

Gaelic in the Landscape

# Place-names of Strath, Isle of Skye

A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre

## Ainmean-Àite an t-Sratha, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

Dr Jacob King with Eilidh Scammell

An t-Ollamh Iacob King le Eilidh Sgaimeal



Scottish Natural Heritage  
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Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba  
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland



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View towards An Dùnan, Loch na Cairidh and Caolas Scalpay  
Sealladh dhan Dùnan, Loch na Cairidh agus Caolas Sgalpaigh





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**Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba**  
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland

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Cover photograph: Broadford  
and Beinn na Caillich  
Dealbh còmhdaich: An t-Àth  
Leathann agus Beinn na Caillich



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*"In my early wanderings over Skye, I used to be astonished to find that every little hummock and hollow had a recognised name, not to be found on any map, yet well-known to the inhabitants, who by means of these names could indicate precisely the route to be followed across a trackless moorland or a rough mountain range. Even if no attempt may be made to speak the language, enough acquaintance with it may easily be acquired for the purpose of interpreting a large number of place-names. The same descriptive term will be found continually recurring, with endless varying suffixes and affixes of local significance."*

Professor James Geikie, prominent geologist and eyewitness to the clearances of Suisnish in Strath  
(*Scottish Reminiscences*, 1904, 269–70)

*"Nuair a bhithinn a' gabhail cuairt o chionn fhada san Eilean Sgitheanach, bhiodh e a' cur iongnadh orm faighinn a-mach gu robh ainm aithnichte air a h-uile cnocan is glacan, nach lorgar air mapa sam bith, ach a bha aithnichte don luchd-còmhnaidh, agus leis na h-ainmean sin b' urrainn dhaibh do stiùireadh gu cinnteach air slighe a leanadh tu thairis air mòinteach gun rathad no raon garbh na beinne. Eadhon ged nach dèanar oidhirp sam bith gus an cànan a bhruidhinn, dh'fhaodar eòlas gu leòr fhaighinn air gu soirbh gus mòran de na h-ainmean-àite eadar-mhìneachadh. Tha an aon theirm mìneachaidh ri lorg a' tachairt a-rithist 's a-rithist, le tòrr mòr iar-leasachain is ro-leasachain a tha brìgheil gu h-ionadail."*

An t-Àrd Ollamh Seumas Geikie, geòlaiche ainmeil agus fianais-sùla do na fuadaichean ann an Suidhisnis san t-Srath  
(*Scottish Reminiscences*, 1904, 269–70)





## Introduction

Strath on Skye is known simply as **An Srath** or as **Srath Mhiclonmhainn**, 'the MacKinnons' Strath'. The MacKinnons were a family of high standing in Strath, and to this day many MacKinnons remain in the area. Strath is one of the seven parishes of Skye. It extends from Kyleakin westwards to the Black Cuillin at Glen Sligachan and Loch Ainort, and borders Sleat to the south. The parish includes the isles of Scalpay, Pabay and Longay and the settlements of Broadford, Kyleakin and Elgol.

This booklet discusses some of the lesser known names in the parish, many having been gathered from native Gaelic speakers during the research for this project. A number of maps have also been used, including Ordnance Survey maps, during the research process, and these are occasionally referred to in the text. All the place-names (given in the text in bold) can be located using the index, which provides grid references. The index also includes a rough pronunciation guide. Special note

Longay  
Longaigh



## Ro-ràdh

Tha Strath san Eilean Sgitheanach aithnichte dìreach mar **An Srath** no mar **Srath Mhiclonmhainn**. B' e teaghlach cliùiteach san t-Srath a bh' ann an teaghlach Mhiclonmhainn, agus tha tòrr de chlann Mhiclonmhainn fhathast san sgìre gus an latha an-diugh. Tha An Srath mar aon de sheachd sgìrean san Eilean Sgitheanach. Tha e a' sìneadh bho Chaol Acaìn dhan taobh siar aig a' Cuiltheann sìos Gleann Shligeachain agus Loch Aoineart, agus crìochan Shlèite dhan an taobh a deas. Tha an sgìre a' toirt a-steach nan eilean Sgalpaigh, Pabaigh agus Longaigh agus nam bailtean An t-Àth Leathann, Caol Acaìn agus Ealaghol.

Tha an leabhran seo a' beachdachadh air cuid de na h-ainmean nach eil cho aithnichte san sgìre, mòran dhiubh air an cruinneachadh bhon fheadhainn san sgìre aig a bheil Gàidhlig rè rannsachadh na pròiseict seo. Chaidh iomadh mapa a chleachdadh an lùib an rannsachaidh seo, mapaichean Suirbhìdh Òrdanais nam measg, agus tha corra iomradh orra san sgrìobhadh. Thèid na h-ainmean-àite gu lèir (ann an clò-trom) a lorg a' cleachdadh a' chlàir-innse aig a chùl, agus comharraidhean-cliaitha nan cois. Tha stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh ri fhaighinn an seo cuideachd. Tha aire shònraichte ga toirt do dh'ainmean a tha an dara cuid eadar-dhealaichte



Blaven from the head of Loch Slapin  
Blàbheinn bho cheann Loch Shlaopain



is taken of names that either differ from the maps or do not appear on maps at all. Some other names and folklore have been taken from other unpublished written material gathered locally. Given the uneven coverage from these sources, the areas of Strathaird and Heaste in the south-west of the Strath have been covered more than others. Unfortunately, there remains little to no place-name tradition on the islands.

