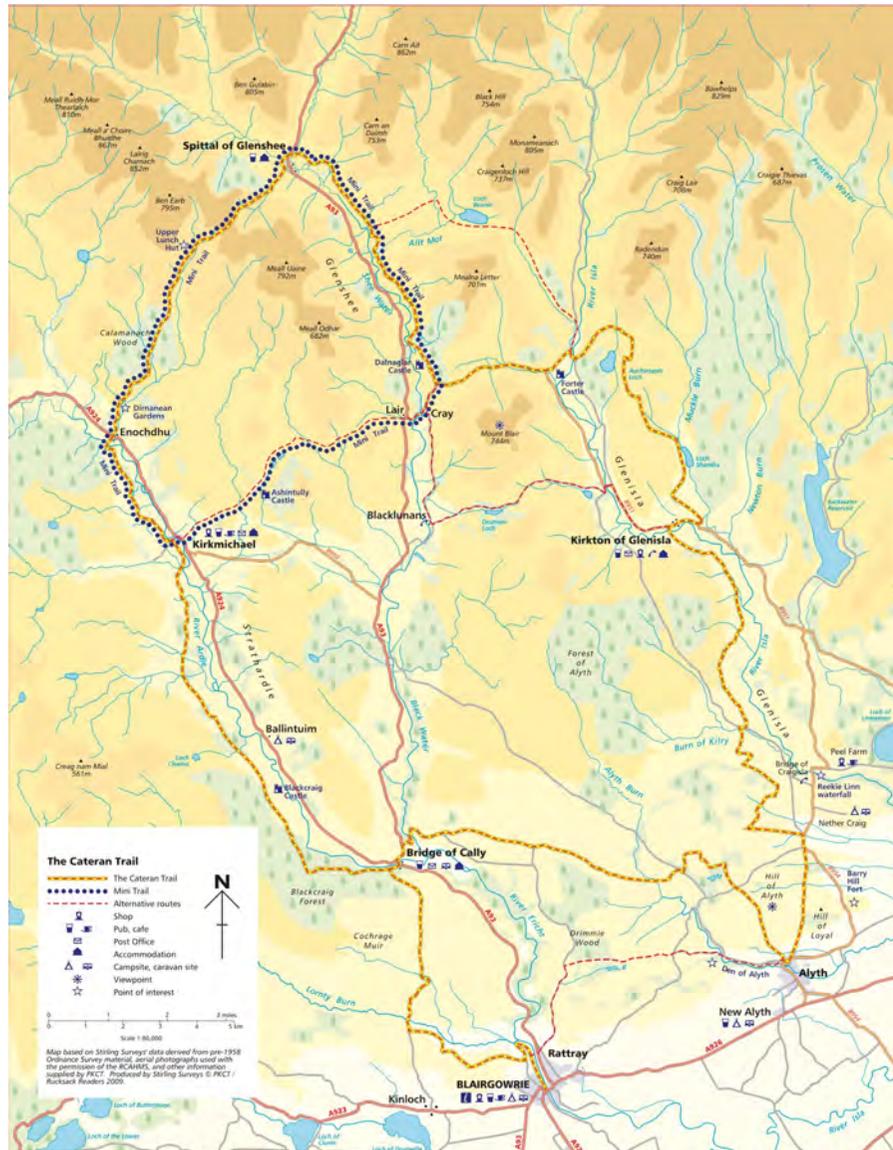


Mini Trail

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 Glen Isla from the Cateran Trail, 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 part of 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. This 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.



A peacock at Dirnanean Gardens, photo Clare Cooper

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 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



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detailed of which are Timothy Pont's maps dating to the 1590s. Other useful maps are 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 Upper Lunch Hut, photo George Logan

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 Catechan 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 Catechan Trail are those relating to the Invercauld estate for Glenshee and the Ramseys of Bamff for the areas around Bamff



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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 Catevan 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.



Duff Memorial Church, Kirkmichael,
photo Clare Cooper

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 Innerherry*, 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



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human influenced; past social organisation and land divisions can be revealed; beliefs, both religious and mythical are contained in the names of many features, whether they be hills, burns or vegetation.



The Lair Spindle Whorl,
photo Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust

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. 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.

THE CATERANS

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



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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 that a group of 200 persons 'all thieves and sorners'¹ 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.

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

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.



A Cateran in Glenshee
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



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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 2 ½ stones of cheese and ½ stone of butter per year as part of its rental.

PEOPLE

The Mini Trail is a circular walk and in theory can be started at any point. People have worshiped at **Kirkmichael** (*Kylmichel* in 1274) for many centuries. It is not known exactly when the church of Kirkmichael was founded, but it was certainly before 1183 when the church of Strathardle is granted to Dunfermline Abbey by Willaim I.



Looking towards Kirkmichael from the Cateran Trail, photo Clare Cooper

The church had been dedicated to Michael by 1274. In addition, there was an *apdaine* (*abbethayn*) at Kirkmichael mentioned around 1279. There was also an *apdaine* at Blairgowrie, and this is an indication that an earlier institution existed prior to the reorganisation of the Scottish church initiated in the early twelfth century by the immediate predecessors of David I (reigned 1124-53). The local Gaels may have called it *Cill Mhicheal* (Gaelic *cill* means 'church'); the name *Kirkmichael* is most likely due to the influence of the monks of Dunfermline who would have been Scots speakers. Michael is one of three archangels, and is far more popular in place-names than Gabriel or Raphael. Michael was held by the pre-Reformation church to have been the defender of the Church, and chief opponent of Satan; and who assists souls at the hour of death. His feast day is 29th September, and in a field near Kirkmichael the Michaelmas fair was held on that day. The church at Kirkmichael would have been the focal point for the local community; here would have been held the rites of the various stages of life and death – baptism, marriage, and burial.

The village of Kirkmichael seems also to have been the centre of the local market and in

later times it was the meeting point for drovers on their way to markets in the south. Nearby is a field called Bannerfield, which was the site of the meeting of the earl of Mar and Marquis of Tullibardine and their men who raised their banner at the start of the 1715 Jacobite Rising. The medieval church was replaced by current church which was built in 1791. Near the church is the Priest's Well, a natural spring. Across the River Ardle from Kirkmichael is **Balnakilly** 'farmtoun of the church'.

Anyone travelling along the road through Glenshee would have welcomed the sight of **Spittal of Glenshee**. It was probably not, as some believe, a medieval hospital. This was a hospice for travellers on the road from Blairgowrie in Lowland eastern Perthshire to Braemar in Highland Deeside. There was another hospice or inn between Deeside and the Angus Glens at Spittal of Glenmuick, a hospice on the road from Glen Clova in Angus to Ballater in Aberdeenshire. However, the element *spittal* can be confusing, as it is evidence for the existence of either a hospital (i.e. a medical facility), lands associated with a hospital, or an inn for travellers; in the earldom of Lennox *spittal* was used for properties belonging to the Knights Hospitaller, a military order like the Knights Templar.



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The legends of Finn mac Cumhail and his band of Finian warriors loom large in Glenshee. Fionn mac Cumhail of course was popular elsewhere in Scotland, but there are a number of place-names and two ballads in particular that seem to locate Glenshee into the Finian legends. One ballad, *Laoidh Dhiarmaid* (The Lay of Diarmaid), tells how Diarmaid, a colleague of Finn, dies on Ben Gulabin at the head of Glenshee, killed by a boar. At the bottom of Ben Gulabin, near Spittal of Glenshee, is a stone circle which has the name of Grave of Diarmaid. The ballad opens with the following lines:

*Gleann Síodh an gleann so rém thaoibh
i mbinn faoidh éan agus lon;
minic rithidís an Fhéin
ar an t-srath so an déidh a gcon.*

*An gleann so fá Bheann Ghulbainn ghuirm
as h-áilde tulcha fa ghréin,
níorbh annamh a shrotha gu dearg
an déidh shealg o Fhionn na bhFéin.*

*This glen beside me is Glenshee, where
blackbirds and other birds sing sweetly; often
would the Fian run along this glen behind their
hounds.*

*This glen below green Beann Ghulbainn,
whose knolls are the fairest under the sun, –
not frequently were its streams red after hunts
had been held by Fionn of the Fiana.*

