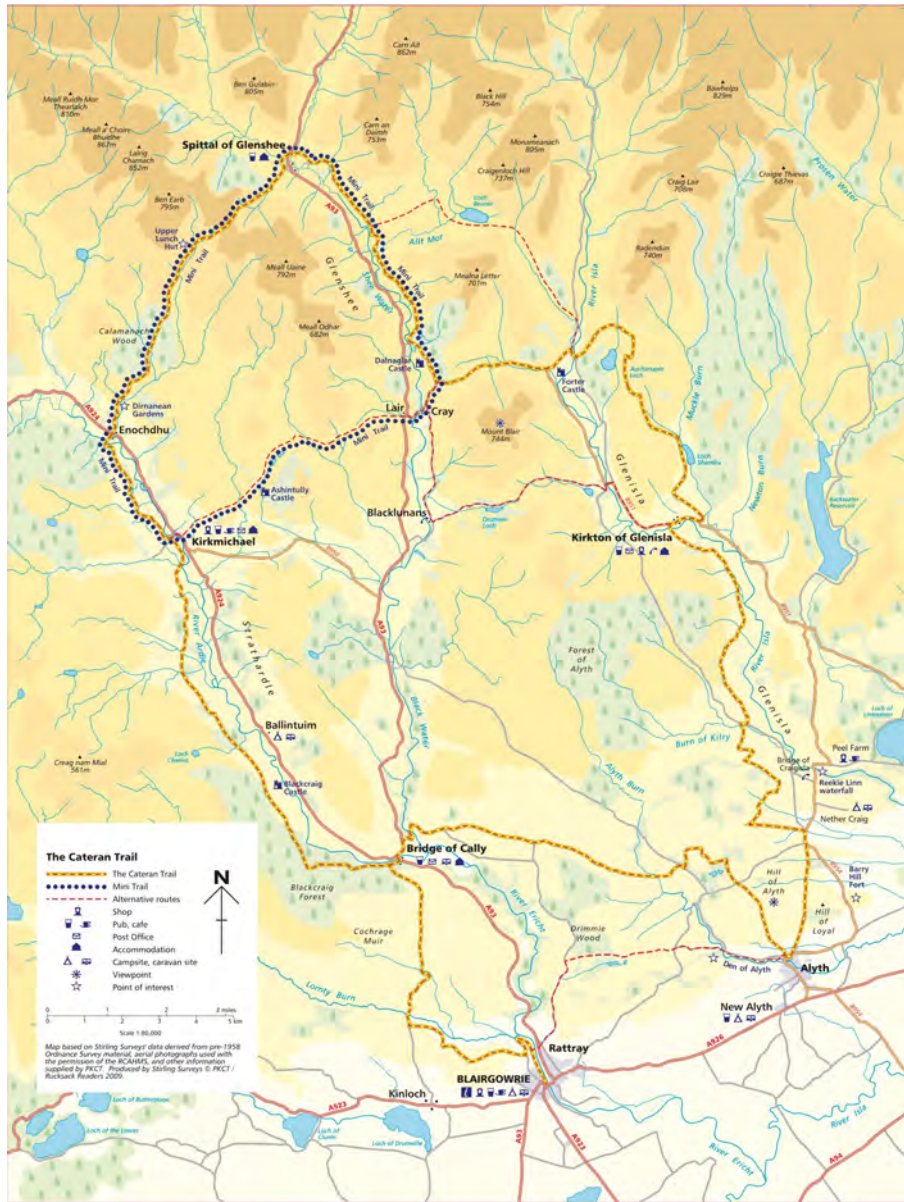


Stage Three: Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla
Place Names of the Cateran Trail

Dr Peter McNiven





PLACE NAMES OF THE CATARAN TRAIL

DR PETER MCNIVEN

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COVER: Diarmuid's Grave, photo by Iare Cooper



FOREWARD

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

This booklet is the third 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.



Auchintaple Loch,
photo courtesy Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust.

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

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

Research in place-name involves looking for their earliest spellings. The reasoning is that the earlier the spelling the closer we are to the language spoken when the name was first coined. For example, Pictish is generally thought to have died out by around the year 900. There are few Pictish place-names along the Cateran Trail, the language having been replaced by first Gaelic, perhaps around 900 to 1000, and then Scots which probably began to make inroads into the area when the monks of Dunfermline, Scone, and Coupar Angus Abbeys were granted lands in Strathardle and Glenisla from the mid twelfth century. The Keith, near Blairgowrie, is probably from Pictish **cēt* ‘a wood’, related to Welsh *coed* ‘a wood’. The name does not come on record until the sixteenth century, but that is still four centuries closer to Pictish being spoken than we are today.



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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), James *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.



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

There are many documents of private landowners held in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh (along with royal and ecclesiastical records), but they are often not published like the royal and ecclesiastical records, while others are in the hands of individuals or companies which can make access difficult. The most useful private records for the Catechan Trail are those relating to the



Invercauld estate for Glenshee and the Ramseys of Bamff for the areas around Bamff and Alyth. Hill-names only generally come on record from the time of the Ordnance Survey, although some of the bigger or more prominent hills, such as Mount Blair, can be found on Pont and Stobie.

LANGUAGE

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

A dialect of the ancient Scotch, also, is understood, and currently spoken. These two, by a barbarous intermixture, mutually corrupt each other. All the names of places are Gaelic’. This ‘intermixture’ is noted in Kilmadock parish, in southern Perthshire where it was stated that Gaelic was corrupted by its vicinity to Scots, and in Glenshee this ‘corruption’ of Gaelic was probably the result of the interaction of two distinct linguistic communities lying on the border of Highland Glenshee and Lowland Strathmore with its trading centres such as Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus, who were both linked to Dundee and Perth.



Mrs Macdonald's Memorial,
photo courtesy of Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust

It is also the case that place-names don't just tell us what language was spoken in an

area, but can, sometimes, tell us about changes in pronunciation within a language. There was a change in Gaelic pronunciation in words beginning *cn*, which seems to have taken place in the early modern period. The change from /n/ to /r/ in Gaelic words beginning *cn* or *gn* is ‘comparatively late’ according to Thomas O’Rahilly, a prominent Irish scholar; he suggested the change took place in Scotland by the mid-sixteenth century or later. Crock in Glenisla 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.



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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 names of many features, whether they be hills, burns or vegetation.



Looking up toward Glenshee from the Cateran Trail, photo Clare Cooper

Indeed, so varied are the topics for place-name research that a recently published book on the Gaelic landscape by John Murray gives the following categories for looking at place-names in the landscape: landforms – mountains, hills, passes, hollows, valleys; hydronymy (river and loch-names); climate, season, sound and time; land-cover and ecology – flora and fauna; agriculture – crops,

domestic and farm animals; buildings and settlement; church and chapel; cultural artefacts; people and occupations; events; legend and the supernatural.

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

THE CATERANS

The Cateran Trail is itself now a place-name. The trail was opened in the summer of 1999; the word cateran, however, dates back to at least the late fourteenth century. Cateran derives from a Gaelic word *ceatharn* meaning 'warrior', but usually one that is lightly armed. In the Lowlands cateran came to epitomise Highland violence, and is indicative of a Lowland perception of a particularly Gaelic Highland problem. Caterans have come to our notice because throughout the Middle Ages, and up until shortly before the Jacobite risings

of the eighteenth century, the records of the Scottish government bristle with complaints about the activities of the caterans. In the fourteenth century the problem became so acute that a council decided that caterans should be arrested or killed on sight.

Caterans first come on record in the 1380s at a time of trouble and rebellion in Moray, led by the son of Robert II, Alexander Stewart, earl of Buchan, better known as the Wolf of Badenoch. In 1385 it was said that there was a 'lack of justice in the higher and northern regions, where many malefactors and caterans are roaming'. Raids by the Wolf of Badenoch occurred throughout Moray leading to the burning down of Elgin cathedral in 1390, the culmination of a dispute with the bishop of Moray. However, these cateran raids also spread to Angus and Perthshire. In 1392, Buchan's sons led a raid into Angus, causing, according to one medieval chronicler 'grete discorde', and which led to a pitched battle between the caterans and forces headed by Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk. The battle is 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



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the Privy Council by the 'good subjects' of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glenisla that a group of 200 persons 'all thieves and sorners'¹ of the Clan Chattane and Clan Gregour, and all Donald McAngus of Glengarry's men, armed with bows, habershons, hagbuts and pistols, came to Glenyla, and there reft all the goods within the said bounds, consisting of 2700 nolt (Scots – cattle; oxen, bulls and cows, collectively), 100 horses and mares, with the plenishing of the country'.

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

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

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

enforcement and control of the Highlands and led to the demise of the caterans.



A Cateran in Glenshee by Kevin Greig staneswinames.org

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

(i.e. the Highlands) that was always marginal. There were two alternative ways of making a living – herding cattle and raiding. Although the glens of Strathardle, Glenshee, and Glen Isla were Highland areas, with all the accoutrements of medieval Highland life, including Gaelic speakers and a mainly pastoral economy, these glens were in fact Highland extensions of nearby Lowland estates, with many of the lands belonging to either the crown, prominent Lowland families, or to the medieval church in the shape of monastic institutions, especially Coupar Angus, Scone, and Dunfermline Abbeys. Cattle were easier to move than large quantities of grain, and in pre-industrial times cattle were a source of wealth. From cattle are derived the more obvious items, such as milk, cheese, and butter, but also their fat for making candles and their hides for leather. We can get an idea of how rich in pastoral resources the area was from rentals, such as those of Coupar Angus 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

Stage 3 begins at **Spittal of Glenshee**. It was probably not, as some believe, a medieval hospital. Instead, it was a hospice for travellers on the road from Blairgowrie in Lowland Eastern Perthshire to Braemar in Highland Deeside. There was another hospice or inn between Deeside and the Angus Glens at Spittal of Glenmuick, a hospice on the road from Glen Clova in Angus to Ballater in Aberdeenshire. However, the element *spittal* can be confusing, as it is evidence for the existence of either a hospital (i.e. a medical facility), lands associated with a hospital, or an inn for travellers; in the earldom of Lennox *spittal* was used for properties belonging to the Knights Hospitaller, a military order like the Knights Templar.

There are two other religious places along this part of the Trail. There are the remains of a chapel at **Auchenchapel**, 'field of the chapel' near the artificial Auchentaple Loch. There is no indication from the remains as they stand as to how old the site is, but it is certainly from before the end the Gaelic speaking period which took place probably in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in this area.

More can be said about the date of **Craigninty**. The settlement is on record from 1233 as *Cragneuethyn*, and it contains Gaelic *neimhidh*, is a word related to Old Celtic *nemeton* 'sacred grove, sanctuary'. *Neimhidh* is behind such names as Rosneath, across the water from Helensburgh, and Navitie in Fife. Some scholars think a *nemeton* is ultimately a pagan term, it developed into Gaelic as *neimhidh*, 'churchlands; chapel', but that does not necessarily mean we should see Craigninty as a pagan site that became Christian.



Looking up toward Glen Isla, photo Clare Cooper

Cnoc na Cailliche 'hill of the old woman', lies just north of Craigninty. Gaelic *cailleach* is a word that could also apply to nuns, but it is not known if there were ever nuns based at the nearby chapel at Auchenchapel. However,

it could be that some *cailleach* place-names might commemorate Cailleach Bheur, a legendary figure who apparently wandered the hills calling the deer hinds to her with her siren voice so she could milk them. **Kirkton of Glenisla** is the farmtoun belonging to the parish kirk of Glenisla; it is the exact Scots equivalent of the settlement in Strathardle opposite Kirkmichael called Balnakilly 'farmtoun of the church'. There has been a church at Kirkton since at least the first half of the thirteenth century.

On the route from Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glenisla is a natural pass or *bealach* in Gaelic; this has given rise to a settlement called **Balloch**, which is an anglicised version of *bealach*. At the Glenisla end of Balloch is **Forter Castle**, thought to date from the late 16th century and sits next to what would probably have been one of the most fertile parts of the highland area of Glenisla and guards the eastern end of the most accessible routeway between Glenisla and Glenshee. Forter, however, may be one of the oldest place-names on the Catearan Trail, showing that people have lived here for many centuries. The name itself means 'overland' or 'upper' or 'higher land', distinguishing it from the lower lying lands to the south of Alyth and Kirriemuir.



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The name *fortír* occurs largely in areas of Scotland that were once Pictish speaking, it may actually represent a loan-word from the Pictish equivalent of Welsh *gorthir* ‘uplands, highlands, hill country’, **uorthir* or similar, which has then undergone Gaelicisation. The name is also found in Fife in Forthar, Kirkforthar, and Forthear Burn. Meikle Forter and Little Forter are subdivisions of the lands of Forter, which occurred during a period that Scots had become the naming language of the area, probably in the fifteenth century.

To the east of Kirkton of Glenisla is **Pitlochrie** ‘farm or portion of the stoney ground’. This is same meaning as the more famous town of Pitlochry to the west of Kirkmichael. The element *pit*, or more properly *pett*, has a Pictish provenance; importantly, however, most of the second, or specific, elements are Gaelic, making these settlements not Pictish but Gaelic place-names. There are about 300 *pit*-names mostly in eastern Scotland, and they demonstrate the range of Gaelic-speakers in the tenth century as Alba expanded from its western heartlands in Argyll to the area between the Dornoch Firth in the north and the Firth of Forth in the south.