An early mention of Skye is found in Adomnán's *Vitae Columbae*, which tells us that Saint Columba stayed on Skye in the sixth century. At this time, the people of Skye would have spoken Pictish. The Vikings raided and settled Skye from around 800 CE, bringing with them the Norse language which prevailed until around the thirteenth century, when Gaelic came into the area and became the main language in Strath. While many still speak the language, it is not as common as it once was, though with the introduction of the Gaelic medium units at Elgol and Broadford primary schools Gaelic is being reinvigorated. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college in Sleat, has also had a positive effect on the language in the area.

Today the vast majority of place-names in Strath are of Gaelic origin. A few Norse names remain, and there is no evidence of any remaining Pictish names. In very recent times a few English names have been coined.



bho na mapaichean no nach eil a' nochdadh air mapaichean idir. Chaidh cuid de dh'ainmean is beul-aithris eile a thoirt bho stòran sgrìobhte neo-fhoillsichte a chaidh a chruinneachadh gu h-ionadail. Leis nach eil iomradh cunbhalach anns na stòran sin, chaidh barrachd aire a thoirt do sgìrean Àird an t-Sratha agus Heasta ann an iar-dheas an t-Sratha seach sgìrean eile. Gu mì-fhortanach, 's e glè bheag ma tha dad idir ann de dh'eachdraidh ainmean-àite a tha anns na h-eileanan.

Tha iomradh tràth ga thoirt air an Eilean Sgitheanach ann am *Vitae Columbae* Adomnàin, a tha ag innse dhuinn gun do dh'fhuirich Naomh Chaluim Chille san Eilean Sgitheanach san t-siathamh linn. Aig an àm seo, 's e Cruithnis a bhiodh muinntir an Eilein Sgitheanaich a' bruidhinn. Thàinig na Lochlannaich a chreachadh agus a dh'fhuireach anns an Eilean Sgitheanach mu 800 CE, a' toirt leotha an cànan Lochlannais aig an robh làmh an uachdair gu timcheall air an treas linn deug, nuair a thàinig a' Ghàidhlig don sgìre far an do nochd i mar prìomh chànan an t-Sratha. Ged a tha mòran fhathast a' bruidhinn a' chànan, chan eil i cho bitheanta 's a bha i uaireigin. Ged-thà, bhon a dh'fhosgail na h-aonadan Gàidhlig ann am bun-sgoiltean Ealaghola agus an Àth Leathainn, tha ath-bheòthachadh air a thighinn air a' Ghàidhlig. Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, a' cholaiste Ghàidhlig ann an Slèite, cuideachd air deagh bhuaidh a thoirt air a' chànan san sgìre.

An-diugh tha a' mhòr-chuid de na h-ainmean-àite san t-Srath tùsail don Ghàidhlig. Tha beagan ainmean Lochlannach ann fhathast, ach chan eil fianais sam bith gu bheil ainmean Cruithnis fhathast ann. O chionn glè ghoirid chaidh beagan ainmean Beurla a thoirt a-steach.



## Coasts

Promontories, skerries and bays necessarily play an important role in island life. South of Elgol is **Rubha Smuaireag** or **Smuaireig**. *Smuaireag* is understood here to be a descending mist, much like a waterfall, and thus there is 'the promontory of the descending mist'. The word is probably a variant of *smùid*, 'smoke or mist'. Similarly, the Falls of Foyers at Loch Ness in Gaelic is *Eas na Smùide*, and indicates the idea of mist rising like smoke. Just below Rubha Smuaireig is a cave known as **Uamh Mairearad Rois**, 'Margaret Ross's cave'.

Another promontory near Heaste is known today as **Rubha Àird a' Ghualainn**. The word *gualann* means 'shoulder' and here relates to a shoulder of land jutting into the sea, thus 'the promontory of the height of the shoulder'. Although it was also known as Àird a' Ghuaile, 'the height of the coal', *gualann* fits the topography better, as there is no *gual*, or 'coal' there, and it is likely that *gual* is a shortened form of *gualann*. Likewise, **Inbhir Ghualainn**, 'the shoulder inlet', south-east of Kyleakin, seems to relate to a shoulder of land rather than a watercourse called *Gualann*.

