

Thurso is twenty seven miles in length, the Berriedale sixteen miles, and the Wick nine and a half miles. Sutherlandshire contains an area of 1,297,846 acres, or nearly 2028 square miles. It is sixty-two miles in length and forty-nine miles in breadth. It contains the large straths of the Naver and the Halladale and a number of pleasant glens. Taken as a whole, however, it is a hilly and mountainous country. Ben More is 3431 feet in height; Ben Klibreck, 3164; Ben Hope, 3061; and Foinaven, 3015. The rivers, like those in Caithness, are small. The Oikell, which is the largest, is only twenty-three miles in length.

In 1800 Sutherlandshire and the parishes of Reay, Halkirk, and Latheron in Caithness were almost wholly occupied by Gaelic-speaking Highlanders. The inhabitants of the other parishes in Caithness were a mixture of Kelts, Scandinavians, and Anglo-Saxons. Many of them, especially in the parishes of Thurso and Wick, spoke Gaelic, but as a general rule they spoke English or rather Broad Scotch. It is certain, however, that a large proportion of those who spoke only English were Kelts rather than anything else. Of the voters in Sutherlandshire in 1885, 547 were Mackays; 237, Macleods; 230, Sutherlands; 177, Rosses; 170, Mackenzies; 126, Munros; 119, Macdonalds; 117, Murrays; 92, Mathesons; 82, Campbells; 62, Gunns; 62, Morrisons; 44, Grants; 41, Gordons; 23, Sinclairs; 19, Macleans; 19, Kerrs; and 18 Bannermans. Of the voters in Caithness in 1892, 320 were Sutherlands; 202, Mackays; 171, Sinclairs; 137, Gunns; 105, Hendersons; 102, Campbells; 98, Swansons; and 24 Keiths. The Swansons are of Norwegian origin, and have probably even at the present day a good proportion of Norwegian blood in them. It is clear, however, from the other names, that the present Caithnessians are to a very large extent a Keltic people. Many of the Sutherlands and Mackays who were evicted from their own lands between 1812 and 1820 settled in Caithness. It was in consequence of this fact that the Sutherlands and Mackays became more numerous in Caithness than the Sinclairs. There must always, however, have been quite a number of Sutherlands north of the Ord.