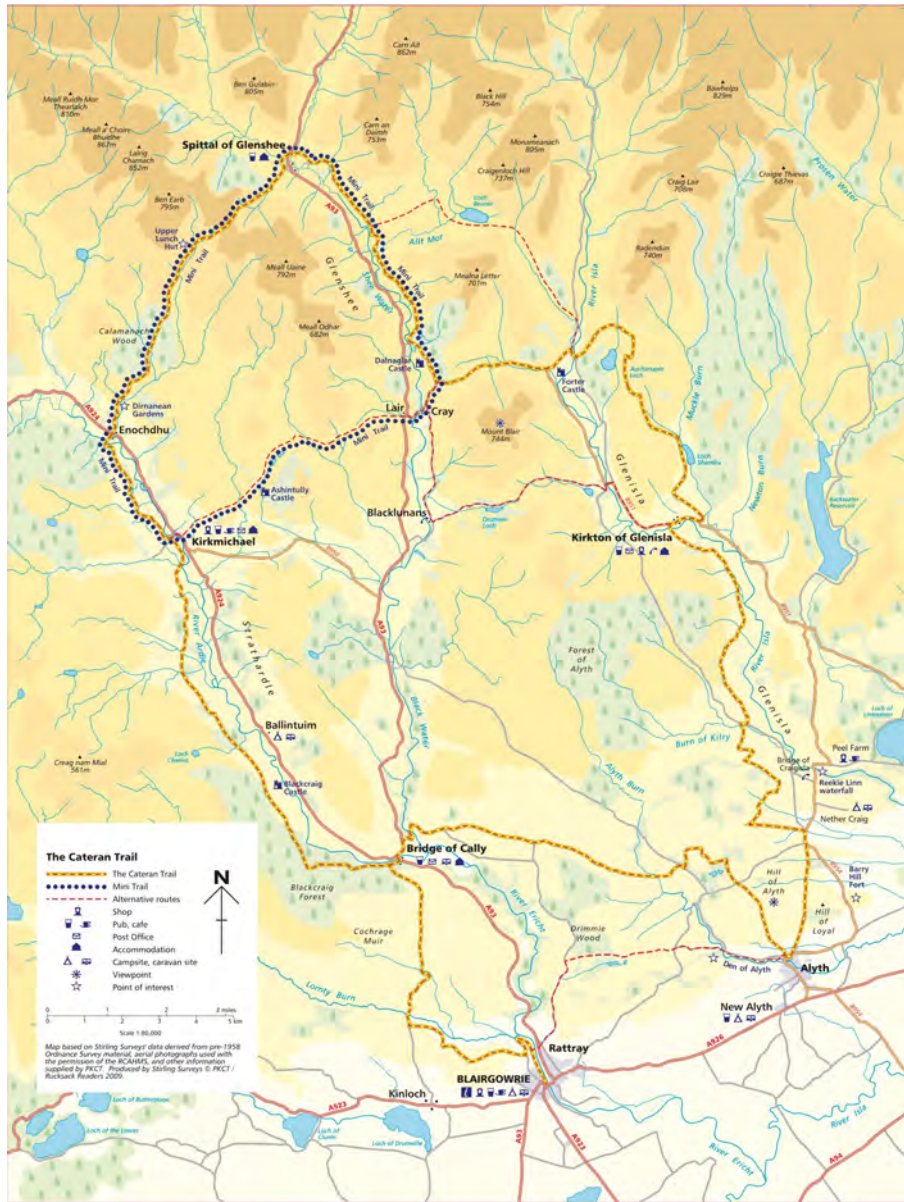


Stage Four: Kirkton of Glen Isla to Alyth

Place Names of the Cateran Trail

Dr Peter McNiven





PLACE NAMES OF THE CATARAN TRAIL

DR PETER MCNIVEN

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COVER: Looking up toward Glenshee, photo Clare Cooper



FOREWARD

The CATERAN Trail is one of Scotland's great long-distance footpaths. Fully waymarked, its circular 64-mile (103-km) route through Eastern Perthshire and the Angus Glens follows old drove roads and ancient tracks across a varied terrain of farmland, forests and moors. Some of the routes follow those used by the Caterans, the name given to the Highland cattle raiders who were the scourge of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glen Isla from the Middle Ages to the 17th century, and after whom the trail is named.

This booklet is the fourth in a series detailing new research on the place names of the CATERAN Trail. Each follows one of its five stages and begins with an introductory essay followed by a place name index. There is also one for the shorter 'mini' Trail.

The research was commissioned by CATERAN's Common Wealth, a locally-led initiative which is using the CATERAN Trail as a stage for a multi-year programme of diverse arts, cultural and heritage activities and events aimed at inspiring people to think about and celebrate our 'common wealth', the things that belong to all of us.



INTRODUCTION

Place-names matter. If there are any doubts about that statement, imagine trying to travel anywhere in the world without them; try booking flight from 55°57'00" N, 003°22'21" W to 51°28'39" N, 000°27'41" W. How much simpler is it to say you want to go from Edinburgh Airport to London Heathrow? For most of us place-names are merely words, often incomprehensible, on maps or road-signs indicating where a place is in the world. Some place-names have special resonance for people; for example, their home town or village, a place where they spent a special holiday or occasion, or perhaps they just delight in the sound of the name – many Scots like how 'Scottish' places such as Auchtermuchty or Ecclefechan sound, and can take great delight in their mispronunciation by non-Scots speakers.

Place-names, however, meant something to the people who originally coined them. Once we crack the code, as it were, we can discover a great deal about the landscape in which the place-name is situated. Place-names are a window through which we can glimpse Scotland's past. They contain a large amount

of information about such topics as people, the landscape, how that landscape was used, belief, and of course language. For place-names are words and once we can understand what a place-name means we can begin to use it to tell us about the past.



Wedding at the Glen Isla Hotel in the 1930's, photo courtesy of the Laing Photographic Collection

Place-names can be a great aid in helping historians and archaeologists understand rural settlement and society in the Middle Ages and beyond to the cusp of the Agricultural Improvements and Industrial Revolution in Scotland in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Not only do they give us clues to landscape use, but they also indicate important religious and social organisation that

would otherwise have gone unrecorded. Place-names are very much an under-utilised resource for Scottish history, but can be said to be one of the main resources for the study of important questions, such as those relating to the Picts. However, one of the problems we face is that Scotland is very limited when it comes to how many counties have had their place-names closely scrutinised. Scotland lacks the intensive surveys of England and Ireland, particularly the Republic of Ireland.

Research in place-name involves looking for their earliest spellings. The reasoning is that the earlier the spelling the closer we are to the language spoken when the name was first coined. For example, Pictish is generally thought to have died out by around the year 900. There are few Pictish place-names along the Cateran Trail, the language having been replaced by first Gaelic, perhaps around 900 to 1000, and then Scots which probably began to make inroads into the area when the monks of Dunfermline, Scone, and Coupar Angus Abbeys were granted lands in Strathardle and Glenisla from the mid twelfth century. Researchers look at various material for early spellings, including old maps, the earliest detailed of which are Timothy Pont's maps dating to the 1590s. Other useful maps are



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William Roy's Military Map (1747-53), James Stobie's *Map of the Counties of Perth and Clackmannan* (1783), and John Aislie's *Map of the County of Forfar or Shire of Angus* (1794). While these maps are very useful, they are not as accurately drawn as the Ordnance Survey maps which only started in the early nineteenth century, and did not reach Perthshire and Angus until the 1860s. It is from the Ordnance Survey that we get the majority of our current spellings of place-names.