Found on the map near Kyleakin are Corran na Mudlaich and Mudalach, which should be **Corran na Maodalach** and **A' Mhaodalach** respectively. *Maodalach* here represents a stout or fat person. It can also mean a paunch, so A' Mhaodalach could represent a hill in the shape of a paunch. There was a Gaelic saying on Skye when cutting peat:

'cuir thusa a-nall an gille bàrr puill, 's cuiridh mise a-null a' *mhaodalach* bheag airson seocaireachd',



Rubha Smuaireag and Uamh Mairearad Rois  
Rubha Smuaireag agus Uamh Mairearad Rois





## Oirthirean

Tha cinn-tìre, sgeirean agus bàighean cudromach ann am beatha nan eilean. Air taobh a deas Ealaghola tha **Rubha Smuaireag** no **Smuaireig**. Thathar a' tuigsinn an seo gur e smùid a' teàrnadh a th' ann an *Smuaireag*, rudeigin coltach ri eas, agus mar sin tha 'rubha smuaireag' a' nochdadh. Tha coltas ann gur e dreach eile dhen fhacal *smùid* a th' ann. Mar an ceudna, canar *Eas na Smùide* sa Ghàidhlig ri Falls of Foyers aig Loch Nis, agus tha sin a' sealltainn gu bheil smùid ag èirigh mar cheò. Dìreach fo Rubha Smuaireag tha uamh ris an canar **Uamh Mairearad Rois**.

Tha rubha eile faisg air Heasta ris an canar an-diugh **Rubha Àird a' Ghualainn**. Tha am facal *gualann* an seo a' buntainn ri gualann fearainn a tha a' sìneadh a-mach don mhuir, mar sin 'rubha aig àird a' ghualainn'. Ged a bha e cuideachd aithnichte mar Àird a' Ghualainn, tha *gualann* nas iomchaidhe a thaobh cumadh-tìre, leis nach eil *gual* ann idir. Tha e coltach gur e cruth goirid de *gualann* a th' ann an *gual*. San aon dòigh, tha coltas ann gu bheil **Inbhir Ghualainn**, an ear-dheas air Caol Acairn, a' buntainn ri gualann fearainn an àite cùrsa-uisge ris an canar *Gualann*.

Bu chòir na h-ainmean Corran na Mudlaich agus Mudalach, rin lorg air a' mhapa faisg air Caol Acairn, a bhith **Corran na Maodalaich** agus **A' Mhaodalach**. Ann an seo tha *Maodalach* a' riochdachadh cuideigin reamhar no tiugh. Faodaidh e cuideachd a bhith a' ciallachadh mionach, agus mar sin bhiodh A' Mhaodalach a' riochdachadh cnoc ann an cruth mionaich. Bha ràdh aca san Eilean Sgitheanach nuair a bhiodh iad a' buain na mòna: 'cuir thusa a-nall an gille bàrr puill, 's cuiridh mise





'you throw the first cutting over, and I'll throw the wee pile over for drying'.

*Seocaireachd* mentioned in the quote above is a local word which possibly relates to *seacadh*, 'drying', but it does not seem to appear in any dictionaries.

**Rubha na Sgillinne** in Kyleakin could either relate to a piece of land worth a shilling or an actual shilling coin. West of this is **Loch na Bèiste**, known locally by non-Gaelic speakers as 'the loch of the beastie'. The details of the tradition associated with a monster, or beastie, seem to have been lost locally, but one wonders if nearby **Sròn an Tairbh**, 'the nose of the bull', relates to the dreaded *tarbh-uisge* or 'water bull' which is known elsewhere in folklore. The loch was used by the navy during World War Two because of its secluded location and later for surrendered German U-boats. At the mouth of the loch, below **A' Mhaodalach**, is the wreck of the minelayer HMS Port Napier, which is visible from the mainland at low tide.

On the other side of Loch na Bèiste is Cnoc na Loch, a good example of a map error. The name means 'the hill of the lochs' and, although locally it is pronounced Cnoc na Loch, it should be spelt **Cnoc nan Loch**. The genitive plural article *nan* is often pronounced *na* in natural speech. On this hill, the foundations of a World War Two gunnery are still visible.

South of Camasunary, Rubha na h-Àirigh Bàine, is referred to locally as **Rubha na h-Àirde Bàine**, 'the promontory of the white height', or even simply **An Àird Bhàn**.

At Glasnakille is a cave named **Sloc Altramain**, also known as Sloc Altramaish or Sloc an Altramain. In English this well-known attraction is called Spar Cave, and the name relates to the spectacular

limestone mineral formations for which the cave is famous. The Gaelic word *altraman* means 'nursing' or 'fostering'. Although the reason for this name is not well remembered locally, there is a story<sup>1</sup> about a princess called Dounhuila who had a child with a man of whom her father did not approve. She kept the child with a servant in this cave and visited only to nurse her child, hence the name. Further along at Drinan is **Geodha an t-Saighdeir**, 'the creek or cove of the soldier'. In the nineteenth century a soldier, having been dropped off by boat on his return from war, fell to his death as he walked home along the cliff-tops.

