

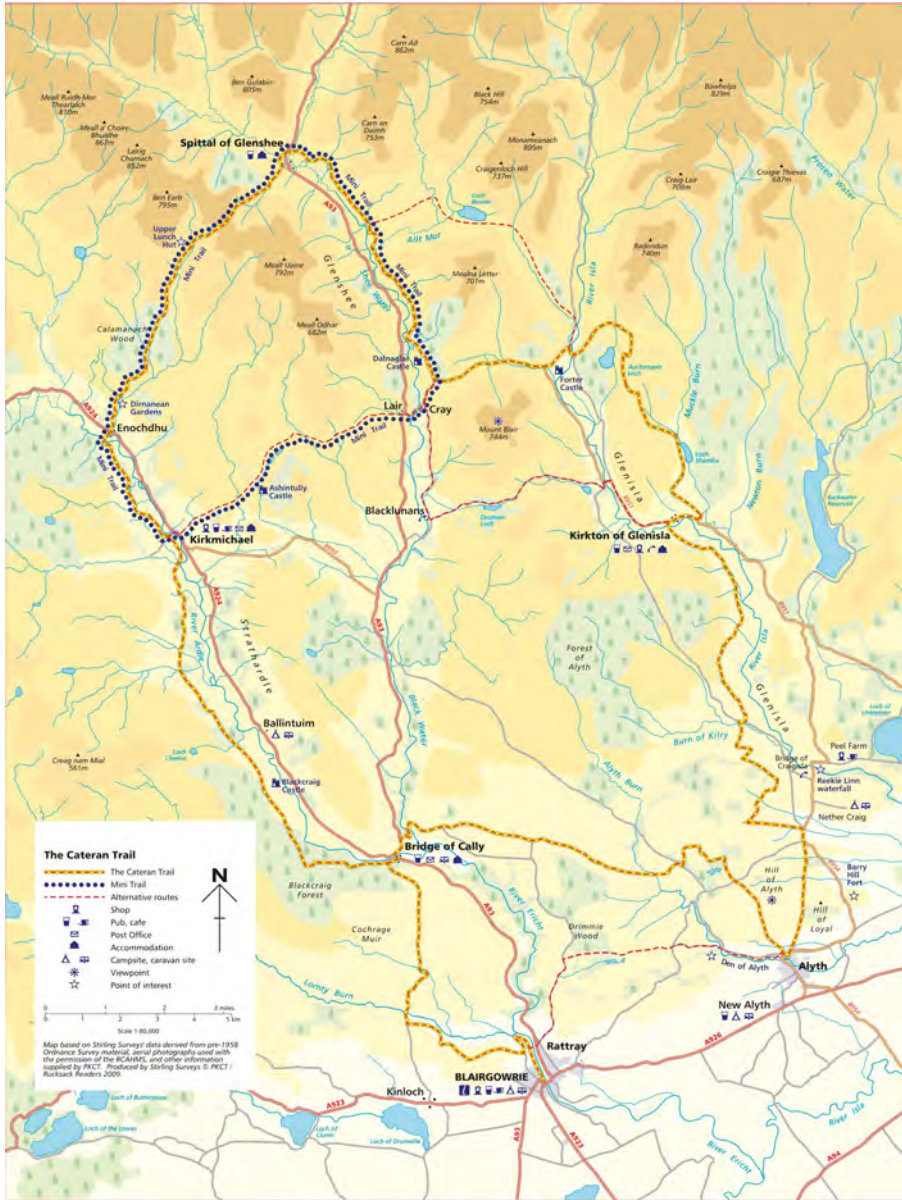
**Stage Five: Alyth to Blairgowrie**

# **Place Names of the Cateran Trail**

**Dr Peter McNiven**







## PLACE NAMES OF THE CATARAN TRAIL

DR PETER MCNIVEN

## CONTENTS

<b>Section 1:</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>page 1</b>
	<b>Language</b> .....	<b>page 3</b>
	<b>The Caterans</b> .....	<b>page 4</b>
	<b>People</b> .....	<b>page 5</b>
	<b>Places</b> .....	<b>page 7</b>
	<b>Landscapes</b> .....	<b>page 8</b>
<b>Section 2:</b>	<b>Place Name Index</b> .....	<b>page 10</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>page 31</b>

Cover: Plaque and Trig Point on Alyth Hill, 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 17<sup>th</sup> century, and after whom the trail is named.

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

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



## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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



The Silver Ball of Rattray,  
photo courtesy of Perth Museum & Art Gallery

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 Catheran Trail, the language having been replaced by first Gaelic, perhaps around 900 to 1000, and then Scots which probably began to make inroads into the area when the monks of Dunfermline, Scone, and Coupar Angus Abbeys were granted lands in Strathardle and Glenisla from the mid twelfth century. Researchers look at various material for early spellings, including old maps, the earliest detailed of which are Timothy Pont’s maps dating to the 1590s. Other useful maps are William Roy’s Military Map (1747-53),





## Alyth to Blairgowrie

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.



Alyth Arches, photo Clare Cooper

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

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

## LANGUAGE

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

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



Interior of a Blairgowrie Mill,  
photo courtesy of the Laing Photographic Collection

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

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

Place-names can give an indication of an area's past landscapes, whether natural or human influenced; past social organisation and land divisions can be revealed; beliefs, both religious and mythical are contained in the



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

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



Looking toward Kirkmichael from Drumderg,  
photo Clare Cooper

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 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<sup>1</sup> of the Clan Chattane and Clan Gregour, and all

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



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

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'.



A Cateran in Glenshee by Kevin Greig [staneswinames.org](http://staneswinames.org)

The caterans were pursued by the inhabitants of the area and were partially defeated at the Cairnwell Pass north of Spittal of Glenshee. In the 1650s, the MacDonalds of Glencoe, among others, raided the earl of

Airlie's lands in Glen Isla and neighbouring Glen Prosan in Angus; they had been given information by John MacCombie of Forter. Although prosecuted by the earl of Airlie, the long drawn out legal process eventually petered out.

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

But what gave rise to the caterans and why did they attack places like Glenshee, Glen Isla and Strathardle? Given that the cateran raids begin, so far as we are aware, after the mid-fourteenth century, one Scottish historian has highlighted reasons including the aftermath of the wars with England, plague, and environmental factors, such as climate change; it became wetter and colder from about 1315. All this meant both a fall in population and greater difficulty in raising crops in an area (i.e. the Highlands) that was always marginal. There were two alternative ways of making a living – herding cattle and raiding. Although the glens of Strathardle, Glenshee, and Glen Isla were Highland areas, with all the

accoutrements of medieval Highland life, including Gaelic speakers and a mainly pastoral economy, these glens were in fact Highland extensions of nearby Lowland estates, with many of the lands belonging to either the crown, prominent Lowland families, or to the medieval church in the shape of monastic institutions, especially Coupar Angus, Scone, and Dunfermline Abbeys. Cattle were easier to move than large quantities of grain, and in pre-industrial times cattle were a source of wealth. From cattle are derived the more obvious items, such as milk, cheese, and butter, but also their fat for making candles and their hides for leather. We can get an idea of how rich in pastoral resources the area was from rentals, such as those of Coupar Angus Abbey who held much of Glen Isla. The settlement of Dalvanie in 1556, for example, had to provide 40 non-milk producing cows and pay 2 ½ stones of cheese and ½ stone of butter per year as part of its rental.

## PEOPLE

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





## Alyth to Blairgowrie

to the north of Alyth containing Hill of Alyth, Hill of Loyal, and Barry Hill. If Alyth is indeed Pictish, then it is evidence for the longevity of settlement in these parts.



Den 'o' Alyth, photo, George Logan

It also predates Bamff, a settlement about 4 km north-west of Alyth. Bamff was coined by Gaelic speakers and while the name can mean 'pig', specifically 'suckling pig', it is believed by place-name scholars that Bamff is a name along with Atholl, Elgin, and Earn that are names meaning 'Ireland' in Scotland, i.e. 'New Ireland', coined as the Gaelic language moved east out of its traditional western heartland in

Argyll (called Dál Riata) and replaced Pictish sometime around 900. Two other Gaelic settlement names can be found in **Balwhyme** and **Pitdray**. The former is not a *baile*-name, meaning 'farm, settlement' like so many other *bal*-names in Scotland, but instead contains Gaelic *both* 'hut', perhaps originally a sheiling or other temporary settlement. It is not clear what the *-whyme* element is. Pitdray contains the element *pit*, or more properly *pett* 'portion, landholding, farm', which 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. The *-dray* element is Gaelic ScG *droigheann* making this name 'thorn, bramble portion'. Place-names can often have the names of people attached.

Tullymurdoch, just a little bit off the Cateran Trail is the hill of someone called Murdoch, perhaps Muryoch of the *Rynde* (possibly Rhind south of Perth), who is mentioned in a charter

of 1388. **Morganston**, on record from 1581, is a settlement about 4 km north of Blairgowrie (the Cateran Trail crosses the Morganston Burn) and is named after someone called Morgan. We may never know who he was but one possibility is Andrew Morgone or Morgunt who was a tenant in Balbroggy 3 km north-east of Coupar Angus in 1524 and 1535.

