

# Gaelic in the Landscape

*A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre*

## Place-Names of

## Contin and Strathpeffer

*Ainmean-àite Chunndainn is Shrath Pheofhair*



## Introduction

This booklet gives an overview to the meaning of many of the place-names found in and around Contin and Strathpeffer.

Even a short glance at an Ordnance Survey map shows there are a vast number of Gaelic (with some occasional Pictish and Norse) place-names present in the area. Be they names of rivers, burns, hills, settlements, woodlands, bogs - almost all parcels of land and landforms have a name, and all these names have a meaning.

Many names are descriptive - **Allt na Criche** is 'boundary burn' (at map reference *NH 515 632*); **Càrn an Daraich**, 'the hill of the oak' (*NH 416 577*); **Culnaskeath**, 'behind the sheltering hill' (*NH 577 638*). Some place-names refer to people – **Cnoc Aulaidh**, 'Aulay's hill' (*NH 480 593*); **Ulladal**, 'Ulli's dale' *ie* valley (*NH 476 583*); or the use gained from land: such as **Meall a' Ghuail**, 'the rounded hill of the coal (*ie* peat for making smithy charcoal) (*NH 521 651*); and **Allt nam Breac**, 'the burn of the trout' (*NH 425 570*). Or, if not of productivity, the opposite: **Meall Ruighe an Fhirich** is 'the rounded hill of the slope of the barren ground' (*NH 414 620*); **Ruighe Luachrach** means 'rushy slope' (*NH 471 637*).

What is also fascinating is how land is connected with stories and myths, giving a deeper perspective of how our landscape was perceived in the past. **Cnoc Aulaidh** mentioned above, 'Aulay's hill', may refer to the Norse Olaf, a relative of the legendary Thorfinn; **Loch an Tuirc** (*NH 416 624*) is 'the loch of the boar' – which is connected to the legend of Diarmad & Gràinne. The river Black Water which flows through Contin used to have the name Rasay, which is most likely derived from the Norse *hross-á* meaning 'horse river' – a tantalising hint, perhaps, at the presence of the Kelpie – the horse-like water spirit – which is rumoured to have been found upstream in Loch Garve.

What follows is a Gazetteer of many of the Contin and Strathpeffer areas place-names arranged as 'settlements', 'hills' (according to the several different names for particular hill sizes and shapes – such as *meall* and *cnoc*), 'slopes', 'lochs', 'rivers and burns', 'islands', 'bogs', 'flat ground/hollows/passes', 'woods' – with a map showing some of the area's prominent place-names.

Enjoy seeing the landscape differently!

## Ro-ràdh

Tha an leabhran seo a' toirt tar-shealladh dhuinn air ainmean-àite timcheall Chunndainn is Srath Pheofhair.

Tha e follaiseach sa mhionaid bho bhith a' toirt sùil air mapa aig an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais gu bheil an t-uabhas ainmean Gàidhlig anns an sgìre – agus feadhainn a bhuineas do dhualchas nan Cruithneach is Lochlannach. Co-dhiù thathar a' bruidhinn mu aibhnichean, uillt, bailtean, coilltean no boglaichean, tha ainm agus ciall air gach eileamaid dhen dùthaich.

Tha ainmean gu leòr a' dèanamh tuairisgeul air brìgh no feart an àite – mar eisimpleir Allt na Crìche (comharra-clèithe NH 515 632); Càrn an Daraich (NH 416 577); Cùl na Sgiath 'air cùl a' chnuic a bheir fasnadh' (NH 577 638). Tha cuide de dh'ainmean a' buntainn ri daoine fa leth – leithid Cnoc Aulaidh (NH 480 593); Ulladal, 'dail Ulli' (NH 476 583); no am feum dhan cuireadh na daoine am fearann - me Meall a' Ghuail, far an d' fhuaras mòine airson gual-fiodha a dhèanamh (NH 521 651); agus Allt nam Breac (NH 425 570). No bidh tuairisgeul ann de thalamh nach robh tarbhach no torrach, me Meall Ruighe an Fhirich (NH 414 620) no Ruighe Luachrach (NH 471 637).

Tha ceangal làidir ann eadar ainmean-àite agus eachdraidh is sgeulachdan, a' taisbeanadh mar a bhiodh ar sinnsearan a' coimhead air an tìr. 'S dòcha gu bheil Cnoc Aulaidh a' cuimhneachadh Olaf, Lochlannach a bha càirdeach do Thorfinn ainmeil; tha Loch an Tuirc (NH 416 624) a' cuimhneachadh a' mhòr-sgeòil 'Diarmad agus Gràinne'. Bha uaireigin an t-ainm Rathasaidh air an Uisge Dhubh; tha dùil gun tàinig sin bhon Lochlannais *hross-á* 'abhainn an eich', agus gun robh sin a' dèanamh iomradh air each-uisge a bha a' fuireach uaireigin ann an Loch Maol-Fhinn, a rèir beul-aithris.