*Òb* is commonly used along the coast from Kyleakin to Breakish and means a creek or tidal inlet. In Kyleakin itself, the Obbe, or **An t-Òb**, divides the village. The south side of this is simply **Òb a Deas** or South Obbe. South-west of here towards Kylerhea is **Òb nam Portan**, in which *portan* is probably a variant of *partan*, 'velvet crab'. Close by is **Òb Allt an Daraich**, 'the creek of Allt an Daraich', into which Allt an Daraich, 'the burn of the oak', itself flows. When coming along Ardnish from Ceann an Òba, 'the end of the creek', the first noticeable inlet is **Òb an Fhaing**, 'the creek of the fank'. **Òb Bhreacais** is of course the tidal estuary between Breakish and Ardnish. Òb nan Geodh, as the maps have it, is a mis-spelling and should be **Òb nan Gàadh**, 'the creek of the geese'.

By Loch Slapin is Faoilean, or **An Fhaoileann**, meaning 'the raised beach'. There are other instances of this place-name in other islands with similar landforms, such as Jura and Raasay. South of Elgol close to Prince Charlie's Cave, or **Uamh a' Phrionnsa**, is **Port an Luig Mhòir**, 'the port of the big hollow', which was at one time also known simply

<sup>1</sup> MacLeay, 25–31



a-null a' *mhaodalach* bheag airson seocaireachd',  
'S e facal ionadail a th' ann an *seocaireachd*,  
gu h-àrd, agus is dòcha gu bheil ceangal aige ri  
*seacadh*, 'tiormachadh', ach chan eil coltas ann gu  
bheil e a' nochdadh anns na faclairan.

Dh'fhaoidte gu bheil **Rubha na Sgillinne** ann  
an Caol Acaìn a' buntainn an dara cuid ri pìos  
fearainn luach sgillinn no ri bonn sgillinn fhèin. Tha  
**Loch na Bèiste**, aithnichte gu h-ionadail leis an  
fheadhainn aig nach eil a' Ghàidhlig mar 'the loch of  
the beastie', an iar air seo. Tha e coltach gun deach  
mion-fhiosrachadh an dualchais a bha a' buntainn  
ri uilebheist, no biastag, a chall gu h-ionadail, ach  
faodar a' cheist a thogail a bheil **Sròn an Tairbh**,  
a tha faisg air làimh, a' buntainn ris an *tarbh-*  
*uisge* oillteil a tha aithnichte ann am beul-aithris



an àitichean eile. Bhiodh an cabhlachd rioghail a'  
cleachdadh an locha san Dàrna Chogadh a chionn  
's gu robh e cho uaigneach, agus an dèidh sin airson  
bàtaichean-aigeinn Gearmailteach a chaidh a thoirt  
an grèim. Aig beul an locha, fon A' Mhaodalach, tha  
closach a' mhèinneadair-laighe HMS Port Napier, a  
chithear bho thir-mòr nuair a tha muir-tràigh ann.

Air taobh eile Loch na Bèiste tha Cnoc na Loch  
na dheagh eisimpleir de mhearachd mhapa. Tha  
an t-ainm a' ciallachadh 'cnoc nan loch' agus, ged  
a thathar ga fhuaimneachadh aig ìre ionadail mar  
Cnoc na Loch, bu chòir a litreachadh mar **Cnoc  
nan Loch**. Tha an t-alt ginideach iomarra *nan* gu  
trìc air fhuaimneachadh mar *na* ann an còmhradh  
làitheil. Chithear bunaitean gunnaireachd an Dàrna  
Chogaidh fhathast air a' chnoc.





as **An Lag Mòr**, 'the big hollow'. It is from here that Bonnie Prince Charlie (Charles Edward Stuart) was rowed to the mainland in 1746. The place was also known as **Camas Eiceadail**, 'the bay of Eiceadal'. Eiceadal is a name of Norse origin and was recorded as *Camisketel* by the travel writer Thomas Pennant when he visited in 1772.<sup>2</sup>

**Port MhicMhannain** is 'Buchannan's port'. Buchannan is not a local name, but this was coined at a time when herring fishing was a big industry in Loch Eishort and may be linked to an individual concerned with the industry. It is said that a hermit used to live in **Uamh Maolaig**, a cave in Breakish. *Maol* is 'bald' in Gaelic, and the name possibly relates to a description of the hermit as 'little bald one'. **Rubha na h-Easgainne**, the most southern point of Strathaird, is 'the promontory of the eel'. It is also known locally as **Rubha an Easgair**. *Easgar* was understood as a storm of wind and rain, although it can also mean *esker*, a long sandy ridge.

**Bogha an t-Sasunnaich**, along the coast from Kyleakin towards Breakish, means 'the sunken rock of the Englishman'. There is no folklore attached to it, but locally it is pronounced **Bogha na(n) Sasannach**, which refers to Englishmen, rather than a single Englishman. Camus Malag, by Torrin, was once known locally as **Camas Smalaig**; *smalag* is a saithe or coalfish, thus 'the bay of saithe'. On Scalpay is **Corran a' Chinn Uachdaraich**, 'the point of the upper head', overlooking Ard Dorch or **An Àird Dorcha**, 'the dark height'. The element *corran* can mean a sickle-shaped bit of land, or a small promontory as it does here.