One of the great advantages of the Ordnance Survey maps is that we see much more detail in the landscape in respect of place-names, minor names are much more evident. One of these is **Serjeant's Hill**, just north of Glasclune Castle. We are familiar with the rank of sergeant, a senior non-commissioned role, in the Armed Forces or police. In the Middle Ages it was originally 'a serving-man, attendant, servant', from the French term *sergent* via Latin *serviens* 'one who serves', but could also be 'a tenant by military service under the rank of a knight; especially one of this class attending on a knight in the field'; 'an officer whose duty is to enforce the judgements of a tribunal or the commands of a person in authority; one who is charged with the arrest of offenders or the summoning of persons to appear before the court'



## PLACES

Cally refers to an area of land near the junction of the River Ardle and Black Water and includes **Bridge of Cally**, Cally House, West Cally, Cally Mill, and Hill of Cally. It may also include **Rochallie** (perhaps containing Pictish \**roth* meaning ‘fort of Cally’) across the River Ericht from Bridge of Cally. The name Cally is almost certainly Old Gaelic and may even be Pictish, the earliest spellings (*Kalathyn* 1214 x 1238; *Calady* 1326) suggest OG *calathin* ‘hard place’ or ‘at a hard place’. Quite what was ‘hard’ about Cally is not clear; the word is found in places all over Scotland containing names like Calder, Cawdor, Keltie, and possibly Callander. However, these names all relate in some way to rivers in that they are named after a river or they are near rivers which have some kind of ‘hard’ attribute. It may be that Cally takes its name from some perceived hardness in the River Ardle, or, alternatively, the name relates to the hardness of the ground; perhaps it was thought rocky or difficult to farm when it was named.

The landscape that the people along the Cateran Trail lived in was also one they worked in. In a pre-industrial society, that work was

for the most part agricultural, both pastoral and arable. Arable agriculture would not have been as extensive as it was in the flat lands along the River Isla to the south of Alyth and Blairgowrie, but there are places that indicate crops were grown along the trail. **Milton of Drumlochy** was the fermtoun of the mill of Drumlochy.



Park Neuk Stone Circle, photo Ron McGill

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 multure to have the grain ground into meal. Another element that

indicates that a settlement was the chief settlement of a landowner is *mains*, deriving from Old French *demeine*, English *demesne*, and meaning ‘the home farm of an estate, cultivated by or for the proprietor’; there are two mains farms along this stage of the Cateran Trail – **Mains of Drumlochy** **Mains of Glasclune**, and **Mains of Creuchies**. Creuchie is derived from ScG *cruach* ‘pile, heap; rounded hill standing apart’. The element is behind the Argyll mountain-name Ben Cruachan.

In Scotland there are place-names that have been derived from the Bible, including Babylon, Sodom, and Gomorrah in Fife. The Cateran Trail is not indifferent to this trend. **Smyrna** lies about a kilometre north of the trail and is named from a place in what is now western Turkey, which until the early 20th century was a centre of Greek culture. It was also a centre of early Christianity and is one of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelations in the Bible (Revelations 1:8; 2:8-11). The church at Smyrna was admired for its tribulation and poverty. In the second chapter of Revelations it was forecast to suffer persecution and it is written ‘be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life’ (Revelations 2:10).





## LANDSCAPES

The Cateran Trail passes through a dramatic landscape. While many of the settlements have Scots names or Scots elements attached, the majority of the landscape features are Gaelic. 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.



Sheep and lambs at Drimmie,  
photo Clare Cooper

Many of these terms can often now be contained in the names of settlements, but the

names themselves relate to landscape features. Colour is ever present in place-names, but it can sometimes be difficult to work out why the namers chose a particular colour for a particular place. **Glasclune** is probably from Galeic *glas claon* 'green slope, brae'. Used in place-names *glas* probably indicates good grass-lands or grass-covered features (see also Gormack below). Gaelic *claon* is a 'slope; brae or (steep) path descending to or ascending from a ford or bridge'. The *-clune* element may, however, represent ScG *cluain* 'pasture, green field, meadow, lawn' from Old Gaelic *clúain* 'meadow, pastureland, glade'. Another shade of green or perhaps blue is found in nearby **Gormack** 'blue or green place'. Gaelic *gorm* can mean both blue and green, in particular 'an azure blue or verdant green', depending on perspective. The further away a place, the more blue it looks and, as a Gaelic proverb says *Is gorm na cnuic a tha fada bhainn* 'blue are the hills that are far from us'. However, when applied to grass, *gorm* means green, and so we might have an area that was originally suitable or even prized for grazing. It is interesting that Gormack is near Glasclune and since both names are suggestive of the colour green, presumably the original namers must have been looking at the area from a

particular perspective or direction. Near Glasclune and Gormack is **Drumloch** which has nothing to do with a loch, but is probably for *druim lochaidh* 'black or dark ridge'.

Elsewhere on the Cateran Trail and in the landscape between the three glens of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glenisla there are quite a few landscape features that have animal or bird names attached. On the stage between Alyth and Blairgowrie, animal and bird place-names are scarce, with only two along the route.

One of these is **Buzzart Dykes**, a large man-made feature in the landscape west of Blairgowrie, once thought to have been a Roman camp. It was probably a medieval hunting park, and possibly the dykes around the park were places buzzards could gather to clean up after the slaughter of deer. Another animal name is found in Cloquhat 'slope of the wild cat place'. The earliest spellings from 1224 show *Clenkatyn* which may be Gaelic *claon* 'sloping, awry'. **Strone Bridge** and **Strone House** sit on a promontory formed by the confluence of the Black Water/Shee Water and the River Ardlie. The *stron* element is Gaelic *sròn* 'nose', and is one of the many human body parts that have been transferred to names of features in the landscape.



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

Stage 5 ends in **Blairgowrie**. Blair derives from Gaelic *blàr* ‘muir, open level land, plain’, perhaps originally an extensive area of grazing. The *-gowrie* element itself, which does not appear along with Blair in the records until the 1560s, relates to a large territory in eastern Perthshire, and is thought to have been a subordinate part of the ancient province of Atholl.

There was clearly a need to differentiate Blair in Gowrie from Blair in Atholl, another extensive area of open level land. By the reign of Donald Ban (1094-97) Gowrie had become an earldom. The earl in this case was also the king and much of the area was a royal lordship in the twelfth century. The earldom of Gowrie, stretching from the Firth of Tay in the south to the watershed of the earldom of Mar in the north, was rich in resources with excellent agricultural lands in the Carse of Gowrie on the banks of Tay and along the alluvial plain of the Isla. More significantly for the Cateran Trail, the earldom of Gowrie possessed considerably high quality grazing lands in the north of the earldom.

These lands, both agricultural and pastoral, were highly coveted by the ecclesiastical and secular landlords introduced to the area by successive kings including Coupar Angus, Scone and Dunfermline Abbeys. This proprietorship of monastic and royal lordship

has meant that much of Gowrie is well documented from the twelfth century. The name Gowrie is derived from the territorial name *Cenél nGabrain*, the name of the territory around Kintyre from which it is held that the people of Gowrie were descended in the 9th and 10th centuries; while Angus is thought to derive from *Cenél nOengsua*, the territorial name of the islands of Islay and Jura. *Cenél nGabrain* in turn was named after a king called Gabrán.

It may be that as Gaels moved across to the east to take over the kingdom of the Picts in the ninth century they renamed districts to remind them of their homeland. Related to the phenomenon may be Bamff, meaning ‘New Ireland’, just north of Alyth on Stage 5 of the Cateran Trail.

A parson of *Blare* called Adam lived about 1198 and is among the first people we are aware of that belonged to Blairgowrie. However, he was not the first priest there; in 1608 there is mention of *Abden de Blair*. This *Abden* is a connection with the Christian church that goes back to earlier than 1198 and is evidence of monastic landholdings in the area before the monasteries of Scone and Coupar Angus were founded in 1114 and c.1162 respectively.

Both Blairgowrie and Kirkmichael held *apdaine* lands, that is lands belonging to an abbey of a church organisation that was in place in Scotland before David I and his successors brought orders such as the Augustinians and Cistercians up from England or over from the Continent.



Strathmore from Alyth Hill,  
photo Clare Cooper





## 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](http://www.pkct.org/cateran-trail). However, there are short alternative routes shown in the 2007 booklet *Explore the Cateran Trail* by Chic Leven and Ken Roberts and these are shown below (as a, b, or c).

Mini Trail:	Circular route – Kirkmichael via Spittal of Glenshee and Lair
Stage 1:	Blairgowrie to Kirkmichael
Stage 2:	Kirkmichael to Spittal of Glenshee
Stage 3:	Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glenisla
Stage 3a:	Invereddrie to Forter
Stage 3b	Forter to Kirkton of Glenisla
Stage 3c:	Cray to Kirkton of Glenisla
Stage 4:	Kirkton of Glenisla to Alyth
Stage 5:	Alyth to Blairgowrie
Stage 5a:	Alyth to Blairgowrie

### Abbreviations

A	Antiquity
ALY	Alyth
ANG	Angus

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

A four-figure grid reference has been given along with the following abbreviations indicating what the name refers to: A = antiquity; O = other (e.g. bridge, road), R = relief feature; S = settlement; V = vegetation. Note also that there was an alteration of the parish boundaries along the southern edge of the study area as a result of the 1891 changes to the parish and county boundaries by the Boundary Commissioners for Scotland under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (see Shennan 1892).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> 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>



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

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.<sup>3</sup>

A name preceded by \* indicates a hypothetical unattested form.