The Kirk and Graveyard at Kirkton of Glen Isla, photo Clare Cooper

Prior to the arrival of the Ordnance Survey there was no system of standardised spelling of place-names; indeed, standardised spelling only arose in the nineteenth century with the appearance of mass produced newspapers

and compulsory education. It is not unusual while looking at medieval documents for the place-name researcher to find two or more different spellings for the same place in the one sentence! Nevertheless, old documents are where most of the early spellings of place-names are to be found and there are a myriad of different documents.

Generally, however, they fall into a small number of types, including: charters granting or exchanging land; rentals of land; wills and testaments; travellers' and ministers' accounts; letters and recollections. All of these can be further sub-divided into royal, ecclesiastical, and private. All this affects how early and how often which names appear on record.

Many Pictish and Gaelic place-names only appear on record due to the modern map makers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The reason is in part due to the survival of records (they can be lost, among other reasons, due to war, fire, rot, rodents, and damp) and in part due to who the landowner or landholder was. The medieval church was very jealous of its possessions and often kept detailed records of their properties, the records of Coupar Angus Abbey are particularly useful for the Glenisla stages of the Catheran Trail. However, not all of the church

records will have survived the tribulations of the Protestant Reformation of the mid sixteenth century. Royal records, such as charters, can sometimes be dated back to the reign of David I (1124-53), but here the records are not so detailed. Strathardle was granted to Scone Abbey in David's reign, but we are given no information regarding the settlements in Strathardle until the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries. Royal records can go missing too, often due to war, or accident (in 1661 many Scottish records were lost when the ship carrying them sank off the English coast. The records were being returned to Edinburgh after they had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell).

There are many documents of private landowners held in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh (along with royal and ecclesiastical records), but they are often not published like the royal and ecclesiastical records, while others are in the hands of individuals or companies which can make access difficult. The most useful private records for the Catheran Trail are those relating to the Invercauld estate for Glenshee and the Ramseys of Bamff for the areas around Bamff and Alyth. Hill-names only generally come on record from the time of the Ordnance Survey, although some of the bigger or more prominent



hills, such as Mount Blair, can be found on Pont and Stobie.

LANGUAGE

Underpinning all this, of course, is language. Gaelic predominates along the Cateran Trail. Not only is it the original language of most of the settlement names, but is the language of the majority of relief features such as hill and river-names. Pictish, or at least Pictish influence is only present in a few important places, including Strathardle, Alyth, Cally, The Keith, Mount Blair, possibly Rochallie, and probably Forter. Persie within Glenshee may also be Pictish. Scots and Scottish English have a sizable presence, mainly in some settlement- names and a small number of hill and stream- names. In the late eighteenth century the area was still mainly Gaelic speaking. The Rev. Allan Stewart, minister for Kirkmichael, wrote in the 1790s that: ‘the prevailing language in the parish is the Gaelic. A dialect of the ancient Scotch, also, is understood, and currently spoken. These two, by a barbarous intermixture, mutually corrupt each other. All the names of places are Gaelic’. This ‘intermixture’ is noted in Kilmadock parish,

in southern Perthshire where it was stated that Gaelic was corrupted by its vicinity to Scots, and in Glenshee this ‘corruption’ of Gaelic was probably the result of the interaction of two distinct linguistic communities lying on the border of Highland Glenshee and Lowland Strathmore with its trading centres such as Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus, who were both linked to Dundee and Perth.



The remains of Pitcarmick-type stone dwellings and a central enclosure of the Wester Peathaugh prehistoric settlement, photo © Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust

It is also the case that place-names don’t just tell us what language was spoken in an area, but can, sometimes, tell us about changes in pronunciation within a language. There was a change in Gaelic pronunciation in words beginning *cn*, which seems to have

taken place in the early modern period. The change from /n/ to /r/ in Gaelic words beginning *cn* or *gn* is ‘comparatively late’ according to Thomas O’Rahilly, a prominent Irish scholar; he suggested the change took place in Scotland by the mid-sixteenth century or later. Crock reflects modern Gaelic pronunciation of *cnoc*, and means that the representation of this spelling, Crock rather than Knock, on a modern map indicates that Gaelic was still being spoken in this part of the Angus Glens in the mid to late sixteenth century. About 4 km to the north-west of Crock is a hill called The Knaps and is presumably pronounced similar to English *naps*. The name derives from Gaelic *cnap* ‘knob, lump, little hill’. *Cnap* in modern Gaelic is pronounced *krahp*. So the fact that The Knaps is so spelled probably means we should view this hill being named before the sound change occurred. However, from the late 1400s many Gaelic names contain Scots prefixes, such as *Little Fortyr* and *East Innerherraty*, suggesting that Gaelic was probably extinct in Glen Isla as the naming language at least among the landlords.

Place-names can give an indication of an area’s past landscapes, whether natural or human influenced; past social organisation and land divisions can be revealed; beliefs, both



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religious and mythical are contained in the names of many features, whether they be hills, burns or vegetation. Indeed, so varied are the topics for place-name research that a recently published book on the Gaelic landscape by John Murray gives the following categories for looking at place-names in the landscape: landforms – mountains, hills, passes, hollows, valleys; hydronymy (river and loch-names); climate, season, sound and time; land-cover and ecology – flora and fauna; agriculture – crops, domestic and farm animals; buildings and settlement; church and chapel; cultural artefacts; people and occupations; events; legend and the supernatural.



Curling Competition, photo courtesy of the Laing Photographic Collection

All of these categories can also be described in terms of colour, pattern, texture, form, size and position, and through metaphor using the anatomy of the whole human body. Many, if not all these categories can be found along the CATERAN Trail and the surrounding area. Here, however, we will concentrate on the themes of the CATERAN Trail project – People, Places, and Landscapes.

CATERAN

The CATERAN Trail is itself now a place-name. The trail was opened in the summer of 1999; the word CATERAN, however, dates back to at least the late fourteenth century.

CATERAN derives from a Gaelic word *ceatharn* meaning ‘warrior’, but usually one that is lightly armed. In the Lowlands cateran came to epitomise Highland violence, and is indicative of a Lowland perception of a particularly Gaelic Highland problem.

CATERANS have come to our notice because throughout the Middle Ages and up until shortly before the Jacobite risings of the eighteenth century, the records of the Scottish government bristle with complaints about the activities of the caterans. In the fourteenth century the

problem became so acute that a council decided that caterans should be arrested or killed on sight.

CATERANS first come on record in the 1380s at a time of trouble and rebellion in Moray, led by the son of Robert II, Alexander Stewart, earl of Buchan, better known as the Wolf of Badenoch. In 1385 it was said that there was a ‘lack of justice in the higher and northern regions, where many malefactors and caterans are roaming’.