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<sup>2</sup> Pennant, 288.





Taobh a deas air Camas Fhionnairigh, bithear ag ainmeachadh gu h-ionadail Rubha na h-Àirigh Bàine air na mapaichean mar **Rubha na h-Àirde Bàine** no eadhon gu simplidh **An Àird Bhàn**.

Aig Glas na Cille tha uamh air a bheil an t-ainm **Sloc Altramain**, aithnichte cuideachd mar Sloc Altramais no Sloc an Altramain. Anns a' Bheurla 's e Spar Cave a chanas iad ris, àite ainmeil agus tarraingeach, agus tha an t-ainm a' buntainn ris a' chumadh mhèinnearachd aol-chlach eireachdail a tha a' toirt cliù don uamh. Ged nach eil cuimhne aig mòran air ciall an ainme, tha sgeulachd<sup>1</sup> ann mu bhana-phrionnsa leis an ainm Dounhuila aig an robh pàiste ri fear is bu bheag spèis a bh' aig a h-athair dha. Chum i an leanabh anns an uamh agus searbhanta a' coimhead ris agus cha deach i ann ach airson an leanabh altramadh, agus às a seo thàinig an t-ainm. Nas fhaide a-null aig An Draoighnean tha **Geodha an t-Saighdeir**. San

<sup>1</sup> MacLeay, 25–31

naoidheamh linn deug, chaidh saighdear a bha air tilleadh bhon chogadh leis a' chreig an dèidh dha a bhith air a chur air tir à bàta agus e a' coiseachd dhachaigh air mullach nan creagan.

Tha **Òb** gu cumanta air a chleachdadh air an oirthir eadar Caol Acaìn agus Breacais. Ann an Caol Acaìn fhèin tha an 'Obbe' no **An t-Òb** a' roinneadh a' bhaile. 'S e **Òb a Deas** a th' air an taobh a deas. Dhan iar-dheas à seo, a dh'ionnsaigh Caol Reatha, tha **Òb** nam Portan, agus tha e coltach gur e a th' ann am *portan* ach atharrachadh de *partan*. Tha **Òb Allt an Daraich** faisg air seo, agus tha Allt an Daraich fhèin a' sruthadh ann. Nuair a thig thu tarsainn air Àrdnais bho Cheann an Òba, is e **Òb** an Fhaing a' chiad òb a chì thu. Is e **Òb Bhreacais** am beul-aibhne eadar Breacais is Àrdnais. Tha **Òb** nan Geodh air a litreachadh ceàrr air na mapaichean, bu chòir dha a bhith **Òb nan Gàadh**.

Ri taobh Loch Shlaopain tha Faoilean, no **An Fhaoileann**. Tha eisimpleirean eile den ainm-àite

Ob Breakish  
Òb Bhreacais



seo ann an eileanan eile leis an aon chruth-tìre, leithid Diùra agus Ratharsair. Deas air Ealaghol faisg air **Uamh a' Phrionnsa** tha **Port an Luig Mhòir**, a bha roimhe seo aithnichte cuideachd mar **An Lag Mòr**. Is ann às an seo a chaidh am Prionnsa Teàrlach iomradh gu tir-mòr ann an 1746. Bha an t-àite aithnichte cuideachd mar **Camas Eiceadail**. Is e ainm Lochlannach a th' ann an Eiceadal o thùs agus chaidh a chlàradh mar *Camisketel* leis an sgrìobhadair siubhail Tòmas Pennant nuair a thadhail e ann an 1772.<sup>2</sup>

Chan e ainm ionadail a th' ann am MacMhannain aig **Port MhicMhannain**, ach chaidh seo a chruthachadh aig àm nuair a bha iasgach an sgadain na ghniomhachas mòr ann an Loch Eiseort agus dh'fhaoidte gu bheil ceangal aig an ainm seo ri fear a bha an sàs anns a' ghniomhachas. Thathar ag ràdh gum biodh aonaran a' fuireach ann an **Uamh**

<sup>2</sup> Pennant, 288.



Uamh Maolaig

**Maolaig**, uamh ann am Breacais. Is dòcha gu bheil an t-ainm a' buntainn ri coltas an aonarain mar 'fear beag maol'. Is e **Rubha na h-Easgainne**, an t-àite as fhaide deas ann an Àird an t-Sratha. Tha e cuideachd aithnichte mar **Rubha an Easgair**. Bhathar a' tuigsinn gur e stoirm le gaath is uisge a bh' ann an easgar, ged a bhios e cuideachd a' ciallachadh *esker*, druim fada gainmhich.