In societies where people dwell in communities where they live and farm beside

their neighbours there has to be a system for adjudicating in disputes. **Clach a’ Mhoid** ‘stone of the meeting place or court’ is a place in Glenshee where disputes would have been settled at an open air court on certain days of the year. The *clach* or stone in the name is a large boulder, probably an erratic, left stranded by the retreating ice after the last Ice Age.



Clach a'Mhoid, or the Stone of Justice by Kevin Greig, staneswinames.org

The nearby settlement of **Clackavoid** is simply the anglicised version of the same name. Another Gaelic word for a similar meeting place function, although has primarily meaning of ‘hillock, small hill’ is *tulach*. This is anglicised as **Tulloch**, a place about 2 km north of Kirkton of Glenisla; this may have been the local court site of Kirkton of Glenisla and the surrounding area; **Gallow Hill** is 1.5 km north-west of Kirkton of Glenisla where the

ultimate judgement was carried out.

Not that it was all work and no play, music must have played a part in enlivening the lives of the people who resided in the glens of the Cateran Trail; **Carn an Fhidhleir** ‘cairn of the fiddler’ is presumably where someone played a fiddle, although it is not known by whom.

Glenshee is famous for its myths of Finn mac Cumhail, the legendary warrior from Ireland. Fionn mac Cumhail of course was popular elsewhere in Scotland, but there are a number of place-names and two ballads in particular that seem to locate Glenshee into the Finian legends. One ballad, *Laoidh Dhiarmaid* (The Lay of Diarmaid), tells how Diarmaid, a colleague of Finn, dies on **Ben Gulabin** ‘snouty mountain’ at the head of Glenshee, killed by a boar. At the bottom of Ben Gulabin, between Spittal of Glenshee and the appropriately, if misleadingly named **Tomb**, is a stone circle which has the name of **Grave of Diarmaid** (Tomb is actually derived from Gaelic *tom* ‘round hillock, knoll’). The ballad opens with the following lines:

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



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

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

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

In other ballads the heads of the enemies are severed as a sign of victory; the settlement of **Finegand**, about midway between Spittal of Glenshee and Cray, is *Fèith nan Ceann* ‘bog of the heads’. A different legend bases the history of the name in medieval times, when irate tenants in the glen killed the revenue collectors of the earl of Atholl and threw the severed heads into the bog. The Gaelic version of the Finegand can be found in a nearby crag ‘**Creag Feith nan Ceann**’. The name Finegand has travelled all the way to southern New Zealand, when John Shaw from Finegand in Glenshee

arrived in New Zealand in 1852, with his sister Margaret. The Mini Trail booklet has more links to Finn mac Cumhail and this area.

PLACES

The landscape of the CATERAN TRAIL has always been a place of work. Before the area was cleared of people and given over to sheep in the late eighteenth century, the seasons would have affected where people worked.



Sheep on the road, Glen Isla, photo Clare Cooper

In the summer months, while the crops were growing, the cattle and other animals would have been moved up onto the higher grounds in a process called transhumance – the

seasonal transfer of livestock to another area, called *sheilings* in Scots; *airigh* or *ruighe* in Gaelic).

This was important both economically and socially in the Highlands and Islands, and lasted longer there than it did in the Lowlands. The movement was largely undertaken by younger men, the women and children of the settlements, often for up to six weeks at a time – for the young men and women these were places of courting. The remains of sheiling huts where they stayed can be found dotted all over the Highlands. The main sheiling ground along the CATERAN TRAIL, based on place-names, seems to have been in the area between Glenshee and Strathardle. However, it was not the only place where sheilings are found: the settlement of **Runavey** is on record from the 1590s, and is in Gaelic *ruighe a' bheith* ‘sheiling of the birch’. In Glenisla, near Forter, is **Auchenree**, ‘field of the sheiling’.

Another agricultural element that has become a permanent settlement is **Kerrow** in Glenshee. The name is an indication of land or settlement division, deriving from Gaelic *ceathramh* meaning ‘quarter’, it might mean the fourth part of a davoch. A davoch (Gaelic *dabhach*), with a basic meaning of ‘vat, tub’, is a unit of land measurement and



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assessment of variable area. Each *davoch* possessed the necessary resources, both agricultural and arable, for a group of people to survive throughout the year. It was also the basic unit of assessment for army service and was one of the building blocks of the parish north of the Forth. There are no *davoch*-names in Glenshee and Kerrow is only an indicator that the unit of measurement might have in place here. **Allt Coire na Ceardaich** ‘Burn of Coire na Ceardaich’ which contains Gaelic *ceàrd* ‘smith or tinker’ and reminds of the importance of the smith in pre-industrial times; here was someone who fashioned metal into various items from swords to agricultural tools to horse-shoes.

LANDSCAPES

Names were needed to navigate and make sense of an area full of hills and valleys of various sizes and shapes, as well as numerous bogs, and rivers and burns. Gaelic, much more than English, is a language of the landscape and so it has a profusion of generic terms for different parts of the landscape.

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

names themselves relate to landscape features. This stage of the Cateran Trail begins to move from a tracing a route through a valley bottom to an upland landscape of hills and corries. However, there are still a few names along the valley floor that remind us that exploiting the landscape was key to survival. Gaelic *dail* is a ‘water-meadow or haughland’.

There are three on this stage of the Cateran Trail, although only by looking at early spellings could it be guessed that **Dunmay** was one. Written as *Dalmaya* in 1512 and *Dalma* in 1618, the second element is probably Gaelic *magh* ‘plain’, making the name ‘water-meadow plain’.

Dalnaglar, now a nineteenth century castle, seems to be ‘water-meadow of the smooth surfaces or tables’ meaning in this case a piece of level flat land beside the Shee Water. The name shows the genitive plural, and would in modern Gaelic be *dail nan clàr*. Another *dail*-name is Glenshee is **Dalhenzean**; the second element is problematic, but might be Gaelic *caingeann* ‘prayer, agreement’, or possibly Gaelic *fangan* plural of *fang* ‘sheep pen, place for catching cattle’.

Near Forter in Glenisla is **Dalvanie** ‘water-meadow of haughland of the Beanie Burn’. Gaelic *eilean* ‘island’ can seem a strange

element to have in a glen, but it does not always relate to a piece of land constantly surrounded by water, in some cases it can be a piece of raised ground in the floodplain beside a river.

Tigh an Eilein ‘house of the island’ is probably a raised piece of land beside the Shee Water. The usual Gaelic word for a similar feature in the Lowlands is *innis*, usually anglicised to *inch*. **Cams** near Spittal of Glenshee is simply Gaelic *cam* ‘bend’ referring to either the bend in the **Allt a’ Ghlinne Bhig** ‘the burn of Gleann Beag’ or possibly the routeway going past Spittal of Glenshee.



An ancient piece of farm machinery on the Cateran Trail, photo, Clare Cooper



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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. It may be due to vegetation, geology, or perhaps even a certain time of year. **Polgorm Cottage** in Gaelic *poll gorm* 'blue mire or bog'. Quite what is blue about the bog is unknown. **Broughdearg** is in Gaelic *bruach dearg* 'red river bank', while **Cairn Derig** is an anglicisation of Carn Dearg 'red cairn'.

There are quite a number of landscape features on the Cateran trail and in the landscape between the three glens of Strathardle, Glenshee and Glenisla that have animal or bird names attached. **Carn an Daimh** 'Cairn of the stag' and **Allt Coire na h-Eilde** 'burn of the corry of the hind' remind us that hunting was the main sport of the upper classes in the Middle Ages, but it also probably involved people from the nearby farms and settlements to help drive the prey towards the hunters, while others would have been involved with dealing with looking after horses. **Coire an Eich** 'corry of the horse' is probably a place where horses were pastured. Nearby is **Bad an Lòin** 'place of the meadow', but is shown as *Bad an Laoigh* 'place of the calf' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.



View of Ben Gulabin from the Cateran Trail, 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. 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:	Inverreddrie 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



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

Scotland under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (see Shennan 1892).²

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

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

A name preceded by * indicates a hypothetical unattested form.

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

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



STAGE 3: Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glenisla

GLEN SHEE

KRK R NO1462

glensche 1463 *C.A. Rental* i, 131
Glennschee c.1500 Meek 1990, 352
Glen Shie 1590s Pont 27
chapel at *Glen-shy* 1590s Pont 27
Glen schie 1608 *RMS* vi no. 2106
Glen schie 1638 *RMS* ix no. 850
Glen Shee c.1750 Roy
Glen Shee 1783 Stobie
Glenshee 1791-99 *OSA* xv, 506
Glen Shee 1794 Ainslie
Glenshee 1842 *NSA* x, 785
Glen Shee 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *gleann* + G *sith*

‘Glen of peace’ or ‘glen of fairies’.

SPITTAL OF GLENSHEE

KRK S NO1170

Spittale of Glensche 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 197
Spittale of Glensche 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 206
Spittel 1590s Pont 27
Spittel 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156 [‘the toun and lands of the Spittal with the mill, the mill-lands etc with the crofts of the same, the Chapel-crofts’ (villa et terras de *Spittell*, cum molendino, terris molendinariis &c., cum croftis earundem lie *Chappell-croftis*)]

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

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

Spittle c.1750 Roy

Spittal of Glenshee 1783 Stobie

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

Spittal of Glenshee 1794 Ainslie

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

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

There is no evidence of a medieval or early modern hospital here (RCAHMS 1994, 88). What we have instead is a hospice for travellers on the road from Blairgowrie in Lowland eastern Perthshire to Braemar in Highland Deeside. See Watson and Allan 1984, 142 where they have a short discussion of Spittal of Glenmuick, a hospice on the road from Glen Clova in Angus to Ballater in Aberdeenshire. The element *spittal* is evidence for the existence of either a hospital (i.e. a place of hospitality or rest; not a medical facility), lands associated with a hospital, or an inn for travellers; for a recent argument for the use of *spittal* as evidence for properties in the earldom of Lennox belonging to the Knights Hospitaller and Knights Templar see McNiven (2013).



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

OLD SPITTAL FARM KRK S NO1170

Spittal of Glenshee 1783 Stobie

Spittal of Glenshee 1794 Ainslie

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

SSE *old* + en Spittal

See Spittal of Glenshee KRK.

GLEANN BEAG KRK R NO1170

Glenbeg 1510 RMS ii no. 3450

Glenbeg 1510 RMS no. 3457

Glenbeg 1538 RMS iii no. 1841

Glenbeig 1590s Pont 27

Glenbeg 1615 RMS vii no. 1156

Glenbeg 1629 RMS viii no. 1393

Glenbeg 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

Glen-beg 1783 Stobie

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

G *gleann* + G *beag*

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

ALLT A' GHLINNE BHIG KRK W NO1169

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

G *allt* + An Gleann Beag

'The burn of An Gleann Beag. *An Gleann Beag derives from G *an* +

G *gleann* + G *beag* 'the small glen'.

CAMBS KRK S NO1170

Cammowis 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* ii, 283

Cammois 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* ii, 287

Cammis 1615 RMS vii no. 1156

Cammis 1629 RMS viii no. 1393

Cammis 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

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

Alexander McIntosh of *Cambs* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541

Camis c.1750 Roy

Cambus 1783 Stobie

Cambus 1794 Ainslie

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

G *camas*

'Bend'. The name may refer to the bend in the routeway from Blairgowrie to Braemar at Spittal of Glenshee or the bend in the Allt a' Ghlinne Bhig as it meets the Shee Water at Spittal of Glenshee.



TOMB **KRK S NO1270**

Thomcammowis 1542 Fraser, Wemyss no. 197
Thomcammois 1552 Fraser, Wemyss no. 206
Touym 1590s Pont 27
Tamis of Glenschie 1618 *RPC* xi, 364
Donald McKenzie of *Tombe* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540
Tom c.1750 Roy
Tomb 1783 Stobie
Tomb 1794 Ainslie
Tomb 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *tom*

‘Round hillock, knoll’. The earliest forms show that this was part of the lands of Cambs.

KERROW **KRK S NO1269**

Kerauch 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3450
Kerauch 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3457
Kerache 1512 *RMS* ii no. 3769
Keraucht 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841
Kerrow 1590s Pont 27
Keranich 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367 [for *Kerauich*?]
Kerauch 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782
Kerraw c.1750 Roy
Kerrow 1783 Stobie
Kerrow 1794 Ainslie
Kerrow 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *ceathramh*

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

WESTER BINZEAN **KRK S NO1169**

Bynnanbeg 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3450
Bynnanbeg 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3457
Bynnanbeg 1512 *RMS* ii no. 3769
Bynannbeg 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841
Bynanbeig 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367
Bynanbeg 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782
Bingan c.1750 Roy
Little Bingun 1783 Stobie
Wester Binzian 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

ScEng *wester* + en Binzean

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

EASTER BINZEAN **KRK S NO1269**

Bynnanmore 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3450
Bynnanmore 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3457
Bynnanmore 1512 *RMS* ii no. 3769
Bynnanmore 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841
Bynnanmoir 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367
Mekill Bynzeane alias *Bynzeanemoir* 1631 *Retours* PER no. 402
William Murry of *Binnanmore* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540



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Bynanmoir 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782
Easter Binzian 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

ScEng *easter* + en Binzean

COIRE AN EICH **KRK R NO1270**
Coire an Eich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *coire* + G *an* + G *each*
'Corry of the horse'.

BAD AN LÒIN **KRK R NO1270**
Bad an Laoigh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV
Bad an Lòin 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER and CLA XXIV.NW

G *bad* + G *an* + G *laoigh* or G *lòn*
'Place of the calf' or 'place of the meadow'.