Raids by the Wolf of Badenoch occurred throughout Moray leading to the burning down of Elgin cathedral in 1390, the culmination of a dispute with the bishop of Moray. However, these cateran raids also spread to Angus and Perthshire. In 1392, Buchan’s sons led a raid into Angus, causing, according to one medieval chronicler ‘grete discorde’, and which led to a pitched battle between the caterans and forces headed by Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk. The battle is variously said to have been at Glasclune near Blairgowrie or at Dalnagairn in Strathardle.

The caterans eventually fled the field of battle. They were to cause problems in the area over the next two centuries. In 1602, it was reported to the Privy Council by the ‘good subjects’ of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glenisla



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that a group of 200 persons 'all thieves and sorners¹ of the Clan Chattane and Clan Gregour, and all Donald McAngus of Glengarry's men, armed with bows, habershons, hagbuts and pistols, came to Glenyla, and there reft all the goods within the said bounds, consisting of 2700 nolt (Scots - cattle; oxen, bulls and cows, collectively), 100 horses and mares, with the plenishing of the country'.

The caterans were pursued by the inhabitants of the area and were partially defeated at the Cairnwell Pass north of Spittal of Glenshee. In the 1650s, the MacDonalds of Glencoe, among others, raided the earl of Airlie's lands in Glen Isla and neighbouring Glen Prosan in Angus; they had been given information by John MacCombie of Forter. Although prosecuted by the earl of Airlie, the long drawn out legal process eventually petered out.

The caterans continued their activities and in 1667 stole a horse and 36 cattle from Airlie's estates, but eventually with the assimilation of the clan chiefs into the wider Scottish and British governing class came better law enforcement and control of the Highlands and led to the demise of the caterans.

¹ Sorners: A person who exacts free quarters and provisions by threats or force, as a means of livelihood.



A Cateran in Glenshee as imagined by Kevin Greig staneswinames.org

But what gave rise to the caterans and why did they attack places like Glenshee, Glen Isla and Strathardle? Given that the cateran raids begin, so far as we are aware, after the mid-fourteenth century, one Scottish historian has highlighted reasons including the aftermath of the wars with England, plague, and environmental factors, such as climate change; it became wetter and colder from about 1315. All this meant both a fall in population and greater difficulty in raising crops in an area

(i.e. the Highlands) that was always marginal.

There were two alternative ways of making a living – herding cattle and raiding. Although the glens of Strathardle, Glenshee, and Glen Isla were Highland areas, with all the accoutrements of medieval Highland life, including Gaelic speakers and a mainly pastoral economy, these glens were in fact Highland extensions of nearby Lowland estates, with many of the lands belonging to either the crown, prominent Lowland families, or to the medieval church in the shape of monastic institutions, especially Coupar Angus, Scone, and Dunfermline Abbeys.

Cattle were easier to move than large quantities of grain, and in pre-industrial times cattle were a source of wealth. From cattle are derived the more obvious items, such as milk, cheese, and butter, but also their fat for making candles and their hides for leather.

We can get an idea of how rich in pastoral resources the area was from rentals, such as those of Coupar Angus Abbey who held much of Glen Isla. The settlement of Dalvanie in 1556, for example, had to provide 40 non-milk producing cows and pay 2½ stones of cheese and ½ stone of butter per year as part of its rental.



PEOPLE

Stage 4 begins in **Kirkton of Glenisla**, the farmtoun belonging to the parish kirk of Glenisla; it is the exact Scots equivalent of the settlement in Strathardle opposite Kirkmichael called Balnakilly ‘farmtoun of the church’.

There has been a church at Kirkton since at least the first half of the thirteenth century. Toun is the Scots equivalent of Gaelic baile; both are habitation elements in place-names having a basic meaning of ‘farm, landholding’. Another toun-name in Glenisla, about 6 km south of Kirkton, is Cottertown. This is a ‘farmtoun or settlement for cottars’; cottars were basically labourers, a group in medieval and early modern society lying at the lower end of the social scale. The better off cottars might have a small number of animals plus up to an acre of land to farm for their own subsistence; the poorer cottars might only have a strip of land and a cow.

Language can change and all along the CATERAN TRAIL we can see evidence from the place-names for the change from Pictish to Gaelic and on to Scots, a process that has taken place over many centuries. Sometimes place-names can change simply because a new owner decides to give his or her name to a

place they have purchased, although this is very rare along the CATERAN TRAIL, but does occur in other parts of Scotland.



Alyth & District Pipe Band, photo Clare Cooper

Another reason for changing a place-name is due to prevailing fashions. The Victorians have a reputation for being prudish when it comes to matters of sex and language, and this can be seen in one place-name in particular. **Loyalbank**, now the site of a large mansion house built in the 1830s, was originally called *Bastardbank*. It was renamed after nearby Hill of Loyal probably in order to make it sound more respectable. However, bastard in this case has nothing to do with swearing or the illegitimacy of children, but was probably related instead to the method of farming in this area, bastard-fallow was ploughing that left some furrows fallow.

PLACES

The landscape of the CATERAN TRAIL has always been a place of work. Before the area was cleared of people and given over to sheep in the late eighteenth century, the seasons would have affected where people worked. In the summer months, while the crops were growing, the cattle and other animals would have been moved up onto the higher grounds in a process called transhumance— the seasonal transfer of livestock to another area, called *sheilings* in Scots; *airigh* or *ruighe* in Gaelic).

This was important both economically and socially in the Highlands and Islands, and lasted longer there than it did in the Lowlands. The movement was largely undertaken by younger men, the women and children of the settlements, often for up to six weeks at a time – for the young men and women these were places of courting. The remains of sheiling huts where they stayed can be found dotted all over the Highlands. The main sheiling ground along the CATERAN TRAIL, based on place-names, seems to have been in the area between Glenshee and Strathardle.

That’s not to say that the practice of transhumance did not happen in Glenisla, but



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place-names relating to the custom are rare. Along the Cateran Trail only **Shealwalls** and **Whitesheal** indicate that the seasonal movement of animals took place in the lower parts of Glenisla. Shealwalls exists from at least 1595 (the landis of *Ardormy callit Schelwallis*) and is a good indication that Scots had by then firmly taken root in this area.



Alyth's 17thc packhorse bridge, photo Clare Cooper

Routeways were important in moving people and animals from one area to another. Bellaty seems to contain Old Gaelic *bélat* 'cross road, path', and the settlement sits at the bottom of a natural, but un-named, pass between Glenisla and the neighbouring glen to the east through which the Back Water flows. The Backwater

Reservoir (not on the Cateran Trail) now covers what was clearly a fertile valley containing a number of settlements. **Balduff Hill**, on the face of it, looks like it contains Gaelic *baile* 'farm, settlement', however, given there is a prominent small valley immediately to the east of the hill, it is more likely that is a *bealach* 'pass', and therefore is in Gaelic *bealach dubh* 'black or dark pass'. **Loanhead** is the settlement at the head of a loan, which is a grassy strip leading to a pasture where the cattle were milked.