Another ballad while not explicitly set in Glenshee, seems to have been popular with Gaels of the area in order for them to transfer the ballad from its original setting in Ireland to Perthshire. The ballad, *Naonbhar do-chuadhmar fá choill* ('Nine strong we set out into a wood'), is about a group of Fianna who set off on a quest to make 'some kind of object pertaining to dogs'. The band of warriors meet three groups of enemies – the Catheads, the Dogheads and a mysterious un-named band, whom they overcome and then succeed in their quest. While the place-names in the ballad itself have been located in Ireland, the ballad must also have been acted out in Glenshee. In the middle of the ballad the Fianna raise their banners, 'symbols of their strength and authority', and they immediately defeat the Cathead, Dogheads and their comrades. In Glenshee is a hill called **Creag nam Brataichean** 'crag of the banners'; one of the banners raised in the ballad is *Lámh Dhearg*, *bratach mheic Rónáin* '[Red Hand], the banner of Rónán's son' (Ross 1939, 89). **Lámh Dhearg** is the name of a hill about 2.5 km

north-east of Creag nam Brataichean. In other ballads the heads of the enemies are severed as a sign of victory; the settlement of **Finegand**, about midway between Spittal of Glenshee and Cray, is *Fèith nan Ceann* 'bog of the heads'. A different legend bases the history of the name in medieval times, when irate tenants in the glen killed the revenue collectors of the earl of Atholl and threw the severed heads into the bog. The Gaelic version of the Finegand can be found in a nearby crag '**Creag Feith nan Ceann**'. The McComies or MacThomas resided at Finegand in 1571 who also held other lands in Glenshee and Glenisla, where they held Finegand.



Diarmuid's Grave, photo Clare Cooper



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The McComies seem to have been significant in the dissemination of the myths and legends of Finn mac Cumhail. It is known that the author of a 'short poem allusions to several individuals famous in Gaelic mythology' in the Book of the Dean of Lismore, a 16th century collection of Gaelic verse, was one Baron Ewan McComie. The name Finegand has travelled all the way to southern New Zealand, when John Shaw from Finegand in Glenshee arrived in New Zealand in 1852, with his sister Margaret.

PLACES

Further upstream from Kirkmichael is **Milton of Balvarran**. A Milton is the farmtoun of the local mill, and indication that arable farming took place and mills were an important source of baronial income and the miller was often resented by the local populace because they were obligated to take their grain to the miller and often had to pay a heavy tax or mulcture to have the grain ground into meal. However, **Balvarran**, now a large house nearby, started off as a *pit*-name for it was called *Pitverren* in 1641. This change from *pit*- to *bal*- (Gaelic *baile*) has been found to be common in other

parts of Scotland, particularly Fife. It is probably best explained by the fact that *pit*- and *bal*- referred originally to different parts or aspects of a particular land-holding. The element *pit*, or more properly *pett*, has a Pictish provenance; importantly, however, most of the second, or specific, elements are Gaelic, making these settlements not Pictish but Gaelic place-names. There are about 300 *pit*-names mostly in eastern Scotland, and they demonstrate the range of Gaelic-speakers in the tenth century as Alba expanded from its western heartlands in Argyll to the area between the Dornoch Firth in the north and the Firth of Forth in the south. In time *baile* became the usual Gaelic term for a farm settlement and the element can be found all over Scotland wherever Gaelic was spoken, including the Lowlands.

Balnauld, near Ashintully is in Gaelic *baile nan allt* 'farmtoun of the burns'. A neighbouring glen is called **Coire a' Bahile** 'corry of the farmtoun', although since there is no nearby settlement shown on the map, it is not known which settlement is meant.

Near Ashintully was **Seana Bhaile**, the 'old farmtoun', shown in ruins on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey in 1867. **Ashintully** is a difficult name; it is not known what the *Ash* -

element represents, but the *-tully* element is Gaelic *tulach* which is found in **An Tulach**, about 1 km north-west of Ashintully. *Tulach* has the primary meaning 'hillock, small hill', but it may sometimes be classified as a 'habitational mound; mound suitable for habitation'. *Tulach* is common in place-names throughout Ireland and Scotland; in eastern Scotland it can take the form Tully/Tilly (sometimes with *-ie*), such as Tillybardine in Angus and Tullymurdoch near Alyth. In Ireland *tulach* can also have the meaning of 'assembly mound, mound of judgment', and this may also be the case in Scotland.



Set in a slight hollow is the farmstead of Corra-lairig, an excellent example of early 19th Century depopulation. It consists of nine buildings, a corn-drying kiln, several small enclosures and numerous larger fields, © Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust



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Tullochcurran first comes on record in 1232 as *Petcarene* and *Tulahourene* which suggests that there is some kind of phenomenon (called generic element variation by place-name scholars) that we saw occurring between *pit-* and *bal-* in Balvarran. The specific element *-curran* may derived from Gaelic *carran*, genitive *carrain* ‘spurrey, a weed growing among corn; survey grass’. It seems unlikely that it would be Gaelic *curran* ‘carrot’! There is a Loch Curran 2 km west of Tullochcurran. A loch with a personal name is Loch Charles near Blackcraig Castle on Stage 1 of the CATERAN Trail. Just north of Tullochcurran is a hill called **Creag Thearlaich** ‘Charles’ Crag’ – it is not known what link there may be between Creag Thearlaich and Loch Charles.

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.



A Shieling in Glen Isla, photo Kevin Greig

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. **Ruigh Chonnuill** ‘Connall’s sheiling’ is found in this area. We do not know who Connall was, but he may possibly be a character from the Feinian legends which are

found in other parts of Glenshee (see the Mini Trail), or someone named from these legends. There are other sheiling areas marked on the map near Creag an Dubh Shluic, Creag Bhreac, and Elrig, but none of these are named. Near the sheiling grounds there is a small stone circle called **Fàire na Pàitig**; it seems on the face of it to mean ‘watch hill of the butter’. It is not clear in practice what this actually means. It could be a place where milk was collected and made into butter, however, the usual Gaelic word for butter is *im*. It is possible that the place is so called because of some now lost legend attached to it. Milking of cows would have taken place near **Cnoc na Cuinneige** ‘hillock of the milking pail’. Near Ashintully is **Tom an t-Sabhail** ‘hillock of the barn’.

The very name **Glenshee** ‘glen of the fairies’ conjures up in the minds of many people a glen teeming with legends, especially those of Finn mac Cumhail. These will be discussed more fully in the Mini Trail document, but one of the most famous legends involves **Ben Gulabin**, an 806 metre mountain near Spittal of Glenshee. Ostensibly it means ‘snouty mountain’, and on viewing from the south-east the south-western side of the mountain looks for all the world like a pig’s



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snout. One ballad which narrates a legend, *Laoidh Dhiarmaid* (The Lay of Diarmaid), tells how Diarmaid, a colleague of Finn, dies on Ben Gulabin at the head of Glenshee, killed by a boar. Near the bottom of Ben Gulabin, near Spittal of Glenshee, is a stone circle which has the name of Grave of Diarmaid.

Elrig and **Ben Earb** are reminders that it was not all work, at least not for the landlords and their retainers. Hunting was the main sport of the upper classes in the Middle Ages. Ben Earb is ‘roe mountain’, while Elrig is an Old Gaelic word *elerc*, later Gaelic *eileirig* ‘deer trap’. The absence of this word in Irish Gaelic suggests that there may be a Pictish or British provenance for the word, and we know from Pictish symbol stones that hunting took place in that period. Near Elrig is **An Lairig** ‘the pass’, on a route between Spittal of Glenshee and Enochdhu.

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. There are a few names along the valley floor that remind us that exploiting the landscape was key to survival. Gaelic *dail* is a ‘water-meadow or haughland’.