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/SQA-Gaelic\\_Orthographic\\_Conventions-En-e.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA-Gaelic_Orthographic_Conventions-En-e.pdf)





## Stage 5: Alyth to Blairgowrie

### ALYTH

### ALY ES NO244487

apud *Alith* 1165 x 1170 *RRS* ii no. 110  
unum plenarium toftum apud castellum de *Alith* 1196 x 1199 *RRS* ii no. 410 [o.c. + apud *Alith*]  
helia de *Alid* c.1200 *Coupar Angus Chrs*, no. 9 [Elias of Alyth, a witness to a charter of John, bishop of Dunkeld]  
apud *Alicht* 1201x1205 *RRS* ii no. 456  
apud *Alith* 1202x1213 *RRS* ii no. 437  
in feodo de *Alyth* 1232 *Bamff Chrs*. no. 1 [royal lands of ? Kinkeady ALY (*Kynkel*) and Pitdray ALY (*Petdreyne*) and Ardormie ALY (*Ardormyne*) and Bamff (*Banef*) in feodo de *Alyth* et terram de *Foyl* (Fyal ALY) all granted by Alexander II to Master Nessus his physician]  
forestam domini regis de *Alith* 1234 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 34 [the lord king's forest of Alyth]  
*Alyth* 1319 *RRS* v no. 145 ['terras de *Aythnacathyl* et de *Blarerouthnak*' infra thaynagium nostrum de Alyth' (the lands of *Aythnacathyl* and of *Blarerouthnak*' in our thanage of Alyth)]<sup>4</sup>  
thanagium de *Alicht* 1375 *RMS* i no. 705  
*Alythe* 1376 *RMS* i no. 595  
thanagium de *Alicht* 1385 *RMS* i no. 763  
ecclesia de *Alith* 1458 *RMS* ii no. 614  
prebenda de *Alyth* 1472 *RMS* ii no. 1056  
terras et baroniam foreste de *Alith* 1527 *RMS* iii no. 494 ['lands and barony of the forest of Alyth']

<sup>4</sup> The whereabouts of *Aythnacathyl* and *Blarerouthnakis* are not known (*Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 100, note).

*Alicht* 1528 *RMS* iii no. 693 [terra totius ville de *Alicht*, in baronia de *Alicht* 'the whole lands of the toun of Alyth in the barony of Alyth']  
ville de *Alycht* 1546 *RMS* iii no. 3231  
*Elycht* 1590s Pont 28  
baronia de *Elyth* 1610 *Retours* PER no. 77  
baronia de *Elicht* 1606 *Retours* PER no. 156  
in terris et baronia de *Alith* 1608 *Retours* no. 189  
terras de lie *Forrestis de Alight* 1646 *Retours* PER no. 551  
in terris et baronia de *Alicht* 1615 *Retours* PER no. 232  
*Alyth* 1623 *Retours* PER no. 313  
baronia de *Alyth* 1628 *Retours* PER no. 360  
*Alyth* 1794 Ainslie  
*Alyth* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

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

Although the church of Alyth dates from 1458, the fact that it was dedicated to Mo Luóc of Lismore, probably better known as St Moluag, suggests that there was a church here from a fairly early date. He was an Irish saint who seemingly died in 592 (<http://saintsplaces.gla.ac.uk/saint.php?id=155>). However, a chapel was also dedicated to St Ninian, and despite Ninian supposedly being a preacher to the Picts, it is likely that his dedication dates to the later Middle Ages when there was a revival of his cult (see *PNKNR* forthcoming under Kinross



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

parish). However, the most convincing evidence for an early church at Alyth is a Pictish cross slab which was rediscovered near the old kirk of Alyth in 1887 (<https://canmore.org.uk/site/30756/alyth>).

### **ALYTH BURN**                      **ALY W NO278495**

*Alyth Burn* 1783 Stobie

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

en Alyth + Sc *burn*

### **DEN WELL**                              **ALY W NO241490**

*Den Well* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

ScEng *den* + ScEng *well*

A *den* is defined as 'a narrow valley or ravine' (*DSL*).

### **ROSEBANK**                              **ALY S NO244491**

*Rosebank* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

SSE *rose* + SSE *bank*

### **KIRKLANDBANK**                      **ALY S NO235494**

*Kyrklandbank of Alyght* 1506 *Dunkeld Rent.*, 25

*Kirkclaybank* 1565 *Bamff Chrs* no. 69

*Kirklandbank* 1574 *Bamff Chrs* no. 74

*Kirklandbank* 1623 *Retours* PER no. 313

*Kirklandbank* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

Sc *kirkland* + Sc *bank*

This must have been part of the churchlands belonging to the old medieval parish kirk of Alyth, which sits at NO244487.

### **BLINDWELLEYES**                      **ALY S NO241495**

*blindwallheid* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 115

*blindwall* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 115

*Blindwells* 1783 Stobie

*Blindwells* 1794 Ainslie

*Blindwelleyes* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

Sc *blind* + Sc *wall* + Sc *eye* or *ee*

*DOST* has blind as an adjective describing a natural feature: 'of natural features: Not patent to the sight; covered, hidden. Occurring early in place-names' and gives a *Blyndewelle* dating to c 1200 as an example. It is not known which *Blyndewelle* is being referred to here. Sc *wall* is simply 'well', which may in this case be the spring of a burn. Sc *wall-ee*, *well-e(y)e*, *wulee* is 'a water-logged place in a bog from which a spring rises' (*SND*).

### **HILL OF ALYTH**                      **ALY R NO243503**

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

ScEng *hill* + ScEng *of* + en Alyth

### **BALWHYME**                              **ALY S NO237508**

*Bucham* 1464 *C. A. Rent.* i, 140

*Bucham* 1472 *C. A. Rent.* i, 164

*Bucham* 1477 *C. A. Rent.* i, 205

*Buchame* 1504 *C. A. Rent.* i, 255





## Alyth to Blairgowrie

our town callat *Bucham* is set to Fyndlay Alexander 1511 *C. A. Rent.* i, 284  
*terras de Buchquhane* 1517 Mylne, *Vita*, 44 [land of Balwhyme]  
the tenement called *Bucham* 1524 *C. A. Rent.* i, 300  
*Boquhane* 1534 *Bamff Chrs* no. 44  
*Balquwhime* 1534 *Bamff Chrs* no. 44  
*Boychame* 1534 *Bamff Chrs* no. 45  
*Balquhome* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 114  
*Balquhem* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 115  
the landis of *Balquhane* 1595 *RMS* vi no. 271 [long, detailed boundary descriptions of Ardormie ALY in Scots, full of minor local names: 'beginnand at the south at the north syd of the burne qhuilk devydis the landis of *Balquhane* and *Ardormy* at the fit of the north bank ... the burne quhilk devydis *Ardormie* fra *Balquhane* at the fut of the bank callit the *North-bank* ...' etc.]  
*Buthquhan* 1623 *Retours* PER no. 313 [associated with lands around Alyth]  
*Balwhime* 1783 Stobie  
*Balwhome* 1794 Ainslie  
*Balwhyme* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

ScG *both* + ? ScG *cam*

'Crooked bothy/sheiling/hut etc'? The first element is probably ScG *both* 'hut, sheiling', but has been assimilated to the widespread Bal- (from G *baile*) in the Scots-speaking era (first appearing in the written record in 1534). The second element is more problematic, but the early forms suggest the ScG adjective *cam* 'crooked, bent'. However, given the later development of the vowel from /a/ (as in 'jam') to /ai/ (as in 'time'), it may be the genitive *caim* 'of a crooked person'. Alternatively, we could be dealing with a 'bent' or 'crooked' landscape feature, possibly one of the un-named east-ward flowing burns to the north and south of Balwhyme.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> My thanks to Simon Taylor for help with this difficult name.

## NEWTON OF BAMFF

## ALY S NO232510

*Newtown of Bamff* 1534 *Bamff Chrs* no. 45  
*Newtoun de Bamff* 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278  
*Newtown* 1783 Stobie  
*Newtown* 1794 Ainslie  
*Newton* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

Sc *newtoun*

This settlement was probably founded due to settlement splitting due to population expansion in the centuries after the Black Death of the 14th century.

## BURNISHED OF BAMFF

## ALY S NO227513

*Burnhead* 1783 Stobie  
*Burnhead* 1794 Ainslie  
*Burnished of Bamff* 1902 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA XLIII.SW

ScEng *burn* + ScEng *shed*+ ScEng *of* + en Bamff

*Burnie* is a diminutive of Sc *burn* 'stream'. Going by the early forms, the second element of Burnished is ScEng *head*, and the name relates to the head of the burn flowing past Burnished of Bamff, via Burnished Den (see next entry) on its way to its meeting with the Incheoch Burn 3 km to the east-north-east. However, as the modern form suggests, the second element might be SSE *shed*, as in watershed.



**BURNIESHED DEN**      **ALY R NO229515**

*Burnieshed Den* 1902 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA XLIII.SW

en Burnieshed + ScEng *den*

A *den* is a 'narrow or steep-sided valley', usually one with a burn or river flowing through it (*PNF* 5, 351).

**BAMFF**      **ALY S NO221514**

*Banef* 1232 *Bamff Chrs* no. 1

Dominus de *Banff* c.1360 *Bamff Chrs* no. 6

baronia de *Banf* 1383 *Bamff Chrs* no. 7

baronia de *Banff* 1483 *Bamff Chrs* no. 14

baronia de *Bamff* 1581 *Retours* PER no. 40

*Banff* 1507 *Bamff Chrs* no. 27

*Banff* 1527 *Bamff Chrs* no. 35

lands of *Bamff* 1534 *Bamff Chrs* no. 43

*Banf* 1549 *Bamff Chrs* no. 52

*Bamffe* 1554 *Bamff Chrs* no. 53

*Bamffe* 1564 *Bamff Chrs* no. 65

*Banff* 1578 *Bamff Chrs* no. 88

*Bamf* 1590s Pont 27 and 28

in terris et baronia de *Bamff* 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278

*Bamff* 1635 *Bamff Chrs* no. 217

dominical landis and maines of *Bamffe* 1656 *Bamff Chrs* no. 256

*Bamff* 1783 Stobie

*Bamff* 1794 Ainslie

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

ScG *banbh*

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

In 1595 the lands and barony of Bamff was said to contain 'the Manes of Banff, tour, fortes, maner place, ortcheardes, Hiltoun of Banff, Litill Banff, Newtoun of Banff, corne milne of Foyell, Miltoun and millandes thairof, with the multoures sequelles and pertinentis, mekle Foyel, Peddry, Kinkedlie, Eister Mawes, Hiltoun of Mawes, with pertinentis, lying in the parishes of Elyth (Alyth) and Blair, barony of Banff by annexation, and shire of Perth' (*Bamff Chrs* no. 114).