Two pieces of evidence point to the fact that the area around Alyth has been exploited by humans for many centuries.

Barry Hill is a very impressive hill-fort, measuring 80 metres by 25 metres. It comes on record as *Donbarre* in 1531, perhaps for Gaelic *dùn barran* or *barrán*, meaning something like 'fort with tops' or 'fort with palisades' referring to the impressive ramparts at the top of the hill-fort. According to the late medieval Scottish philosopher and historian Hector Boece, the hill-fort at Barry Hill was the place where Vanora (a variant of Guinevere), wife of King Arthur was kept captive. Arthur is supposed to have fought the Anglo-Saxons after the end of the Roman occupation of Britain; but one archaeologist

suggests that when the Romans proceeded up Strathmore during their invasion of what is now Scotland in 79AD they passed 'the long-abandoned ruins of hilltop forts like Finavon, Barry Hill and the Caterthuns'. Another piece of evidence for the longevity of settlement around Alyth is its name.

Alyth is probably Pictish, containing a cognate of Gaelic *a(i)l* 'rock, cliff', which may be the fairly steep face of the ridge of hills immediately to the north of Alyth containing Hill of Alyth, Hill of Loyal, and Barry Hill.

LANDSCAPES

Names were needed to navigate and make sense of an area full of hills and valleys of various sizes and shapes, as well as numerous bogs, and rivers and burns. Gaelic, much more than English, is a language of the landscape and so it has a profusion of generic terms for different parts of the landscape. Many of these terms can often now be contained in the names of settlements, but the names themselves relate to landscape features. However, there are still a few names along the valley floor that remind us that exploiting the landscape was key to survival. Peat for fuel was essential for



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keeping warm and cooking in a cold, wet country. **Peathaugh** is one such place where peats could be found. A *haugh* is Scots for a level areas beside a river, which are prone to flooding and so enriched by nutrients making them suitable not only for peat extraction, but also for grazing or growing hay for winter feed, and as such they were very important places in the Middle Ages and beyond. **Bogside** is at the side of a bog, and like haugh-lands, bogs were important for peat and also for the types of long grasses that grow near them, which could be used for thatch or flooring.

Place-names containing a colour are frequent along the Catheran Trail. Often it is not clear why the namers chose a particular colour for a particular place, but in many cases it could be due to the vegetation or the underlying geology. There is only one colour nam on this section of the Catheran Trail: **Druim Dearg** 'red ridge'. In one publication from the 1880s it is said that 'roofing slate is obtained near Alyth'. Alyth lies near the Highland Boundary Fault and in other parts of Scotland near the fault, such as Aberfoyle in southern Perthshire, there were large slate quarries. Just north of Alyth is **Slatentie** (*Skleatintie* in 1672) is possibly a place where slate was mined.



Strathmore from the top of Alyth Hill,
photo Clare Cooper

Two place-names in Glenisla may also be connected to the legends of Finn mac Cumhail. The settlement of **Formal** is probably named after a nearby hill called **Knock of Formal**. The name appears to derive from the Old Irish *formael*, a compound adjective meaning 'bare', and thus 'bare one, bare hill' – the place-name is found in Scotland in several places. Recent research in Ireland, has shown that many Formail place-names in Ireland are 'cited in historical and literary contexts and more especially in *fiannaíocht* (tales of Finn mac Cumhail), where it is conceived as a hunting preserve and the liminal world of Fionn Mac Cumhail and his *fián*'. More research needs to be done to establish any connection with the Finn legends and Formal place-names in Scotland.



INDEX

Rather than, as is customary, arrange the entries alphabetically, I have decided to arrange the entries as far as possible as they are encountered while walking on the ground. They are grouped in five main stages, plus a Mini Trail, and these stages follow those shown on the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust website at www.pkct.org/cateran-trail. However, there are short alternative routes shown in the 2007 booklet *Explore the CATERAN Trail* by Chic Leven and Ken Roberts and these are shown below (as a, b, or c).

Mini Trail: Circular route – Kirkmichael via Spittal of Glenshee and Lair

- Stage 1: Blairgowrie to Kirkmichael
- Stage 2: Kirkmichael to Spittal of Glenshee
- Stage 3: Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glenisla
- Stage 3a: Invereddrie to Forter
- Stage 3b: Forter to Kirkton of Glenisla
- Stage 3c: Cray to Kirkton of Glenisla
- Stage 4: Kirkton of Glenisla to Alyth
- Stage 5: Alyth to Blairgowrie
- Stage 5a: Alyth to Blairgowrie

Abbreviations

A	Antiquity
ALY	Alyth
ANG	Angus

BDY	Bendochy
BGE	Blairgowrie
Brit.	British
CAP	Caputh
GLI	Glenisla
KLC	Kinloch
KRK	Kirkmichael
MOU	Moulin
PER	Perthshire
RTR	Ratray
Sc	Scots
ScEng	Scottish English
ScG	Gaelic
SSE	Scottish Standard English

A four-figure grid reference has been given along with the following abbreviations indicating what the name refers to: A = antiquity; O = other (e.g. bridge, road), R = relief feature; S = settlement; V = vegetation. Note also that there was an alteration of the parish boundaries along the southern edge of the study area as a result of the 1891 changes to the parish and county boundaries by the Boundary Commissioners for Scotland under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (see



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Shennan 1892).²

In the text of the main discussion place-names with ALY (e.g. Blacklunans ALY) indicate that the early forms and linguistic analysis can be found in the survey of Alyth parish; likewise those place-names with KRK (e.g. Spittal of Glenshee KRK) indicates they can be found in the survey of Kirkmichael parish.

Note that in the analysis line the Gaelic spellings conform to the modern spellings found in the SQA Gaelic Orthographic Conventions.³

A name preceded by * indicates a hypothetical unattested form.

² This difficult to access book, giving details of the changes in the county and parish boundaries, can be seen at <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/published-gazetteers-and-atlases/hay-shennan-county-and-parish-boundaries-1892>

³ http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA-Gaelic_Orthographic_Conventions-En-e.pdf



STAGE 4: Kirkton of Glen Isla to Alyth

KIRKTON OF GLEN ISLA

GLI S NO214604

ecclesia de *Glenylif* 1219 x 46 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 127
Glen Ylef 1301 x 1309 *C. A. Chrs.* no. 70 [*Camboch* in *Glen Ylef*]
Ecclesia de *Glenylef* 1311 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 96
ecclesia Sancte Marie de *Glenylef* 1479 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 150
Kirtoun 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 354)
Kirk of Glenyla 1583-96 Pont 28
Glenilay 1607 *RMS* vi no. 2002
Kirktown of Glen-Isla 1794 Ainslie
Kirkton of Glenisla 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Sc *kirtoun* + Sc *of* + en *Glenisla*

‘A town or village situated by a church; especially, the hamlet in which the parish church of a rural parish is [situated]’ (*DOST*). Somewhere near or on Kirkton of Glenisla was ‘ane akir of land in *Glenylay*, callit *the Smedy croft* 1542’ (*C.A. Rental* ii, 253).

The name Glenisla derives from ScG *gleann* ‘valley, glen’ plus a river-name, see River Isla above.