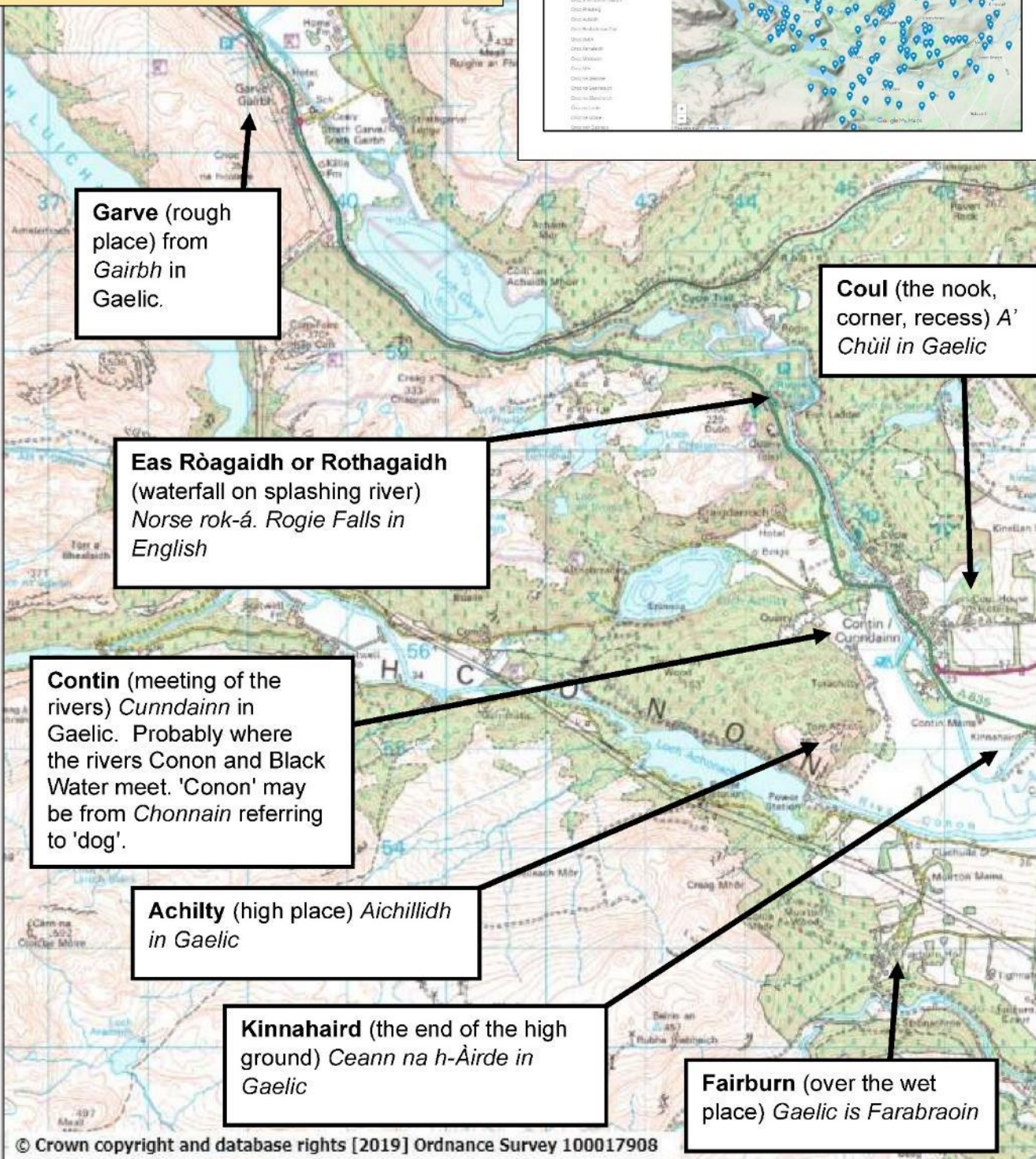
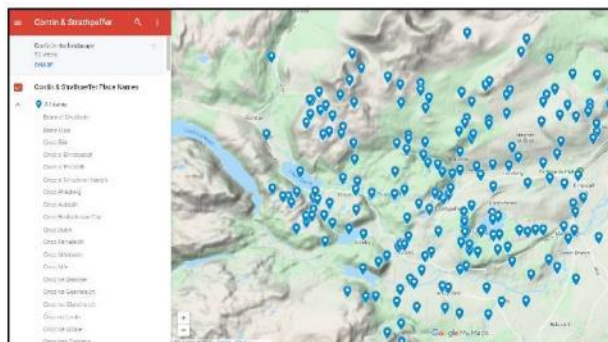
'S e na leanas air seo ach liosta de mhòran de na h-ainmean-àite timcheall Chunndainn is Shrath Pheofhair. Tha iad air an òrdachadh mar bhailtean, cnuic is beanntan (fo ainmean fa leth mar meall, creag msaa), leathaidean, lochan, aibhnichean is uillt, eileanan, boglaichean, glacan is bealaich, agus coilltean – le mapa a sheallas dhuinn cuid de na h-ainmean-àite as ainmeile anns an sgìre.

Thathar an dòchas gun gabh sibh tlachd is oideachadh bhon leabhran seo. Leanaibh gu dlùth ur dùthchas le dùrachd!



**Some prominent place-names within the Contin and Strathpeffer area.**

To see many more place-names, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6f2kk4z>



**Garve** (rough place) from *Gairbh* in Gaelic.

**Coul** (the nook, corner, recess) *A' Chùil* in Gaelic

**Eas Ròagaidh or Rothagaidh** (waterfall on splashing river) Norse *rok-á*. *Rogie Falls* in English

**Contin** (meeting of the rivers) *Cunndainn* in Gaelic. Probably where the rivers Conon and Black Water meet. 'Conon' may be from *Chonnain* referring to 'dog'.