Tha Bogha an t-Sasunnaich air an oirthir eadar Caol Acaìn is Breacais. Chan eil beul-aithris sam bith ceangailte ris, ach gu h-ionadail bithear ga fhuaimneachadh mar **Bogha na(n) Sasannach**, an àite aon Shasannach. Bha Camus Malag, faisg air Na Torrain, aithnichte mar **Camas Smalaig** roimhe seo. Air Sgalpaigh tha **Corran a' Chinn Uachdaraich** a' coimhead thairis air Ard Dorch no **An Àird Dorcha**. Faodaidh an eileamaid corran a bhith a' ciallachadh pìos fearainn coltach ri *corran* no 'rubha beag', mar a tha e an seo.



## Rivers and Lochs

*Allt* is the *de facto* element in Gaelic meaning a 'small watercourse', but on Skye the term *lòn* can also mean a 'small burn, especially with marshy banks'.<sup>1</sup> Close to Heaste are two burns next to each other: **Lòn na Searraich**, 'the burn of the young horse', and **Lòn na h-Earba**, 'the burn of the young deer'. Nearby is **Lòn an Fheòir**, 'the burn of the grass'. *Lòn* can also have its more widespread meaning of 'pond, puddle or grassy area', as in **Lòn a' Chuspair**, 'the grassy area of the target', a part of the Ashaig common grazings above the graveyard. According to local tradition, this area was once used for archery practice by a local family, the MacInneses, who also taught archery. This may be the same place as *Blàr a' Chuspair*,<sup>2</sup> 'the open plain of the target', referenced by Alexander Forbes, an author of several books on Gaelic themes, who lived in Sleat.

The *allt* element does also exist in Skye. East of Kyleakin there is **Allt nan Gamhainn**, 'the burn of the stirks', or as others say locally, **Allt na Gaimhne**, 'the burn of the stirk'. This place is understood to be where the stirks, or year-old calves, took a drink where the banks of the burn were low enough for the young animals to access. **Allt Anabhaig** by Kyleakin (or as the maps have it, Allt Anavig) probably relates to an unknown Norse name followed by *víkr*, 'bay'. This is possibly the same element in Camustianavig or **Camas Tianabhaig** near Portree.

Lochan Cruinn is a small loch above Skulamus and is known locally as **Lochan Cruinne**, 'small

<sup>1</sup> Dwelly, 598.

<sup>2</sup> Forbes, 79.







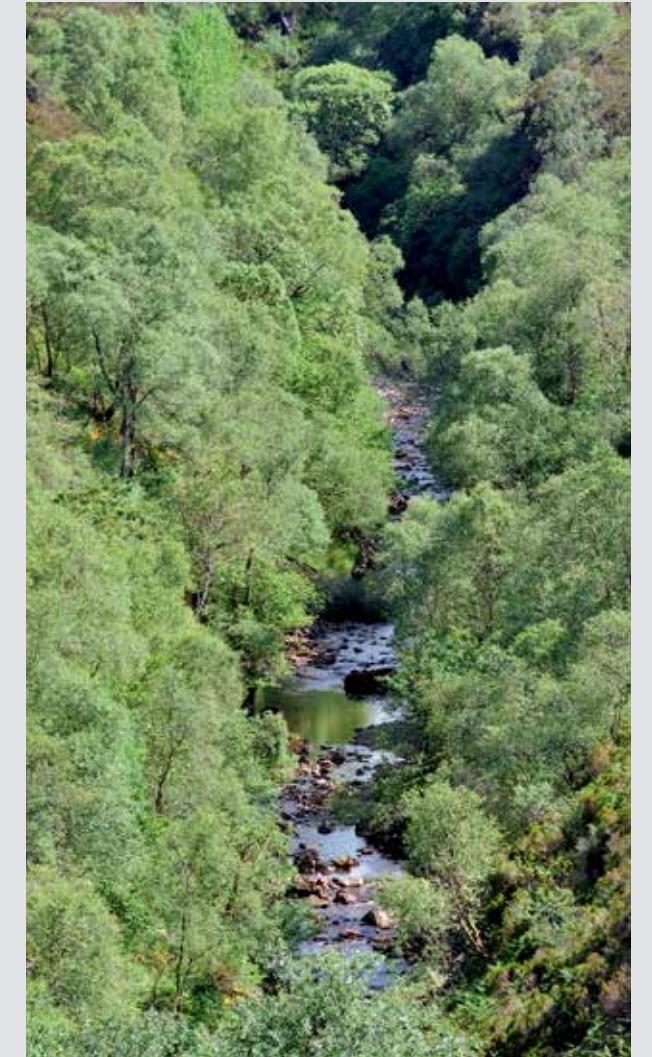
## Aibhnichean agus Lochan

'S e *allt* mar eileamaid am facal cumanata anns a' Ghàidhlig a' ciallachadh 'cùrsa-uisge beag', ach san Eilean Sgitheanach tha an teirm *lòn* cuideachd a' ciallachadh *allt*, gu sònraichte le 'buaichean boga'<sup>1</sup>. Timcheall air Heasta tha dà lòn ri taobh a chèile: **Lòn na Searraich** agus **Lòn na h-Earba**. Faisg air làimh tha **Lòn an Fheòir**. Faodaidh *lòn* a bhith air a chleachdadh sa chiall àbhaistich cuideachd, mar ann an **Lòn a' Chuspair**, pàirt de chùl-chinn Aisig os cionn a' chlaidh. A rèir beul-aithris, bha an t-àite seo air a chleachdadh aig aon àm airson boghadaireachd le clann MhicAonghais a bha cuideachd a' teagasg boghadaireachd. Dh'fhaoidte gur e seo an t-aon àite ri *Blàr a' Chuspair*<sup>2</sup>, a bha air a chlàradh le Alexander Forbes, ùghdar de ghrunn leabhraichean mu chuspairean Gàidhlig, a bha a' fuireach ann an Slèite.