COIRE BAD AN LÒIN **KRK R NO1270**
Coire an Laoigh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV
Coire Bad an Lòin 1900 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV.NW

G *coire* + en Bad an Lòin

CARN AN DAIMH **KRK R NO1371**
Cairndow 1783 Stobie
Carn an Daimh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XV

G *càrn* + G *an* + G *damh*
'Cairn of the stag'.

WESTERTON OF RUNAVEY **KRK S NO1369**
? *Uppertown* 1783 Stobie
? *Uppertown* 1794 Ainslie
Westerton of Rinavey 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

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

CRAIG OF RUNAVEY **KRK R NO1369**
Craig of Runavey 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIV

ScEng *craig* + ScEng *of* + en Runavey
The Craig of Runavey is a 638 metre hill above the lands of Runavey KRK.

MAINS OF RUNAVEY **KRK S NO1368**
Ruyna vey 1590s Pont 27
Randeveyois 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367
Robert McKenzie of *Rinuvaye* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541
Rinnavey c.1750 Roy
Renevey 1783 Stobie
Benavey 1794 Ainslie
Rinavey 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

Sc *mains* + Sc *of* + en Runavey



SLOCHNACRAIG **KRK SNO1268**

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

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

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

DALHENZEAN **KRK S NO1268**

Dalhangitht 1542 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 197

Dalhangith 1552 Fraser, *Wemyss* no. 206

Dathangaine 1615 *RMS* vii no. 1156

Dathangane 1629 *RMS* viii no. 1393

Dalhagan 1641 *Retours* PER no. 498

Dalhinzean 1730 *RCAHMS* 1994, 108 [citing Atholl Muniments]

Dalhingan c.1750 Roy

Dalhingan 1783 Stobie

Dalhingan 1794 Ainslie

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

G *dail* + G ?

This is a problematic name and while the first element is ScG *dail* ‘water-meadow, haughland’; the second element is not known.

SHALLAVANACH **KRK S NO1368**

Shallavanach 1973 OS 1:10,000 NO16

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

INVEREDDRIE **KRK S NO1368**

Invereddre 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3450

Invereddre 1510 *RMS* ii no. 3457

Invereddre 1512 *RMS* ii no. 3769

Invereddre 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1841

Inner-Eder 1590s Pont 27

Innereddre 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367

Inneridrie 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782

Innerederg c.1750 Roy

Inveridry 1783 Stobie

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

G *inbhir* + G ?

Invereddre sits about 1.5 km north-east of the confluence of Allt Mòr with the Shee Water, which suggests that one of these waters originally contained the name **Eddrie* or similar, and indeed Allt Mòr is named *Alt-Eder* on Pont 27. See Beveridge (1923, 62). W.J. Watson gives the form as *Inbhir Eadrain* (modern Gaelic **Inbhir Eadraidh*) under a list of names in *eadar* ‘between’ meaning ‘between place’.⁴ *Invereddre* lies

⁴ My thanks to Jake King of Ainmean-Àite na-h Alba for his help with this name.



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

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

CREAG NA BRUAICH KRK R NO1467

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

G *creag* + G *an* + G *bruach*
‘Crag of the bank’.

BROUGHDEARG KRK S NO1367

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

Broughdarick c.1750 Roy

Broughderig 1783 Stobie

Broughderig 1794 Ainslie

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

G *bruach* + G *dearg*
‘Red river bank’.

CORRYDON COTTAGE KRK S NO1366

Korydobeg 1590s Pont 27 [there is a a nasal suspension mark over the second o]

Corridon 1674 RCAHMS 1994, 105

Corridone 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 540

Corrydon 1783 Stobie

Corrydon 1794 Ainslie

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

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

ALLT A’ CHOIRE DHOMHAIN KRK W NO1367

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

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

ALLT COIRE NA CEARDAICH KRK W NO1466

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

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

ALLT COIRE NA H-EILDE KRK W NO1366

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



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

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

CNOC LIATH

KRK R NO1366

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

G *cnoc* + G *liath*
'Grey hillock'.

FINEGAND

KRK S NO1466

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

G *fèith* + G *an* + G *ceann*

This is an Anglicised *Fèith nan Ceann* found in Creag Feith nan Ceann

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

DUNMAY

KRK S NO1466

Dalmaya 1512 RMS ii no. 3769
Dalma 1618 *Retours* PER no. 184
Dumma 1642 *Retours* PER no. 515
Dunmor c.1750 Roy
Dunmie 1783 Stobie
Dunmie 1794 Ainslie
Dunmay 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *dail* + G *magh*

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

POLGORM COTTAGE

KRK S NO1465

Polgoram 1783 Stobie
Poll Gorm 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV



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G *poll* + G *gorm*

'Blue mire/bog'. Stobie shows an epenthetic (or helping) vowel in his spelling of *gorm*.

CREAG FEITH NAN CEANN KRK R NO1365

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

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

'Crag of the bog of the heads'. See Finegand KRK.

CAIRN DERIG KRK R NO1566

Cairn-derig 1783 Stobie

Cairnderig 1794 Ainslie

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

G *càrn* + G *dearg*

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

ALLT-AN-BUIE KRK S NO1465

Aldbui c.1750 Roy

Auldvuie 1783 Stobie

Auldvuie 1794 Ainslie

Allt-an-Buie 1901 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER and CLA XXIV.SW&SW

G *alltan* + G *buidhe*

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

TIGH-NA-COILLE KRK S NO1465

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

G *taigh* + G *an* + G *coille*

'House of the wood'.

DALNAGLAR CASTLE KRK S NO1464

Dalniglaer c.1750 Roy

Dalnaglar 1783 Stobie

Dalnaglar 1794 Ainslie

G *dail* + G *an* + G ? *clàr*

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

TIGH AN EILEIN KRK S NO1464

Tynellan 1783 Stobie

Tynellan 1794 Ainslie

Tigh an Eilein 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *taigh* + G *an* + G *eilean*

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



CLACH-NA-COILEACH

KRK S NO1464

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

G *clach* + G *an* + G *coileach*

'Stone of the cocks'. The bird is likely to be the blackcock or black grouse.

CLACH A' MHOID

KRK O NO146640

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

G *clach* + G *an* + G *mòd*

'Stone of the meeting place or court'. G *mòd* 'court of justice, trial, assembly, meeting', and in place-names can mean a court site, and this may have been the court of Glenshee, or at least this part of Glenshee (see O'Grady 2008, 139-42 for a discussion of *mòd* place-names in Scotland, and 569 where he mentions this site in a gazetteer). The *clach* or stone in the name is a large boulder, probably an erratic, that sits at the top of a slope near the River Shee at the NGR given.

CLACKAVOID

KRK S NO1463

Cloichvoitoch 1783 Stobie

Cloichvoiloch 1794 Ainslie

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

en Clach a' Mhoid KRK; see previous entry.

CRAY

KRK S NO1463

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

Krai 1590s Pont 27

Cray c.1750 Roy

Cray 1783 Stobie

Cray 1794 Ainslie

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

G *crathaidh*

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

Roy also shows a *Mill of Cray*.

BALLOCH

GLI S NO167648

Bheallach 1583-96 Pont 28

Bellach 1636-52 Gordon 43

Balloch 1794 Ainslie

Balloch 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *bealach*

'Pass'. This is one of three routeways between Glenshee and Glenisla, the others being via Glen Beanie and from Blacklunans to Brewlands. Balloch appears to have been the easier travelled of the three routes and certainly the gap in which the settlement of Balloch sits is wider.



DUCHRAY BURN **GLI W NO168646**

Duchray Burn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

en Duchray + Sc *burn*

Duchray probably derives from G *dubh-chàthraigh* 'place of black broken mossy ground' (Watson 1926, 141), which may indicate an area of peat collection for fuel.

BALLOCH BURN **GLI W NO182641**

Balloch Burn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

en Balloch + Sc *burn*

CARN AN FHIDHLEIR **GLI R NO174656**

Carn an Fhidhleir 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *càrn* + ScG *an* + ScG *fidhlear*

'Cairn of the fiddler'. It is not known what legend is attached to this rock to be so named.

COT GRAIG **GLI R NO179642**

Cot craig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *cot* + Sc *craig*

'A rock or crag associated with a small house; a sheep-house'. *DOST* has *cot* dating to the early sixteenth century.

FORTER GLI S NO182646

ffortouth 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41

Fortour 1455 x 1465 *C.A. Rental* i, 131

half part of *Fortar* 1470 *C.A. Rental* i, 157

an eighth part of *Fortur in Glenyleff* 1478 *C.A. Rental* i, 226

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

Fortour 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 264

Mydil Fortour 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 299

Fortour 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 300

Forthouris 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 204

(lands of) *Meikle & Little Fortharis* 1584 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 275 [lands belong to Coupar Abbey]

Fortyr 1583-96 Pont 28

Forther 1635 *Bamff Chrs* no. 214

Castle Forthar c.1750 Roy

Forter Castle 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

OG *fortír*

'Overland', or 'upper' or 'higher' land. Barrow states that this name means 'terrain which was either never or at least not regularly under the plough', to distinguish it from the lower-lying parts of estates which were arable land (2003, 242).

DIL has no entry with anything like this meaning for **fortír*, and it seems to be absent in Ireland and because of this, it occurs largely in areas of Scotland that were once Pictish speaking, it may actually represent a loan-word from the Pictish equivalent of Welsh *gorthir* 'uplands, highlands, hill country', **uorthir* or similar, which has then undergone Gaelicisation. The name is also found in Fife in Forthar, Kirkforthar, and Forthear Burn (*PNF* 5, 379-80).



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

The castle at Forter is thought to date from the late 16th century and sits next to what would probably have been one of the most fertile parts of the highland area of Glenisla and guards the eastern end of the most accessible routeway between Glenisla and Glenshee. For more details of the castle see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/29403>.

MEIKLE FORTER GLI S NO182647

Mekyll Forthyr 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 195
Mekle Forthir 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 175
Mekill Forthir 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)
Mickle Forter 1794 Ainslie
Meikle Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *meikle* + en Forter

Sc *meikle* in Scottish place-names means 'big', and is an indication of settlement sub-division. Other indicators of sub-division are little, upper, nether, north, south, easter, wester, and in Gaelic *mòr* (big) and *beag* (small).

LITTLE FORTER GLI S NO185649

Litill Forthir 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 195
Lytill Fortyr 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 142
Littill Forthir 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)
Litle Fortyr 1583-96 Pont 28
Lit. Forter 1794 Ainslie
Little Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *little* + en Forter

BOLYELL GLI S NO181650

Ballyell 1794 Ainslie
Bolyell 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

? This is a difficult name. It does not look like it contains ScG *baile* 'farm, town'.

BRIDGE OF FORTER GLI O NO187649

Bridge of Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScEng *bridge* + ScEng *of* + en Forter

The Bridge of Forter crosses the River Isla.

RIVER ISLA GLI W NO160377

? *Glend Ailbe* 11th century Irish Nennius
(<http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/T100028>)
Hilef 1165 × 1184 *De Situ Albanie* (Anderson 1980, 243-3)
[aqua de] *Ylif* c.1198 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 13
aqua et pontem de *hylif* c.1220 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 31 [the water and bridge of Isla]
aqua de *Yleife* 1326 *RRS* v no. 298
watter of *Ilay* 1518 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 162
aqua de *Ilay* 1527 *RMS* iii no. 504
aqua de *Ilay* 1536 *RMS* iii no. 1560
Yla 1590s Pont 28
aqua de *Ilay* 1604 *Retours* PER no. 124
aqua de *Ilay* 1622 *Retours* PER no. 307
aqua de *Illay* 1641 *Retours* PER no. 497
Yla fl. 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

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

River Yla c.1750 Roy

Isla River 1783 Stobie

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

ScEng *river* + en *Isla*

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

In the Irish Nennius version of *Historia Brittonum* there are the lines ‘*Atá dno glenn i n-Aengus, & eigim cacha h-aidchi Luain and, & Glend Ailbe a ainm, & ni feas cia do gni fuith*’ (There is a valley in Aengus, in which shouting is heard every Monday night; Glen Ailbe is its name, and it is not known who makes the noise) (<http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/T100028>).

FOLDA

GLI S NO187645

Affolda c.1750 Roy

Falda 1794 Ainslie

Folda School 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

? Sc *fauld* + ? or ScG *faillfoill* + ScG *dabhach*

If the name is not Sc *fauld* ‘fold’, then the first element might be as Adam Watson suggests ScG *faillfoill* ‘cliff’ – opposite *Folda* are some spectacular cliffs, including *Cot Craig* and *Creag an Fhithich*. Watson suggests ScG *dabhach* ‘a measure of land’ for the second element (Watson 2013, 49), but the forms are too late to be sure. The Roy form could be *Ath Folda* ‘ford of *Folda*’ (Watson 2013, 49), perhaps a crossing place before the *Bridge of Forter* was built.

DALVANIE

GLI S NO186659

our tak in *Glenylay* callit *Dalwany* 1512 C.A. Rental i, 287

Dalwany 1542 C.A Rental ii, 195

Dalwany 1542 C.A Rental ii, 200

Daluany 1542 C.A. Rental ii, 204

Dalwany 1546 C.A. Rental ii, 228

the tuay (two) akir of schyphird (shepherd) land of *Dalwany* 1546 C.A.