RIVER ISLA

GLI W NO160377

? *Glend Ailbe* 11th century Irish Nennius
(<http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/T100028>)
Hilef 1165 x 1184 *De Situ Albanie* (Anderson 1980, 243-3)
[aqua de] *Ylif* c.1198 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 13

aqua et pontem de *hylif* c.1220 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 31 [the water and bridge of Isla]

aqua de *Yleife* 1326 *RRS* v no. 298

watter of *Ilay* 1518 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 162

aqua de *Ilay* 1527 *RMS* iii no. 504

aqua de *Ilay* 1536 *RMS* iii no. 1560

Yla 1590s Pont 28

aqua de *Ilay* 1604 *Retours* PER no. 124

aqua de *Ilay* 1622 *Retours* PER no. 307

aqua de *Illay* 1641 *Retours* PER no. 497

Yla fl. 1636 x 1652 Gordon 43

aqua de *Yla* 1668 *Retours* PER no. 780

River Yla c.1750 Roy

Isla River 1783 Stobie

River Isla 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

ScEng *river* + en *Isla*

The name Isla is derived from an Old Celtic river name, **ila(f)*, although it is not known what the meaning of this name is.

In the Irish Nennius version of *Historia Brittonum* there are the lines ‘Atá *dno glenn* i n-Aengus, & eigm cacha h-aidchi Luain and, & Glend Ailbe a ainm, & ni feas cia do gni fuith’ (There is a valley in Aengus, in which shouting is heard every Monday night; Glen Ailbe is its name, and it is not known who makes the noise) (<http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/T100028>). It has been suggested that this represents Glen Isla (Watson 1926, 512-13); Thomas Clancy (2000, 94) maintains that *Glend Ailbe* cannot be identified.



KIRKHILLOCKS **GLI S NO214601**

Kyrk Heloke 1516 C.A. Rental i, 298
Kirkhillokkis 1542 C.A Rental ii, 198
half town and landis of *Kirkhillokis* 1557 C.A. Rental ii, 154
Kirkhillokkis 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)
Kirkhillack 1583-96 Pont 28
Kirkhillock 1794 Ainslie
Kirkhillocks 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Sc *kirk* + Sc *hillock*

‘Hillock associated or belonging to the kirk of Glenisla’.

CRAIGENDEIGH **GLI S NO221599**

Craigendigh 1794 Ainslie
Craigendeigh 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *creag* + ScG *an* + ? ScG *each*

‘Crag of the horse’, with OG masculine genitive singular definite article *ind* (OG *creag ind eich*). Another possibility for the *deigh* element is ScG *deigh* ‘ice’. See *PNKNR* Cleish intro. (forthcoming) for the now lost place-name Aldendeich.

WHITEHILLS **GLI S NO227594**

Whitehill 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *white* + ScEng *hill*

BUSH OF BELLATY **GLI V NO232594**

Bush of Bellaty 1794 Ainslie
Bush of Bellaty 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *bush* + ScEng *of* + en Bellaty

BELLATY **GLI S NO238592**

Belatty 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41
an eighth part of *Belady in Glenyleff* 1476 C.A. Rental i, 223
an eighth part of *Belady* 1477 C.A Rental i, 206
an eighth part of *Bellaty* 1508 C.A Rental i, 265
the quarter of *Bellady* 1513 C.A. Rental i, 292
two oxengangs in *Bellady* 1514 C.A. Rental i, 294
Bellite 1542 C.A. Rental ii, 198
our town and landis of *Bellite* 1557 C.A. Rental ii, 161
the few malis of ane third pairt and twelft pairt landis of *Bellite* 1586 C.A. Rental ii, 295
Bellaty 1590s Pont 28
Newtoun de Bellitie 1629 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 183
Newtoun de Bellatie 1635 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 232
Bellatie 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539
Bellaty 1794 Ainslie
Bellaty 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXX

This name could contain OG *bélat* ‘cross road, path’, and either Gaelic *taigh* ‘house’, or possibly the Old Gaelic *-in* ending meaning ‘place of’, which is later reduced to *-ie* or *-y*. The settlement sits at the bottom of a natural, but un-named, pass between Glenisla and the neighbouring glen to the east through which the Back Water flows. The Backwater



Kirkton of Glen Isla to Alyth

Reservoir now covers what was clearly a fertile valley containing a number of settlements.

CAMMOCK BURN

GLI W NO232582

Cammock Burn 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXX

en Cammock + ScEng *burn*

CAMMOCK FARM

GLI S NO230585

Camboch in Glenylef 1301 × 1309 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 70

Camboch c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 79

an eighth part of *Cambok* 1465 *C.A. Rental* i, 152

Cambok 1481 *C.A. Rental* i, 233

two bovates⁴ of *Cambo* 1483 *C.A. Rental* i, 237

a sixteenth part of *Cambak* 1508 *C.A Rental* i, 265

a sixteenth part of *Cambok* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 267

the aughtan part of *Cambak* 1513 *C.A. Rental* i, 292

a sixth part of *Cambok* 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 298

Cambok 1542 *C.A Rental* ii, 198

Cambok 1557 *C.A Rental* ii, 156

Cambok 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 354)

Kamnack 1590s Pont 28

terris de *Cambock* 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539

Cammocks 1794 Ainslie

Wester Cammock 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXX

Easter Cammock 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXX

⁴ *Bovate* is Latin for an oxgang, an eighth of a ploughgate, a unit of land measure consisting of about 13 Scots acres or 16 Imperial acres (*PNF* 5, 569).

G *cam* or Pictish **cam(b)* + *-ōc*

‘Crooked place’. The name refers to a settlement on a sharp s-shaped bend on the River Isla which occurs after a relatively straight 1 km section. The name could be Pictish. The first element is found in all the insular Celtic languages, from **kambo*-‘crooked’, giving G *cam* (Olr *camb*) and Welsh *cam*. It is relatively common in Scottish place-names (see Watson 1926, 143). The element is found in Fife in as *Cambo*, Kingsbarns parish, which has many of the same early forms as *Cammock*. The suffix points to a non-Gaelic origin of this name, since *-ōc*, Old and Middle Irish *-óc*, later *-óg*, probably derives from British (Russell 1990, 108–16), and therefore its occurrence in eastern Scottish place-names north of the Forth may well reflect Pictish influence (See *PNF* 3, 368).

DRUIM DEARG

GLI R NO212585

Drumderg 1794 Ainslie

Druim Dearg 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScG *druim* + ScG *dearg*

‘Red ridge.’

GARHARRY BURN

GLI W NO231584

Garharry Burn 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

en Garharry + Sc *burn*

Garharry may derive from ScG *garbh* + ScG *àirigh* ‘rough sheiling’, but Adam Watson (2013, 49) suggests Gaelic *Garadh na h-Airbhe* ‘wall of the boundary’, and it is possible that the burn marks the boundary between the lands of *Cammock* and *Peathaugh*, but no wall is shown on the OS 1st edn map.