Argyles Reed Drystane Dyke, Glen Isla
by Kevin Greig, staneswinames.org

There are two on this stage of the CATERAN Trail, **Dalreoch** ‘speckled or greyish haugh or water-meadow’ and **Dalnagairn** ‘haugh or water-meadow of the cairns’. These are level areas beside the river, which are prone to flooding and so enriched by nutrients making them suitable for grazing or growing hay for winter feed, and as such they were very important places in the Middle Ages and

beyond. Dalnagairn is said to have been the site of a battle involving caterans in 1392. **Inverchroskie** and **Ardchroskie** lie near **Allt Doire nan Eun** ‘burn of Doire nan Eun’ – the element *inver* or Gaelic *inbhir* in the name Inverchroskie suggests the original name of the burn was called Allt Crosgaidh ‘crossing burn’ or some such. Doire nan Eun – anglicised as **Dirnanean** – means ‘thicket of the birds’. We can only speculate as to what kind of bird is meant, but on Arran the Gaelic word *eun* ‘bird’ can mean ‘eagle’ in place-names. **Calamanach** seems to be ‘pigeon place’, and this may have been a place where pigeons were kept; pigeons were a delicacy in the Middle Ages.

Enochdhu, or in Gaelic *aonach dubh* ‘black ridge’ is one of a number of names along the CATERAN Trail that has a colour in its name. Often it is not clear why the namers chose a particular colour for a particular place, in this case it could be the vegetation or the underlying geology. The spelling of *dhu*, rather than the correct *dubh* (pronounced ‘doo’) in the name, however, is pseudo-Gaelic and is simply to make place-name look more Gaelic than it actually is; *dhu* is never found in Gaelic dictionaries. Another colour name in the uplands between Enochdhu and Spittal of



Mini Trail

Glenshee is found in **Menachban** ‘white Menach’, which is probably *meadhonach* ‘middle place’. What was *bàn* or ‘white’ about the place is not known, unless it was to do with the vegetation or geology.

Often Gaelic words for the human body are transferred to the landscape – **Uchd na h-Anaile** ‘rounded breast-shaped hill of the rest’ and **Uchd nan Carn** ‘rounded breast-shaped hill of the cairns’, are examples of this phenomenon. There are two features with Gaelic *breac* ‘speckled’ in their names – **Tom Breac**, near Balvarran and **Creag Bhreac** in the hills on the way to Spittal of Glenshee. It is not always clear what is meant by ‘speckled’, whether it has to do with the vegetation or the geology – what makes one hill speckled and its neighbour not...?

The Cateran Trail includes a sizable trek through Glenshee, which is probably most famous today for the ski slopes at the head of **Gleann Beag** ‘small glen’, one of the main tributaries of Glen Shee. The name **Glen Shee** is in Gaelic *Gleann Sìthe* ‘Fairy glen’ or ‘Glen of peace’. Through the glen flows the Shee Water, which becomes the Black Water at some point near Blacklunans ALY. It is not clear if the watercourse is named after the glen or vice versa, although often a glen is named

after its watercourse. However, most Highland rivers are generally not ‘peaceful’, and it may be that the glen is instead named after its legendary connections.



A dramatic view of Gleann Beag where light snow has enhanced the visibility of the rig and furrow cultivation systems, photo © Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust



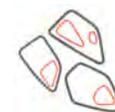
INDEX

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 |



Mini Trail

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 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



MINI TRAIL: Kirkmichael – Spittal of Glenshee – Lair- Kirkmichael

KIRKMICHAEL

KRK PS NO080600

Kylmichel 1274 Bagimond (Dunlop edn), 47
Kylmighel 1275 Bagimond (Dunlop edn), 73
abbethayn de *Kyrchmyhel* in *Strathardolf'* [rubric] c.1279 *Dunf. Reg.* no. 227
abbethayn' de *Kylmichel* c.1279 *Dunf. Reg.* no. 227
ecclesiam Sancti Michaelis *Kirkmichaell* 1510 *RMS* ii no.3472
Kirkmichaell Parioche 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540
Kirkmichael 1783 Stobie
Kirkmichael 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *cill* + saint's name Michael

ScG *cill* means church and it is one of the most productive ecclesiastical naming elements in Scottish Gaelic (Butter 2007, 12). However, its main distribution is in the west, particularly from Skye to Galloway, with large clusters in Argyll and around Glasgow. These may date from the early to late medieval periods; in the east, including Fife, it is thought that they belong to as early as the eighth century (*PNF* 5, 329). It is not known exactly when the church of Kirkmichael was founded, but it was certainly before 1183 when the church of Strathardle is granted to Dunfermline Abbey by Willaim I. The church had been dedicated to Michael by 1274. The local Gaels may have called it *Kilmichael*; but it would appear that the name *Kirkmichael* is due to the influence of the monks of Dunfermline who would have been Scots speakers. The medieval church was replaced by current church which was built in 1791 (RCAHMS 1990, 88)

Near the church is the Priest's Well, a natural spring.

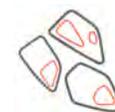
Michael is one of three archangels, and is far more popular in place-names than Gabriel or Raphael. Michael was held by the pre-Reformation church to have been the defender of the Church, and chief opponent of Satan; and who assists souls at the hour of death. His feast day is 29th September, and in a field near Kirkmichael the Michaelmas fair was held on that day (Leven and Roberts 2007, 40). The fair became the site of one of the largest cattle markets in Scotland as it was a meeting place for drovers coming from Braemar (Haldane 1952, 130, 147).

Nearby is a field called Bannerfield, which was the site of the meeting of the earl of Mar and Marquis of Tullibardine and their men who raised their banner at the start of the 1715 Jacobite Rising (Leven and Roberts 2007, 41).

STRATHARDLE

MOU/KRK/BGE R NO091552

Straderdel 1163 × 1164 *RRS* i no. 243
ecclesia de *Strathardolf* 1183 × 1195 *RRS* ii no. 242
abbethayn de *Kyrchmyhel* in *Strathardolf'* [rubric] c.1279 *Dunf. Reg.* no. 227
Strathardell 1226 *Scon Liber* no. 103
Thaino de *stahard* late 12th c *Arbroath Liber* no. 35
Strathardoll 1326 *Scon Liber* no. 129
Strathardel 1326 *RRS* v no. 291



Mini Trail

Stratardolf 1326 *RRS* v no. 306
wuddis in *Strethardyl* 1473 *C.A. Rental* i, 198
Strathardill 1610 *Retours* PER no. 209
Strathardill 1624 *Retours* PER no. 323
Strath Airdle 1783 Stobie
Strath Ardle 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *srath* + ? ScG *àrd* + ScG ? suffix or ? river-name *Ferdyl*
'Valley of the River Ardle'. This is a difficult name. It is sometimes thought that the name might contain ScG *àrd* 'high' with a suffix *-ail*, meaning 'high-place' or 'high-river' if it refers originally to the river. However, there is a complicating factor – in 1326 there is mention of *aqua de Ferdyl* 'the water of Ferdyl' (*RRS* v no. 306). This is presumably the name of the River Ardle, which originally had initial *f* which became lost through lenition. As such it may well go back to Pictish **uerdil* or the like. Quite what the name means is not at all clear, neither is the function of the final *f* in forms such as *Strathardolf*, but it seems to also be found in early forms of the River Isla (*Hilef* in the late 12th century).

Strathardle was one of the four manors (i.e. thanages) of Gowrie, along with Scone, Coupar Angus and Longforgan, granted to Scone Abbey by David I (*RRS* i, no. 243).

The idea that the river Ardle is named after a person, in this case a local chieftain called Ardfhuil 'high or noble blood' (Leven and Roberts 2007, 30, 48) is almost certainly incorrect. Nevertheless, near Dirnaneun there is a standing stone which is believed to be the grave of Ardle (Leven and Roberts 2007, 48).

RIVER ARDLE

MOU/KRK/BGE W NO148514

aqua de Ferdyl 1326 *RRS* v no. 306 ('the water of Ferdyl')
Ardle River 1783 Stobie
River Ardle 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScEng *river* + en Ardle

See Strathardle above, for discussion and early forms of the name Ardle.

BALNAKILLY

KRK S NO074601

Belinkilyie 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156
Belmakeilzie 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498
Belnakeillie 1661 *Retours* PER no.684
Balnakilly 1783 Stobie
Balnakilly 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

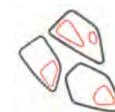
ScG *baile* + ScG *an* + ScG *coille* or ScG *cill*

'Tounship or farm of the church'. 'Tounship of the woodland' is also possible. Balnakilly sits across the River Ardle for the church at Kirkmichael. There is a Balnakeilly near Pitlochry PER, which is the 'church farm' of Moulin parish.