Rental ii, 236

Dalwany 1550 C.A. Rental ii, 244

Dalwany 1555 C.A. Rental ii, 255

Dalueny 1584 *Coupar Angus Chrs* ii, no. 275

Dalveany 1590s Pont 28

Dalvenie 1794 Ainslie

Dalvanie 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *dail* + en *Beanie*

‘*Haugh* or water-meadow of *Glen Beanie Burn*’. There is a *Dalvanie* Cottage nearby at NO187659.

THE HILLOCKS

GLI S NO187660

The Hillocks 1973 OS 1:10,000 NO16NE

SSE *the* + SSE *hillock*

This is a modern settlement and does not appear on earlier maps.

AUCHINREE

GLI S NO185657

Auchenrie 1794 Ainslie

Auchinree 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *achadh* + ScG *an* + ScG *ruighe*



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

‘Field of the sheiling’. In a survey of transhumance place-names in Perthshire, Albert Bil states that ‘rie’ is ‘most likely to be[an] anglicized corruption’ of *ruighe*, and are ‘found mainly along the Highland/Lowland border. The *rie* term, in particular, was frequently used as a prefix element in the names of hill grazings and shielings which became permanently settled farms in the 17th and 18th centuries (SRO GD 132/186/725). The *rie* placename element occurs mainly in the east [of Perthshire], in Strathtay and on the hill land between Dunkeld and Alyth’ (Bil 1992, 390-1). Auchinree shows that the element *ruighe* was also present in the neighbouring Glenisla in Angus. The settlement is now shown as a deserted settlement on the current OS map and on Google Earth.

CUINGARD **GLI R NO195667**

Conart Hill 1794 Ainslie

Cuingard 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *cuing* + ScG *àrd* or *àird*

Adam Watson states the modern Gaelic version of the name is *An Cuing-àird* ‘the narrow height’ (Watson 2013, 47).

THE KNAPS **GLI R NO194652**

The Knaps 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

The name probably derives from or was influenced by ScG *cnap* ‘knob, lump, little hill’ (it also occurs in Scots with much the same meaning, see *PNF* 5). *Cnap* in modern Gaelic is pronounced *krahp* (Drummond 2007, 29), and this hill is interesting for its spelling and presumably pronunciation (probably similar to English *nap*), particularly in relation to another hill nearby, Crock, about 4 km to the south-east (see below).

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 O’Rahilly; he suggests the change took place in Scotland by the mid-16th century or later (O’Rahilly 1932, 22-3). Crock reflects modern ScG pronunciation of ScG *cnoc*, and is a good indication for evidence that this sound-change had taken place in the Gaelic of this part of Perthshire and Angus by the 18th century. This means, in other words, 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 16th century. However, the fact that The Knaps is so spelled probably means we should view this hill being named before the sound change of the 16th century.

GOLAN WELL **GLI W NO197655**

Golan Well 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

en Golan + Sc *well*

Golan probably derives from ScG *gobhlan*, a diminutive of ScG *gobhal* ‘fork’, in this case ‘little fork, branch’, relating to the fact that the small burn that arises from the well flows southwards for 200 metres to meet the Allt na Beinne at NO198653, which then flows southwards into the artificial Auchenchapel Loch, created sometime before the OS published the OS 6 inch 2nd edn map.

AUCHENCHAPEL **GLI S NO199649**

Well of Auchenteple 1794 Ainslie

Auchenchapel 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

ScG *achadh* + ScG *an* + ScG *caibeal*

'Field of the chapel'. 'The site of the chapel of Auchenchapel is situated on a gently rising slope and is surrounded by what appears to be the foundations of a bank or wall; the hollow space within being the chapel site. The site of the chapel is defined on the ground by a slight sub-rectangular hollow c.10 metres east-west x c.8 metres, containing a few loose stones. The site is enclosed by a turf-covered stony bank c.3 metres wide and 0.3 metres maximum height. No dedication could be ascertained' (RCAHMS Canmore ID no. 29258).

AUCHINTAPLE LOCH

GLI W NO196647

Auchenchapel Loch 1902 OS 6 inch 2nd edn Forfarshire XXIII.NW

Auchintaple Loch 1978 OS 1:10,000 NO16SE

en Auchenchapel + ScEng *loch*

This is a modern loch; it is not shown on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map.

CNOC NA CAILLICHE

GLI R NO202646

Cnoc na Cailleiche 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *cnoc* + ScG *an* + ScG *cailleach*

'Hill of the old woman'. ScG *cailleach* could also apply to nuns, but since the name shows *cailleach* in the singular, it is unlikely to refer to a nun at the nearby chapel at Auchenchapel. Pete Drummond speculates that some *cailleach* place-names might commemorate Cailleach Bheur, a legendary figure who wandered the hills calling the deer hinds to her with her siren voice so she could milk them (Drummond 2007, 188)

ALLT NA BEINNE

GLI W NO192628

Allt na Beinne 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *allt* + ScG *an* + ScG *beinn*

'Burn of the mountain, hill'.

CRAIGHEAD

GLI S NO210636

Craighead 1794 Ainslie

Craighead 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *craig* + ScEng *head*

'Head of the crag'. The *craig* in the name must be the crag on Lindalla about 150 metres to the south-west.

CRAIGNINTY

GLI S NO212631

Cragneuthyn 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41

Cragnevady 1471 *C.A. Rental* i, 158

Cragnenady 1473 *C.A. Rental* i, 166

Cragneuydy 1478 *C.A. Rental* i, 227

the quarter of *Cragnewady* 1513 *C.A. Rental* i, 286

the town called *Cragnewyde* 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 301

Cragnaute 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 199

Cragneate 1543 *C.A. Rental* ii, 233

Cragneate 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)

? *Kraignietty* 1583-96 Pont 28

Craugneedy 1794 Ainslie

Craigninty 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

ScG *crag* + ScG *neimhidh* + ScG *-in*

‘Crag of the churchlands place’. ScG *neimhidh* is a word related to Gaulish *nemeton* ‘sacred grove, sanctuary’. *Neimhidh* is behind such names as Rosneath, across the water from Helensburgh, and Navitie in Fife. Watson and Barrow think a *nemeton* is ultimately a pagan term (Watson 1926, 244; Barrow 1998, 56, 58-9), but at some point developed into Gaelic as *neimhidh*, ‘churchlands; chapel’ from OIr *nemed* ‘sacred; noble or sacred place’ (see *PNF* 5, 452-55 for a more lengthy discussion).

LINDALLA

GLI S NO216623

Lindalla 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

? ScG *lann* + ? ScG *dail* + ? ScG *-ach*

Adam Watson suggests ScG *Loinn Dalach* ‘at enclosure of haugh’ (Watson 2013, 51). *Loinn* is the locative of ScG *lann* ‘enclosure, house’. The *dail* or haugh in the name, if that is what it is, must be the haughland shown on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map where Loch Shandra now lies.

CROCK

GLI R NO226632

Crock 1794 Ainslie

Crock 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *cnoc*

‘Round hill, hillock, knoll’.

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 O’Rahilly; he suggests the change took place in Scotland by the mid-16th century or later (O’Rahilly 1932, 22-3). *Crock* reflects modern ScG pronunciation of ScG *cnoc*, and is a good indication for evidence that this sound-change had taken place in the Gaelic of this part of Perthshire and Angus by the 18th century. This means, in other words, 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 16th century. However, the fact that in the late 16th century *Pont* shows many Scots prefixes, such as *Little Fortyr* and *East Innerherraty*, suggests that Gaelic was probably extinct in Glen Isla as the naming language at least among the landlords.

TULLOCH

GLI S NO219630

Tullocht of Fruquhy 1508 C.A. *Rental* i, 269

Tulloch 1524 C.A. *Rental* i, 301

Tulloch 1542 C.A. *Rental* ii, 194

Tulloch 1583-96 *Pont* 28

E. Tulloch 1794 Ainslie

W. Tulloch 1794 Ainslie

Tulloch 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *tulach*

‘Hillock; ? assembly hill’. ScG *tulach* has the primary meaning ‘hillock, small hill’, but it may sometimes be classified as a ‘habitational mound; mound suitable for habitation’ (*PNF* 5, 519-20). There is some evidence that in Ireland *tulach* can also have the meaning of ‘assembly mound, mound of judgment’ (O’Grady 2008, 144-163; Swift 1996, 19-20, 21; *PNF* 5, 519-20), and this may also be the case in Scotland.



LOCH SHANDRA **GLI W NO217621**

Loch Shandra 2009 OS Explorer OL 53

It is not known at this stage when the reservoir of Loch Shandra was built; it is not shown on the OS 6 inch map published in 1927. See Shandrew below.

SHANDREW **GLI S NO216622**

Shandrew 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *seann* + ScG ? *treabh*

‘Old farmtoun, settlement?’. Adam Watson thinks this the ScG name for this place is *Seantruibh* based on W. J. Watson’s derivation of Shantry near Dublin, Ireland (Watson 2013, 53; Watson 1926, 357).

MUCKLE BURN **GLI W NO229600**

Mickle B. 1794 Ainslie

Muckle Burn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

Sc *muckle* + Sc *burn*

‘Big burn’. Sc *muckle* is a variant of *meikle* ‘big, large’.

CORNEYCLOICH **GLI S NO216613**

Corney 1794 Ainslie

Corneycloich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *coire* + ScG *an* + ScG *clach*

Adam Watson, probably correctly, suggests a Gaelic name, *Coire na Cloiche* ‘corry of the stone’ (2013, 46).

PITLOCHRIE **GLI S NO220611**

Petlochry 1443 C.A. *Rental* i, 119

Petklochry 1453 C.A. *Rental* i, 129

a quarter of the town of *Petklochry* 1464 C.A. *Rental* i, 138

Pitlochry 1508 C.A. *Rental* i, 265

Petlochry 1514 C.A. *Rental* i, 295

a third of *Pitlokry* 1524 C.A. *Rental* i, 300

Petloquhry 1557 C.A. *Rental* ii, 149

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

Pitlochry 1583-96 Pont 28

Pitlochrie 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539

Pitlochry 1794 Ainslie

Pitlochrie 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *pett* + ScG *cloichreach*

‘Farm or portion of the stoney ground’. This is same meaning as the more famous town of Pitlochry to the west of Kirkmichael.

SHANK **GLI S NO217609**

Shank 1794 Ainslie

Shank 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

According to *DOST* Sc *shank* can mean ‘downward projection, or spur, of a hill; a descending ridge’.

EAST FREUCHIE **GLI S NO226607**

ffrohym 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41

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

three eights parts of *Fruquhy* 1508 C.A. *Rental* i, 267

Frewchy 1552 C.A. *Rental* ii, 106



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

Neutoun Freuchy, mill and *Milntoun* thereof 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)
Freuchy 1583-96 Pont 28
Frewchy 1629 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 183
Freuchie 1636 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 232
Freuchy 1794 Ainslie
East Freuchie 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *east* + en *Freuchie*

Freuchie derives from ScG *fraoch* + ScG *-in* 'heather place; place of heather'. There is a place with the same name in Fife (*PNF* 2, 160).

WEST FREUCHIE GLI S NO225607

West Freuchie 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *west* + en *Freuchie*

WOODEND GLI S NO218604

Woodend 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *wood* + ScEng *end*

There is an un-named wood just a few metres to the south-east shown on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map.

EAST MILL FARM GLI S NO222603

East Mill 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *east* + ScEng *mill*

See also West Mill GLI above.

KIRKTON BURN GLI W NO216604

Kirkton Burn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

en *Kirkton* + Sc *burn*

KIRKTON OF GLENISLA GLI S NO214604

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

Sc *kirkton* + Sc *of* + en *Glenisla*

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

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



STAGE 3a: Invereddrie to Forter

INVEREDDRIE

KRK S NO1368

Invereddre 1510 RMS ii no. 3450

Invereddre 1510 RMS ii no. 3457

Inverredre 1512 RMS ii no. 3769

Invereddre 1538 RMS iii no. 1841

Inner-Ederly 1590s Pont 27

Innereddre 1629 *Retours* PER no. 367

Inneridrie 1668 *Retours* PER no. 782

Innerederg c.1750 Roy

Inveridry 1783 Stobie

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

G *inbhir* + G ?

‘Mouth or confluence of ?’. Invereddrie sits about 1.5 km north-east of the confluence of Allt Mòr with the Shee Water, which suggests that one of these waters originally contained the name *Eddrie or similar, and indeed Allt Mòr is named *Alt-Ederly* on Pont 27. See Beveridge (1923, 62). W.J. Watson gives the form as *Inbhir Eadrain* (modern Gaelic *Inbhir Eadraidh) under a list of names in *eadar* ‘between’ meaning ‘between place’.⁵ Invereddrie lies between the two prominent crags – Craig of Runavey and Creag na Bruaich. Allt Mòr is the largest burn entering the Shee Water after Spittal of Glenshee. Also Invereddrie is between the route going north to Deeside via Spittal of Glenshee and a route between Glenshee and Glenisla lying to the south of Mealna Letter or Duchray Hill, and which has a place-name Balloch i.e. G *bealach*

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

‘pass’ within it.

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

ALLT MÒR

KRK W NO1367

Allt Mòr 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *allt* + G *mòr*

‘Big burn’. This appears to be the burn named *Alt-Ederly* on Pont 27; see Invereddrie KRK which is just 600 metres north-east of the confluence of Allt Mòr with the Shee Water.