NEEDS

LIN S NO237580

Needs 1590s Pont 28

Needs 1794 Ainslie

Needs 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScG *nead, nid*

‘Nest, circular hollow’. It is not clear what kind of nests might be involved here, if it is indeed the derivation. The final *s* in the name is due to Scots plural ending as there is also a West Needs shown on the 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX map.

WESTER PEATHAUGH

GLI S NO233578

Peathaugh 1794 Ainslie

Wester Peathaugh 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *wester* + en Peathaugh

This is a haughland or water-meadow which was probably a source of peat for fuel.

EASTER PEATHAUGH

GLI S NO232575

Easter Peathaugh 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *easter* + en Peathaugh

SCRUSCHLOCH

GLI S NO231571

Scrichloch 1794 Ainslie

Wester Scruschloch 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Easter Scruschloch 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

We cannot say with certainty what the name is or means as the forms are so late on record. Adam Watson, however, suggests ScG *sgriosailleach* ‘slippery place’ (Watson 2013, 53), while David Durward thinks the first element might be ScG *sgrios* ‘meaning to scrape or destroy, perhaps a landslip’ (Durward 2001, 146).

WHITESHEAL

GLI S NO226565

Whiteshiel 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *white* + Sc *sheil*

HILL OF KILRY

GLI R NO225563

Hill of Kilry 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *hill* + ScEng *of* + en Kilry

See Kilry GLI below.

WELL OF BOWHALE

GLI W NO217559

Well of Bowhale 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *well* + ScEng *of* + en Bowhale or Sc *bowcaill*

Bowhale may derive from ScG *both* ‘hut’ + ScG *càl* ‘cabbage’. However, there is a Sc word *bowcaill* ‘cabbage’ attested from 1506 (*DOST*).

LATCH OF BOWHALE

GLI W NO222560

Latch of Bowhale 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *latch* + ScEng *of* + en Bowhale or Sc *bowcaill*

Sc *latch* is ‘a small stream, esp. one flowing through boggy ground’



DALWHIRR **GLI S NO233560**

Dalwhirr 1794 Ainslie

Dalwhirr 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScG *dail* + ? ScG *ciar*

'Dusky water-meadow or haugh'? David Durward (2001, 109) suggests the second element could be ScG *car*, genitive *cuir* 'bend or twist'.

LOANHEAD **GLI S NO229558**

Loanhead 1794 Ainslie

Loanhead 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *loan* + Sc *heid*

Sc *loan* is 'a green cattle-track or grassy by-road, commonly diked in, as a passage for animals through arable land, park or orchard land or the like. Freq., a grassy strip leading to a pasture or other open ground, beginning at or near a farm, village or burgh as a green where the cattle were milked' (*DOST*).

LOANHEAD OF KILRY **GLI S NO231556**

Loanhead 1794 Ainslie

Loanhead 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Loanhead of Kilry 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO25NW

Note there are a Loanhead and a Loanhead of Kilry immediately adjacent to each other.

DALKILRY **GLI S NO232556**

Dalkilry 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO25NW

This is a modern name presumably coined by someone who knows Gaelic, or it may have been a field-name that has become the site of a permanent settlement. The first element is ScG *dail* 'water-meadow, haugh'. However, the settlement is not on a water-meadow, but rather a slope. The farm was originally part of a larger called Loanhead.

WHINLOANS **GLI S NO227555**

? *Wheetloans* 1794 Ainslie

Wetloans 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Whinloans 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO25NW

? ScEng *wet* or SSE *whin* + ScEng *loan*

DRUMGELL **GLI S NO232553**

Drumgell 1794 Ainslie

ScG *druim* + ScG *geal*

'White ridge'. Ainslie places Drumgell between Peathaugh and Scruschloch, whereas the name of the settlement has now migrated about 2 km south to near Kilry Lodge.

BURN OF KILRY **GLI W NO245541**

Burn of Kilry 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *burn* + Sc *of* + en Kilry



WESTER DERRY **GLI S NO232545**

Derye 1590s Pont 28
Micklederry 1794 Ainslie
Wester Derry 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

SSE *wester* + en Derry
Derry derives from ScG *doire* or *daire* ‘grove, small wood’, ‘properly of oaks’ according to Dwelly, reflecting OG *dair* ‘oak’; however the word was later applied to a (small) wood of a variety of tree-species. The more specific modern ScG word for ‘oak tree’ is *darach*.

COTTERTOWN **GLI S NO227543**

Cottertown 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *cotter* + ScEng *town*
‘Farmtoun or settlement for cottars’. ‘The cottar...took his name from the unit of land that he occupied, cottagium, cottage-land or cotland, which usually had some kind of dwelling attached to it’ (Sanderson 1982, 43). Sanderson gives a reference to an ‘eight merkland in Glenisla [which] was set to five cottars, one of whom was a shepherd’ (ibid.). See also *PNF* 5, 338-9.

KNOWHEAD **GLI S NO232543**

Knowhead 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *knowe* + Sc *heid*
‘Head or end of the knoll’.

MID DERRY **GLI S NO238542**

M. Deary 1794 Ainslie
Middle Derry 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *middle* + En Derry

EASTER DERRY **GLI S NO240541**

Litle Derye 1590s Pont 28
Little Deary 1794 Ainslie
Easter Derry 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *easter* + en Derry

FORMAL **LIN S NO255540**

Formel 1590s Pont 28
Foirmaill 1619 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 121
the lands of *Formall* 1656 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 355
Formull 1794 Ainslie
Formal 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

The Old Gaelic element *for* has two distinct usages, both of which are potentially toponymic. Firstly, as a preposition taking the dative, ‘on, over, above’ (see Watson 1926, 410, 510, 511 note 1); it can also mean ‘over, against’. Secondly, as an intensifying prefix. It is cognate with Welsh *gor* (Old Welsh *gwor*) (Watson 1926, 210) and a probable Pictish **uer* or **uor* (compare the tribal name *Uerturiones* and the territorial name *Fortriu*). It can be translated ‘big, great’, but appears also to have the force of ‘projecting’ – Formont in Fife is ‘projecting or great hill’ (Watson, 1926, 402).



Kirkton of Glen Isla to Alyth

Whether coined as part of a prepositional construction, or whether used as an intensifying prefix, it is remarkably productive in Scottish place-names: including, Forgan, Longforgan, Forgandenny, Fordel, Fordoun, Formont, Forthar, probably Forret and Forfar.

While the form of the name is Gaelic, the evidence for Ireland shows that the element *for* is rare there, except in the many examples of *Formaoil*, ‘bare hill’, which would appear to derive from the Old Irish *formael*, a compound adjective meaning ‘bare’ (*DIL*), and thus ‘bare one, bare hill’ – found also in Scotland several times, usually as *Formal*.⁵ However, there is scant evidence of other names in Ireland containing the element *for*. Simon Taylor has recently suggested that there may be a ‘Pictish effect’ at work, with phonological adaptation or part translation of an initial **uor* or similar to *for* (*PNF* 5, Chapter 6). He thinks it significant that the second element in nearly all of the Scottish place-names containing *for* are either borrowings from Pictish (*dail*, *monadh*) or are words found in both Gaelic and Pictish (*tír*, **gronn*, *dùn*).