Tha an eileamaid *allt* cuideachd ri fhaighinn san Eilean Sgitheanach. Air taobh an ear Chaol Acaìn tha **Allt nan Gamhainn**, no, mar a chanas cuid eile, **Allt na Gaimhne**. Thathar a' tuigsinn gur e seo an t-àite far am biodh na gamhainn, no laoigh aon-bliadhna a dh'aois, a' gabhail deoch far an robh buaichean an uillt sa phàirt seo iosal gu leòr airson gum faigheadh na beathaichean òga ga ionnsaigh. Tha e coltach gum buin **Allt Anabhaig** faisg air Caol Acaìn (no mar a th' aig na mapaichean, Allt Anavig) ri ainm Lochlannach neo-aithnichte agus às a dhèidh *víkr*, 'bàgh'. Dh'fhaoidte gur e seo an aon eileamaid a th' ann an Camustianavig no Camas Tianabhaig faisg air Port Rìgh.

1 Dwelly, 598.

2 Forbes, 79.





round loch'. Nearby are two rivers, **Abhainn Aisig** and **Abhainn Lusa**, although these rivers (*aibhnichean*) are hardly longer than the nearby burns (*uillt*).

Loch na Crèitheach is known by some locals as **Loch na Crèithich**, 'the loch of the brushwood'. At Camasunary **Abhainn nan Leac** is 'the river of the slabs', and **Abhainn Chamas Fhionnairigh**, 'the river of Camas Fhionnairigh'. **Loch nam Madadh Uisge**, in Luib, was recorded by the Reverend Charles M. Robertson (a Gaelic scholar and place-name collector who lived on Skye for some time) as meaning 'the loch of the fresh-water mussels'.<sup>3</sup> However, the habitat around the loch is extremely boggy, so this seems unlikely. Alternatively, if one looks to Wester Ross and Lewis, one finds that *madadh uisge* means 'otter'. This may be linked to a local tradition which told children of a loch monster to warn them against going near its boggy edge. From Loch nam Madadh Uisge flows **Allt na Lùibe**, 'the burn of Luib', which cuts right through Luib itself. Here there is an old double-arched stone bridge at the head of the old road to Strollamus.

Waterfalls are not very common in Strath but **A' Ghlòmach Mhòr**, 'the big chasm', is at Ceann an Òba where water runs over a volcanic dyke.

**Lochan na Sàile** refers to two lochs that feed Allt Lochan na Sàile and Allt Anavig and were previously the source of Kyleakin's water supply. Lochan na Sàile means the plural 'the salt lochs' rather than 'the little salt loch'. Loch Slapin is **Loch Slaopan** but for grammatical reasons the River Slapin is **Abhainn Shlaopain**. One would say of a heavy drinker 'Dh'òladh e Loch Slaopan', 'he would drink Loch Slapin dry'.

<sup>3</sup> Robertson MS375, 6.



'S e loch beag os cionn Sgulamais a th' ann an Lochan Cruinn agus tha e aithnichte gu h-ionadail mar **Lochan Cruinne**. Faisg air làimh tha dà abhainn, **Abhainn Aisig** agus **Abhainn Lusa**, ged nach eil na h-aibhnichean sin dad nas fhaide na na h-uillt a tha faisg air làimh.

Tha Loch na Crèitheach aithnichte le cuid de mhuintir na sgìre mar **Loch na Crèithich**. Aig Camas Fhionnairigh tha **Abhainn nan Leac** agus **Abhainn Chamas Fhionnairigh**. Chaidh **Loch nam Madadh Uisge** anns An Lùib a chlàradh leis an Urramach Teàrlach M. MacDhonnchaidh (sgoillear Gàidhlig agus fear a bha a' cruinneachadh ainmean-àite a bha a' fuireach san Eilean Sgitheanach airson greis) mar gu bheil e a' ciallachadh 'loch nam feusgan uisge glan'.<sup>3</sup> Ach, tha an àrainneachd timcheall air an loch gu math bog, agus mar sin chan eil e coltach gu bheil seo fìor. Ach air Taobh Siar Rois agus ann an Leòdhas tha *madadh uisge a'* ciallachadh 'dobhran'. Dh'fhaodadh gu bheil ceangal aig an seo ri dualchas

<sup>3</sup> Robertson MS375, 6.

ionadail a tha ag aithris mu uilebheist locha a' toirt rabhadh do chlànn cumail air falbh bhon bhoglach a tha aig an oir. Tha **Allt na Lùibe** a' sruthadh tron Lùib fhèin à Loch nam Madadh Uisge. An seo tha seann drochaid chloiche dà-bhogha aig ceann an t-seann rathaid gu Stròlamas.