LOCH BEANIE

KRK W NO1668

loch sestar 1463 C.A. *Rental* i, 131

Loch Sesaturr 1590s Pont 27

Loch Sesatur 1590s Pont 27

Loch Schechyr 1590s Pont 28

Loch Shishernich c.1750 Roy

Loch Shechernich 1783 Stobie

Loch Sheshernich 1791-99 OSA xv, 509

Loch Sechernich 1794 Ainslie

Loch Sheshernich 1842 NSA x, 786

Loch Shechernich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

Loch Beanie 1973 OS 1:10,000 NO16



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

G *loch* + G ?

The current name, Loch Beanie, is probably due to the loch's proximity to Glen Beanie, just over the border between Perthshire and Angus. However, the loch does not drain into Glen Beanie but into Glen Shee via Allt Mòr. Pont stated that '*Loch Sesatur*, sumtymys ye dwelling of ye chief man of *Glenshy* and *Strathardle*'. RCAHMS states that on a small island, apparently artificial, in the middle of the loch are the remains of a building of some kind (RCAHMS 1994, 91).

Pont 28 gives the name of the loch twice, once as Loch Sesatur and also as Loch Schechyr. This may mean that these are two names of the same loch, the *Schechyr* form given by informants from the Glenisla side and *Sesatur* given by informants from the Glenshee side, which might tell us something about how Pont went about his work mapping Scotland.

MEALL AN RUIGHE

KRK R NO1567

Meall an Ruidhe 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *meall* + G *an* + G *ruighe*

'Round, lumpy hill of the sheiling'.

MEALNA LETTER OR DUCHRAY HILL

KRK R NO1667

Letter 1783 Stobie

Letter 1794 Ainslie

Mealna Letter or Duchray Hill 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXIV

G *meall* + G *an* + G *leitir*

'Round, lumpy hill of the slope'. Duchray probably derives from G *dubh-chàthraigh* 'place of black broken mossy ground' (Watson 1926, 141), which may indicate an area of peat collection for fuel.

GLEN BEANIE

GLI R NO177667

Glenbeany 1590s Pont 28

Glen Bainie 1794 Ainslie

ScG *gleann* + en Beanie

Beanie might derive from ScG *binneach* 'hilly, pinnacled, mountainous; pointed; high-topped' (Dwelly). David Durward's suggestion of ScG *m(h)eadhonach* 'middle' (Durward 2001, 86), while possible, seems unlikely as we would expect the *m* to show in the name, i.e as Glen Meanie.

MID STRONE

GLI R NO174698

Mid Strone 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScEng *mid* + en Strone

Strone derives from ScG *sròn* 'nose', meaning in this case 'promontory'. Many Gaelic words for parts of the human body have been applied to hills and parts of hills.

GLEN BEANIE BURN

GLI W NO186651

Glen Beanie Burn 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

en Glen Beanie + Sc *burn*



MCCOMIE'S CHAIR AND WELL **GLI R NO175677**

McComie's Chair and Well 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

pn McComie + SSE *chair* + SSE *and* + SSE *well*

McComie derives from the name MacThomas or MacThomaidh. In ScG a *th* is silent, even in surnames.

'Sir my husband is gone But it is true About McKomies Chair. the rode goes from Crandart through Glenbanie to Glenshee it is an old Aincient stone there is letters on the back of it but it is not kept clean to read them it is like an Armchair and we have got up a new steading & there is Another stone put in the gavel of the Dh [Dutch] Barn and many a one comes to see it. and McComies Name and his wifes Names is on it And a heart between them. it had been carved in 1660. it says again the Lord Defend this Family. McComie had 12 sons Any person that wishes to see any thing About the place i will do what i can the rode goes from Crandart and the Chair is at the rode side About a 100 yards from the back of Craigin sillieor (on trace) and it goes through Glenbanie to Glenshee and when he came to the chair he had a rest and he had a drink out of the well and it is called McComies well to this Day 1660 is a very old date. I Am yours truly Margaret Lamond' Crandart' Glenisla 1863 June the 20'. (OSNB OS1/14/46/46A & B)

See Jervise (1861 71-5) for an account of the McComies in Glenisla and Glenshee, where they held Finegand in 1571 (Black 1946, 474). The McComies seem to have been significant in the dissemination of the myths and legends of Finn mac Cumhail. It is known that the author of a 'short poem allusions to several individuals famous in Gaelic mythology' in the Book of the Dean of Lismore was one Baron Ewan McComie (Black 1946, 474).

CREAGAN CAISE **GLI R NO181686**

Kraigin Gash 1590s Pont 28

Cragin Glash 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43

Craigengash 1794 Ainslie

Creagan Caise 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *creagan* + ScG *caise* or ScG *gais*

'Little cheese crag' or 'little staff crag'.

CREAGAN CAISE HILL **GLI R NO181689**

Creagan Caise Hill 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

en Creagan Caise + ScEng *hill*

CREAGAN SOILLIER **GLI R NO181672**

Creag an Soillier 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

Creagan Soillier 1902 OS 6 inch 2nd edn Forfarshire XV.SE

ScG *creagan* + ScG *soillier*

'Bright little crag'.

CREAG RUADHARD **GLI R NONO182669**

Creag Ruadhard 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *creag* + ScG *ruadh* + ScG *àrd*

'A small craig north of the Drum, signifies the Creag situated on the red coloured height' (OS1/14/46/43).



THE DRUM

GLI R NO183666

The Drum 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScEng *the* + ScEng *drum*

Sc *drum* is a borrowing from ScG *druim* 'ridge, back'. 'A small ridge situated to the south west of Presnerb' (OS1/14/46/43).

PRESNERB

GLI S NO186668

Presnerb 1794 Ainslie

Presnerb 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *preas* + ScG *an* + ScG *earb*

Adam Watson has this as *Preas na h-Earba* 'copse of the roe deer' (Watson 2013, 53).

DAIL NA SNEACHD

GLI S NO191673

Dallysnaught 1790 Watson 2013, 47

Dulisnaight 1794 Ainslie

Dail na Sneachd 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *dail* + ScG *an* + ScG *sneachd*

'Haugh or water-meadow of the snow'. Adam Watson has the name in ScG as *Dail nan Sneachd* 'haugh of the snows' (Watson 2013, 47).

CUINGARD

GLI R NO195667

Conart Hill 1794 Ainslie

Cuingard 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *cuing* + ScG *àrd* or *àird*

Adam Watson states the modern Gaelic version of the name is *An Cuing-àird* 'the narrow height' (Watson 2013, 47).

DALVANIE

GLI S NO186659

our tak in *Glenylay* callit *Dalwany* 1512 C.A. Rental i, 287

Dalwany 1542 C.A. Rental ii, 195

Dalvany 1542 C.A. Rental ii, 200

Daluany 1542 C.A. Rental ii, 204

Dalvany 1546 C.A. Rental ii, 228

the tuay (two) akir of schyphird (shepherd) land of *Dalwany* 1546 C.A. Rental ii, 236

Dalwany 1550 C.A. Rental ii, 244

Dalwany 1555 C.A. Rental ii, 255

Dalueny 1584 *Coupar Angus Chrs* ii, no. 275

Dalveany 1590s Pont 28

Dalvenie 1794 Ainslie

Dalvanie 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *dail* + en Beanie

'Haugh or water-meadow of Glen Beanie Burn'. There is a Dalvanie Cottage nearby at NO187659.



THE HILLOCKS

GLI S NO187660

The Hillocks 1973 OS 1:10,000 NO16NE

SSE *the* + SSE *hillock*

This is a modern settlement and does not appear on earlier maps.

AUCHINREE

GLI S NO185657

Auchenrie 1794 Ainslie

Auchinree 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XV

ScG *achadh* + ScG *an* + ScG *ruighe*

‘Field of the sheiling’. In a survey of transhumance place-names in Perthshire, Albert Bil states that ‘rie’ is ‘most likely to be[an] anglicized corruption’ of *ruighe*, and are ‘found mainly along the Highland/Lowland border. The *rie* term, in particular, was frequently used as a prefix element in the names of hill grazings and shielings which became permanently settled farms in the 17th and 18th centuries (SRO GD 132/186/725). The *rie* placename element occurs mainly in the east [of Perthshire], in Strathtay and on the hill land between Dunkeld and Alyth’ (Bil 1992, 390-1). Auchinree shows that the element *ruighe* was also present in the neighbouring Glenisla in Angus. The settlement is now shown as a deserted settlement on the current OS map and on Google Earth.

CARN AN FHIDHLEIR

GLI R NO174656

Carn an Fhidhleir 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *càrn* + ScG *an* + ScG *fidhlear*

‘Cairn of the fiddler’. It is not known what legend is attached to this rock to be so named.

FORTER

GLI S NO182646

ffortouth 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41

Fortour 1455 × 1465 *C.A. Rental* i, 131

half part of *Fortar* 1470 *C.A. Rental* i, 157

an eighth part of *Fortur in Glenyleff* 1478 *C.A. Rental* i, 226

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

Fortour 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 264

Mydil Fortour 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 299

Fortour 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 300

Forthouris 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 204

(lands of) *Meikle & Little Fortharis* 1584 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 275

[lands belong to Coupar Abbey]

Fortyr 1583-96 *Pont* 28

Forther 1635 *Bamff Chrs* no. 214

Castle Forthar c.1750 *Roy*

Forter Castle 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

OG *fortír*

‘Overland’, or ‘upper’ or ‘higher’ land. Barrow states that this name means ‘terrain which was either never or at least not regularly under the plough’, to distinguish it from the lower-lying parts of estates which were arable land (2003, 242).

DIL has no entry with anything like this meaning for **fortír*, and it seems to be absent in Ireland and because of this, it occurs largely in areas of Scotland that were once Pictish speaking, it may actually represent a loan-word from the Pictish equivalent of Welsh *gorthir* ‘uplands, highlands, hill country’, **uorthir* or similar, which has then undergone Gaelicisation. The name is also found in Fife in Forthar, Kirkforthar, and



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

Forthear Burn (*PNF* 5, 379-80).

The castle at Forter is thought to date from the late 16th century and sits next to what would probably have been one of the most fertile parts of the highland area of Glenisla and guards the eastern end of the most accessible routeway between Glenisla and Glenshee. For more details of the castle see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/29403>.

LITTLE FORTER

GLI S NO185649

Litill Forthir 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 195

Lytill Fortyr 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 142

Littill Forthir 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)

Litle Fortyr 1583-96 Pont 28

Lit. Forter 1794 Ainslie

Little Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *little* + en Forter

MEIKLE FORTER

GLI S NO182647

Mekyll Forthyr 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 195

Mekle Forthir 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 175

Mekill Forthir 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)

Mickle Forter 1794 Ainslie

Meikle Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *meikle* + en Forter

Sc *meikle* in Scottish place-names means 'big', and is an indication of settlement sub-division. Other indicators of sub-division are little, upper, nether, north, south, easter, wester, and in Gaelic *mòr* (big) and *beag* (small).



STAGE 3b: Forter to Kirkton of Glenisla

FORTER

GLI S NO182646

ffortouth 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41
Fortour 1455 x 1465 *C.A. Rental* i, 131
half part of *Fortar* 1470 *C.A. Rental* i, 157
an eighth part of *Fortur in Glenyleff* 1478 *C.A. Rental* i, 226
Fortour 1481 *C.A. Rental* i, 233
Fortour 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 264
Mydil Fortour 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 299
Fortour 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 300
Forthouris 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 204
(lands of) *Meikle & Little Fortharis* 1584 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 275 [lands belong to Coupar Abbey]
Fortyr 1583-96 Pont 28
Forther 1635 *Bamff Chrs* no. 214
Castle Forthar c.1750 Roy
Forter Castle 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

OG *fortír*

‘Overland’, or ‘upper’ or ‘higher’ land. Barrow states that this name mean ‘terrain which was either never or at least not regularly under the plough’, to distinguish it from the lower-lying parts of estates which were arable land (2003, 242).

DIL has no entry with anything like this meaning for **fortír*, and it seems to be absent in Ireland and because of this, it occurs largely in areas of Scotland that were once Pictish speaking, it may actually represent a loan-word from the Pictish equivalent of Welsh *gorthir* ‘uplands, highlands, hill country’, **uorthir* or similar, which has then undergone Gaelicisation. The name is also found in Fife in Forthar, Kirkforthar, and Forthear Burn (*PNF* 5, 379-80).

The castle at Forter is thought to date from the late 16th century and sits next to what would probably have been one of the most fertile parts of the highland area of Glenisla and guards the eastern end of the most accessible routeway between Glenisla and Glenshee. For more details of the castle see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/29403>.

LITTLE FORTER

GLI S NO185649

Litill Forthir 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 195
Lytill Fortyr 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 142
Littill Forthir 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)
Little Fortyr 1583-96 Pont 28
Lit. Forter 1794 Ainslie
Little Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *little* + en Forter



MEIKLE FORTER

GLI S NO182647

Mekyll Forthyr 1542 C.A. *Rental* ii, 195

Mekle Forthir 1557 C.A. *Rental* ii, 175

Mekill Forthir 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)

Mickle Forter 1794 Ainslie

Meikle Forter 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *meikle* + en Forter

Sc *meikle* in Scottish place-names means 'big', and is an indication of settlement sub-division. Other indicators of sub-division are little, upper, nether, north, south, easter, wester, and in Gaelic *mòr* (big) and *beag* (small).

COT GRAIG

GLI R NO179642

Cot craig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Sc *cot* + Sc *craig*

'A rock or crag associated with a small house; a sheep-house'. *DOST* has *cot* dating to the early sixteenth century.

CREAG AN FHITHICH

GLI R NO179640

Creag an Fhithich 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *creag* + ScG *an* + ScG *fitheach*

'Crag of the raven'.

