roslin Castle built on a truly dramatic site near to the Chapel. It is still in St Clair ownership and can be rented through the Landmark Trust.</p>
<p>Tolbooth Prison, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1RE</p>	<p>A heart shaped pattern of cobblestones in the road to the west of St Giles Cathedral marks the site of the Old Tolbooth Prison (demolished 1817). In 1595 William the 13-year-old son of William Sinclair of Mey, uncle and Chancellor of the Earl of Caithness, shot dead John MacMorran, a Baillie of Edinburgh, who was trying to end the sit-in by students at Edinburgh High School. He spent two months in the prison.</p>
<p>Corstorphine Parish Church, Edinburgh EH12 7ST</p>	<p>An effigy of Sir John Forrester (1380-1448), 2nd of Corstorphine, and one of his wives is found in this church. Heraldic panels at this Forrester tomb are said to be "appropriate to Sir John Forrester, and his two wives, Lady Jean Sinclair of Orkney, daughter of Henry Sinclair, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Orkney, and Marion Stewart of Dalswinton".</p>

	<p><b>INVERNESS-SHIRE</b></p>
<p>Battle of Culloden, Culloden Moor, Inverness IV2 5EU</p>	<p>The Sinclairs as a clan did not take part as they were divided in loyalty but some did on the Jacobite side and a Sinclair banner was found on the field afterwards. Sir James Sinclair of Roslin, commanded the Royal Scots regiment on the British-Hanoverian Government side.</p>

	<b>STIRLING</b>
<b>The Battle of Bannockburn, Battle of Bannockburn Centre, Glasgow Road, Whins of Milton, Stirling FK7 0LJ</b>	<b>King Robert the Bruce gave his sword to Sir William Sinclair of Herdmanston after the battle inscribed with the words “Le roi me donne. St Cler me porte” (The King gives me. St Clair carries me) after the battle for his prowess. Henry Sinclair of Roslin and Bishop William Sinclair also fought for Bruce in the battle.</b>
<b>Stirling Castle, Upper Castlehill, Stirling FK8 1EJ</b>	<b>Well worth a visit and look out for the Sinclair Arms in the Great Hall.</b>

	<b>ORKNEY ISLANDS</b>
	<b>The Sinclairs have been associated with Orkney since the early 1300s. Henry St Clair of Roslin was created Jarl of Orkney by 1379 by King Haakon VI of Norway and he built a castle at Kirkwall (now demolished). The crown annexed the title when Orkney became part of Scotland in 1472 but many Sinclairs still live there.</b>