**Achilty** (high place) *Aichillidh* in Gaelic

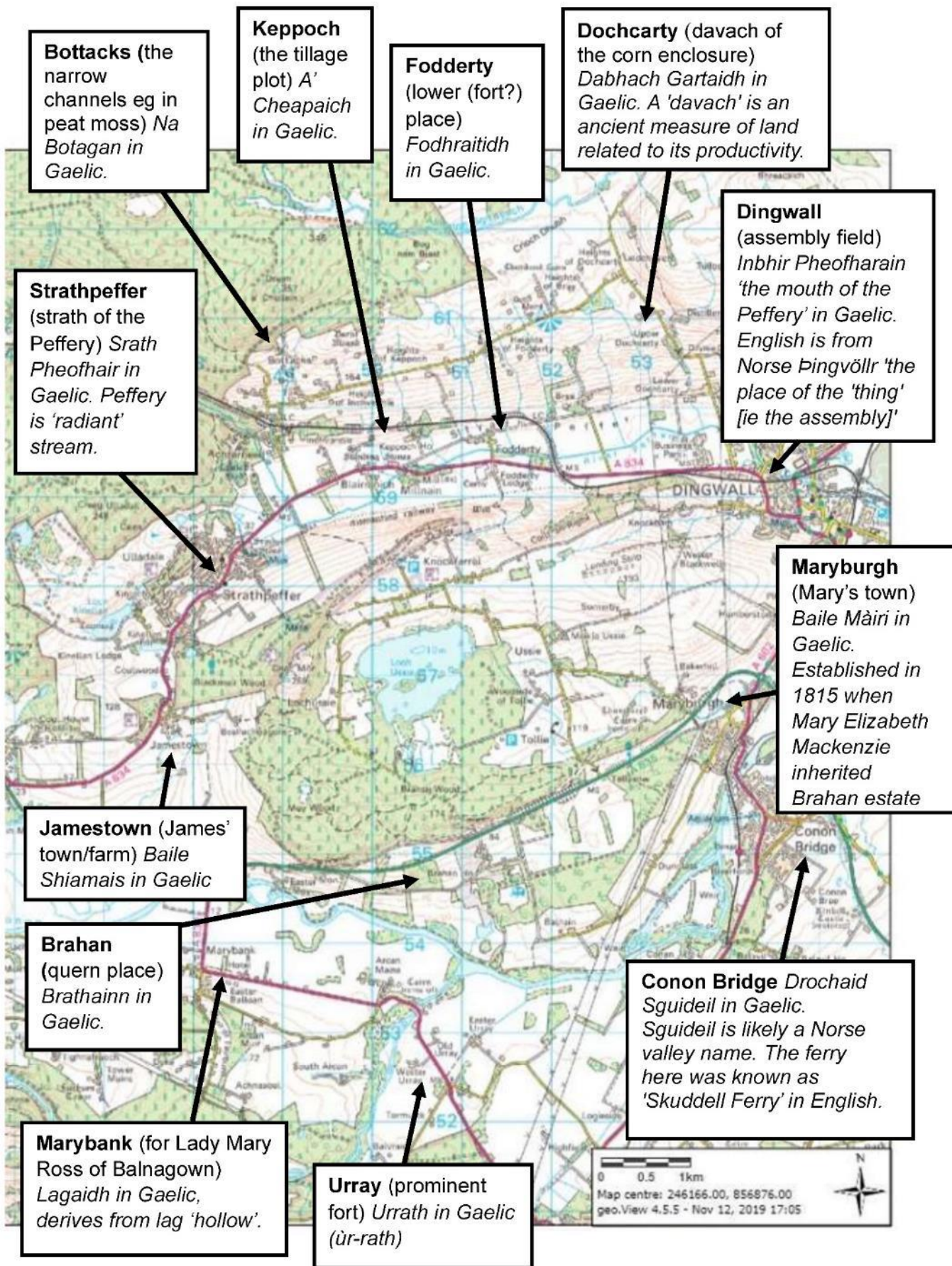
**Kinnahaird** (the end of the high ground) *Ceann na h-Àirde* in Gaelic

**Fairburn** (over the wet place) Gaelic is *Farabraoin*

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## PLACE NAMES IN AND AROUND CONTIN AND STRATHPEFFER

**NB:** The page nos. in the RH column refer to William J Watson's *Place Names of Ross and Cromarty* – see references for more information

### Settlements (English name first)

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Achnasoul</b>	NH 486 523	barnfield	<i>Achadh an t-Sabhail</i> 'the field of the barn'. S of Marybank.	106
<b>Achterneed</b>	NH 489 594	high ground above the stream	<i>Uachdar Niad</i> ( <i>niad</i> representing Pictish <i>nant</i> 'stream'). N of Strathpeffer.	97
<b>Achilty</b>	NH 440 564	high place	<i>Aichillidh</i> in Gaelic. Pictish cf <i>Achiltibuie</i> .	148
<b>Alcaig</b>	NH 566 572	auk's bay	<i>alka-vík</i> , Norse. On Black Isle.	115
<b>Arcan</b>	NH 500 535	black place	archaic Gaelic, 'arc' meaning 'black'; E of Marybank.	106
<b>Ardullie</b>	NH 586 622	variegated promontory	<i>Àird Ilidh</i> in Gaelic.	88
<b>Balavil</b>	NH 544 538	farm on the brae-edge	<i>Bail' a' Bhile</i> in Gaelic. S of Conon Bridge.	119
<b>Balloan</b>	NH 478 537	farm of the wet meadow	<i>Bail' an Lòin</i> . Wester and Easter Balloan are adjacent to Marybank	N/A
<b>Balnacrae</b>	NH 535 647	the farm of the clay	<i>Baile na Crè</i> in Gaelic. N of Dingwall.	92
<b>Balnain</b>	NH 522 541	farm of the low place	<i>Baile an Fhàin</i> in Gaelic. SE of Brahan.	105
<b>Black Dyke</b>	NH 479 526		The English is a translation of <i>An Gàradh Dubh</i> . S of Marybank.	106
<b>Bottacks</b>	NH 489 603	the narrow channels eg in peat moss	<i>Na Botagan</i> in Gaelic. N of Strathpeffer.	101
<b>Brahan</b>	NH 513 548	quern place	<i>Brathainn</i> in Gaelic.	104
<b>Clachuile</b>	NH 464 539	hollowed stone	Also <i>Clachuil</i> . There was an inn here in 19 <sup>th</sup> C. Name comes from 'sculptured stone' marked on maps (next to the inn) which was <i>clach an eòrna</i> 'barley stone', hollowed out for crocking barley. W of Marybank.	106
<b>Conon Bridge</b>	NH 541 558	bridge on River Conon	<i>Drochaid Sguideil</i> in Gaelic. <i>Sguideil</i> is likely a Norse valley name. The ferry here was known as <i>Skuddell Ferry</i> in English.	149-152
<b>Contin</b>	NH 458 558	meeting of rivers	<i>Cunndainn</i> in Gaelic.	147