**KINKEADLY**      **ALY S NO212519**

? *Kynkel* 1232 *Bamff Chrs* no. 1

*Kinkedlie* 1508 *Dunk. Rent.* 94 [listed amongst lands in barony of *Banff*, par. of *Alyghf*]

*Kincathlie* 1515 *Dunkeld Rent.*, 145

*Kinkedly* 1590s Pont 27

*Kinkedlie* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 14

*Kynkedlie* 1620 *Bamff Chrs* no. 172

*Kynkedlie* 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278

*Kinkedlie* 1634 *RMS* ix no. 318 [*Kinkedlie*, *Petdry*, *Foyell...*]

*Kinkeadly* 1783 Stobie

*Kinkeadly* 1794 Ainslie

*Kinkedly* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLIII

*Kinkeadly* 1902 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA XLIII.SW



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

ScG *ceann* + ?

The earliest form from 1232, if it is indeed Kinkeadly, may be for ScG *ceann coille* 'wood end'. However, all the other forms, except that for 1515, show *kedll/keadl* in the second element; it is not known what this represents, although a possibility is ScG *cèide* 'market, fair; green; hillock' (Dwelly).

## FYAL

### ALY S NO217507

*terram de Foyl* 1232 *Bamff Chrs* no. 1

*Foyell* 1508 *Dunkeld Rent*. 94 [listed amongst lands in barony of *Banff*, par. of *Alyghf*]

*Phoyall* 1515 1506 *Dunkeld Rent*. 145

*Foyell* 1564 *RMS* iv no. 1531 [to George Ramsay of *Banff* lands of *Petdrye* and *Fyal* (*Foyell*) with mill, in barony of *Bamff* (*Banff*) vic *Perth*]

*Foyel* 1590s *Pont* 27

*Foyle* 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278

*Foyell* 1634 *RMS* ix no. 318

*Fyal's* 1783 *Stobie*

*Mill of Fyal* 1783 *Stobie*

*Fyals* 1794 *Ainslie*

*Mill of Fyals* 1794 *Ainslie*

*Fyal* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

?

It is not known what this name represents.

## GAULDSWELL

### ALY S NO210514

*Galdswell* 1783 *Stobie*

*Gladwells* 1794 *Ainslie*

*Gauldswell* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLIII

pn *Gauld* + ScEng *well*

Blacks states that *Gauld* is a mainly Aberdeenshire surname, on record from the mid-sixteenth century (Black 1946, 292).

## SMIDDYHILL

### ALY S NO212512

*Smithy* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

*Smithyhill* 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA LIII.NW

*Smiddyhill* 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO25SW

ScEng *smithy* + ScEng *hill*

'Hill attached to a smithy'.

## PITDRAY

### ALY S NO207512

*Petdreyn* 1232 *Bamff Chrs* no. 1

*Petdrey* 1483 *Bamff Chrs* no. 14

*Peddry* 1483 *Bamff Chrs* no. 15

*Petdrey* 1515 *Dunkeld Rent*., 145

*Padrey* 1530 *Bamff Chrs* no. 36

*Petdrye* 1564 *Bamff Chrs* no. 66

*Baldrey* 1590s *Pont* 27

*Peddry* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 114

*Pitdrey* 1620 *Retours* PER no. 278

*Pitdrey* 1783 *Stobie*

*Pitdrey* 1794 *Ainslie*

*Pitdray* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

ScG *pett* + ScG *droigheann*

'Thorn, bramble portion'. The earliest form indicates that ScG *droigheann* 'thorn, bramble' is likely here. Coldrain in Fossoway parish, Kinross-shire contains this





## Alyth to Blairgowrie

element and indeed has almost the same spelling in its earliest form – *Cu<tr>hyldrayne* in 1366 (*RMS* i no. 221; see also *PNKNR* forthcoming). For the element *pett/pit* see introduction.

## **MAINS OF CREUCHIES**                      **ALY S NO207508**

*Mains of Cruquheis* 1559 *Bamff Chrs* no. 87  
*Creuchyes* 1590s Pont 27  
the third part of the *Mains of Cruchyes* 1610 *Bamff Chrs* no. 143  
the third part lands of the *Mains of Crewchie* 1683 *Bamff Chrs* no. 316  
*Mains of Creuchie* 1683 *Bamff Chrs* no. 318  
*Mains of Crochies* 1783 Stobie  
*Mains of Crochie* 1794 Ainslie  
*Mains of Creuchies* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LIII

Sc *mains* + Sc *of* + en Creuchies

See Mains of Glasclune for the definition of Sc *mains*. Creuchie is derived from ScG *cruach* ‘pile, heap; rounded hill standing apart’ (Dwelly). The element is behind the Argyll mountain-name Ben Cruachan (Drummond 2007, 32). Almost 1 km to the south-east lies Welton (toun with a well) of Creuchies.

## **TULLYMURDOCH**                      **ALY S NO198525**

*Tullemurdo* 1506 *Dunkeld Rent*. 76  
*Tullumurdach* 1590s Pont 27  
*Little Tillemordoch* 1595 *Bamff Chrs* no. 118  
the saidis landis of *Tullymurdo* and *Brawland* 1662 *Bamff Chrs* no. 302 [in a document dated 1673]  
*Tullimurdo* 1672 *Bamff Chrs* no. 291  
*Tullymurdo* 1673 *Bamff Chrs* no. 301  
*Tullymurdoch* 1683 *Bamff Chrs* no. 319

*Tullimurdoch* 1783 Stobie  
*Tullimurdoch* 1794 Ainslie  
*Tullymurdoch* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

ScG *tulach* + pn Murdoch

It is not known who the eponymous Murdoch in the place-name is, but a possibility might be Muryoch of the *Rynd*, who is mentioned in a charter of 1388 relating to Gilbert laird of Bamff (*Bamff Chrs* no. 8).

## **POLTARA**                      **ALY S NO194511**

*Palary* 1783 Stobie  
*Paltory* 1794 Ainslie  
*Poltara* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

? ScG *poll* + ?

The first element could be ScG *poll* ‘pool, bog’ (Dwelly), however, the spellings are too late to be able to say anything meaningful about final element.

## **PARKNEUK**                      **ALY S NO189514**

*Parknook* 1783 Stobie  
*Parknook* 1794 Ainslie  
*Parkneuk* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

Sc *park* + Sc *neuk*

Sc *neuk* can be a ‘piece of land’, ‘a headland or promontory’, ‘an outlying or remote part’. Sc *park* is often a hunting area, or in later periods, a piece of ornamental ground.



## BREWLANDS OR BRAWLING OF TULLYMURDOCH

### ALY S NO192520

the saidis landis of *Tullymurdo* and *Brawland* 1662 *Bamff Chrs* no. 302 [in a document dated 1673]

that pendicle of the lands of *Moortoune of Crewchies* called *Brawlin* 1672 *Bamff Chrs* no. 291

*Brauland* 1783 Stobie

*Branland* 1794 Ainslie

*Brewlands or Brawling of Tullymurdoch* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

ScEng *brewland* + ScEng *of* + en Tullymurdoch

The early spellings do not suggest a connection with brewing; it may simply be the Sc adjective *braw* 'fine, elegant, beautiful, excellent'.

## BLACK BRIGGS

### ALY R NO184514

*Black Briggs* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

ScEng *black* + ScEng *riggs*

## SMYRNA

### ALY S NO186532

*Smyrna* 1901 OS 6 inch edn PER & CLA XLII.SE

According to Meikle, Smyrna, 'a shepherd's house', was built in the summer of 1866 or 1867 (Meikle 1925, 156). He explains how the place got its name: 'A few months before [the cottage was built] a tramp's fire had spread and kindled the wood above Tullymurdoch. Failing to get it out, the tramp made off, but was caught. At his trial, he gave his name as 'John Leon, a native of Smyrna'. The name attached itself to the cottage up the road when it was built' (Meikle 1925,

156). Smyrna is a city in western Turkey. Until the early 20th century it was a centre of Greek culture in Turkey. It was also a centre of early Christianity and is one of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelations in the Bible (Revelations 1:8; 2:8-11). The church at Smyrna was admired for its tribulation and poverty. In the second chapter of Revelations it was forecast to suffer persecution and it is written 'be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life' (Revelations 2:10).

## HEATHERYHAUGH

### ALY S NO178518

*Heathyhall* 1783 Stobie

*Heatheryhall* 1794 Ainslie

*Heatheryhaugh* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

Sc *heathery* + Sc *haugh*

## ALNAKEITH

### ALY S NO177520

*Alnakich* 1783 Stobie

*Alnakich* 1794 Ainslie

*Altnakeith* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

ScG *ail* + ScG *an* + ? ScG *cioch*

? 'Cliff or rock of the breast, nipple'.

## GALLOWS KNOWE

### ALY R NO175526

*Gallahills* 1783 Stobie

*Callahills* 1794 Ainslie

*Gallows Know* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

Sc *gallows* + Sc *knowe*



## CAIRNS OF DRIMMIE

**ALY S NO172516**

*Cairns of Drimmie* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

Sc cairn + Sc of + en Drimmie

Drimmie is an estate centred on Runnagulzion House, which is about 1 km south-west of Cairns of Drimmie. Runnagulzion House is called West Drimmie of the OS 6 inch 1st edn map. Drimmie probably contains ScG *druimean* 'ridge, hill'. Places such as Drymen in Stirlingshire and Drummond in Perthshire contain this same element.

## BURN OF DRIMMIE

**ALY W NO169504**

*Burn of Drimmie* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Sc burn + Sc of + en Drimmie

See Cairns of Drimmie above.

## FERNS OF CLOQUHAT

**ALY S NO155520**

*Farns* 1783 Stobie

*Farns* 1794 Ainslie

*Ferns* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

ScG *feàrna* or ScEng *fern*

If this place-name does not contain ScG *fearna* 'alder' then it may simply be ScEng *fern*.