DALNAGAIRN

KRK S NO078605

Dalgarne 1470 *RMS* ii no.1004
Dalnagarn 1506 *RMS* ii no.2953
terras de Dalnagarne 1510 *RMS* ii no.3472
? *Dalnagarne* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 499 [in parochia de Muiling (Moulin)]
Dalnagairn 1783 Stobie



Mini Trail

Dalnagairn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII
ScG *dail* + ScG *an* + ScG *càrn*
'Haugh or water-meadow of the cairns'. The name shows signs of an older form *Dail na gCarn* containing eclipsis after the genitive plural of the definite article (Watson 1926, 242).

TULLOCHCURRAN COTTAGE **KRK S NO070606**

Petcarene 1232 *Moray Reg.* no. 79 [unius dauache terre in *Strathardol* que appellatur *Petcarene* 'a dabhach of land in Strathardle which is called *Petcarene*']

Tulahourene 1232 *C.A. Chrs* no. 38 [unam Dauach terre in *Strathardel Tulahourene* 'a dabhach of land in Strathardle (called) Tullochcurran']

Tulloccurren 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3472

molendinum de *Tulloccurren* 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3472

Petcurran 1564 *RMS* iv no. 1527 [terram de *Petcurran* alias *Petbrain*]

John Rateray of *Tullicurrane* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Tullochcurran 1783 *Stobie*

Tullochcurran 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *tulach* + ScG *curan* or ScG *corran*

ScG *tulach* is common in place-names throughout Ireland (Flanagan and Flanagan 1994, s.v.) and Scotland, and its basic meaning is 'mound, hillock'. It may sometimes be classified as a 'habitational mound; mound suitable for habitation' (*PNF* 5, 519-20). However, there is some evidence that in Ireland *tulach* can also have the meaning of 'assembly mound, mound of judgment' (O'Grady 2008, 144-163; Swift 1996, 19-20, 21), and this may also be the case in Scotland.

Tullochcurran first comes on record in 1232 as *Petcarene* and *Tulahourene* which suggests that there is some kind of generic element variation occurring (see Taylor 1997 for discussion of this phenomenon).

The specific element *-curran* may derived from ScG *carran*, gen. *carrain* spurrey, a weed growing among corn; survey grass'. It seems unlikely that it would be ScG *curran* 'carrot'! There is a Loch Curran 2 km west of Tullochcurran, but it is not clear if the *tulach* takes its name from the loch or vice versa.

TULLOCHCURRAN BURN **KRK W NO081592**

Tullochcurran Burn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

en Tullochcurran + Sc *burn*

Allt Loch Curran flows out of Loch Curran into the Tullochcurran Burn about 1 km west of the settlement of Tullochcurran.

MILTON OF BALVARRAN **KRK S NO072613**

Milton 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

Sc *milntoun*

'Farmtoun associated with a mill'. Mills were important places in medieval and early-modern Scotland. It was here that the peasants were compelled to take the grain they had grown to be processed. In the language of the time, the peasants were *thirled* (bound) to the mill and had to pay a heavy *multure* or duty of a proportion of the grain or meal payable to the proprietor or tenant of a mill on corn ground (*DOST*). This made the miller an important figure in the local society, but also an unpopular one, for the *multure* was resented and many peasants tried to



Mini Trail

evade it, and were liable to fines if caught (Smout 1969, 120; Fenton 1999, 111-12).

CREAG THEARLAICH

KRK R NO053614

Craig-Chaich 1783 Stobie

Creag Thearlaich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *creag* + pn Teàrlach

The current form means ‘Charles’ crag’; it is not clear what the earliest form from Stobie represents at this stage.

BALVARRAN

KRK S NO073620

? *Petverren* 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

? *Pitverren* 1661 *Retours* PER no. 684

Balvarran 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *baile* + ? ScG *baran* or ?ScG *barran*

‘Tounship of the baron’ or ‘tounship of the fence, hedge’. This seems originally to have contained ScG *pett* ‘farm, land-holding’, which was later replaced by ScG *baile* with roughly the same meaning. Alternatively, this may well be a case of the replacement of the element *pit-* by *baile-* owing to the meaning of ScG *pit* ‘vagina’, because ScG *peit* (or *pett*) unstressed was sounded like *pit* which was a ‘rude’ word, so it tended to get replaced by *baile*. The specific looks like original (or at least earlier) stressed vowel is *e* rather than *a*, and may be ScG *bearan* ‘young man’. Local tradition, however, ascribed the place to ‘Am Baran Ruadh’ or ‘The Red Baron’, who seems to have been Alexander Ruadh of Atholl who died after 1451.

TOMBREAC

KRK S NO064620

Tombraik 1783 Stobie

Tombreac 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *tom* + ScG *breac*

‘Speckled hillock, knoll’. This is now a deserted settlement and presumably sits on or near a hill which has or had a speckled appearance, perhaps due to geology or vegetation.

DALREOCH

KRK S NO062623

Dalreach 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

Dalreach 1661 *Retours* PER no. 684

Dalriach 1783 Stobie

Dalreach 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *dail* + ScG *riabhach*

‘Speckled or greyish haugh or water-meadow’. ScG *riabhach* can also mean striped, perhaps because of cultivation rigs.

ARDCHROSKIE

MOU S NO066627

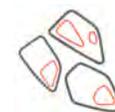
Achroskie 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Ardthroskie 1783 Stobie

Ardchroskie 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO06SE

ScG *àrd* + en *Croskie

‘Height of *Croskie. See Inverchroskie below.



INVERCHROSKIE

MOU S NO064627

Inuercrosky more 1364 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 110
Inuercrosky beg 1364 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 110
Innerthroskie 1608 *Retours* PER no. 184
villas et terras de *Wester et Midle Innerchroskies* 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498
in bina parte terrarum de *Inverchroskie* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520
bina parte molendini de *Innerchroskie* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520
Wester et Midle Innerchroskies 1661 *Retours* PER no. 684
James Iviot, portioner of *Wester Innerchroskie* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 542
Inverchroskie 1783 Stobie
Inverchroskie 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *inbhir* + en *Croskie
'Mouth of the *Croskie'. *Croskie is a 'burn associated with a crossing (over the hills)'. Inverchroskie lies nearly 700 metres north-west of the confluence of the Inverchroskie Burn with the River Ardle, and is at one end of the direct route from Strathardle to Spittal of Glenshee.

INVERCHROSKIE BURN

MOU W NO069620

Inverchroskie Burn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

en Inuercroskie + Sc *burn*

ENOCHDHU

MOU S NO062627

Enachdow 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520
John Rateray of *Enoche Mylne* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541
John Robertson of *Wester Enoche* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Alexander McIntosh, portioner of *Easter Enoche* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 542

Ennochdow 1783 Stobie

Ennochdow 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *aonach* + ScG *dubh*

'Black assembly place'.

KINDROGAN BRIDGE

MOU O NO061625

Kindrogan Bridge 1900 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA XXXII.NW

en Kindrogan + SSE bridge

KINDROGAN

MOU S NO054629

Wester Kingdrogine 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520

Eister Kingdrogin 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520

Alexander McCowll of *Kindrogene* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Kindrogan 1783 Stobie

Kindrogan 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *ceann* + ?

It is not known what this name represents, other than that the kin-element is probably ScG *ceann* 'end; head'.

STOTHERD'S CROFT

MOU S NO058633

Stoderscroft 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520

Stotherd's Croft 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

Sc *stodhird* + Sc *croft*



Mini Trail

A *stodhird* was a person who had the task of taking care of horses in a stud (*DOST*). The office of *stodhirdrie* is mentioned at least twice in the rentals of Coupar Angus in 1557 (*C.A. Rental* ii, 142, 176). The office can be seen in its Latin form, *studarius*, on the lands of Forter in 1470 (*C.A. Rental* i, 157).

DIRNANEAN

MOU S NO065635

Darmymean 1642 *Retours* PER no. 520

Dirnanean 1783 Stobie

Dirnanean 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *doire* + ScG *an* + ScG *eun*

‘Thicket of the birds’. It is not known what kind of birds are implied in the name. ScG *eun* ‘bird’ can mean ‘eagle’ in place-names (Fraser 1999, 157).