<b>Corntown</b>	NH 556 558	corn-farm	<i>Also Cornton. Baile an Loch 'loch farm' in Gaelic. E of Maryburgh.</i>	117
<b>Coul</b>	NH 462 562	the nook, corner, recess	<i>A' Chùil in Gaelic. E of Contin.</i>	148
<b>Culbin</b>	NH 565 630	back of the hill	<i>Cùl Beinne in Gaelic. NW of Dingwall.</i>	88
<b>Culnaskeath</b>	NH 577 638	behind the sheltering hill	<i>Cùl na Sgiath in Gaelic. An alternative is Cùil an Sgithich 'the nook of the hawthorn' (Watson). NE of Dingwall.</i>	89
<b>Dingwall</b>	NH 547 589	assembly field	<i>Inbhir Pheofharain 'the mouth of the Peffery' in Gaelic. English is from Norse Þingvöllr</i>	93
<b>Dochcarty</b>	NH 537 600	davach of the corn enclosure	<i>Dabhach Gartaidh in Gaelic. NW of Dingwall.</i>	100
<b>Dochnaclear</b>	NH 515 604	the davach of the clergy (or heroes)	<i>Dabhach nan Clìar. N of Fodderty.</i>	101
<b>Dugary</b>	NH 519 528	dark thicket	<i>Dùgaraidh in Gaelic. Dùbh Gharaidh. E of Marybank.</i>	119
<b>Dunglass</b>	NH 531 548	grey-green hill	<i>Dùn Glas. SW of Conon Bridge.</i>	N/A
<b>Fairburn</b>	NH 455 530	over the wet place	<i>Gaelic is Farabraoin (Watson). Braoin as in Brin, Loch a' Bhraoin (Loch Broom). SW of Marybank.</i>	105
<b>Fluchlady</b>	NH 553 620	wet hillside	<i>Fliuch Leathad in Gaelic. N of Dingwall.</i>	88
<b>Fodderty</b>	NH 513 595	lower (fort?) place	<i>Fodhraitidh in Gaelic. The name is likely to be of Pictish origin.</i>	96
<b>Fuaranbuy</b>	NH 567 639	yellow well	<i>Fuaran Buidhe in Gaelic. NE of Dingwall.</i>	89
<b>Garve</b>	NH 394 615	rough place	<i>Gairbh in Gaelic. The name probably derives from the river. Garbh Uisge is a relatively common river name, although not recorded here. Now called Black Water.</i>	161
<b>Humberston</b>	NH 544 575		<i>Formerly Upper Kildun. Renamed for Humberston family which married into the Seaforth Mackenzies. S of Dingwall.</i>	94
<b>Jamestown</b>	NH 477 564	James' town/farm	<i>Baile Shiamais in Gaelic (Watson). Baile Sheumais on modern signs. English is a translation of the Gaelic. S of Strathpeffer.</i>	105
<b>Keppoch</b>	NH 505 596	the tillage plot	<i>A' Cheapaich in Gaelic. W of Fodderty.</i>	101
<b>Kildun</b>	NH 545 571	brown church	<i>Cill Duinn, locative of Ceall Donn. Next to Maryburgh roundabout.</i>	94
<b>Kinellan</b>	NH 473 575	end of [the] island	<i>Situated just off the end of the island in the loch, which is a crannog. Cinn Eilein in Gaelic. Kinellan Farm, Kinellan Lodge, Loch Kinellan. SW of Strathpeffer.</i>	99

<b>Kinnahaird</b>	NH 470 552	the end of the high ground	<i>Ceann na h-Àirde. SE of Contin.</i>	N/A
<b>Marybank</b>	NH 481 536	for Lady Mary Ross of Balnagown	<i>Lagaidh in Gaelic, derives from lag 'hollow'.</i>	60
<b>Maryburgh</b>	NH 539 564	Mary's town	<i>Baile Màiri in Gaelic. Established in 1815 when Mary Elizabeth Mackenzie inherited Brahan estate.</i>	N/A
<b>Moy</b>	NH 490 546	the plain	<i>A' Mhuaigh, locative of magh. N of Marybank.</i>	105
<b>Muirton</b>	NH 457 536	great fort	<i>Gaelic is Mòrdun from mòr and dùn. Watson says 'there is a stone circle in a wood' there. W of Marybank.</i>	138
<b>Pelaig</b>	NH 564 623	obscure	<i>Peallaig in Gaelic. Pictish? Cf Obar Pheallaidh (Aberfeldy). NE of Dingwall.</i>	88
<b>Pitglassie</b>	NH 549 578	place of fallow land	<i>Bad a' Ghlasaich in Gaelic. Pit is a Pictish element, the second part is Gaelic. S of Dingwall.</i>	94
<b>Strathpeffer</b>	NH 483 582	strath of the Peffery	<i>Srath Pheofhair in Gaelic. Peffery is 'radiant' stream.</i>	98
<b>Tighnafraoch</b>	NH 465 527	heather-house	<i>Taigh an Fhraoich 'the house of the heather'. SW of Marybank.</i>	106
<b>Tarvie</b>	NH 426 586	bull place	<i>Tairbhidh in Gaelic</i>	162
<b>Tore</b>	NH 602 524	bleaching place or the hillock	<i>Watson gave G. An Todhar 'bleaching place' (for flax), but others think G. An Tòrr 'the hillock' more likely.</i>	143
<b>Ulladal</b>	NH 476 583	Ulladale (Ulli's dale)	<i>Cf Ulladale in Logie Easter and Ullapool. NW of Strathpeffer.</i>	100
<b>Urray</b>	NH 507 528	prominent fort	<i>Urrath in Gaelic (ùr-rath)</i>	104

### Other features

<i>Listing on OS</i>	<i>Grid ref.</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>p.</i>
<b>Castle Leod</b>	NH 485 592	head of the slope	<i>Corruption of Ceann an Leothaid in Gaelic.</i>	98
<b>Clach an Tiompain</b>	NH 484 585	the stone of the one-sided knoll	<i>The Eagle Stone in English.</i>	99
<b>Dochmaluag (House)</b>	NH 518 599	the davoch of (St.) Moluag	<i>Dabhach Moluag in Gaelic.</i>	N/A
<b>Preas Ma-ruibhe</b>	NH 460 558	(St.) Maolrubha's grove	<i>Given incorrectly on maps as Preas Màiri or Preas Marie. Maolrubha is saint of Applecross, remembered in the name of Loch Maree.</i>	<i>lxi</i>