## ASHMORE HOME FARM

**ALY S NO149527**

*Middlepark of Ashmore* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

*Ashmore Home Farm* 1900 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA XLII.SW

This is a new settlement built between 1867 and 1900; it is not shown on Stobie or Ainslie, and lies 0.5 km north-east of Middlepark of Cloquhat (at NO145525, originally Middlepark of Ashmore). However, the name Ashmore dates to before 1867 since there is a Hill of Ashmore at NO152536, about 850 metres north of Ashmore House.

## CLOQUHAT

**ALY S NO146520**

*Clenkatyn* 1224 *Coupar Angus Chrs* i, no. 34

de terris de *crouchyn* et de *cloncater* c.1232 *Scon Liber* no. 63 [the lands of Creuchies and Cloquhat]

*Clochhat Ouer* 1590s Pont 27

*Nether Clochat* 1590s Pont 27

*Cloquhatt* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 508 [terris de *Over Cloquhatt*, *Middle* et *Nathir Cloquhattis*]

*Cloquhat* 1654 *Retours* PER no. 622 [the lands of *Over Cloquhat*, *Middle* and *Nether Cloquhats*]

*Cloquhat* 1668 *Retours* PER no. 780

*Over et Midle Cloquhatts* 1688 *Retours* PER no. 978

*Upr. Cloquhate* 1783 Stobie

*Nethr. Cloquhate* 1783 Stobie

*Upr Colquhate* 1794 Ainslie

*Nr Cloquhate* 1794 Ainslie

*Clayquhat* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

*Cloquhat* 1961 OS one-inch to the mile map, sheet 49

ScG *claon* + ScG *cat* + ScG *-in*

'Slope of the wild cat place'. The earliest forms appear to show ScG *claon* 'sloping, awry', which Watson suggests is in Clinterty in Aberdeenshire (*Crag de Clentrethy* in 1316) and Clentrie in Fife (Watson 1926, 265; Alexander 1952, 36; PNF 1, 125).





Alyth to Blairgowrie

## STRONE BRIDGE

**ALY O NO143521**

*Strone Bridge* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

en Strone + ScEng *bridge*

## STRONE HOUSE

**ALY S NO144517**

the wuddis (woods) of *Stroyncalady* 1473 C.A. *Rental* i, 198

*Stron* 1590s Pont 27

*Strone* 1783 Stobie

*Strone* 1794 Ainslie

*Strone House* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

*Strone of Cally* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

ScG *sròn*

‘Nose or promontory’. Stone sits on a promontory formed by the confluence of the Black Water/Shee Water and the River Ardlie.

## RIVER ERICHT

**BGE/[OTHERS] W NO237428**

*Ariht* c.1198 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 13

*Aqua de Arith* 1224 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 24

*Aqua de Aricht* 1300 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 69

*aqua de Erichtis* 1604 *Retours* PER no. 129

*Ericht Riv* 1794 Ainslie

*River Ericht* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

? ScG *eireachd*, OG *oireacht*

W. J. Watson suggests the name of the river takes its name from ScG *eireachd*, OG *oireacht* ‘assembly’, meaning a court of justice, perhaps on some eminence; Watson suggests the motte site at Rattray is meant here (Watson 1926, 439,

491). However, Oliver O’Grady, an archaeologist specialising in assembly mounds in Scotland, has suggested that the farm Courthill, north of Rattray on the Drimmie road or the motehill off Kirk Wynd in Blairgowrie, the site of which is just south-east of the old kirk, may be meant (O’Grady 2008, 134-50). Nevertheless, if this is the derivation, it is a strange name for a river.

## BRIDGE OF CALLY

**BGE/KRK O NO139514**

*Bridge of Cally* 1783 Stobie

*Bridge of Cally* 1794 Ainslie

*Bridge of Cally* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

ScEng *bridge* + ScEng *of* + en Cally

The local tradition that the meaning of the name ‘bridge of the skirts’ – apparently relating to the dress of the monks who held this area (Leven and Roberts 2007, 27) – really is a non-starter. A more plausible explanation for the name Cally is found in its early spellings:

*Kalathyn* 1214 × 1238 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 25

*Calady* 1326 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 108

*Calady* 1443 C.A. *Rental* i, 121

*Cally* 1463 C.A. *Rental* i, 131 [Marches between *Ester Cally* or *Monkis Cally*, and *Parsy* (Persie) and *Myddil Cally* or *Buttiris Cally*]

Cally probably derives from OG *calath* + OG *-in* ‘hard place’ or ‘at a hard place’. While on the face of it, the current spelling and the early forms for nearby Rochallie (q.v. above), might suggest a meaning of ScG *coille* ‘wood, woodland’ – early forms for Faskally near Pitlochry PER include *Foscailye* 1505, *Fascalzie* 1615. However, the earliest forms for Cally – *Kalathyn* in 1214 × 1238 and *Calady* in 1326 – suggest a name based on Pictish \**caled*, from a Proto-Celtic \**kaletō-*, ‘hard’. The Old Irish form of this was *calath*, developing into *calad* and



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

*caladh* (Watson 1926, 456). The earliest form seems to contain the OG *-in* ending ‘place of; place at’, so common in pre-1300 documents and later reducing to an *-ie*, or *-y* ending, such as Abernethy (*Abyrnethyn* 1093 × 1107 *St A. Lib.*, 116; *Abernythy* 1210 × 1212 *Arb. Lib.* i no. 214). Quite what was ‘hard’ about Cally is not clear; the word is found in places all over Scotland containing names like Calder, Cawdor, Keltie, and possibly Callander PER. However, these names all relate in some way to rivers in that they are named after a river or they are near rivers which have some kind of ‘hard’ attribute. It may be that Cally takes its name from some perceived hardness in the River Ardle, or, alternatively, the name relates to the hardness of the ground; perhaps it was thought rocky or difficult to farm when it was named.

Another possibility is that the name is ScG *calltainn* + *aidh* ‘hazel place’. Bridge of Cally crosses the River Ardle.

## ROCHALLIE

### BGE S NO151511

*Rocquhalye* 1581 *RMS* v no. 258

*Rowchailly* 1590s Pont 27

*Roquhalyie* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Roquhalzeoch* 1599 *Retours* PER no. 56 [Archibald Butter ... de *Gormock* ... in terris de R.]

*Rahalloche* 1624 *Retours* PER no. 317

*Rochquhallioch* 1662 *Retours* PER no. 701

*Rochalzie* 1783 Stobie

*Rochalzie* 1794 Ainslie

*Rochallie* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Pictish *\*roth* or ScG *rath* + Pictish *\*celli* or ScG *coille* or en Cally

The generic element may be a Pictish cognate of ScG *ràth* ‘fort, earthen rampart surrounding a chief’s residence’ (*PNF* 5, 477; Flanagan & Flanagan 1994, 132-35). If so, then the specific could be Pictish *\*celli* ‘a wood’ which is a cognate of ScG *coille* ‘a wood, woodland’. However, it may be that the specific is the existing name Cally, for which see Cally House, below. If Cally is indeed the specific then it might mean that Cally is functioning here as a territorial name. Another example of a Perthshire name containing *\*roth* is Rohallion near Dunkeld, which Watson renders ‘Rath of the Caledonians’ (Watson 1926, 21).

## MORGANSTON BURN

### BGE W NO174493

*Morganston Burn* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

en Morganston + Sc *burn*

The settlement of Morganston lies about 2 km from where the Cateran Trail crosses the Morganston Burn. Early forms for Morganston include:

*Morgostoun* 1581 *RMS* v no. 258

*Morgunstoun of Maers* 1590s Pont 27

*Morgostoun* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Morganstoun* 1612 *RMS* vii no. 645

*Morgunstoun* 1633 *Retours* PER no. 420

*Morgunstoun* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 508

*Morganstoun* 1662 *Retours* PER no. 701

*Morganstone* 1668 *Retours* PER no. 780

*Morganstown* 1783 Stobie

*Morganstown* 1794 Ainslie

*Morganston* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

pn Morgan + Sc *toun*

It is not known who the eponymous Morgan was. Morgan, a British, possibly also a Pictish, name, was already being used by the ruling families of Dál Riata in the seventh century, and by the mormaers of Moray in the tenth; also it was current in Aberdeenshire in the early twelfth century; the name is found in Ramornie in Fife (*PNF* 2, 299-300; Watson 1926, 239; Jackson 1972, 45 and 136; and *ES* i cli and 480).). More locally, Andrew Morgone or Morgunt was a tenant in Balbrogy 3 km north-east of Coupar Angus in 1524 and 1535 (*C. A. Rental* i, 301, 317).

## MOSS OF COCHRAGE

**BGE R NO130500**

*Moss of Cochrage* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

ScEng *moss* + ScEng *of* + en Cochrage

The settlement of Cochrage sat on the south bank of the River Ardle at NO125514. Early forms include:

*Cochrich* 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3423

*Kochradge* 1590s Pont 27

terris de *Coherage* 1635 *Retours* PER no. 451

*Cochrage* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

Cochrage may contain a Pictish cognate with Welsh *coch* 'red', and may be found in Kercock, near Murthly in Perthshire. The second element is obscure.

## MUIR OF DRUMLOCHY

**BGE R NO152486**

*Muir of Drumlochy* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

ScEng *muir* + ScEng *of* + en Drumlochy

## CARNASHACH WOOD

**KLC V NO144482**

*Carnashach Wood* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

en Carnashach + ScEng *wood*

Carnashach probably contains ScG *càrn* 'cairn', but the second element is obscure. Adam Watson (2013, 21) tentatively suggests the name is in Gaelic *Carn Aiseaich* 'hill of the little stronghold', but there is no indication of a fortification near here on the Canmore website.