ALLT DOIRE NAN EUN

KRK W NO0764

Allt Doire nan Eun 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

G *allt* + en *Doire nan Eun*

‘Burn of Doire nan Eun’. See Dirnanean, above, for meaning of Doire nan Eun.

DRUMCHREAN

MOU S NO063636

Drumchrian 1783 Stobie

Drumchrean 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *druim* + ? ScG *crìon* or ? ScG *crean*

‘Dry, withered ridge’ or ‘market-place ridge’.

CREAG NA BALLAIGE

KRK R NO077636

Creag na Ballaige 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *creag* + ScG *an* + ? ScG *ballag*

? ‘Crag of the skull’. Dwelly states that ScG *ballag*, genitive *ballaig*, is ‘skull, the cranium; egg-shell; neat little woman; or a diminutive of ball’.

HOME FARM

MOU S NO066637

Home Farm 1900 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA XXXII.NE

SSE *home* + SSE *farm*

MENACHBAN

KRK R NO0864

Menach 1642 *Retours* PER no. no.520 [

Minnoch c.1750 Roy

Menachban 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

en *Menach* + G *bàn*

‘White Menach’. Across the hill from Menachban is a deserted settlement of Menachmore ‘Big Menach’ and a corry called Coire Menach. The Menach-element could be G *meadhan* + G *-ach* ‘middle place’. The area of Menachmore and Menachban is almost halfway between Strathardle and Glen Shee. The Roy form throws some doubt on this, however.

CALAMANACH

MOU R NO066650

Calamanach 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXIII

ScG *calman* + ScG *-ach*

‘Pigeon, dove place’. Dwelly has *calaman* as a variant on ScG *calman* ‘dove, pigeon’.



Mini Trail

CALAMANACH WOOD

MOU V NO073651

Calamanach Wood 1900 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXIII.NE

en Calamanach + SSE *wood*

ALLT DUBHAGAN

MOU W NO074642

Allt Dubhagan 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXIII

ScG *allt* + ScG *dubhag*

‘Burn of the deep, dark pools’.

RUIGH CHONNUILL

KRK S NO0865

Rinnaconnar c.1750 Roy

Rinnaconer 1783 Stobie

Ruidh Chonnuill 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *ruighe* + pn Conall

‘Conall’s sheiling’. This may commemorate someone with the name Conall, possibly a character from the Finian legends.

FÀIRE NA PÀITIG

MOU A NO074661

Fàire na Pàitig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXIII

ScG *faire* + ScG *an* + ScG ?

‘Watch or look-out of the ?’. The OS have a slight mistake in the spelling of *faire* ‘watch, look-out’. They have *fàire* (note length mark above à), which means ‘horizon, skyline’ (Watson 2012, 108), although Dwelly says it can mean ‘height’. *Pàitig* is a puzzle. Leven and Roberts, in their guide to the Cateran Trail, say they have consulted Gaelic scholars at

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig who drew a blank, noting that the OS were sometimes unreliable in the accuracy of their spellings of place-names (Leven and Roberts 2007, 52). Dwelly has ScG *paiteag* meaning ‘butter’.

The Canmore website states that ‘this small stone setting is situated on a low rounded knoll immediately outside the new forestry plantation on the SW flank of Faire na Paitig. The N and E stones are still upright, measuring 0.55m and 0.4m in height respectively, but the other two are both now leaning towards the NW; when upright the W stone would be at least 0.5m high and the S stone 0.4m high’ (<https://canmore.org.uk/site/27453>).

BLÀR ACHADH

MOU R NO064668

Blàr Achaidh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXIII

ScG *blàr* + ScG *achadh*

‘Muir field’. ScG *achadh* ‘expanse of ground, pasture, field’ is found nearly all over Scotland and is one of those diagnostic elements, along with *baile*, that can tell us about the extent of where Gaelic was spoken. A distribution map published by W.F.H. Nicholaisen shows that the element *achadh* is found in most parts of Scotland except the south-east and in Orkney and Shetland (2001, 181). In the Lowlands and in eastern Scotland *achadh* is often reduced to *ach* or *auch/auchen*, such as Auchenchapel in Glenisla, which is also on the Cateran Trail.

UCHD NA H-ANAILE

KRK R NO0866

Uchd na h-Anaile 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *uchd* + G *an* + G *anail*



Mini Trail

‘Rounded breast-shaped hill of the rest’. G *anail* is ‘breath, rest, breeze, air’ and the name may mean ‘a place where you rest, take a breath’, likely on a road or pass where the going is steep.

ELRIG

KRK R NO0766

Alrick Hill 1783 Stobie

Elrig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

Ellrick derives from OG *elerc*, later G *eileirig* ‘deer trap’. The absence of this word in Irish Gaelic suggest that there may be a Pictish or British provenience for the word (Taylor 2008, 296), although it may derive from Ol *erelc*, deriving from *air-* ‘before, in front’ + *selc* ‘hunting’ (Kelly 1997, 277).

UCHD NAN CARN

KRK R NO0967

Uchd nan Carn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *uchd* + G *an* + *càrn*

‘Rounded breast-shaped hill of the cairns’.

COIRE AN LAOIGH

KRK R NO0966

Coire an Laoigh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *coire* + G *an* + G *laogh*

‘Corry of the calf’.

CREAG BHREAC

KRK R NO0768

Creag Bhreac 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

G *creag* + G *breac*

‘Speckled or spotted crag’. The name might refer to the vegetation or to the geology of the crag – see Drummond (2007, 114) who states that *breac* signifies a hill ‘where patches of scree and heather, greys and greens and browns, break out from under each other’. Murray follows this arguing that ‘spotted mountains are distinguished by their patches of heather, blueberry or white grasses mixed in with scree’ (Murray 2014, 198).

BEN EARB

KRK R NO0769

Ben-erb 1783 Stobie

Ben Earb 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *beinn* + G *earb(a)*

‘Roe-deer mountain’.

AN LAIRIG

KRK R NO0968

An Lairig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *an* + G *lairig*

‘The pass’. This is a pass on a route between Spittal of Glenshee and Enochdhu.

ALLT AN DUBH SHLUIC

KRK W NO0867

Allt an Dubh Shluic 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *allt* + G *an* + G *dubh* + G *sloc*

‘Burn of the black pit’. G *sloc* can also mean ‘hollow; hole; grave; marsh’.



Mini Trail

CREAG AN DUBH SHLUIC

KRK R NO0968

?? *Clash-migash* 1783 Stobie

Creag an Dubh Shluic 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *creag* + G *an* + G *dubh* + G *sloc*

See Allt an Dubh Shluic KRK above.

CNOC NA CUINNEIGE

KRK NO0969

Cnoc na Cuinneige 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *cnoc* + G *an* + G *cuinneag*

'Hillock of the milking pail'.

COIRE LAIRIGE

KRK R NO1068

Coire Lairige 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

G *coire* + G *lairig*

'Pass carry'. See An Lairig above.

BEN GULABIN

KRK R NO1073

wenn ʒwlbin c.1500 Meek 1990, 352 [A glenn so fa *wenn ʒwlbin ʒvrm* (for A[n] glenn so fa Bheinn Ghulbainn ghuirn 'this glen below green Ben Gulabin')]

Ben Ghulapan c.1750 Roy

Beinn-Ghulbhuinn 1791-99 OSA xv, 507

Beinn-Ghulbhuinn 1842 NSA x, 786

Beinn Gulabin 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XIV

G *beinn* + G *gulba*

'Snout mountain'. See Meek (1998, 153-58), and also the section above on Fionn mac Cumhaill [page no.] for discussion on this name in the Fian legends. The earliest form, *wenn ʒwlbin* (pronounced something like *ven yule-bin*), contained in the lines of the poem *Gleann Síodh an gleann so rém thaoibh*⁴ 'the glen beside me is Glenshee', represents the original Gaelic from about 1500 written in the *Book of the Dean of Lismore*, but it is written not in a Gaelic script, but in the Scots orthography of the time (Meek 1990, 348).

GLEN SHEE

KRK R NO1462

glensche 1463 C.A. Rental i, 131

Glennschee c.1500 Meek 1990, 352

Glen Shie 1590s Pont 27

chapel at *Glen-shy* 1590s Pont 27

Glen schie 1608 RMS vi no. 2106

Glen schie 1638 RMS ix no. 850

Glen Shee c.1750 Roy

Glen Shee 1783 Stobie

Glenshee 1791-99 OSA xv, 506

Glen Shee 1794 Ainslie

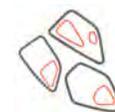
Glenshee 1842 NSA x, 785

Glen Shee 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *gleann* + G *sith*

'Glen of peace' or 'glen of fairies'.