### Hills with Meall

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Meall a' Ghuail</b>	NH 521 651	the rounded hill of the coal	Peat from here was used to make smithy charcoal. Another hill of same name is close by at 512 643. NW of Dingwall.	95
<b>Meall na Glaice Bàine</b>	NH 417 631	the rounded hill of the fair hollow	NE of Garve	N/A
<b>Meall na Speireig</b>	NH 495 661	the rounded hill of the sparrowhawk	N of Bottacks	90
<b>Meall Odhar Beag</b>	NH 431 633	small dun-coloured rounded hill	NE of Garve	N/A
<b>Meall Odhar Mòr</b>	NH 436 640	big dun-coloured rounded hill	NE of Garve	N/A
<b>Meall Ruighe an Fhirich</b>	NH 414 620	the rounded hill of the slope of the barren ground	NE of Garve	N/A

### Hills with Tòrr

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Tòrr Aichillidh</b>	NH 447 550	hill of Achilty (qv)	Torr Achilty in English. Farm is Torachilty.	N/A
<b>Tòrr Bealaidh</b>	NH 478 597	hill of broom	N of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Tòrr na Maille</b>	NH 478 597	the hill of the delay	W of Bottacks	N/A

### Hills with Creag

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Cona Chreag</b>	NH 473 598	crag that come together	NW of Strathpeffer	76, 91
<b>Creag a' Chàise</b>	NH 437 586	the rocky hill of the cheese	E of Tarvie	N/A
<b>Creag a' Chaorainn</b>	NH 408 586	the rocky hill of the rowan	W of Tarvie	N/A
<b>Creag an Daraich</b>	NH 437 576	the rocky hill of the oak	NW of Contin	N/A
<b>Creag an Fhithich</b>	NH 463 605	the rock of the raven	Now given as Raven Rock on OS maps, but carries Gaelic name on earlier editions and in Watson.	N/A
<b>Creag Mhòr</b>	NH 431 536	large rocky hill	SW of Contin	N/A
<b>Creag Raineach</b>	NH 437 586	bracken crag	W of Tarvie	N/A
<b>Creag Ulladail</b>	NH 480 593	rocky hill of Ulladal (qv).	Gaelic/Norse, with personal name in Ulladal.	(100)

## 5Hills with Druim

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Druim a' Chait</b>	NH 490 573	cat's back	<i>Between Strathpeffer and Loch Ussie. Cat's Back on modern maps, but has Gaelic name on first OS 6-inch map</i>	N/A
<b>Druim a' Chuilein</b>	NH 489 613	the ridge of the puppy	<i>N. of Bottacks</i>	N/A
<b>Druim an t-Sluichd</b>	NH 492 617	The ridge of the slochd (pit, hollow)	<i>Links Druim a' Chuilein to Cnoc na Bainnse.</i>	N/A
<b>Druim Dubhran</b>	NH 495 609	The ridge of the shaded places?	<i>NE of Bottacks.</i>	N/A
<b>Druim Cruaidh</b>	NH 416 583	hard ridge	<i>S of L. Garve</i>	N/A



Tor Achilty (p.9) overlooking the Black Water river (p. 16).



## Hills with Cnoc

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Cnoc Bàn</b>	NH 533 588	fair hill	<b>Knockbain</b> in English. W of Dingwall.	N/A
<b>Cnoc a' Bhreacaich</b>	NH 543 624	the hill of the speckled place	N. of Dingwall	95
<b>Cnoc a' Bhùiridh</b>	NH 491 632	the hill of the roaring	N of Bottacks	N/A
<b>Cnoc a' Mhuilinn-Thairbh</b>	NH 496 553	the hill of the bull-mill	SW of Loch Ussie	N/A
<b>Cnoc Phàdraig</b>	NH 468 578	Peter's hill	<b>Knock Ardaging</b> in English, though the meaning of Ardaging is not clear. Given as Cnoc Phàdruidg on early OS maps.	N/A
<b>Cnoc Aulaidh</b>	NH 480 593	Aulay's hill	It has been suggested that Aulay was a Norse Olaf, possibly a relative of Thorfinn. Cnoc Amhlaigh would a better rendition of the Gaelic, which we also find in the surname MacAmhlaigh (MacAulay).	N/A
<b>Cnoc Bealach nan Corr</b>	NH 490 566	the hill of the pass of the herons (or cranes?)	W of Loch Ussie	105
<b>Cnoc Dubh</b>	NH 492 554	black hill	SW of Loch Ussie	N/A
<b>Cnoc Farralaidh</b>	NH 505 585	hill of the high stone-place (ie fort)	From far-eileach. Knockfarrel in English. Watson gives Farralaidh, but local signs give Fearralaidh.	98
<b>Cnoc Mhàbairn</b>	NH 558 638	? hill	N. of Dingwall. Meaning of Mhàbairn is unclear	N/A
<b>Cnoc Mòr</b>	NH 490 569	big hill	W. of Loch Ussie. Old OS maps give corrie to the east of hill as Coir' an Laoigh 'the corrie of the calf'.	N/A
<b>Cnoc na Bainnse</b>	NH 493 619	the hill of the wedding	N. of Bottacks	N/A
<b>Cnoc na Gearraisich</b>	NH 473 625	the hill of the hare	NW of Bottacks. Gearraiseach is the chain or rope attaching a horse or plough to the swingletree for ploughing; also means a 'hare' in Sutherland.	N/A
<b>Cnoc na Glaodhaich</b>	NH 457 594	the hill of the shouting	NW of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Cnoc na Laide</b>	NH 557 610	the hill of the (mill) lade	Cnoc na Laitch in English. Adjacent to Allt na Laitch (Laide) from which the name likely originates.	N/A
<b>Cnoc na Mòine</b>	NH 511 555	the hill of the peat	Nr. Brahan, S. of Loch Ussie. A common name across the Highlands.	N/A
<b>Cnoc nan Caorach</b>	NH 488 558	the hill of the sheep	SW of Loch Ussie	N/A