In the wood is a two-metre tall cup-marked boulder with at least eleven cup-markings on it (RCAHMS 1990, 26 [no. 88]). Cup-marked stones are stones which were decorated in the prehistoric era, possible Neolithic or Bronze Age, by 'pecking out hollow depressions or cup-marks on to the surface of boulders' (Ritchie and Ritchie 1981, 72).

## BUZZART DIKES

**KLC R NO127479**

*The Buzzart Dikes* 1797 *OSA* xix, 368 [*The Buzzart Dikes* on *Garrydrums*, in the parish of *Kinloch*, (being earthen dikes of 8 or 10 feet high, inclosing great part of a square mile)]

*Buzzart Dikes* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

? Sc *buzzard* + Sc *dike*

This is the remains of a deer park covering an area of about 86 hectares (168 acres), and may have been part of the royal forest of Clunie, first mentioned in 1161 (Gilbert 1979, 21; see also Dixson 2001, 41-48). For details of the archaeology of the site, see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/28801>.





Alyth to Blairgowrie

## SERJEANT'S HILL

**KLC R NO145477**

*Serjeant's Hill* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

ScEng *serjeant* + ScEng *hill*

Originally 'a serving-man, attendant, servant', from the French term *sergent* via Latin *serviens* 'one who serves', but now more popularly associated as the rank of a non-commissioned officer in the Armed Forces or the police. Down to the 19th century *serjeant* and *sergeant* were used indiscriminately. In recent times, however, the spelling *serjeant* has come to be generally adopted as the correct form when the word is the designation of a member of the legal profession, while *sergeant* is the prevailing form in the other surviving senses (e.g. army or police), and in most of them the only form in use (*OED*). Other, earlier senses of *serjeant/sergeant* include: 'a tenant by military service under the rank of a knight; especially one of this class attending on a knight in the field'; 'an officer whose duty is to enforce the judgements of a tribunal or the commands of a person in authority; one who is charged with the arrest of offenders or the summoning of persons to appear before the court' (*OED*).

## GLASCLUNE BURN

**KLC/BGE W NO155464**

*Glasclune Burn* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

en Glasclune + Sc *burn*

The Glasclune Burn rises in the muir to the north west of Glasclune Castle, and passes near the castle on its way to meet the Lornty Burn.

## MIDDLETON

**KLC S NO143476**

*Middletown of Glascloun* 1783 Stobie

*Middletown of Glasscloun* 1794 Ainslie

*Middleton* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Sc *middletoun* + en Glasclune

## WESTERTON

**KLC S NO138475**

*W. Glascloun* 1783 Stobie

*W. Glasscloun* 1794 Ainslie

*Westerton* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Sc *wester* + en Glasclune

## BRIDGE OF DRUMMAD

**KLC O NO142471**

*Drummad* 1783 Stobie

*Drummad* 1794 Ainslie

*Bridge of Drummad* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

SSE *bridge* + SSE *of* + en Drummad

Drummad may contain ScG *druim* + ? ScG *madadh* making the meaning 'dog or wolf ridge'. However, since the name does not contain the final syllable in *madadh*, then it make be ScG *maide* 'wood, stick'.

## WEST GORMACK

**KLC S NO143470**

*Westir Gormok* 1507 *RMS* ii no. 3151 ['cum vicinis tenentibus terrarum ecclesiasticarum de *Westir Gormok*' (with the neighbouring tenants of the church-lands of Wester Gormack)]

*W. Gormak* 1590s Pont 27

*Wester Gormock* 1653 *Retours* PER no. 618

*Wester Gormack* c.1750 Roy

*W. Goarmack* 1783 Stobie

*West Gormack* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

Sc *wester* + en Gormack

Gormack House sits just off the CATERAN Trail, about 550 metres south of West Gormack. Early forms include:

*Gormau* 1371 × 1390 *RMS* i App 2 no. 1934 [Carta Willelmi Buttir de terris de *Gormau*]

terras de *Gormok* 1472 *RMS* ii no. 1364 charter of Patrick Butter, heir of Henry Butter]

Patrick Butter, dominus de *Gormok* 1487 *RMS* ii no. 1681

*Gormock* 1599 *Retours* PER no. 56 [Archibald Butter ... de *Gormock*]

*Gormock* 1636 *Retours* PER no. 462

ScG *gorm* + ScG *-ach*

‘Blue or green place’. ScG *gorm* can mean both blue and green, in particular ‘an azure blue or verdant green’ (Murray 2014, 196), depending on perspective. The further away a place, the more blue it looks and, as a Gaelic proverb says *Is gorm na cnuic a tha fada bhuainn* ‘blue are the hills that are far from us’ (Drummond 2007, 130). However, Drummond also states that when applied to grass, *gorm* means green (Drummond 2007, 130), and so we might have an area that was originally suitable or even prized for grazing. It is interesting that Gormack is near Glasclune; both names are suggestive of the colour green, and presumably the original namers must have been looking at the area from a particular perspective or direction. Adam Watson says the name is ScG *gormag* ‘green one’ (Watson 2013, 29).

There is a Gormack Burn which flows into the River Dee near Peterculter ABD; it is stated that this is ‘a diminutive in form’, is ‘stressed on Gorm’ and could mean ‘little blue burn’ (Alexander 1952, 293). In 1323 this burn is named as ‘riuulum qui ducitur Gormothy’ (the river which is called Gormothy) (*RRS* v no. 223).

## MAINS OF GLASCLUNE

**KLC S NO151470**

in terris dominicalibus de *Glasclune* 1635 *Retours* PER no. 451 [in the Mains of Glasclune]

*Mains* 1783 Stobie

*Mains* 1794 Ainslie

*Mains of Glasclune* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Sc *mains* + Sc *of* + en Glasclune

Sc *mains* is ‘the home farm of an estate, cultivated by or for the proprietor’, ultimately from Latin *dominicum* ‘the lord’s (lands)’ via Old French *demeine*, whence also English *demesne* (also English *domain*) (*OED*; *PNF* 5, 435-7).

## GLASCLUNE CASTLE

**KLC S NO154470**

*Glasclune* 1366 *RMS* i no. 221 [‘in tota baronia mea de *Glasclune*’ (in my whole barony of Glasclune)]

baronie de *Glasclune* 1370 *RMS* i no. 350

*Glasclune* 1490 *RMS* ii no. 1995

terras et baronia de Glasclune 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3423 [including ‘terras dominicales, manerium et fortalicum de *Glasclune*, *Estir Glasclune*, *Westir Glasclune*, *Cochrich...*’ (the mains, manor and fortress of Glasclune, Easter Glasclune, Wester Glasclune, Cochrage...)]

*Glashclun* 1590 Pont 27

baronia de *Glasclune* 1630 *Retours* PER no. 401

*Glasclunes* 1661 *Retours* PER no. 680 [terris de *Eister*, *Wester* et *Midle Glasclunes*]

*Glascloon* 1783 Stobie

*Glasscloon* 1794 Ainslie

*Glasclune Castle* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

en Glasclune + ScEng *castle*

ScG *glas* + ScG *claon* or ScG *cluain*

Probably *glas claon* ‘green slope, brae’. Used in place-names *glas* probably indicates good grass-lands or grass-covered features (see also Gormack below). ScG *claon* ‘slope; brae or (steep) path descending to or ascending from a ford or bridge’ (*PNF* 5, 332). The *clune* element may, however, represent ScG *cluain* ‘pasture, green field, meadow, lawn’ from OG *clúain* ‘meadow, pastureland, glade’ (*DIL*; *PNF* 5, 335). Adam Watson states the name is in ScG *glascluain* ‘green plain’ (Watson 2013, 28). Glasclune Castle, built around 1600, is described at <https://canmore.org.uk/site/28735>. Somewhere near here there was a battle in 1392 between forces led by Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk and caterans led by followers of son of Robert II, Alexander Stewart, the Wolf of Badenoch.

## EAST GORMACK

## BGE S 155462

*E. Gormack* c.1750 Roy

*E. Gormack* 1783 Stobie

*E. Gormack* 1794 Ainslie

*Mains of Gormack* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

*East Gormack* 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA LII.SW

ScEng *east* + en Gormack

## MAINS OF DRUMLOCHY

## BGE S NO157469

? *Drumlouch* 1306 × 1329 *RMS* i App 2 no. 473 A<sup>6</sup> [Carta Thomas de Camera de terris de *Drumlouch*]

? *Drumlouche* 1306 × 1329 *RMS* i App 2 no. 473 B [To Thomas de Camera of the lands of *Drumlouche*]

*Drumlochy* 1525 *RMS* iii no. 311 [James V confirms to John Chalmer the lands of *Drumlochy* et *Murtoun*]

terris dominicalibus de *Drumlochquhy* 1555 *RSS* iv no. 3032

the landis of *Drumlochy* 1556 *RRS* iv no. 3159

baroniam de *Drumlochy* 1559 *RMS* iv no. 1377

baronia de *Drumloquhye* 1614 *RMS* vii no. 991

*Clowis de Drumloquhy* 1614 *RMS* vii no. 991

*Muretoun de Drumloquhye* 1614 *RMS* vii no. 991

baronia de *Drumlochie* 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1196

terras et baroniam de *Drumloquhie* 1619 *RMS* vii no. 1969

terras et baronia de *Drumlochie* 1635 *RMS* ix no. 280

lie *Maynes de Drumlochie* 1635 *RMS* ix no. 280

terras et baronia de *Drumloquhie* 1643 *RMS* ix no. 1376

lie *Maynes de Drumloquhie* 1643 *RMS* ix no. 1376

*Drumlochy* 1590s Pont 27

*Drumlochy* c.1750 Roy

*Drumlochy* 1783 Stobie

*Drumlochy* 1794 Ainslie

*Mains of Drumlochy* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

<sup>6</sup> There are two places called Drumlochy in Perthshire; the other is near Blackford. The early forms are placed here because the surnames in the earliest forms, de Camera and Chalmer. De Camera is the Latin form of Chalmer. Chalmer ultimately derives from Old French *de la chambre*, of the chamber, i.e. a chamber attendant, possibly of a noble or the treasury. The medial *b* of chamber was lost in Scots through elision; the medial *l* of chalmer was used to indicate the length of the preceding vowel (Black 1946, 145).