⁴ The poem has been dated to c.1500 by McLeon and Bateman (2007 no. 59).



SPITTAL OF GLENSHEE **KRK S NO1170**

Spittale of Glensche 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 197

Spittale of Glensche 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 206

Spittel 1590s Pont 27

Spittel 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156 [‘the toun and lands of the Spittal with the mill, the mill-lands etc with the crofts of the same, the Chapel-crofts’ (villa et terras de *Spittell*, cum molendino, terris molendinariis &c., cum croftis earundem lie *Chapell-croftis*)]

Spittell 1629 *RMS* viii no. 1393 [‘toun and lands of Spittal with the mill, mill-lands etc and the crofts of this kind (i.e. pertaining to the chapel) the Chapel-crofts’ (villa et terras de *Spittell* cum molendino, terris molendinariis &c., cum croftis hujusmodi lie *Chappell-croftis*)]

Spittill 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498 [‘toun and lands of Spittal with the mill, and the crofts of this kind (i.e. pertaining to the chapel) called Chapel-crofts’ (villa et terras de *Spittill* cum molendino, et croftis hujusmodi nuncupatis *Chappill-croftis*)]

Spittle c.1750 Roy

Spittal of Glenshee 1783 Stobie

the spittal of Glenshee 1791-99 *OSA* xv, 541

Spittal of Glenshee 1794 Ainslie

Spittal of Glenshee 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

Sc *spittal* + Sc *of* + en Glenshee

There is no evidence of a medieval or early modern hospital here (RCAHMS 1994, 88). What we have instead is a hospice for travellers on the road from Blairgowrie in Lowland eastern Perthshire to Braemar in Highland Deeside. See Watson and Allan 1984, 142 where they have a short discussion of Spittal of Glenmuick, a hospice on the road from Glen Clova in Angus to Ballater in Aberdeenshire. The element *spittal* is

evidence for the existence of either a hospital (i.e. a place of hospitality or rest; not a medical facility), lands associated with a hospital, or an inn for travellers; for a recent argument for the use of *spittal* as evidence for properties in the earldom of Lennox belonging to the Knights Hospitaller and Knights Templar see McNiven (2013a).

The minister for Kirkmichael, writing in *OSA*, states that ‘in Glenshee is a chapel, where divine service is performed by the minister of the parish, once in four or five weeks’ (*OSA* xv, 515). See Old Spittal Farm KRK.

OLD SPITTAL FARM **KRK S NO1170**

Spittal of Glenshee 1783 Stobie

Spittal of Glenshee 1794 Ainslie

The Old Spittal 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIII

SSE *old* + en Spittal

See Spittal of Glenshee KRK.

GLEANN BEAG **KRK R NO1170**

Glenbeg 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3450

Glenbeg 1510 *RMS* no. 3457

Glenbeg 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841

Glenbeig 1590s Pont 27

Glenbeg 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156

Glenbeg 1629 *RMS* viii no. 1393

Glenbeg 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

Glen-beg 1783 Stobie

Gleann Beag 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XV



Mini Trail

G *gleann* + G *beag*

'Little glen'. The glen is a tributary of Glen Shee and also contains remains of rural settlement especially at Dail Bhreac, Sidh Chaluum and Lag nan Cnaihmean (not considered here).

ALLT A' GHLINNE BHIG KRK W NO1169

Allt a' Ghlinne Bhig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XV

G *allt* + *An Gleann Beag

'The burn of *An Gleann Beag. *An Gleann Beag derives from G *an* + G *gleann* + G *beag* 'the small glen'.

CAMBS KRK S NO1170

Cammowis 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* ii, 283

Cammois 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* ii, 287

Cammis 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156

Cammis 1629 *RMS* viii no. 1393

Cammis 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

Alexander McIntosh of *Keamps* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540

Alexander Mcintosh of *Camb*s 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Camis c.1750 Roy

Cambus 1783 Stobie

Cambus 1794 Ainslie

Caams 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *camas*

'Creek; bend'. The name may refer to the bend in the routeway from Blairgowrie to Braemar at Spittal of Glenshee.

TOMB

KRK S NO1270

Thomcammowis 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 197

Thomcammois 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 206

Touym 1590s Pont 27

Tamis of Glenschie 1618 *RPC* xi, 364

Donald McKenzie of *Tombe* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540

Tom c.1750 Roy

Tomb 1783 Stobie

Tomb 1794 Ainslie

Tomb 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *tom*

'Round hillock, knoll'.

KERROW

KRK S NO1269

Kerauch 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3450

Kerauch 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3457

Kerache 1512 *RMS* ii no. 3769

Keraucht 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841

Kerrow 1590s Pont 27

Keranich 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367 [for *Kerauch*?]

Kerauch 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782

Kerraw c.1750 Roy

Kerrow 1783 Stobie

Kerrow 1794 Ainslie

Kerrow 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV



Mini Trail

G *ceathramh*

'Quarter'. G *ceathramh* is often used as a unit of land division. There is another *Kerrow* marked on Stobie's map just a few metres north-west of Enochdhu.

WESTER BINZEAN

KRK S NO1169

Bynnanbeg 1510 RMS ii no. 3450

Bynnanbeg 1510 RMS ii no. 3457

Bynnanbeg 1512 RMS ii no. 3769

Bynannbeg 1538 RMS iii no. 1841

Bynanbeig 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367

Bynanbeg 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782

Bingan c.1750 Roy

Little Bingun 1783 Stobie

Wester Binzian 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

ScEng *wester* + en Binzean

See also Easter Binzean. The name Binzean is derived from G *binnean* 'little mountain', which is probably the name contained in Creag Bhinnein KRK.

EASTER BINZEAN

KRK S NO1269

Bynnanmore 1510 RMS ii no. 3450

Bynnanmore 1510 RMS ii no. 3457

Bynnnanmore 1512 RMS ii no. 3769

Bynnanmore 1538 RMS iii no. 1841

Bynnanmoir 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367

Mekill Bynzeane alias *Bynzeanemoir* 1631 *Retours* PER no. 402

William Murry of *Binnanmore* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540

Bynanmoir 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782

Easter Binzian 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

ScEng *easter* + en Binzean

COIRE AN EICH

KRK R NO1270

Coire an Eich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *coire* + G *an* + G *each*

'Corry of the horse'.

BAD AN LÒIN

KRK R NO1270

Bad an Laoigh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

Bad an Lòin 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER and CLA XXIV.NW

G *bad* + G *an* + G *laoigh* or G *lòn*

'Place of the calf' or 'place of the meadow'.

COIRE BAD AN LÒIN

KRK R NO1270

Coire an Laoigh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

Coire Bad an Lòin 1900 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV.NW

G *coire* + en Bad an Lòin

CARN AN DAIMH

KRK R NO1371

Cairndow 1783 Stobie

Carn an Daimh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XV

G *càrn* + G *an* + G *daimh*

'Cairn of the stag'.



WESTERTON OF RUNAVEY

KRK S NO1369

? *Uppertown* 1783 Stobie

? *Uppertown* 1794 Ainslie

Westerton of Rinavey 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

SSE *westerton* + SSE *of* + en Runavey

Runavey probably derives from ScG *ruighe* + ScG *an* + ScG *beithe* 'sheiling of the birch', although the first element could be ScG *rinn* 'point', meaning 'promontory'.

CRAIG OF RUNAVEY

KRK R NO1369

Craig of Runavey 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

ScEng *craig* + ScEng *of* + en Runavey

The Craig of Runavey is a 638 metre hill above the lands of Runavey KRK.

MAINS OF RUNAVEY

KRK S NO1368

Ruyna vey 1590s Pont 27

Randevoyois 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367

Robert McKenzie of *Rinuvaye* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Rinnavey c.1750 Roy

Renevey 1783 Stobie

Benavey 1794 Ainslie

Rinavey 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

Sc *mains* + en Runavey

SLOCHNACRAIG

KRK SNO1268

Slochnacraig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *sloc* + G *an* + G *creag*

'Pit or hollow of the crag' *Sloc na Creige* in modern Gaelic. The *craig*-element refers to *Creag Bhinnein* KRK. For another use of the element *sloc* see Allt an Duhbh Shluic KRK and *Creag an Dubh Shluic* KRK.