<b>Cnoc nan Each</b>	<i>NH 524 657</i>	the hill of the horses	<i>N. of Dingwall</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Cnoc nan Each Beag</b>	<i>NH 461 637</i>	the small hill of the horses	<i>NW of Bottacks</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Cnoc nan Each Mòr</b>	<i>NH 455 641</i>	the big hill of the horses	<i>NW of Bottacks</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Cnoc nan Sasunnach</b>	<i>NH 462 571</i>	the hill of the English	<i>W of Loch Ussie. Modern spelling would be 'Cnoc nan Sasannach'.</i>	<i>105</i>
<b>Cnoc Rabhach</b>	<i>NH 557 614</i>	warning hill	<i>Cnoc Ravoch in English. NE of Dingwall.</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Cnoc Tigh an Fhirich</b>	<i>NH 554 624</i>	the hill of the house of the barren upper slope	<i>N. of Dingwall</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Cnoc na h-Uamha</b>	<i>NH 504 618</i>	the hill of the cave	<i>NW of Fodderty</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Cnoc Ùdais</b>	<i>NH 481 498</i>	hill of blasts?	<i>Poss. Gaelic/Pictish. W of Muir of Ord. Locally asserted to be the grave of Judas!</i>	<i>111</i>



Knockfarrel (p.11) with Strathpeffer (p.8) in the distance



### Hills/slopes with other elements

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
Àird a' Bhaile	NH 48 58	the height above the town	Ardival in English. Part of Strathpeffer.	99
An Dùn	NH 457 519	the hill	S of Contin	N/A
An t-Òrd	NH 478 582	the rounded hill	NW outskirts of Strathpeffer	N/A
Bruthach an Ràtha	NH 451 553	the slope of the ancient fort	W of Contin on Torr Achilty. Given by OS as Bruach an Ràtha. A henge exists on shore of L Achilty but not likely to give this name.	N/A
Cìoch Mhòr	NH 503 635	large breast (-shaped hill)	NW of Dingwall	N/A
Cìoch Bheag	NH 505 637	small breast (-shaped hill)	NW of Dingwall	N/A
Cuthaill Bheag	NH 457 510	small cow mountain?	Norse/Gaelic. kúa-fjall. Or kví-fjall 'pen mountain'; names recur in W Ross. Cùl Beag on OS maps.	111 (262)
Cuthaill Mhòr	NH 450 515	large cow mountain?	Cùl Mòr on OS maps.	111 (262)
Garbh Leathad	NH 471 602	rough slope	NW of Strathpeffer.	N/A
Leathad a' Chruthaich	NH 530 616	the slope of the quaking bog	NW of Dingwall. Leidchruch in English. Sùil-chruthaich orig. sùil-chrithreach 'shaking eye' is a term for a suspended bog which shakes when you stand on it.	95
Ruighe Luachrach	NH 471 637	rushy slope	NW of Bottacks	N/A
Tom na Caillich	NH 438 653	the hill of the cailleach	NE of Garve. Cailleach means an old woman or nun, but can also represent a supernatural figure associated with wild places	N/A
Tulach	NH 539 619	hillock	Tulloch Hill in English (An Tulach 'the hill' in Gaelic). N of Dingwall.	94

### Lochs

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
An Dubh-lochan	NH 461 585	the black lochan	W of Strathpeffer	N/A
Loch a' Bhealaich	NH 424 628	the loch of the pass	NE of Garve	N/A
Loch a' Bhodaich	NH 404 584	the loch of the old man	NW of Loch Achilty. Next to Loch na Caillich (cv)	N/A

<b>Loch a' Chlàrain</b>	NH 416 624	the loch of the small flat place	<i>N of Loch Achilty</i>	163
<b>Loch Acha' Dhonnchaidh</b>	NH 439 547	the loch of Duncan's field	<i>Loch Achonachie in English. Flooded a farm called Achonokie on early OS maps.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch Aichillidh</b>	NH 433 567	the loch of Achilty (qv)	<i>Loch Achilty in English</i>	N/A
<b>Loch an Droma</b>	NH 421 574	the loch of the ridge	<i>NW of Loch Achilty</i>	163
<b>Loch an Dubh-chàirn</b>	NH 396 588	the loch of the black cairn	<i>NW of Loch Achilty.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch an Eich Bhàin</b>	NH 424 580	the loch of the white horse	<i>NW of Loch Achilty. Watson gives 'grey horse'.</i>	163
<b>Loch an t-Sean-bhlàir</b>	NH 504 561	the loch of the old plain	<i>S of Loch Ussie</i>	N/A
<b>Loch an Tuirc</b>	NH 416 624	the loch of the boar	<i>NE of Garve. Connected to legend of Diarmad &amp; Gràinne.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch Cinn Eilein</b>	NH 478 582	loch of Kinellan (qv)	<i>Loch Kinellan in English</i>	99
<b>Loch Maol-Fhinn</b>	NH 410 596	the loch of the follower of St Fionn	<i>Loch Garve in English (as on OS maps). Name connected to Killin (Farm) at W end of loch – Cill Fhinn in Gaelic cf Killin (Loch Tay). Roy's 18th C map gives 'Loch Killen'.</i>	162
<b>Loch na Bà Ruaidhe</b>	NH 401 584	the loch of the russet cow	<i>NW of Loch Achilty.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch na Caillich</b>	NH 405 581	the loch of the old woman	<i>NW of Loch Achilty. Next to Loch a' Bhodaich (cv)</i>	N/A
<b>Loch na Cròic</b>	NH 431 592	the loch of the antler	<i>'it is shaped like the tine of antler' (Watson)</i>	163
<b>Loch na Geàrra</b>	NH 427 623	the loch of the hare	<i>NE of Garve. Most dialects would have gearra (short 'a' in genitive).</i>	N/A
<b>Loch na Guailne</b>	NH 425 615	the loch of the shoulder	<i>NE of Garve</i>	N/A
<b>Loch nan Crann</b>	NH 456 583	the loch of the trees	<i>Loch na Crann on OS maps. W of Strathpeffer</i>	N/A
<b>Loch nan Cuilcean</b>	NH 412 571	the loch of the reeds	<i>W of Loch Achilty</i>	N/A
<b>Loch nan Eilid</b>	NH 412 571	the loch of the hinds	<i>NW of Loch Achilty.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch Ruigh a' Phuill</b>	NH 418 582	the loch of the slope of the bog	<i>NW of Loch Achilty. OS give Loch Ruith a' Phuill.</i>	163
<b>Loch Ùsaidh</b>	NH 504 572	obscure	<i>Loch Ussie in English. Watson says Pictish or pre-Pictish</i>	105
<b>Lochan na Fèinne</b>	NH 421 561	the lochan of the Fianna	<i>SW of Loch Achilty</i>	N/A