## Alyth to Blairgowrie

ScEng *mains* + ScEng *of* + en Drumloch

ScG *druim* + ScG *lochaidh*

'Dark ridge'. In 1559 the barony of Drumloch is said to be 'terras dominicales de Drumloch, terras de Muretoun cum molendino et terras molendinariis ejusdem, terras de *MyIntoun*, *Ayrd*, *Wyndyedge*, cum terre, manerie, domibus, edificiis, hortis, pomeriis et silvis de *Drumloch*' (the mains of Drumloch, lands of Muirton of Drumloch with the mill and mill-lands of the same, the lands of Milton of Drumloch, Aird, Windyedge, with the tower, manor, houses, buildings, gardens, orchards and wood of Drumloch) (*RMS* iv no. 1377). The remains of Drumloch Castle, dating from the 16th century, sits on the grounds (see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/28713> for details).

### MILTON OF DRUMLOCHY

**BGE S NO160464**

*MyIntoun de Drumloquhie* 1643 *RMS* ix no. 1376

*Milltown* 1783 Stobie

*Milltown* 1794 Ainslie

*Milton of Drumloch* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Sc *milltoun* + Sc *of* + en Drumloch

### KNOCKY WOOD

**BGE V NO166459**

*Knockmahar* 1590s Pont 27

*Knockmachar* c.1750 Roy

*Knockmahar* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

*Knocky Wood* 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER & CLA LII.SW

ScG *cnoc* + ? ScG *mo* + ? pn

This wood is named after a nearby hill shown on the OS 1st edn 6 inch map as *Knockmahar* (NO163457); it is also named as such on Pont 27, dated to the

1590s, but is un-named on the current OS maps. Adam Watson suggests the name *Knockmahar* derives from ScG *Cnoc na h-Aire* 'hill of the watching' (Watson 2013, 31).<sup>7</sup>

### KNOCKIE

**BGE S NO174460**

*Knockie* 2012 OS E381

en Knocky

This building is shown on the OS 1:25,000 OS map printed in 1959, but is not named. It is presumably named after Knocky Wood, q.v. below.

### LORNTY BRIDGE

**BGE O NO171464**

*Lornty Bridge* 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LII

en Lornty + ScEng *bridge*

Described by the OS as 'A bridge of one arch crossing the Lornty Burn on the Old Military Road at Lornty House. It is kept in repair by the Road trustees of the parish Roads' (OS1/25/11/68 ). 'Lornty Bridge is a modern bridge which measures 4.3m in width and which incorporates the arches of two earlier bridges. One of these older bridges was probably military with an estimated width of 3.2m and the earlier bridge estimated as being 2.3m wide. The latter, built of well-dressed rectangular blocks is traditionally reported to be of Roman origin [see Leven and Roberts 2007, 19]. There is, however, no evidence of Roman roads N of the River Tay' (RCAHMS Canmore ID 73323).

<sup>7</sup> Watson mistakenly stated the OS early form is Knochnahar, which may have influenced his derivation; he clearly follows W.J. Watson's discussion of *Knockenhair*, a knoll near Dunbar Castle ELO (Watson 1926, 135).



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

### LORNTY BURN

**BGE W NO172465**

*burn of Larrenty 1590s Pont 27*

*Burn of Lornty c.1750 Roy*

*Lornty Burn 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LII*

en Lornty + ScEng *burn*

‘A considerable Stream or burn flowing from Benachally Loch in an easterly direction to its confluence with the River Ericht’ (OS1/25/11/67).

### LORNTY

**BGE S NO174469**

*Larrenty 1590s Pont 27*

*Lornty 1783 Stobie*

*Lornty 1794 Ainslie*

*Lornty 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LII*

The first element may be derived from the territorial name *Cenél Loairn*, part of Dàl Riata, the original Gaelic settlement in western Scotland. It may be that this is part of a group of Lorn-names in eastern Scotland that denote the settlements of settlers from the west. Angus Watson has suggested that Lornty may represent ‘*lorn* with an adjectival suffix *-ach* or *-tach*, giving ‘Lorn place’, ‘place belonging to Lorn’, where *Lorn* could refer either to the territory or to the kin of Loarn’ (Watson 2002, 496-7). If Lornty does imply the settlement of people from *Cenél Loairn* then its juxtaposition with Blairgowrie means that there are two place-names deriving from Dàl Riata.

### MARYFIELD

**BGE S NO169455**

*Maryfield 1783 Stobie*

*Maryfield 1867 OS 1st edn 6 inch PER & CLA LII*

pn Mary + ScEng *field*

The Augustinian abbey of Scone was dedicated to the Virgin Mary (*Scone Liber*, ix), and they held the church of Blair and some associated lands in the Middle Ages, and it may be that this is a Blessed Virgin Mary dedication (*Scone Liber*, nos. 67 and 174). However, it may simply be the name of a proprietor or proprietor’s wife, daughter, or tenant.

### BURNHEAD

**BGE S NO174547**

William Rattray in *Burnheid de Blair* 1639 RMS ix no. 906

*Burnheid* 1658 RMS x no. 661

*Burnhead* 1783 Stobie

*Burnhead* 1794 Ainslie

*Burnhead* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

Sc *burn* + Sc *heid*

This settlement sits near the head of a small valley through which the Cuttle Burn flows.

### CARGILL’S LEAP

**BGE/RTR NO177460**

*Cargill’s leap* 1899 MacDonald (1899, 233)

*Cargill’s Leap* 1978 OS 1:10,000 NO14NE

pn Cargill + SSE *leap*

This is a narrow gap in the River Ericht where tradition has it that ‘the dragoons of Claverhouse pursue Donald Cargill, the Covenanter, who made his wonderful escape by leaping the cascade of the Keith’ (MacDonald 1899, 14) ... ‘In 1679 the famous Rattray Covenanter, Donald Cargill, while on a visit to his parents at the Hatton of Rattray, was pursued by dragoons, and only escaped by leaping the Keith above Blairgowrie’. ‘The Ericht rushes impetuously down a gorge,



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

forming a cascade known as *The Keith*. Tradition points out this as the scene of *Cargill's leap*, when he was pursued by the dragoons of Claverhouse' (1899, 233).

### THE KEITH

#### RTR R NO177459

*The Fishing of the Keyth* 1604 *Retours* PER no. 129 [Piscaria salmonum in aqua de *Erichtis* vulgariter *The Fishing of the Keyth* nuncupata (the salmon fishing in the water of Ericht commonly called the Fishing of the Keith)]

*Keith* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 508 [salmonum piscaria de *Keith*, et Woodland eisdem adjacente (the salmon fishing of Keith and Woodland of the same adjacent)]

*Keith de Rattray* 1644 *Retours* PER no. 545 [in salmonum piscariis de *Keith de Rattray* super aqua de *Elicht*, infra baroniam de *Rattray* (in the salmon fishings of Keith of Rattray upon the water of Ericht within the barony of Raattray)]

*Keth* 1654 Blaeu, 89 (Provinceiae Perthensis, Novo descriptio [Perthshire, a new description])

*Keath de Rattray* 1672 *Retours* PER no. 847 [salmonum piscatione aliisque de *Keath de Rattray* infra baroniam de Rattray

*Keath de Rattray* 1681 *Retours* PER no. 912

*Keith of Blairgowrie* 1783 Stobie

*Keith of Blairgowrie* 1794 Ainslie

*The Keith* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

*the cascade of the Keith* 1899 MacDonald (1899, 14)

Although appended to a stretch of the River Ericht, the name *keith* probably derives from British or Pictish \**cēt* 'a wood'; it does not appear to have been borrowed into Gaelic, nor does it have a close cognate in Gaelic, though it is clearly related to Welsh *coed* 'a wood'. Within Pictland, therefore, names

containing this element can be seen as Pictish coinings. It usually occurs north and south of the Forth in place-names as *keth*, later *keith* e.g. Dalkeith KNR and MLO, Keith BNF (*PNF* 5, 326). 'The Keith, with the rocky gorge immediately below the waterfall, was a favourite scene of salmon netting' (MacDonald 1899, 186). 'The Ericht rushes impetuously down a gorge, forming a cascade known as *The Keith*. Tradition points out this as the scene of Cargill's leap, when he was pursued by the dragoons of Claverhouse' (MacDonald 1899, 233).

In 1654 Johan Blaeu gave the following description of the Keith (translated from Latin) 'The River Keth [an unattested name for the River Ericht] is noted for salmon fishing, especially at its sheerest waterfall, which too the inhabitants call Keth, near Blair Drummond, where it rushes among the opposing rocks with such force and noise that its excessive violence damages the organ of hearing; for at fixed times each year a huge quantity of salmon comes [up] there; some of them, when the river has become larger or faster by rain or the inrush of rivers born from it, overcome the precipice of the waterfall and so avoid the skills of the fishermen and escape in safety; others, while they are striving, although with vain effort, to climb the waterfall against the force of the rushing water, not so much by swimming as by jumping, are driven back by the force of the torrent and deceived by the wiles of the fishermen; others finally are captured immediately from the whirling abyss below the waterfall in the nets and other traps of the fishermen. Into the Keth again pour the streams of Glenshee and Strathardle, running from the heads of these regions' (Blaeu 2006, 89).

Along a short stretch of river bank immediately north of Blairgowrie the element *keith* has been rather productive: on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map there is Keithbank, Keithbank Mill, Keith Park, Linnkeith, and The Keith.