DALHENZEAN

KRK S NO1268

Dalhangitht 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 197

Dalhangith 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 206

Dathangaine 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156

Dathangane 1629 *RMS* viii no. 1393

Dalhaggan 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

Dalhinzean 1730 RCAHMS 1994, 108 [citing Atholl Muniments]

Dalhingan c.1750 Roy

Dalhingan 1783 Stobie

Dalhingan 1794 Ainslie

Dalhingzan 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

G *dail* + G ?

This is a problematic name and a possibility for the specific is G *caingeann* 'prayer, agreement'. An alternative might be G *fang*, pl. *fangan* 'sheep pen, place for catching cattle' according to Dwelly.



SHALLAVANACH

KRK S NO1368

Shallavanach 1973 OS 1:10,000 NO16

There is no mention of this place until 1973, although there does appear to be an un-named settlement on the site on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map. The name looks like a modern coining, but there might be local knowledge still to be had regarding this name.

INVEREDDRIE

KRK S NO1368

Invereddre 1510 RMS ii no. 3450

Invereddre 1510 RMS ii no. 3457

Invereddre 1512 RMS ii no. 3769

Invereddre 1538 RMS iii no. 1841

Inner-Ederg 1590s Pont 27

Invereddre 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367

Inveridrie 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782

Inverederg c.1750 Roy

Inveridry 1783 Stobie

Inveredrie 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *inbhir* + G ?

Invereddrie sits about 1.5 km north-east of the confluence of Allt Mòr with the Shee Water, which suggests that one of these waters originally contained the name *Eddrie or similar, and indeed Allt Mòr is named *Alt-Ederg* on Pont 27. See Beveridge (1923, 62). W.J. Watson gives the form as *Inbhir Eadrain* (modern Gaelic *Inbhir Eadraidh) under a list of names in *eadar* 'between' meaning 'between place'.⁵ Invereddrie lies

between the two prominent crags – Craig of Runavey and Creag na Bruaich. Allt Mòr is the largest burn entering the Shee Water after Spittal of Glenshee. Also Invereddrie is between the route going north to Deeside via Spittal of Glenshee and a route between Gelnshee and Glenisla lying to the south of Mealna Letter or Duchray Hill, and has a place-name Balloch i.e. G *bealach*.

Another possibility is that the name derives from *Inbhir-fheadran* containing G *fead* 'tube, pipe', which is often found applied to small streams with a narrow channel.

CREAG NA BRUAICH

KRK R NO1467

Creag na Bruaich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

G *creag* + G *an* + G *bruach*

'Crag of the bank'.

BROUGHDEARG

KRK S NO1367

Alexander Farquharson, Tutor of *Broughdargie* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 542

Broughdarick c.1750 Roy

Broughderig 1783 Stobie

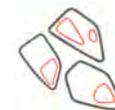
Broughderig 1794 Ainslie

Broichdearg 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *bruach* + G *dearg*

'Red river bank'.

⁵ My thanks to Jake King of Ainmean-Àite na-h Alba for his help with this name.



CORRYDON COTTAGE

KRK S NO1366

Korydobeg 1590s Pont 27
Corridon 1674 RCAHMS 1994, 105
Corridone 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540
Corrydon 1783 Stobie
Corrydon 1794 Ainslie
Corrydon 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

en Coire Domhainn; the name means ‘deep corry’, see Allt a’ Choire Dhomhainn KRK below.

ALLT A’ CHOIRE DHOMHAIN

KRK W NO1367

Allt a’ Choire Dhomhain 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *allt* + en *An Coire Domhainn
‘Burn of Coire Domhainn’. See Corrydon KRK above.

ALLT COIRE NA CEARDAICH

KRK W NO1466

Allt Coire na Ceardaich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *allt* + en Coire na Ceardaich
‘Burn of Coire na Ceardaich’. Coire na Ceardaich derives from G *coire* + G *an* + G *ceàrdach*, meaning ‘corry of the smith or tinker’.

ALLT COIRE NA H-EILDE

KRK W NO1366

Allt Coire na h-Eilde 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *allt* + en Coire na h-Eilde
‘Burn of the corry of the hind’. Coire na h-Eilde derives from G *coire* + G *an* + G *eilid* meaning ‘corry of the hind (of the red deer)’.

CNOC LIATH

KRK R NO1366

Knocklia 1783 Stobie
Knocklia 1794 Ainslie
Cnoc Liath 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *cnoc* + G *liath*
‘Grey hillock’.

FINEGAND

KRK S NO1466

Fanynyeand 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3540
Fanyeand 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3457
Fanagand 1512 *RMS* ii no. 3769
Fanynzeand 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841
Finninghand 1590s Pont 27
Fyidingang 1618 *RPC* xi, 364
Fanzeand 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367
Fanzeand 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782
John Farquharson of *Feanakeand* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541
Fenegand c.1750 Roy
Finnygand 1783 Stobie
Finnygand 1794 Ainslie
Finegand 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV



Mini Trail

G *fèith* + G *an* + G *ceann*

This is an Anglicised *Fèith nan Ceann* found in Creag Feith nan Ceann KRK. The name means ‘bog of the heads’, and severed heads is a common motif in Fian literature. The name shows signs of an older form *fèith na gCeann* containing eclipsis after the genitive plural of the definite article (Watson 1926, 242). See the section above on Fionn mac Cumhaill for discussion on this name in the Fian legends. A different legend bases the history of the name in medieval times, when irate tenants in the glen killed the revenue collectors of the earl of Atholl and threw the severed heads into the bog.

DUNMAY

KRK S NO1466

Dalmaya 1512 RMS ii no. 3769

Dalma 1618 *Retours* PER no. 184

Dumma 1642 *Retours* PER no. 515

Dunmor c.1750 Roy

Dunmie 1783 Stobie

Dunmie 1794 Ainslie

Dunmay 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *dail* + G *magh*

‘Water-meadow plain’. *Dunmor* on Roy corresponds with *Dunmay* on the OS maps, but it may actually be a mistake for *Drumore* ALY. The *dail* has been assimilated to G *dùn* ‘fort’.

POLGORM COTTAGE

KRK S NO1465

Polgoram 1783 Stobie

Poll Gorm 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *poll* + G *gorm*

‘Blue mire or pool’. Stobie shows an epenthetic (or helping) vowel in his spelling of *gorm*.

CREAG FEITH NAN CEANN

KRK R NO1365

Creag Feith nan Ceann 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

G *creag* + G *fèith* + G *an* + G *ceann*

‘Crag of the bog of the heads’. See *Finegand* KRK.

CAIRN DERIG

KRK R NO1566

Cairn-derig 1783 Stobie

Cairnderig 1794 Ainslie

Cairn Derig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *càrn* + G *dearg*

‘Red cairn’. The difference in spelling between this hill and two other hills in the Glenshee area with the same name, albeit in conventional Gaelic orthography, i.e. *Càrn Dearg*, is due to *Cairn Derig* being nearer Alyth and the lowlands of Gowrie which have been Scots speaking for longer than the upland areas of Glenshee.



ALLT-AN-BUIE

KRK S NO1465

Aldbui c.1750 Roy
Auldvuie 1783 Stobie
Auldvuie 1794 Ainslie
Allt-an-Buie 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER and CLA XXIV.SW&SW

G *alltan* + G *buidhe*
'Small yellow burn'. The settlement is shown but not named on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map.

TIGH-NA-COILLE

KRK S NO1465

Tigh-na-Coil 1901 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV.SW & SE

G *taigh* + G *an* + G *coille*
'House of the wood'.

DALNAGLAR CASTLE

KRK S NO1464

Dalniglaer c.1750 Roy
Dalnaglar 1783 Stobie
Dalnaglar 1794 Ainslie

G *dail* + G *an* + G ? *clàr*
'Water-meadow of the smooth surfaces or tables' meaning in this case a piece of level flat land beside the Shee Water. The name shows the genitive plural, and would in modern Gaelic be *dail nan clàr*.