## Lochs that no longer exist

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Loch a' Bhealaich</b>	NH 492 557	the loch of the pass	<i>In middle of Moy Wood. Marked on first OS 6-inch map.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch Buidhe</b>	NH 525 563	yellow loch	<i>E. of Tollie. Given on earlier OS maps</i>	N/A
<b>Loch Caitrine</b>	NH 499 564	dusky loch?	<i>cf Loch Katrine, Trossachs. SW of Loch Ussie, distinctly marked on first 6-inch OS map.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch nan Craoiseag</b>	NH 491 563	the loch of the berries	<i>possibly blaeberrries. SW of Loch Ussie.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch nan Tunnag</b>	NH 537 632	the loch of the ducks	<i>N of Dingwall. Its site is still marked on OS maps. Another loch of same name is on Morrich More east of Tain. This suggests use in E. Ross dialect of tunnag for wild duck.</i>	N/A
<b>Loch Uaine</b>	NH 507 561	green loch	<i>E. of Loch an t-Sean-Bhlàir (SE of Loch Ussie)</i>	N/A



Cnoc Mòr (p. 11) from Allt Drioghinn (p.17)

## Rivers

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Abhainn Chonainn</b>	NH 462 541	dog river (?)	River Conon in English	149
<b>Abhainn Orthainn</b>	NH 500 522	offering river?	River Orrin in English. Might be an ancient pagan religious name.	111
<b>Abhainn Pheofhair</b>	NH 530 596	bright river	River Peffery in English. Pictish name.	
<b>Abhainn Sgitheach</b>	NH 513 621	hawthorn river	Called the Abhainn Dhubh 'black river' in its upper reaches (OS)	89
<b>Cunndainn</b>	NH 458 558	Confluence	Contin in English. Meeting of rivers Black Water and Conon.	147
<b>Eas Rothagaidh</b>	NH 445 584	waterfall on splashing river	Norse rok-á, cf Loch Roag (Lewis)? Rogie Falls in English	101
<b>Black Water</b>	NH 398 653	black river	Presumably based on an unrecorded Gaelic Uisge Dubh 'black river'. Roy (1747-52) gives Water of Contin at junction with Conon.	

## Burns, streams

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Allt a' Bhreacaich</b>	NH 533 629	the burn of the speckled place	N of Dingwall.	N/A
<b>Allt a' Ghail</b>	NH 547 618	the burn of the stranger	N of Dingwall. The stranger would be a non-Gaelic speaker. Gall often refers to Norse or Lowland Scots.	N/A
<b>Allt a' Ghoirtein</b>	NH 540 585	the burn of the small enclosed field	Just to W of Dingwall. Gorstan Burn in English. OS gives only the English name.	cf 162
<b>Allt an Ruamhair</b>	NH 496 611	the burn of the digging	NE of Bottacks.	N/A
<b>Allt an Ruighe Luachraich</b>	NH 471 634	the burn of the rushy slope	NW of Strathpeffer.	N/A
<b>Allt an Torrain Bheàrnaich</b>	NH 407 568	the burn of the small hill with gaps	W of Contin	N/A
<b>Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</b>	NH 496 627	the burn of the clump of trees of the armpit (land feature)	N of Fodderty	N/A
<b>Allt Calltuinne</b>	NH 432 617	hazel burn	E of Garve	N/A
<b>Allt Coire a' Bhothain</b>	NH 442 646	the burn of the corrie of the bothy	E of Garve	N/A

<b>Allt Coire nam Bò Dubha</b>	NH 461 628	the burn of the corrie of the black cows	NW of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Allt Dearg</b>	NH 464 612	red burn	NW of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Allt Droighinn</b>	NH 473 554	thorny burn	Wrongly given as Allt Drioghinn by OS. Nr Moy.	N/A
<b>Allt Fionnaidh</b>	NH 437 609	burn of flaying	NW of Strathpeffer. Flaying of animal skin or turf.	N/A
<b>Allt na Criche</b>	NH 515 632	boundary burn	Given mistakenly as Allt an Criche on modern OS maps (correct on old maps). N of Dingwall.	N/A
<b>Allt na Fèithe Corraich</b>	NH 412 574	the burn of the steep, uneven bog-channel	W of Contin	N/A
<b>Allt na Laide</b>	NH 555 607	the burn of the (mill) lade	Allt na Laitch on OS. Mill Lade and Mill Dam marked on OS 6-inch 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. map	N/A
<b>Allt nam Breac</b>	NH 425 570	the burn of the trout	W of Contin, flows into Loch Achilty.	N/A
<b>Allt nan Ràthaichean</b>	NH 513 630	the burn of the ancient fortresses?	Allt na Raichean on OS. Close to hut circles and ancient field systems. Ràth also means a cleared swathe of land. N of Dingwall.	N/A
<b>An Leth-allt</b>	NH 475 630	the burn with one steep bank	NW of Strathpeffer. Literally 'half burn'.	N/A
<b>Caochan Domhain</b>	NH 437 601	deep 'blind' burn	NW of Strathpeffer. A caochan is a stream hidden by vegetation.	N/A
<b>Garbh Allt</b>	NH 472 608	rough burn	NW of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Tiadh Allt</b>	NH 473 554	burn like thickened milk	Properly Tiagh Allt. NW of Strathpeffer	N/A

### Bogs and springs

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Bog a' Bhreacaich</b>	NH 531 626	the bog of the speckled place	N of Dingwall	N/A
<b>Bog a' Ghobhainn</b>	NH 498 563	the bog of the blacksmith	SW of Loch Ussie	N/A
<b>Bog na h-Aibhne</b>	NH 546 639	the bog of the river	Given as Bog na h-Aimme on modern OS maps but Bognahavin (Bog na h-Abhann) on older maps. NE of Dingwall.	N/A
<b>Bog nam Biast</b>	NH 504 616	the bog of the beasts (otters?)	Biast-dubh (bèist-dhubh) refers to otter. NE of Strathpeffer.	N/A
<b>Fèith Chorrach</b>	NH 415 574	steep or uneven bog-channel	NW of Contin	N/A
<b>Fuaran Bàn</b>	NH 490 568	fair spring	S of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Fuaran Fìona</b>	NH 554 622	well of wine	NE of Dingwall	N/A