Note that Pont shows a *Fornate* seemingly on the banks of the River Isla between Needs and Formal. Just north of Formal is Fornethy, a mansion dating to the 20th century; it is not marked on Ainslie or early OS 6 inch maps, although Fornethy Wood is marked on the OS 6 inch 2nd edn map.

⁵ e.g. Hill of Formal (Lethnott & Navar ANG) and Formal Hill (Auchtergaven PER).

KNOCK OF FORMAL

LIN R NO255545

Knock of Formal 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *knock* + Sc *of* + en *Formal*

See the comments to The Knaps GLI and Crock GLI regarding the sound change from *cn* to *cr* in the sixteenth century.

FAULDS

GLI S NO244539

Folds 1783 Stobie

Folds 1794 Ainslie

Faulds 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

Sc *fauld*

‘Field’.

BALDUFF HILL

ALY S NO224535

hill of Badduff 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 114

hill of Balduff 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 115

Balduff Hill 1783 Stobie

Balduff Hill 1794 Ainslie

Balduff Hill 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

en *Balduff* + ScEng *hill*

Balduff may derive from ScG *baile* + ScG *dubh* ‘black town or settlement’, or perhaps more likely given there is a prominent small valley immediately to the east of *Balduff Hill*, which may be a *bealach* ‘pass’, and therefore ScG *bealach* + ScG *dubh* ‘black or dark pass’ may be the derivation.



MAIN STONE OF CARFODLIE GLI S NO231534

Main Stone of Carfodlie 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

ScEng *main* + ScEng *stone* + ScEng *of* + en Carfodlie

The first element in Carfodlie might be ScG *coire*. The second element is unclear, although Meikle states that it is ScG *fòdlach* 'peat', but Dwelly does not have this word.

Mentioned in 1595 is 'the heid of the *burne of Corfodlie*' (*Bamff Chrs* no. 115); this may be an alternative name for the Burn of Auchrannie. Just west of Bridge of Cally is Corriefodly Caravan Park.

KNAPTAM HILL GLI R NO238533

Knaptam Hill 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXX

en Knaptam + ScEng *hill*

Knaptam may derive from ScG *cnap* + ScG *tom* 'knobbly hillock', but this is an unusual formation.

INCHLEY ALY S NO235529

Inchley 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

Sc *inch* + Sc *ley*

'Island field'. Deriving ultimately from ScG *innis* 'island', Sc *inch* can mean 'a stretch of low-lying land near a river or other water'.

ARDORMIE HILL ALY R NO230529

Ardormie Hill 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

en Ardormie + ScEng *hill*

ARDORMIE ALY S NO232523

Ardormyne 1232 *Bamff Chrs* no. 1

Addormy 1383 *Bamff Chrs* no. 7

Ardormy 1509 *Bamff Chrs* no. 28

Ardormy 1549 *Retours* PER no. 8 [in terris de *Ardormy* in baronia de *Banff*]

Ardorune or *Ardorume* 1581 *Retours* PER no. 40 [probably a mistake or misreading for *Ardormie*]

the landis of *Ardormy* callit *Schelwallis* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 115

Ardormie 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278

Ardormy 1783 *Stobie*

Ardormy 1794 *Ainslie*

Ardormie 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

ScG *àrd* + ? ScG *toirm* or *torm* + ScG *-in*

Adam Watson suggests *Àrd Thoirmeigh* 'height of the noisy place' (Watson 2013, 16). ScG *torm* and *toirm* (whence Watson's derivation) both have connotations to do with noise (Dwelly says *torm* is 'murmur'; *toirm* is 'noise, sound, loud murmuring'); Dwelly also states that ScG *tormach*, a Perthshire Gaelic word, is the 'feeding of cows a short time before and after calving'. Perhaps this was a place where cows gave birth and the noise is related to their lowing around this time.



LITTLE BAMFF

ALY S NO227522

Little Bamff 1535 *Bamff Chrs* no. 45

Little Bamff 1615 *Bamff Chrs* no. 160

Littill-Bamff 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278

Little Bamff 1783 Stobie

Little Bamff 1794 Ainslie

Little Bamff 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

Sc *little* + en Bamff

Little Bamff sits almost 1 km to the north-east of Bamff. Bamff derives from ScG *banbh* a word that can mean ‘pig’, specifically ‘suckling pig’ (Dwelly; Clancy 2010, 91; Watson 1926, 231-2). Clancy contends that naming a place after a suckling pig ‘does not inspire confidence’ (Clancy 2010, 91). Instead he agrees with W.J. Watson that Bamff is a name along with Atholl, Elgin, and Earn that are names meaning ‘Ireland’ in Scotland, i.e. ‘New Ireland’ coined as the Gaelic language moved east out of its traditional western heartland and replaced Pictish sometime around 900.

SHEALWALLS

ALY S NO243520

the landis of *Ardormy* callit *Schelwallis* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 115

Shealwalls 1783 Stobie

Shealwalls 1794 Ainslie

Shealwalls 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

Sc *sheil* + Sc *wall*

‘Wells attached to a sheiling’.

INCHEOCH

ALY S NO249523

Incheok 1375 *RMS* i no. 630

Inchack 1590s Pont 28

Incheok 1604 *Retours* PER no. 135

Inchoch 1783 Stobie

Inchoch 1794 Ainslie

Incheoch 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

ScG *innis* + ScG *-ach*

? ‘Cattle resting place’. ScG *innis* can mean ‘island’, but other senses given by Dwelly include ‘a field to graze cattle in’; ‘pasture, resting place for cattle’; ‘haugh, riverside meadow’. The settlement sits on a piece of higher ground above a depression created by the Burn of Auchrannie.

INCHEOCH BURN

ALY W NO262520

Incheoch Burn 1902 OS 2nd edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII.SW

en Incheoch + Sc *burn*

BOGSIDE

ALY S NO248519

Bogside 1783 Stobie

Bogside 1794 Ainslie

Bogside 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA XLIII

ScEng *bog* + ScEng *side*



SLATENTIE

ALY S NO251509

Skleatintie 1672 Watson 2013, 38

Skletintie 1678 Watson 2013, 38

Sceltenty 1783 Stobie

Scelenty 1794 Ainslie

Slatentie 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LIII

The first element seems to be ScG *sglèat* 'slate' and Adam Watson suggests the name is *Sgleatantaigh* 'at slate place' (Watson 2013, 38); the current spelling may be an adaptation, i.e. ScG *sglèat* to SSE *slat(e)*. The geology is not known at this time, but in 1887, John Bartholomew's *Gazetteer of the British Isles* stated that 'roofing slate is obtained near Alyth' (<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/17444>).