TIGH AN EILEIN

KRK S NO1464

Tynellan 1783 Stobie
Tynellan 1794 Ainslie
Tigh an Eilein 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *taigh* + G *an* + G *eilean*
'House of the island'. The island in this case is probably a raised piece of land in the floodplain of the Shee Water. The usual Gaelic word for a similar feature in the Lowlands is *innis*, usually Anglicised to *inch*.

CLACH-NA-COILEACH

KRK S NO1464

Clach a' Choilich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *clach* + G *an* + G *coileach*
'Stone of the cock'.

CLACH A' MHOID

KRK O NO1464

Clach a' Mhoid 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *clach* + G *an* + G *mòd*
'Stone of the meeting place or court'. G *mòd* 'court of justice, trial, assembly, meeting', and in place-names can mean a court site, and this may have been the court of Glenshee, or at least this part of Glenshee (see O'Grady 2008, 139-42 for a discussion of *mòd* place-names in Scotland, and 569 where he mentions this site in a gazetteer).



Mini Trail

CLACKAVOID

KRK S NO1463

Cloichvoitoch 1783 Stobie

Cloichvoiloch 1794 Ainslie

Clackavoid 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

en Clach a' Mhoid KRK; see previous entry.

CRAY

KRK S NO1463

Crathy c.1460 *C.A. Rental* i no. 74

Krai 1590s Pont 27

Cray c.1750 Roy

Cray 1783 Stobie

Cray 1794 Ainslie

Cray 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *crathaidh*

'A quaking bog' (Watson 1926, 477–8). The *crathaidh*-element is behind the name Loch Achray in the Trossachs PER.

Roy also shows a *Mill of Cray*.

LAIR

KRK S NO1463

Lair 1590s Pont 27

Lair c.1750 Roy

E. Lair 1730 RCAHMS 1994, 152 [citing Spalding 1914, 75]

W. Lair 1730 RCAHMS 1994, 152 [citing Spalding 1914, 75]

E. Lair 1783 Stobie

W. Lair 1783 Stobie

E. Lair 1794 Ainslie

W. Lair 1794 Ainslie

Lair 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

A possibility is G *làrach* f., gen. sing. *làraich* 'site of a building, vestige; ruin' (Dwelly). An alternative is G *ladhar* 'fork'; the settlement lies near the meeting place of Allt an Lair and Allt Corra-lairig burns. *Ladhar* is Anglicised as Lear or Lyre in Ireland (Flanagan and Flanagan 1994, 103); Also possible, but less likely are G *làr* 'floor, low ground' and G *làir* 'mare'.

ALLT AN LAIR

NO144631

Allt an Liar 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScG *allt* + ScG *an* + en Lair

'Born of the Lair'.

ALLT CORRA-LAIRIG

KRK W NO1463

Allt Corra-lairig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *allt* + en Corra-lairig

'Burn of Corra-lairig'.

LAMH DHEARG

KRK R NO1263

Law-craig 1783 Stobie

Law craig 1794 Ainslie

Lamh Dhearg 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *làmh* + G *dearg*

'Red hand'. See the section above on Fionn mac Cumhaill for discussion on this name in the Fian legends. *Lamh Dhearg* was one of the banners



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flown in a poem called *Naonbhar Do-chuadhmar fá choill* ('Nine strong we set out into a wood'), which concerns a battle fought against a force of Catheads, Dogheads and another group (Ross 1939, 84-91, 225).

In modern Scottish Gaelic *làmh* is pronounced like 'lav' (with a long *a*); in Perthshire Gaelic, however, *làmh* was pronounced something like English 'law' (Ó Murchú 19, 361), and this is shown in the Stobie and Ainslie forms from the late eighteenth century.

CNOC FEANNDÁIGE

KRK R NO1263

Cnoc Feanndaige 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *cnoc* + G *feanndag*

'Nettle hillock'. Dwelly has G *feanntag* as an alternative to G *deanntag* 'nettle'.

CRAIGIES

KRK S NO1262

Craigies 1783 Stobie [shown as a settlement]

Craigies 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *creagan*

'Crag' or 'little crag'. The 'craig' in the name is a rocky area just to the south of Cnoc Feanndaige KRK.

COIRE A' BHAILE

KRK R NO1162

Coire a' Bhaile 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

G *coire* + G *an* + G *baile*

'Corry of the farm/township'. It is not clear from which *baile* this *coire* takes its name, but Glenkilrie or Soilzarie are possibilities.

ALLT COIRE A' BHAILE

KRK W NO1261

Allt Coire a' Bhaile 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

G *allt* + en Coire a' Bhaile

'Burn of Coire a' Bhaile'.

See Coire a' Bhaile KRK above.

ALLT A' CHOIRE LIATHAICH

KRK W NO1262

Allt a' Choire Liathaich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *allt* + en *An Coire Liathaich

'Burn of *An Coire Liathaich'. *An Coire Liathaich derives from G *an* + G *coire* + G *liathach* 'the greyish corry'.

CNOC AN DAIMH

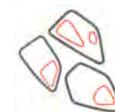
KRK NO1062

Knockindaie 1783 Stobie

Cnoc an Daimh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

G *cnoc* + G *an* + G *damh*

'Hillock of the stag'.



CREAG NAM BRATAICHEAN

KRK R NO1161

Craignabrattan c.1750 Roy

Meal nabratton 1783 Stobie

Meal-nabratton 1794 Aislie

Creag nam Brataichean 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

G *creag* + G *an* + G *bratach*

‘Crag of the banners’. The name seems to have alternated with Meall nam Brataichean in the eighteenth century. G *meall* means ‘hill’. See the section above on Fionn mac Cumhaill for discussion on this name in the Fian legends.

ASHINTULLY CASTLE

KRK S NO1061

Eshintully 1590s Pont 27

Aschintullie 1615 RMS vii no. 1156

Eschintullie 1618 RPC xi, 364

Aschintullie 1629 RMS viii no. 1393

Aschintullie 1631 RMS viii no. 1816

Andrew Spalding of *Ashintullie* 1684 RPC 3rd series vol viii, 541

Essintully c.1750 Roy

Ashintully 1783 Stobie

Ashintully 1842 NSA x, 787

Ashintully Castle 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

en Ashintully + ScEng *castle*

Ashintully might derive from G *ais* + G *an* + G *tulach* ‘hill or stronghold of the hillock or mound’. The *tulach* in the name is probably An Tulach KRK, which is less than 1 km to the north-west of Ashintully Castle.

For brief comments on the architecture of Ashintully Castle, including notice of a lintel dating to 1583, see RCAHMS (1994, 88).

BALNALD

KRK S NO0962

Balnald 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

G *baile* + G *an* + G *allt*

‘Farm or tounship of the burn’. This may be the place named *Burnside* on Stobie (RCHAMS 1994, 96; [no. 222.6]). The *burn* (or rather *allt*) in the name is Allt Menach KRK.

WHITEFIELD CASTLE

KRK S NO0961

Whitefield 1783 Stobie

Whitefield 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

ScEng *white* + ScEng *field*

See RCAHMS (1994, 92) for details of the tower-house built in 1577.

AN TULACH

KRK R NO0961

An Tulach 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

G *an* + G *tulach*

‘The hillock or mound’. This is most probably the *tulach* in Ashintully KRK. G *tulach* has the basic meaning of ‘hillock, mound’. The element is found mainly in eastern Scotland as an initial generic, where its frequent occurrence suggests the meaning ‘habitational mound’. There is evidence that in Ireland *tulach* can have the meaning ‘assembly mound; mound of judgement’, and it is likely that this is the case in Scotland too. *Tulach* often occurs in parish names in Aberdeenshire and



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Clackmannanshire. See *PNF* 5 (519) and O'Grady (2008, 143-62, 170-1) for further discussion of this element.

TOM AN T-SABHAIL

KRK NO091690

Tom an t-Sabhail 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXII

ScG *tom* + ScG *an* + ScG *sabhal*

'Hillock of the barn'.

SEANA BHAILE

KRK S NO091608

Shenvail 1783 Stobie

Seana Bhaile 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXII

ScG *sean* + ScG *baile*

'Old farm or tounship'.



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A Style on the Cateran Trail, photo Clare Cooper



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