FOLDA

GLI S NO187645

Affolda c.1750 Roy

Falda 1794 Ainslie

Folda School 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

? Sc *fauld* + ? or ScG *faill/foill* + ScG ?

If the name is not Sc *fauld* 'fold', then the first element might be as Adam Watson suggests ScG *faill/foill* 'cliff' – opposite Folda are some spectacular cliffs, including Cot Craig and Creag an Fhithich. (Watson 2013, 49), but the forms are too late to be sure.

WEST INVERHARITY

GLI S NO189640

Innerthariadethin 1233 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 41

Innerchariadethi 1233 C.A. *Rental* i, 326 [this is the same charter as the above]

Innercharady 1476 C.A. *Rental* i, 223

Ennercharedy 1479 C. A. *Rental* i, 229

Ennerquharady 1491 C.A. *Rental* i, 233

Enneraredy 1483 C.A. *Rental* i, 236

West Ennercharedy 1484 C.A. *Rental* i, 237

the west part of *Inneraredy* 1508 C.A. *Rental* i, 264

three eighth parts of *Ennirardy* 1508 C.A. *Rental* i, 265

Enneready 1512 C.A. *Rental* i, 284

the fourth part of *Ennerradi* 1513 C.A. *Rental* i, 288

tack of the quarter of *Ennerrady* 1514 C.A. *Rental* i, 295

Enuerarite 1542 C.A. *Rental* ii, 227

Wester Innerarite 1542 C.A. *Rental* ii, 196

Ester Innerarite, wyth the miln 1542 C.A. *Rental* ii, 196

v auctan pairtis (5 eighths parts) of *Wester Inneraritie* 1560s

Books of Assumption (Kirk 1995, 354)

thrie quarteris of *Ester Inneraritie* *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

Ester Innerarite 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 151 [ane quarter of E. with the miln and miln land of the samyn]

Wester Inneraryte 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 153 [ane quarter and ane half quarter of our town and landis of W.]

W. Innerherrity 1583-96 Pont 28

Inverharity 1794 Ainslie

Inverharitry 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *inbhir* + ? ScG *càraide*

ScG *inbhir* means ‘confluence, river mouth’. ScG *caraid*, as well as meaning friend, can, with the *fada*, i.e. *càraid*, gen. *càraide*, mean ‘pair, couple, brace, twins’. Pont shows *E. Innerherraty* and *Alt Herraty* in 1583-96 (Pont 28), the latter presumably being the old name for Allt na Beinne. There are two burns (one of which is now really a mere drainage ditch) that flow a short distance apart into the River Isla near the settlement called The Mill. This may originally have been the site of Easter Innerharity, then at some point called West Mill (probably to distinguish it from East Mill near Kirkton of Glenisla) and then latterly The Mill.

CREAG A' PHRIS

GLI R NO182637

Creag a' Phris 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXI

ScG *creag* + ScG *an* + ScG *preas*

‘Crag of the thicket’.

CREAG NA CUIGEIL

GLI R NO176636

Creag na Cuigeil 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *creag* + ScG *an* + ScG *cuigeal*

‘Crag of the distaff’. A *distaff* is ‘the staff or rock of a hand spinning-wheel, upon which the flax to be spun is placed’ (*OED*).

ALTALTAN

GLI NO184635

Altaltan Cottage 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG ? *allt* +

It is not clear what this name signifies. It looks like the ‘burn of *Altan’, with *Altan analysed as ScG *alltan* ‘a little burn’! But how that would work as a name is unknown.

CREAG LOISGTE

GLI NO181635

Creag Loisgte 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *creag* + ScG *loigste*

‘Burnt crag’. This may have been an area deliberately cleared of bracken or other undergrowth to make way for grazing.



BALNAMENOCH

GLI S NO193634

Ballymenach 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *baile* + ScG *meadhanach*

‘Middle farmtoun or settlement’. Balnamenoch is the equivalent of the common Scots place-name Middletoun, later Middleton, and this may be the ‘middle toun’ of Inverhariry, sitting between Easter and Wester Inverhariry.

THE MILL

GLI S NO193630

W. Mill 1794 Ainslie

West Mill 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScEng *the* + ScEng *mill*

East Mill lies to the east of Kirkton of Glenisla.

CORRIE VANOCH

GLI NO175630

Corrie Vanoch 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *coire* + ScG *manach*

‘Monks’ Corrie’. Durward suggests ScG *coire bheannachd* ‘corrie of blessing’ which is possible, but given that the monks of Coupar Angus held much of Glenisla, it is perhaps more likely that ‘Monks’ Corrie’ is the meaning of this name.

THE GLAD STANE

NO195629

The Glad Stane 1902 OS 6 inch 2nd edn Forfarshire XXIII.NW

Sc *the* + Sc *gled* + Sc *stane*

‘The hawk stone’. Although shown as the Glad Stane, locally it is known as the Gled Stane (Leven and Roberts 2007, 71). This may be a stone where hawks looked out for prey. Sc *gled* is a hawk or kite. The stone itself may be an erratic boulder left stranded after the last Ice Age by the retreat of the melting glaciers.

There is a legend attached to the stone. Apparently there were two giants Colly Camb and his wife Smoutachanty, and they were known to be quarrelsome. When angry Colly was known to throw large rocks around, including the Glad Stane (Leven and Roberts 2007, 71).

DOONIE

GLI S NO188630

Duny ... in Glenylef c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 76

Dunay c.1304 *C.A. Rental* i, 347

the third part of *Downy* 1479 *C.A. Rental* i, 227

a third part of *Downy* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 266

Mill of Dwne 1508 *C.A Rental* i, 270

Glenylai Downy 1513 *C.A. Rental* i, 292

the twa part of the thyrd of *Downy* 1514 *C.A Rental* i, 296

Downy 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii. 196

the twa saxt partis of our town and landis off *Downye* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 145

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

Douny 1583-96 Pont 28

Wood of Douny 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

Dounie 1674 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 460
Dounie 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539
Downey c.1750 Roy
Mickle Dounie 1794 Ainslie
Doonie 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *dùnaidh*

'Little hill'. ScG *dùn* can also mean hill-fort, but there is no indication of a hill-fort on the current OS map. However, there is a cairn shown on a small rise about 400 metres north-west of Doonies at NO 187624. According to RCAHMS Canmore this is 'situated at the top of a slope this cairn measures 10 m in diameter with a maximum height of 1 m and has a low but distinct kerb around three-quarters of its circumference' (RCAHMS Canmore NMRS no. NO16SE 13). Alternatively, *dùnaidh* refers to the un-named 376 m hill 800 metres north-west of Doonies. This now marked as a sheep dip on the current OS Explorer map.

The 1513 from *Glenylai Downy* reminds us that there are two other Dounies in the study area; one near Kirkmichael and another near Blacklunans.

DOONIES

GLI S NO190622

Little Dounie 1794 Ainslie
Little Doonie 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII
Doonies 1978 OS 1:10,000 NO16SE

See Doonie above.

DOONIE BURN

GLI W NO193622

Doonie Burn 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

en Doonie + Sc *burn*

CLACKNOCKATER

GLI S NO195622

Claghnoketer 1794 Ainslie
Clacknockater 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

ScG *clach* + ScG *an* + ScG *fùcadair*

'Stone of the fuller or wa(u)lker of cloth'. The Gaelic spelling of this name is Clach an fhùcadair (the 'fh' is silent). The occupation of fulling is 'the process of scouring and thickening cloth' (Durward 2001, 39). In the western Highlands the process was carried out by women, often accompanied by communal singing (Grant 1961, 235).

DALNAKEBBOCK

GLI S NO196617

a half part of *Downycabok* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 265
the half of *Dwmcabok* formerly possessed by the vicar 1512
C.A Rental i, 285
the half part of *Downicabo* 1514 *C.A Rental* i, 293
half of *Downicabok* 1515 *C.A. Rental* i, 297
Dalnacabok 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 197
Dalnacabok 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 155
Dalnacabok 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 354)
W. Dalnakeaback 1583-96 Pont 28
E. Dalnak[eaback] 1583-96 Pont 28
W. Dalnakebak 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43
Dalmakebock 1674 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 460



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

Dalnakevock 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539
Dalnakebbock 1978 OS 1:10,000 NO16SE

en Doonies or ScG *dùnaidh* + ScG *an* + ScG *càbag* or *ceabag* or Sc
cabok, *kebbock*

‘Small hill of the cheese’. The Dictionary of the Scots Language states that Sc *cabok*, *kebbock* is from ScG *càbag*, ‘which however may be from Sc’ (*DSL* under *cabok*). The *dail* generic element seems originally to have been ScG *dùnaidh* ‘little hill’ or perhaps it relates to the settlement of Doonies, see above, which lies about 600 metres north-west of Dalnakebbock. Adam Watson states the ScG form is *Dail na Ceabaige* (Watson 2013, 47).

ALRICK

GLI S NO190619

Clargis c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 76
Elarge c.1300 *C.A. Rental* i, 347
Elryk 1463 *C.A. Rental* i, 131
an eighth part of *Ekyk* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 266
a fourth part of the town of *Elrik* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 275
tack of the quarter of *Elryk* 1514 *C.A. Rental* i, 295
an eighth of *Ekyk* 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 299
Owar Ilkrik 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 197
Nethar Illrik 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 197
Over Ilrik 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 354)
Nether Ilrik 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 354)
ane auchtane part of the *Elrik* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 151
all and hale ane quarter of our town and landis callit the *Elrik* 1557
C.A. Rental ii, 162

ane awchtane part of our toune and landis of *Owar Alrik* 1557
C.A. Rental ii, 163
Elrik 1583-96 Pont 28
Over Alrick 1675 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 460
Nether Alrick 1675 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 460
Over Elrick 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539
Neather Elrick 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539
N. Elryk 1583-96 Pont 28
O. Elrik 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43
N. Elrik 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43
Aldrig 1794 Ainslie
Alrick 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII
Over Alrick 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

OG *elerc*, later ScG *eileirig* ‘deer trap’. The absence of this word in Irish Gaelic suggests that there may be a Pictish or British provenence for the word (Taylor 2008, 296), although it may derive from OI *erelc*, deriving from *air-* ‘before, in front’ + *selc* ‘hunting’ (Kelly 1997, 277). There is another deer trap on the Catevan Trail containing this element, Elrig on the route between Ennochdhu and Spittal of Glenshee.

BREWLANDS BRIDGE

GLI O NO195614

Bridge of Brewlands 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

en Brewlands + SSE *bridge*
No bridge is shown on Ainslie’s map of 1794.



GALLOW HILL

GLI NO202616

Gallow Hill 1794 Ainslie

Gallow Hill 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *gallow* + ScEng *hill*

This was probably the hill where criminals were put to death by hanging in the period before heritable jurisdictions held by local lords were abolished in 1747.

ALRICK BURN

GLI W NO198605

Alrick Burn 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

en Alrick + Sc *burn*

BREWLANDS

GLI S NO195608

the *Broweland of Auchinleck* is set to Donald Thorn 1512 *C.A. Rental* i, 287

the *brewland of Auchleche* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 152

breulandis of Nether Auchinleische 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)

Browlands 1794 Ainslie

Brewlands 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Sc *brewland*

This is the land connected with the brewing on the estate of Auchinleish. Archie Duncan has stated that 'it is not in doubt that a large proportion, perhaps as much as a third, of grain grown was brewed into ale and drunk by cottars, husbandmen, lairds and lords. For the first of these at least it was the only alternative to water' (Duncan 1975, 350-1).

DOLDY FARM

GLI S NO197614

W. Doldy 1794 Ainslie

Wester Doldy 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

Doldy Farm 2001 OS Explorer 387

en Doldy + SSE *farm*

en Doldy + SSE *farm*

The *dol-* element of Doldy seems to be Pictish or OG *dol* 'haugh, water-meadow', and the settlements of Wester, Mid and Easter Doldy all sat on flat land next to the River Isla. The *-dy* element is more problematic; Adam Watson suggests the whole name is in ScG *Doldaigh* 'at haugh place' (Watson 2013, 54).

MID DOLDY

GLI S NO200609

M. Doldy 1794 Ainslie

Mid Doldy 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *mid* + en Doldy

See Doldy Farm, above.

EASTER DOLDY

GLI S NO201605

E. Doldy 1794 Ainslie

Easter Doldy 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng *easter* + en Doldy

See Doldy Farm, above.



MEALL BEAG

GLI R NO186606

Mealaveg 1794 Ainslie

Meall Bheag 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Meall Beag 1900 OS 6 inch 2nd edn Forfarshire XXII.SE

ScG *meall* + ScG *beag*

‘Small lump, hill’. See Meall Mòr ALY/GLI above.

MEALL MÒR

ALY/GLI R NO1760

Meal-more 1783 Stobie

Mealavore 1794 Ainslie

Meall Mòr 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *meall* + G *mòr*

‘Big lump, hill’. *Meall* is a very common element in Perthshire hill-names, accounting for nearly 30% of the hill-names in one study (Murray 2014, 60). *Meall* is applied to hills that are often shapeless lumps, and can vary greatly in size (see Drummond 2007, 45 and Murray 2014, 51-2). Meall Mòr is the higher (551 metres) of a set of two hills, with Meall Beag, at 439 metres, lying about 1.3 km to the east.