## Islands

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grid ref.</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>p.</u>
<b>Dunglass Island</b>	NH 535 544		<i>Gaelic not recorded by OS or Watson. Conon River. Named for nearby farm. An Dùn Glas 'green fort'?</i>	N/A
<b>Eilean a' Chonaisg</b>	NH 487 545	the island of the whin	<i>Moy Island in English. On R. Conon. Gaelic name is given on first 6-in. OS map. Marked on Roy's map but not named.</i>	N/A
<b>Eilean an Daraich</b>	NH 438 590	the island of the oak	<i>On Black Water upstream of Rogie.</i>	N/A
<b>Eilean Beag</b>	NH 507 570	small island	<i>Loch Ussie</i>	N/A
<b>Eilean Chunndainn</b>	NH 457 557		<i>Contin Island in English. The Gaelic name is inferred. On Black Water.</i>	N/A
<b>Eilean Mòr</b>	NH 504 569	big island	<i>Loch Ussie</i>	N/A
<b>Garrie Island</b>	NH 544 562		<i>Gaelic not recorded by OS or Watson. Conon River. May derive from gàrradh 'stone wall'.</i>	N/A



## Flat ground, hollows, passes

<i>Gaelic</i>	<i>Grid ref.</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>p.</i>
<b>Bealach Bhrathainn</b>	NH 494 576	the pass of Brahan	Given as <i>Bealach Bhrathan</i> by OS. NW of Loch Ussie	N/A
<b>Bealach nan Corr</b>	NH 490 563	the pass of the herons (cranes)?	<i>Beallachnagore</i> in English	105
<b>Blàr an Aonaich</b>	NH 499 591	the plain of the meeting	<i>Blairninich</i> in English. Might be 'the plain of [next to] the steep hillside.'	101
<b>Cadha Fliuch</b>	NH 417 586	wet pass	W of Tarvie	164
<b>Clais nam Mèirleach</b>	NH 506 554	the ravine of the robbers	S of Loch Ussie	N/A
<b>Glac Bhàn</b>	NH 416 631	fair hollow	E of Garve	N/A
<b>Glac Mhàiri</b>	NH 431 614	Mary's hollow	E of Garve	N/A
<b>Glac Thollaidh</b>	NH 517 563	hollow of Tollie (qv)	<i>Glaick of Tollie</i> in English.	N/A
<b>Gleann Sgathaich</b>	NH 458 608	uncertain	<i>Glensgaich</i> in English. Might be from <i>sgathach</i> 'brushwood' or 'loppings'. Short 'a'.	102
<b>Innis Mheannaidh</b>	NH 497 595	meadow of the kid-goat	<i>Inchvannie</i> in English. NE of Strathpeffer	100
<b>Lòn a' Ghlinne</b>	NH 464 610	the damp meadow of the glen	W of Bottacks. Adjacent to Allt Dearg.	N/A
<b>Tollaidh</b>	NH 521 562	place of holes	<i>Tollie</i> in English.	105

## Woods, trees, vegetation

<i>Gaelic</i>	<i>Grid ref.</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>p.</i>
<b>Coille a' Bhlàir Dhuibh</b>	NH 486 572	Blackmuir Woods	S. of Strathpeffer	N/A
<b>Coille an Ruighe</b>	NH 522 586	the wood of the slope	Given by OS as <i>Coill' an Righe</i> .	N/A
<b>Coille Mhòr</b>	NH 440 533	the great wood		N/A
<b>Coille na Creige Ruaidh</b>	NH 529 563	the wood of the russet crag	<i>Craig Ruadh Wood</i> in English. E of Tollie.	N/A
<b>Coille Uisge</b>	NH 468 545	the river (water) wood	At junction of Black Water and Conon. Given by Roy as 'Kyle na Isk'.	N/A
<b>Droighnidh</b>	NH 539 606	thorny place	<i>Drynies</i> in English. Often refers to a wood of blackthorn.	94
<b>Muirton Wood</b>	NH 445 533		No Gaelic equivalent found. <i>Coille Baile an Fhraoich</i> ?	N/A

## References and further information

All the names referred to in this publication can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/y6f2kk4z> and are based on Ordnance Survey maps (in particular, the Explorer 1:25,000 scale (nos. 437 and 431), with the majority also on the Landranger 1:50,000 series (nos. 20, 21 and 26). Grid references are provided in the Gazetteer to help locate the place-names mentioned. In some cases, the place-names are also cross-referenced with:

- **Watson, W.J. (1904) *Place-Names of Ross and Cromarty*** - a seminal work giving a huge amount of further information on place-names in this area and wider afield, as well as on place-names not mentioned in this booklet. It is in print and also easily available online, such as:
  - **The place-names of Contin** - collated from Watson's work:  
<http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Contin/Places/Place-Names.aspx>
  - and **The place-names of Strathpeffer**:  
<http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Strathpeffer/Places/Place-Names.aspx>

Various other place-name resources are also available:

- **Simon Taylor (2019)** with Ronald Maclean and Jacob King, **Place-Names of the Aird and Strathglass, Inverness-shire**, For the Right Reasons, Inverness  
summary document available here: <https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/beauty/>
- **Scottish Natural Heritage** has produced several books which are available online. Visit <https://www.nature.scot/information-hub/information-library> and search for 'Gaelic'
- **Place-Names of Loch Torridon** and surrounds: <http://torridonplacenames.org.uk/>
- **Place-Names of the Cairngorms National Park**  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/resource/docs/publications/23062006/CNPA.Paper.275.Place-Names%20Leaflet.pdf>



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**Map** (p.4&5): Scottish Natural Heritage

**Web Map** (p.20): Audrey Daines

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