MC RITCH

ALY S NO256506

Macherich 1783 Stobie

Macheriech 1794 Ainslie

Mc Ritch 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LIII

This looks like a verbal place-name, perhaps along the lines of *Makemrich* found in Fife (PNF 5, 560-1). These names are often humorous in a pejorative or disparaging sense. Adam Watson's suggestion that the name may be derived from ScG *machair* + ScG *eich* 'horse field' (2013, 33) is highly unlikely (*machair* is really rare in these parts and is mainly found in the north-west of Scotland and on the Hebrides). There was another *Macritch* in Angus. It now lies under the Backwater Reservoir, about 4 km east of Kirkton of Glenisla; the name is still remembered in nearby *Macritch Hill* at NO269601

BARRY HILL

ALY O NO262503

Donbarre 1531 Boece *History* [Guanora, the Qwene of Britan and spouss of King Arthure ... was brocht in Anguse till ane castell callit *Donbarre*]

Dunbarre 1536 x 1541 Bellenden *History and Croniklis of Scotland* ii, 86

Dwnbarre 1575 Boece *History* (Ferrerio), book ix⁶

Dunbarry hill 1590s Pont 28

Barryhill 1727 *Geog. Coll.* i, 114

Barry Hill 1783 Stobie

Barry-hill 1791 OSA i,

Barty-hill 1793 OSA vi, 405

Bary-hill 1793 OSA vi, 406

Barry Hill 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LIII

en Barry + ScEng *hill*

This hill contains the remains of an impressive hill-fort. It was originally called *Dunbarry*, which may derive from ScG *dùn* + ScG *bàrr* (plural *barran*) or ScG *barrán*, meaning something like 'fort with tops' or 'fort with palisades' referring to the impressive ramparts at the top of the hill-fort. Another possibility is that the *-barry* element represents a personal-name, perhaps *Berach*, a saint. In 1727 it was reported in an account of the parish of Alyth that there was 'a Rocky mount called *Barryhill* and of old *Dunbera*, on which there has been a very strong and large Pictish Castle' (*Geog. Coll.* i, 114).

⁶ <http://philological.bham.ac.uk/boece/9lat.html> (Latin text);
<http://philological.bham.ac.uk/boece/9eng.html> (English text).



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According to the late medieval Scottish philosopher and historian Hector Boece, the hill-fort at Barry Hill was the place where Vanora (a variant of Guinevere), wife of King Arthur was kept captive. Arthur is supposed to have fought the Anglo-Saxons after the end of the Roman occupation of Britain; Ian Armit suggests that when the Romans proceeded up Strathmore during their invasion of what is now Scotland in 79AD they passed 'the long-abandoned ruins of hilltop forts like Finavon, Barry Hill and the Caterthuns' (Armit 1997, 108). The fort itself encloses an area measuring 80 metres by 25 metres (RCAHMS 1994, 27).

HILL OF LOYAL **ALY R NO253502**

Loyall hill 1727 *Geog. Coll.* i, 114

Hill of Loyal 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LIII

ScEng *hill* + ScEng *of* + ? en Loyal

It is not known how this hill came to be named Loyal. There are a number of theories, including that it was the site of the raising of a standard during the time of the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. Another that it was named because the landowner was loyal to Charles I and II during the civil wars of the mid seventeenth century (Meikle 1925, 121). The name can hardly be the same as Ben Loyal in Sutherland, since it is a Norse name; in Gaelic it is *Beinn Laghail* which was probably derived from *Laga-fjall* 'law mountain' (Drummond 2007, 99). There is, as yet, no evidence of Norse names in the area.

LOYALBANK **ALY S NO250493**

Bastard bank 1783 Stobie

Bastardbank 1794 Ainslie

Loyalbank 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LIII

en Loyal + ScEng *bank*

This is a name that has probably had its name changed in the Victorian period to make it more respectable. Loyal was the name of a mansion shown on the OS 6 inch 1st edition map. Adam Watson thinks the name *bastard* has nothing to do with the illegitimacy of children, but may relate instead to the method of farming in this area: 'bastard-fallow was ploughing that left some furrows fallow' (Watson 2013, 17).

ALYTH

ALY ES NO244487

apud *Alith* 1165 x 1170 *RRS* ii no. 110

unum plenarium toftum apud castellum de *Alith* 1196 x 1199 *RRS* ii no. 410

helia de *Alid* c.1200 *Coupar Angus Chrs*, no. 9 [Elias of Alyth, a witness to a charter of John, bishop of Dunkeld]

apud *Alicht* 1201x1205 *RRS* ii no. 456

apud *Alith* 1202x1213 *RRS* ii no. 437

in feodo de *Alyth* 1232 *Bamff Chrs*. no. 1

forestam domini regis de *Alith* 1234 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 34 [the lord king's forest of Alyth]

Alyth 1319 *RRS* v no. 145 ['*terras de Aythnacathyl et de Blarerouthnak*' infra thanagium nostrum de Alyth' (the lands of *Aythnacathyl* and of *Blarerouthnak*' in our thanage of Alyth)]⁷

thanagium de *Alicht* 1375 *RMS* i no. 705

Alythe 1376 *RMS* i no. 595

thanagium de *Alicht* 1385 *RMS* i no. 763

ecclesia de *Alith* 1458 *RMS* ii no. 614

prebenda de *Alyth* 1472 *RMS* ii no. 1056

⁷ The whereabouts of *Aythnacathyl* and *Blarerouthnakis* are not known (*Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 100, note).



Kirkton of Glen Isla to Alyth

terras et baroniam foreste de *Alith* 1527 *RMS* iii no. 494 ['lands and barony of the forest of Alyth']

Alicht 1528 *RMS* iii no. 693 [terra totius ville de *Alicht*, in baronia de *Alicht* 'the whole lands of the town of Alyth in the barony of Alyth']

ville de *Alycht* 1546 *RMS* iii no. 3231

Elycht 1590s Pont 28

baronia de *Elyth* 1610 *Retours* PER no. 77

baronia de *Elicht* 1606 *Retours* PER no. 156

in terris et baronia de *Alith* 1608 *Retours* no. 189

terras de lie *Forrestis de Alight* 1646 *Retours* PER no. 551

in terris et baronia de *Alicht* 1615 *Retours* PER no. 232

Alyth 1623 *Retours* PER no. 313

baronia de *Alyth* 1628 *Retours* PER no. 360

Alyth 1794 Ainslie

Alyth 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

This could be a Pictish place-name. If so, the first element may be a Pictish cognate of G *a(i)* 'rock, cliff'. See *DIL aileach* collective of *ail* 'rock', figuratively 'foundation, basis'. Since records begin in the twelfth century, the final consonant seems to be a dental fricative *-th* (the sound found in English *the*); other forms seem to show a velar fricative *-ch* (the sound found in Scots *loch*).

Although the church of Alyth dates from 1458, the fact that it was dedicated to Mo Luóc of Lismore, probably better known as St Moluag, suggests that there was a church here from a fairly early date. He was an Irish saint who seemingly died in 592 (<http://saintsplaces.gla.ac.uk/saint.php?id=155>). However, a chapel was also dedicated to St Ninian, and despite Ninian supposedly being a preacher to the Picts, it is likely that his dedication dates to the later Middle Ages when there was a revival of his cult (see *PNKNR* forthcoming under Kinross parish). However, the most convincing evidence for an early church at Alyth is a Pictish cross slab which was rediscovered near the old kirk of Alyth in 1887 (<https://canmore.org.uk/site/30756/alyth>).



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Reekie Linn Waterfall, photo George Logan



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