AUCHENLEISH

GLI S NO198601

terra de *Achinleesk* c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 78

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

quam dimidiam dauacam terre de *Achinlesk* 1327 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 111 [half as much of the dabhach of land of Auchinleish]

Auchnalesch 1463 *C.A. Rental* i, 131

Auchynlesk 1482 *C.A. Rental* i, 233

a fourth part of *Auchinleyth* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 264

fourth part of *Auchinleyth* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 266

Auchinlech Nethyr 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 266

the half of the town of *Lower Adhinleche* 1509 *C.A. Rental* i, 272

half of *Auchinlech* 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 298

our toun and landis of *Nethir Auchlech* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 146

our toun and landis of *Ovar Auchleche* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 147

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

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

Achanliesh 1583-96 Pont 28

Over Auchinleish et *Neather Auchinleish* 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539

Auchenliesh 1794 Ainslie

N. Auchenliesh 1794 Ainslie

Over Auchinleish 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *achadh* + ScG *an* + ? ScG *lios*

Achadh na Lise? ‘field of the fortified place’? If *lios* is the specific, then it may refer to a fort nearby, although no obvious candidate presents itself, unless Forter Castle, about 4.5 km to the north, or an earlier stronghold at that site, is considered.

The ending could be from gen. sg. *lios*a. However, we wouldn’t expect the palatal *s* (i.e. the *sh* sound in English *shoe*) to develop. It might have developed an alternative genitive containing palatalisation, Cox in *Brigh nam Facal* (2008, 275-6) gives both *lios*a and *lise* as gen. sg. (also both masc. and fem.). For the frequently-occurring *e* in the specific of Lesmahagow (Taylor 2009, 71-4), and Auchterless, Aberdeenshire (MacDonald 1987a, 40).



BIRKHILL

GLI S NO205598

Birkhill 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

Sc *birk* + Sc *hill*

'Birch hill'

DALMOCHY BURN

GLI W NO207601

Dalmochy Burn 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

en Dalmochy + Sc burn

It is not clear what Dalmochy means, but it looks like it does contain ScG *dail* 'water-meadow, haugh' as the first element. The area would have been flooded fairly regularly making the area nutrient rich and ideal for growing grass, and would have been an important resource for hay for winter feed for cattle in pre-industrial times.

HOLMIRY

GLI S NO209602

Holmyrry 1583-96 Pont 28

Balmyre 1794 Ainslie [possibly an error by the engraver for *Halmyre* or *Holmyre*]

Holemyre 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Holmiry 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO26SW

Sc *holl* + Sc *miry*

'Miry hollow'. This may seem a strange place to have a settlement, but mires were very important in the Middle Ages, since they were often sources of fuel, such as peat, and building materials, such as reeds for thatch. There are many words in Scots and Gaelic and Pictish for wetlands, but as Taylor says, 'until a more detailed research project is undertaken to investigate the different types of wetlands ... in

conjunction with the different words denoting wetlands in ... place-names, our understanding of the exact connotations of each word must remain limited' (*PNF* 5, 212).

KIRKTON OF GLENISLA

GLI S NO214604

ecclesia de Glenylif 1219 x 46 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 127

Glen Ylef 1301 x 1309 *C. A. Chrs.* no. 70 [*Camboch* in *Glen Ylef*]

Ecclesia de Glenylef 1311 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 96

ecclesia Sancte Marie de Glenylef 1479 *C.A. Chrs.* ii no. 150

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

Kirk of Glenyla 1583-96 Pont 28

Glenilay 1607 *RMS* vi no. 2002

Kirktown of Glen-Isla 1794 Ainslie

Kirkton of Glenisla 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Sc *kirkton* + Sc *of* + en Glenisla

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

The name Glenisla derives from ScG *gleann* 'valley, glen' plus the river-name Isla.



STAGE 3c Cray to Kirkton of Glenisla via Blacklunans

CRAY

KRK S NO1463

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

Krai 1590s Pont 27

Cray c.1750 Roy

Cray 1783 Stobie

Cray 1794 Ainslie

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

G *crathaidh*

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

Roy also shows a *Mill of Cray*.

LAIR

KRK S NO1463

Lair 1590s Pont 27

Lair c.1750 Roy

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

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

E. Lair 1783 Stobie

W. Lair 1783 Stobie

E. Lair 1794 Ainslie

W. Lair 1794 Ainslie

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

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

MOUNT BLAIR

ALY PER/GLI ANG R NO1662

Month-blair 1590s Pont 27

Mount Blair c.1750 Roy

Month-blair 1783 Stobie

Mount Blair 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *monadh* + en Blair

G *monadh* is a borrowing from British or Pictish and is found in Welsh *mynydd* ‘mountain, hill, moorland’. The element is discussed in Watson (1926, 391-407; Barrow 1998, 62-5, with distribution map on 66). The parish and county boundary passes through the summit of Mount Blair, and so the name might refer to an old territory of Blair (perhaps even the original *Blair of Gowrie)? Or perhaps it is the remnant of the name of that part of the Grampians (the Month) which formed the boundary of or was associated with the *Blair of Gowrie.

Watson discusses Mountblair in Banffshire and has the *blàr* element meaning ‘dappled’ (Watson 1926, 406). G *blàr* can also mean ‘plain, muir’ (*PNF* 5, 298). For the element *blàr* in Menteith see McNiven (2011, 110-14).



BROUGHANREID **KRK S NO1562**

Broughenred 1783 Stobie
Broughered 1794 Ainslie
Broughanreid 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *bruach* + G *an* + ? G *rèidh*

‘Small smooth or level river bank’. We might normally expect a medial –*en/–an* in Gaelic place- names to contain the definite article (*the* in English), meaning here ‘river bank of the level’ but that does not really make sense, so it might instead be possible that the medial –*en/–an* is a diminutive ending, meaning ‘small, little’.

CRAYEND **KRK S NO148625**

Crayend [CURRENT MAP]

en Cray + SSE *end*

There is a building shown here on both the OS 1st and 2nd edn 6 inch maps from 1867 and 1900 respectively, but it is not named on either. Crayend sits on the boundary of the lands of Cray and Blacklunans.

SHAW’S CROFT **ALY S NO148620**

Shaw’s Croft 1900 OS 6 inch 2nd edn PER and CLA XXXIII.NW

pn Shaw + SSE *croft*

DALNOID **KRK S NO1461**

Dennenoid 1590s Pont 27
James Chambers of *Dallinoyd* 1684 *RPC* 3rd series vol viii, 541
Dallinoyd c.1750 Roy

Dalinod 1783 Stobie
Dalinod 1794 Ainslie

G *dail* + G *an* + G ?

It is not known what the specific element is or what the name means.

WESTERTON **ALY S NO148615**

Westerton 1794 Ainslie
Westertown 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScEng *westerton*

Without any earlier form it is difficult to know of which settlement this is the western part; Westerton of Blacklunans may be the most likely.

BURNSIDE **ALY S NO149613**

Burnside 1794 Ainslie
Burnside 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

Sc *burn* + Sc *side*

There is a small un-named burn lying immediately to the south of Burnside.

TOM LIA **ALY S NO151615**

Tomlia 1794 Ainslie
Tomlia 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScG *tom* + ScG *liath*

‘Grey hillock’.



WHITE HOUSE

ALY S NO156605

Whitehouse 1794 Ainslie

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

ScEng *white* + ScEng *house*

LEYHILLOCK

ALY S NO150600

Leyhill 1794 Ainslie

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

Sc *ley* + Sc *hillock*

'A hillock beside arable land left untilled and allowed to return to grass'. *DOST* provided the meaning of Sc *ley* as 'of arable land: Left untilled and allowed to return to grass'.

DRUMFORK

ALY PER, ANG S NO1459

Drummacrok 1506 *Dunkeld Rent*. 76 [In list of 'Victual of the Church of Alyth': *Balclunas* with particular towns thereof viz *Drummacrok*, *Myltoun* thereof, *Westirbalclwna*, *Corelair of Balclunas*, *Estirbalcluna* or *Bordland*]

Druymfoirk 1590s Pont 27

Drumfork 1629 *RMS* viii no. 1393

Drumfork 1631 *RMS* viii no. 1816

Drumfork c.1750 Roy

Drumfork 1794 Ainslie

Drumfork 1842 *NSA* x, 789

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

G *druim* + G *an* + G *coirce*

'Ridge of the oats'. There is a ruined chapel shown on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map about 200 metres south of Drumfork at NO148595. The chapel is 8 m × 3.6 m and an engraved lintel bearing the date 1668 lies nearby. The chapel sits within a walled enclosure of 9 m × 5 m which contains a graveyard with gravestones dating to the eighteenth century (RCAHMS Canmore ID 29083).

CROYDON

ALY S NO153612

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

ScG *cruaidh* + ? ScG *dùn*

Cruaid may mean 'hard, firm, difficult', perhaps as in an awkward place to farm, although an adjectival simplex form is, according to Pete Drummond, curious (Drummond 2014, 231). The second element could be ScG *dùn*, frequently in place-names meaning 'hill-fort', but can often simply mean 'hill, small hill'. I have argued that the small hill called Coille-don on the shores of Lake of Menteith contains *dùn* (McNiven 2011, 97). An alternative to this argument is that it is a transferred name from Croydon to the south of London.

COLDRACH

ALY S NO154612

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

? ScG *còmhdhail* + ? ScG *dreach*

'Meeting place of good aspect?'. Place-names beginning with *col-* can indicate ScG *còmhdhail* (originally pronounced something like 'coothal', and later reduced to something like 'cool') meaning 'meeting place, place of assembly, court' might be one meaning, but the early forms are far too late to be sure. For more on *col-* as *còmhdhail* see McNiven (2011, 97) and *PNKNR* (2017, 233, 343-4).



BRAESIDE

ALY S NO156612

Braeside 1794 Ainslie

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

Sc *brae* + Sc *side*

HILLOCKS OF BORELAND

ALY S NO151607

Hillocks of Boreland 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScEng *hillock* + ScEng *of* + en *Borland*

DOUNIE

ALY S NO151605

Dounie 1794 Ainslie

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

ScG *dùnaidh*

See *Dunie* in *Strathardle* and *Doonies* in *Glenisla* for this name; it is one of three *dùnaidh*-names in the study area.

HILLYHOUSE

ALY S NO161609

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

ScEng *hilly* + ScEng *house*

MILLTON

ALY S NO148605

Milton 1794 Ainslie

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

Sc *milntoun*

GLENKILRIE

KRK S NO1360

Glenkilry c.1750 Roy

Glenkilry House 1783 Stobie

Glenkilry 1794 Ainslie

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

G *gleann* + ? G *caol* + ? G *oir* + ? -*in*

? 'Glen of the place at the narrow border or edge; narrow border place'. Another possibility is that the *-kilrie* element derives from G *coille* + G *rìgh* 'King's forest', but this would depend on the pronunciation and stress pattern. There is also a *Glenkilry Farm* about 500 metres to the north-east which was originally called *Ennoch* and is called this on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map.

BLACKLUNANS

ALY PER, ANG S NO1460

Bawclownane 1460 C.A. *Rental* i, 131

Balclunas 1506 *Dunkeld Rent.* 76 [In list of 'Victual of the Church of Alyth': *Balclunas* with particular towns thereof viz *Drummacrok* (Drumfork ALY), *Myltoun* thereof, *Westirbalclwna*, *Corelair of Balclunas*, *Estirbalcluna* or *Bordland* (Borland ALY)]

Blacklounans 1590s Pont 27

E. Blacklunans 1590s Pont 27

W. Blacklounans 1590s Pont 27

Mill of Blacklounans 1590s Pont 27

Blacklunans 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXIII

G *baile* + ? G *cluan*

'Farm of the (water)-meadow'? *Blacklunans* lies on the *Black Water*, a tributary of the *Ericht*. The final *s* in the name derives from a Scots plural



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

ending owing to the fact that the original estate had been divided into at least 3 different parts by 1506.

BORLAND

ALY PER, ANG S NO1560

Estirbalcluna or *Bordland* 1506 *Dunkeld Rent*. 76

Boirland 1590s Pont 27

E. Boirland 1590s Pont 27

Borland c.1750 Roy

Borland 1794 Ainslie

Borland 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XLII

Sc bordland

‘Mensal land, table land’. This was the demesne lands, or ‘lands which directly supplies the household of the feudal superior’ (Taylor *PNF* 1, 374). The earliest attestation for *Bordland* in Scotland found so far is 1324 for *Suthbordeland* in Inverkeithing parish, Fife (Taylor, *PNF* 5, 302). *DOST* has ‘le *Bordland* in villa de Langforgund’ dating to 1377. Winchester’s earliest attestation for the term in England is 1315 for one in Wakefield, Yorkshire, while in Wales he has one in Glamorgan dated to 1272 (Winchester 1986, 138-9).

DRUMORE

ALY PER, ANG S NO1660

Drummour 1794 Ainslie

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

G *druim* + G *mòr* or ScG *odhar*

‘Big ridge’ or ‘dun-coloured ridge’.

DRUMORE LOCH

ALY PER, ANG W NO1660

Drumore Loch 1902 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII.SE

en Drumore + ScEng *loch*

The loch is artificial and was created between 1867 and 1902. On the OS 6 inch 1st edn map of 1867 there is no sign of the loch.

GLACK OF THE BARNETTS

ALY PER, ANG R NO1661

Glack of the Barnetts 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScEng *glack* + ScEng *of* + ScEng *the* + ? en Barnett(s)

ScEng *glack* can mean either ‘hollow between two hills, a defile, ravine’ or ‘an open area in woodland’. The former meaning seems more appropriate here since it refers to a feature on a ridge that forms the border between Perthshire and Angus. The *Barnett*-element seems to be a re-interpretation of a name containing G *beàrn* ‘pass, gap’.