## DOLLASBANK

### ALY S NO176466

*Dollasbank* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

en Dollas + SSE *bank*

en Dollas + SSE *bank*

If the Dollas in this name is not a transferred name from Dallas in Moray, and it relates to this area, then this could be a Pictish name. Pictish *dol* is a water-meadow or haugh, and was borrowed into Gaelic as *dail* with the same meaning. The *-as* ending is a ScG place-name forming suffix, which may be translated as ‘place of’ or ‘place at’ (*PNF* 5, 286). The water-meadow or haugh itself is probably the low-lying ground just a few metres to the north-west; Dollasbank sits on higher ground above this haugh.

## BLAIRGOWRIE

### BGE S NO179452

Adam persona de *Blare* c.1198 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 3

*Blair* 1198 × 1202 *RRS* ii no. 420 [William I grants to Coupar Angus Abbey ‘my whole marsh in the territory of Blair’ (toto maresio meo in territorio de *Blair*)]

totum Maresium be *Blair* quod pertinebat ad dominium de *Blair* 1214 × 1238 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. xxv [the whole marsh of Blair which pertains to the lordship of Blair]

Ecclesia de *Blare* 1274 *Bagimond’s Roll* (Dunlop edition), 37

Ecclesia de *Blar* per augmentum 1274 *Bagimond’s Roll* (Dunlop edition), 39

terras de *Blare* 1326 *RMS* i, app. 1 no. 27

Pension of *Blair in Gourie* 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 538) [rental of Cambuskenneth]

Pension of *Blair in Gourye* 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 545) [rental of Camnbuskenneth]

*Blair kirk* 1590s Pont 27

*Mukle Blair* 1590s Pont 27

*Newtoun of Blair* 1590s Pont 27

the kirk of *Blair-in-gowrie* 1595 *RMS* vi no. 271

*Blair in Gowrie* 1604 *Retours* PER no. 129

terras de *Abdem de Blair in Gowrie* 1604 *Retours* PER no. 129

*Abden de Blair* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Breuland de Blair* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Valtoun de Blair* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Littill Blair* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Lochend cum lacu de Blair* 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2138

*Abden de Blair* 1612 *RMS* vii no. 645

ecclesia parochia de *Blair in Gowrie* 1620 *RMS* vii no. 2156

*Meikil Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

*Abden de Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

*Brewland de Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

*Newtoun de Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

*Waltoun de Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

*Littill Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

*Lochend cum lacu de Blair cum piscariis et moris de Blair* 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1769

George Drummond de *Blair* 1634 *RMS* ix no. 187

*Kirkton de Blair* 1634 *RMS* ix no. 187

parochia de *Blair* 1634 *RMS* ix no. 187

Baronia de *Blair* 1634 *RMS* ix no. 187

*Kirkton de Blair* 1639 *RMS* ix no. 906

terrarium de *Newtoun et Abthainrie* de Blair 1639 *RMS* ix no. 906

agrum arabilem lie sched<sup>8</sup> of infeild land terrarum de *Newtoun de Blair* vocat.

<sup>8</sup> According to *DSL* Sc. *s(c)hed* ‘is a unitary portion of (chiefly arable) land; a piece of land; a large field; also, with reference to the growing crop, passing into the crop grown



## Alyth to Blairgowrie

lie *Carneshed* 1639 RMS ix no. 906

*Blair in Gowrie* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 508

*Blair* 1642 *Retours* PER no. 508 [terris de *Midle Blair*, *Abden de Blair*,  
*Brewland de Blair*, *Newtoun de Blair*]

*Blair in Gowrie* 1654 *Retours* PER no. 622

*Abben of Blair* 1656 RMS x no. 465

the lands of *Blair* 1658 RMS x no. 661

the lands of *Apden of Blair in Gowrie* 1659 RMS x no. 674

the houses and brewlands of *Meikle Blair* 1659 RMS x no. 674

*Blair Gaurie* c.1750 Roy

*Blairgowrie* 1783 Stobie

*Blairgowrie* 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA LII

In 1659 it was stated that ‘the lands of Apden of Blair in Gowrie, holden in feu of old by the Abbots of Scoone of the Archbishops of St Andrews’ (RMS x no. 674).

Waltoun of Blair mentioned above is The Welton ‘the settlement (*toun*) associated with a well’ (Sc *wall* ‘well’) at NO194440.

### ScG *blàr* + en Gowrie

ScG *blàr* is common in Scotland, and is usually anglicised as ‘blair’, and in the Lowlands can apply to large open stretches of land (PNF 5, 298), and presumably this is how Blair in Atholl and Gowrie were perceived. However, in the Highland glens *blàr* might apply to small area of grazing land (see McNiven 2011, 110-16 for *blàr* in Menteith). Gowrie was one of the ancient earldoms of Scotland. The name Gowrie is derived from the territorial name *Cenél nGabrain*, the name of the territory around Kintyre from which it is held that the people of Gowrie were descended in the 9th and 10th centuries; while Angus is thought to derive from *Cenél nOengsua*, the territorial name of the islands of Islay and Jura. *Cenél nGabrain* in turn was named after a king called Gabrán. It may be that as Gaels moved across to the east to take over the kingdom of the Picts in the ninth century they renamed districts to remind them of their homeland. Related to the phenomenon may be Bamff, meaning ‘New Ireland’, just north of Alyth on Stage 5 of the Cateran Trail.

---

on a ‘shed’ of land. Sometimes, but apparently not always, divided into rigs. In some instances, devoted to the cultivation of a single crop’.



## Bibliography

Ainslie Map of the County of Forfar or Shire of Angus by John Ainslie (1794).

Bagimond's Roll (Dunlop), 'Bagimond's Roll: Statement of the Tenths of the Kingdom of Scotland', ed. A. I. Dunlop, *SHS Misc.* vi (1939), 3–77.

*Bamff Chrs, Bamff charters A.D. 1232-1703: with introduction, biographical summary and notes*, ed. Sir James H. Ramsay, 1915.

Blaeu, J., 2006, *The Blaeu Atlas of Scotland*, Birlinn and National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

*C. A. Chrs. Charters of the Abbey of Coupar Angus*, ed. D. E. Easson, 2 vols, SHS 1947.

*CDS Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland*, ed. J. Bain et al., 5 vols (Edinburgh 1881–1986).

Leven, C., and Roberts, K., 2007, *Explore the Cateran Trail*, Coupar Angus.

MacDonald, Aidan, 1987, 'Caiseal, Cathair, Dùn, Lios and Ràth in Scotland, 3: Lios', *Ainm* (Journal of the Ulster Place-name Society) 2, 37–54.

MacDonald. J. A. R., 1899, *History of Blairgowrie*, Blairgowrie.

*PNF 5 The Place-names of Fife: Discussion, Glossaries and Edited Texts with Addenda and Corrigenda of Volumes 1-4*, S. Taylor and G. Márkus (Donington).

*PNKNR The Place-Names of Kinross-shire*. Series: Survey of Scottish Place-Names, 7, Taylor, S., McNiven, P., and Williamson, E. (Donington, 2017).

Pont 27 Timothy Pont's *Strathardle, Glenshee and Glenericht* (1590s).

Pont 28 Timothy Pont's *Glen Isla and Lintrathen; parts of Strathmore near Coupar Angus* (1590s).

*Retours Inquisitionum ad Capellam Domini Regis Retornatarum, quae in publicis archivis Scotiae adhuc servantur, Abbreviatio*, ed. T. Thomson (3 vols., 1811–16).

*RMS Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scottorum* ed. J. M. Thomson & others (Edinburgh 1882–1914).

Roy 1753 The Military Survey of Scotland, 1747–55, supervised by William Roy. Fair copy (for 'northern' Scotland, including Fife) and Protracted Copy (for southern Scotland) printed in *The Great Map: the Military Survey of Scotland 1747–55: William Roy*, with introductory essays by Yolande



### Alyth to Blairgowrie

Hodson, Chris Tabraham and Charles Withers (Edinburgh 2007).  
Also available on-line at <http://www.nls.uk/maps/roy/>.

*RRS ii Regesta Regum Scottorum* vol. ii (*Acts of William I*), ed.  
G. W. S. Barrow (Edinburgh 1971).

*RRS v, Regesta Regum Scottorum* vol. v (*Acts of Robert I*) ed.  
A. A. M. Duncan, (Edinburgh 1988).

Shennan, H., 1892, *Boundaries of Counties and Parishes in Scotland*  
(Edinburgh).

Stobie Map of the counties of Perth and Clackmannan: James Stobie,  
1783 (London).

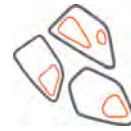
Watson, W.J., 1926, *The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland*  
(Edinburgh and London; reprinted with an Introduction by Simon Taylor,  
Edinburgh 2004; and, with an extended Introduction, Edinburgh 2011).







Pictish Warrior as imagined by the 16thc artist John White, British Museum print



Place Names of the Cateran Trail was commissioned by Cateran's Common Wealth [www.commonculture.org.uk](http://www.commonculture.org.uk) in 2017

**Researcher:** Dr Peter McNiven

**Producer:** Clare Cooper

**Designer:** Andrew Hunter

**Photography and Images:** credits/sources appear with each photo/image. All Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and HES photos are copyright.

**Map of the Cateran Trail:** Courtesy of Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust

**Thanks to:** Alison Hall, Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, Dr Simon Taylor, Celtic & Gaelic, University of Glasgow, Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust

The first phase of the Cateran's Common Wealth programme has been financially supported by Creative Scotland, the Drumderg Windfarm Fund, The Gannochy Trust, The Heritage Lottery Fund, Perth & Kinross Council, Scotmid, the Postcode Lottery Fund, the St James Place Foundation, Vanora's Cottages and the citizens of Alyth.



Supported by Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER Programme 2014-2020. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas



The 2017 Cateran's Common Wealth programme has been enabled by North East of North (NEoN) and the Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust.