TOM BEAL Aidh

ALY PER, ANG R NO1561

Tom Bealaidh 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *tom* + G *bealaidh*

‘Broom hillock or knoll’. In 1457 parliament ‘ordained all freeholders, temporal and spiritual, to plant on their estates trees, hedges, and broom’ in order to ‘improve the aspects of the country, check malaria, and provide shelter’ (*C.A. Rental* i, xxx). Broom also made excellent cover and enclosure for rabbit warrens (*C.A. Rental* i, xxxi).



COIRE GOIBHRE

ALY PER, ANG R NO1661

Coire Goibhre 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER & CLA XXXIII

G *coire* + G *gobhar*

‘Goat’s corry’. *Goibhre* is a genitive singular of G *gobhar* ‘goat’. Dwelly gives an alternative meaning for G *gobhar* as being a ‘sort of branching river’ in Perthshire Gaelic.

NETHER CRAIG

ALY PER/GLI ANG R NO1661

Nether Craig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScEng *nether* + ScEng *craig*

OVER CRAIG

ALY PER/GLI ANG R NO1661

Over Craig 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScEng *over* + ScEng *craig*

TOBAR A’ CHINN

GLI W NO178619

Tobar a’ Chinn 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

ScG *tobar* + ScG *an* + ScG *ceann*

‘Well of the head’.

MEALL MÒR

ALY/GLI R NO1760

Meal-more 1783 Stobie

Mealavore 1794 Ainslie

Meall Mòr 1867 OS 6 inch 1st edn PER and CLA XXXIII

G *meall* + G *mòr*

‘Big lump, hill’. *Meall* is a very common element in Perthshire hill-names, accounting for nearly 30% of the hill-names in one study (Murray 2014, 60). *Meall* is applied to hills that are often shapeless lumps, and can vary greatly in size (see Drummond 2007, 45 and Murray 2014, 51-2). *Meall Mòr* is the higher (551 metres) of a set of two hills, with *Meall Beag*, at 439 metres, lying about 1.3 km to the east.

DOONIE

GLI S NO188630

Duny ... in Glenylef c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 76

Dunay c.1304 *C.A. Rental* i, 347

the third part of *Downy* 1479 *C.A. Rental* i, 227

a third part of *Downy* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 266

Mill of Dwne 1508 *C.A Rental* i, 270

Glenylai Downy 1513 *C.A. Rental* i, 292

the twa part of the thyrd of *Downy* 1514 *C.A Rental* i, 296

Downy 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii. 196

the twa saxt partis of our town and landis off *Downye* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 145

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

Douny 1583-96 Pont 28

Wood of Douny 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43

Dounie 1674 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 460

Dounie 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539

Downey c.1750 Roy

Mickle Dounie 1794 Ainslie

Doonie 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII



ScG *dùnaidh*

'Little hill'. ScG *dùn* can also mean hill-fort, but there is no indication of a hill-fort on the current OS map. However, there is a cairn shown on a small rise about 400 metres north-west of Doonies at NO 187624. According to RCAHMS Canmore this is 'situated at the top of a slope this cairn measures 10 m in diameter with a maximum height of 1 m and has a low but distinct kerb around three-quarters of its circumference' (RCAHMS Canmore NMRS no. NO16SE 13). Alternatively, *dùnaidh* refers to the un-named 376 m hill 800 metres north-west of Doonies. This now marked as a sheep dip on the current OS Explorer map.

The 1513 from *Glenylai Downy* reminds us that there are two other Dounies in the study area; one near Kirkmichael and another near Blacklunans.

DOONIES

GLI S NO190622

Little Dounie 1794 Ainslie

Little Doonie 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Doonies 1978 OS 1:10,000 NO16SE

See Doonie above.

DOONIE BURN

GLI W NO193622

Doonie Burn 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

en Doonie + Sc *burn*

DALNAKEBBOCK

GLI S NO196617

a half part of *Downycabok* 1508 C.A. Rental i, 265

the half of *Dwmcabok* formerly possessed by the vicar 1512 C.A. Rental i, 285

the half part of *Downicabo* 1514 C.A. Rental i, 293

half of *Downicabok* 1515 C.A. Rental i, 297

Dalnacabok 1542 C.A. Rental ii, 197

Dalnacabok 1557 C.A. Rental ii, 155

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

W. *Dalnageaback* 1583-96 Pont 28

E. *Dalnak[eaback]* 1583-96 Pont 28

W. *Dalnagebak* 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43

Dalmakebock 1674 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 460

Dalnagevock 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539

Dalnagebbock 1978 OS 1:10,000 NO16SE

en Doonies or ScG *dùnaidh* + ScG *an* + ScG *càbag* or *ceabag* or Sc *cabok*, *kebbock*

'Small hill of the cheese'. The Dictionary of the Scots Language states that Sc *cabok*, *kebbock* is from ScG *càbag*, 'which however may be from Sc' (*DSL* under *cabok*). The *dail* generic element seems originally to have been ScG *dùnaidh* 'little hill' or perhaps it relates to the settlement of Doonies, see above, which lies about 600 metres north-west of Dalnagebbock. Adam Watson states the ScG form is *Dail na Ceabaige* (Watson 2013, 47).

CLACKNOCKATER

GLI S NO195622

Claghnokeater 1794 Ainslie

Clacknockater 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

ScG *clach* + ScG *an* + ScG *fùcadair*

'Stone of the fuller or wa(u)lker of cloth'. [MORE ON THIS]

ALRICK

GLI S NO190619

Clargis c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 76

Elarge c.1300 *C.A. Rental* i, 347

Elryk 1463 *C.A. Rental* i, 131

an eighth part of *Ekyk* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 266

a fourth part of the town of *Elrik* 1508 *C.A. Rental* i, 275

tack of the quarter of *Elryk* 1514 *C.A. Rental* i, 295

an eighth of *Ekyk* 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 299

Owar *Ilkrik* 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 197

Nethar *Illrik* 1542 *C.A. Rental* ii, 197

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

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

ane auchtane part of the *Elrik* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 151

all and hale ane quarter of our town and landis callit the *Elrik* 1557

C.A. Rental ii, 162

ane awchtane part of our toune and landis of Owar *Alrik* 1557

C.A. Rental ii, 163

Elrik 1583-96 Pont 28

Over *Alrick* 1675 *Retours Forfarshire* no. 460

Nether *Alrick* 1675 *Retours Forfarshire* no. 460

Over *Elrick* 1695 *Retours Forfarshire* no. 539

Nether *Elrick* 1695 *Retours Forfarshire* no. 539

N. *Elryk* 1583-96 Pont 28

O. *Elrik* 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43

N. *Elrik* 1636 × 1652 Gordon 43

Aldrig 1794 *Ainslie*

Alrick 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn *Forfarshire* XXII

Over *Alrick* 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn *Forfarshire* XXII

OG *elerc*, later ScG *eileirig* 'deer trap'. The absence of this word in Irish Gaelic suggests that there may be a Pictish or British provenence for the word (Taylor 2008, 296), although it may derive from Ol *erelc*, deriving from air- 'before, in front' + *selc* 'hunting' (Kelly 1997, 277). There is another deer trap on the Ceteran Trail containing this element, *Elrig* on the route between *Ennochdhu* and *Spittal of Glenshee*.

ALRICK BURN

GLI W NO198605

Alrick Burn 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn *Forfarshire* XXII

en *Alrick* + Sc *burn*

DOLDY FARM

GLI S NO197614

W. *Doldy* 1794 *Ainslie*

Wester *Doldy* 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn *Forfarshire* XXIII

Doldy Farm 2001 OS *Explorer* 387

en *Doldy* + SSE *farm*

The *dol-* element of *Doldy* seems to be Pictish or OG *dol* 'haugh, water-meadow', and the settlements of *Wester*, *Mid* and *Easter Doldy* all sat on flat land next to the *River Isla*. the *-dy* element is more problematic; *Adam Watson* suggests the whole name is in ScG *Doldaigh* 'at haugh place' (Watson 2013, 54).



MID DOLDY

GLI S NO200609

M. Doldy 1794 Ainslie

Mid Doldy 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng mid + en Doldy

See Doldy Farm, above.

EASTER DOLDY

GLI S NO201605

E. Doldy 1794 Ainslie

Easter Doldy 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng easter + en Doldy

See Doldy Farm, above.

MEALL BEAG

GLI R NO186606

Mealaveg 1794 Ainslie

Meall Bheag 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXII

Meall Beag 1900 OS 6 inch 2nd edn Forfarshire XXII.SE

ScG meall + ScG beag

'Small lump, hill'. See Meall Mòr ALY/GLI above.

RED LATCHES

GLI S NO205592

Redlatches 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXX

ScEng red + ScEng latch

A latch is 'a small stream, esp. one flowing through boggy ground' (DSL).

BIRKHILL

GLI S NO205598

Birkhill 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

Sc birk + Sc hill

'Birch hill'

REDHALL GLI S NO200600

Redhall 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng red + ScEng hall

HILLOCKHEAD

GLI S NO201600

Hillockhead 1865 OS 6 inch 1st edn Forfarshire XXIII

ScEng hillock + ScEng head

BREWLANDS

GLI S NO195608

the *Broweland of Auchinleck* is set to Donald Thorn 1512 C.A. *Rental* i, 287

the *brewland of Auchleche* 1557 C.A. *Rental* ii, 152

breulandis of Nether Auchinleische 1560s *Books of Assumption* (Kirk 1995, 355)

Browlands 1794 Ainslie

Brewlands 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Sc brewland

This is the land connected with the brewing on the estate of Auchinleish. Archie Duncan has stated that 'it is not in doubt that a large proportion, perhaps as much as a third, of grain grown was brewed into ale and



Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla

drunk by cottars, husbandmen, lairds and lords. For the first of these at least it was the only alternative to water' (Duncan 1975, 350-1).

BREWLANDS BRIDGE **GLI O NO195614**

Bridge of Brewlands 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

en Brewlands + SSE *bridge*

No bridge is shown on Ainslie's map of 1794.

WESTER BREWLANDS **GLI S NO194611**

Wester Brewlands 1978 OS 1:10,000 map

SSE *wester* + en Brewlands

Wester Brewlands is not shown on either the OS 6inch 1st edn or 2nd edn maps.

BREWLANDS LOCH **GLI W NO191611**

Brewlands Loch 1901 OS 2nd edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII.SE

en Brewlands + SSE *loch*

Brewland Loch does not appear on the OS 6 inch 1st edn map and appears to have been created by damming the Alrick Burn.

AUCHENLEISH **GLI S NO198601**

terra de *Achinleesk* c.1304 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 78

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

quam dimidiam dauacam terre de *Achinlesk* 1327 *Coupar Angus Chrs* no. 111 [half as much of the dabhach of land of Auchinleish]

Auchnalesch 1463 *C.A. Rental* i, 131

Auchynlesk 1482 *C.A. Rental* i, 233

a fourth part of *Auchinleyth* 1508 *C.A Rental* i, 264

fourth part of *Auchinleytht* 1508 *C.A Rental* i, 266

Auchinlech Nethyr 1508 *C.A Rental* i, 266

the half of the town of *Lower Adhinleche* 1509 *C.A. Rental* i, 272

half of *Auchinlech* 1524 *C.A. Rental* i, 298

our toun and landis of *Nethir Auchlech* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 146

our toun and landis of *Ovar Auchleche* 1557 *C.A. Rental* ii, 147

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

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

Achanliesh 1583-96 Pont 28

Over Auchinleish et *Neather Auchinleish* 1695 *Retours* Forfarshire no. 539

Auchenliesh 1794 Ainslie

N. Auchenliesh 1794 Ainslie

Over Auchinleish 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

ScG *achadh* + ScG *an* + ? ScG *lios*

Achadh na Lise? 'field of the fortified place'? If *lios* is the specific, then it may refer to a fort nearby, although no obvious candidate presents itself, unless Forter Castle, about 4.5 km to the north, or an earlier stronghold at that site, is considered.

The ending could be from gen. sg. *lios*a. However, we wouldn't expect the palatal *s* (i.e. the *sh* sound in English *shoe*) to develop. It might have developed an alternative genitive containing palatalisation, Cox in *Brigh nam Facal* (2008, 275-6) gives both *lios*a and *lise* as gen. sg. (also both masc. and fem.). For the frequently-occurring *e* in the specific of Lesmahagow (Taylor 2009, 71-4), and Auchterless, Aberdeenshire (MacDonald 1987a, 40).



HOLMIRY

GLI S NO209602

Holmyrry 1583-96 Pont 28

Balmyre 1794 Ainslie [possibly an error by the engraver for *Halmyre* or *Holmyre*]

Holemyre 1865 OS 1st edn 6 inch Forfarshire XXIII

Holmiry 1977 OS 1:10,000 NO26SW

Sc holl + Sc miry

'Miry hollow'. This may seem a strange place to have a settlement, but mires were very important in the Middle Ages, since they were often sources of fuel, such as peat, and building materials, such as reeds for thatch. There are many words in Scots and Gaelic and Pictish for wetlands, but as Taylor says, 'until a more detailed research project is undertaken to investigate the different types of wetlands ... in conjunction with the different words denoting wetlands in ... place-names, our understanding of the exact connotations of each word must remain limited' (*PNF* 5, 212).



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Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glen Isla



The Shee Water, photo © Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust



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