Chan eil easan cumanta anns an t-Srath, ach tha **A' Ghlòmach Mhòr** aig Ceann an Òba far a bheil uisge a' ruith thairis air balla bholcànach.

Is e **Lochan na Sàile** dà loch a tha a' biathadh a-steach do dh'Allt Lochan na Sàile agus do dh'Allt Anabhaig agus roimhe seo is ann asta a bha uisge Chaol Acaìn a' tighinn. Tha Lochan na Sàile a-mach air dà loch an àite aon loch beag. Is e **Loch Slaopan** a chanar ri Loch Slapin, ach, airson adhbharan gràmair, is e **Abhainn Shlaopain** a chanar ri River Slapin. Bhithe ag ràdh mu fhear a bha trom air an deoch 'Dh'òladh e Loch Slaopan'.



Loch Slapin  
Loch Slaopan



## Hills, Skerries and Stones

Two skerries in the channel between Sleat and Eilean Heast share a traditional story called *Mochaidh*. There were said to be three giants in these parts: Mochaidh, whom the story is named after, MacCrùslaig and MacCraithne. The story tells us of a fight between MacCrùslaig and MacCraithne in Mòrsaig in Sleat. The victorious giant had the other lying on his back as he sat on him. The defeated giant said: 'if you allow me up, I'll give you the best coat of mail in the world'. So they agreed upon this and stood up. The defeated giant wanted to go back to Heaste to get the coat, so the other giant threw two stones in the water as stepping stones and said: 'now look here, I've made it easy for you to get back to Heaste'. One stone is now called **An Tuairisgeul** or **Sgeir an Tuairisgeil**. Although *tuairisgeul* means 'description' in modern Gaelic, here it is taken to mean 'a peat cutting iron', a variant of *toirisgil*, which the rock is said to resemble. It should be noted, however, that *An Tuairisgeul Mòr* is the name of a giant in some folklore stories. The other skerry is called **Clach Mhòr na Dòrnaidh**, 'the big stone of the Dornie', after the area of Loch Eishort around Heaste called **An Dòrnaidh**, 'the narrow channel'.

*Sgeir* is the most commonly used term for a skerry or rock in the sea. Skerries are often named after people, for example **Sgeir MhicArtair**, 'MacArthur's skerry', on the Strathaird side of Loch Scavaig, and **Sgeir Mhòr Niall 'ic Dhonnchaidh**, 'Neil Robertson's big skerry', in Heaste. During low tide the latter is one rock, but at half tide it is possible to sail between them. Close by there is also







## Cnuic, Sgeirean agus Clachan

Tha sgeulachd ann leis an ainm *Mochaidh* a tha ceangailte ris an dà sgeir anns a' chaolas eadar Slèite is Eilean Heasta. Bhathar ag ràdh gun robh trì fuamhairean anns an sgìre seo: Mochaidh, air a bheil an sgeulachd ga h-ainmeachadh, agus MacCrùslaig is MacCraithne. Tha an sgeulachd ag innse mu shabaid eadar MacCrùslaig agus MacCraithne ann am Mòrsaig an Slèite. Bha am fuamhaire a rinn a' chùis air am fear eile a chur air a dhruim agus e na shuidhe air. Thuir am fuamhaire a chaill an cath 'ma leigeas tu leam seasamh, bheir mi dhut an deise-chruadhach as fheàrr san t-saoghal'. Mar sin dh'aontaich iad agus sheas iad. Bha am fuamhaire a chaill an cath airson a dhol air ais gu Heasta airson an deise fhaighinn, mar sin thilg am fuamhaire eile dà chlach san uisge mar staranan agus thuir e: 'seall a-nis, rinn mi soirbh dhut e faighinn air ais a Heasta'. 'S e **An Tuairisgeul no Sgeir an Tuairisgeil** a th' air aon de na clachan a-nis. Ged a tha *tuairisgeul* a' ciallachadh 'dealbh-chunntas' ann an Gàidhlig an latha 'n-diugh, an seo tha e a' ciallachadh 'tairsgeir', no *toirisgil*, agus tha e coltach gur e seo an cumadh a tha air a' chreig. Thathar an dùil gun do dh'atharraich an t-ainm thar ùine. Tha *An Tuairisgeul Mòr* na ainm air fuamhaire ann an cuid de sgeulachdan beul-aithris, ged-thà. 'S e **Clach Mhòr na Dòrnaidh** a th' air an sgeir eile agus tha i air a h-ainmeachadh air an sgìre de Loch Eiseort timcheall Heasta ris an canar **An Dòrnaidh**.

Is e *sgeir* am prìomh fhacal airson creag anns a' mhuir. Tha iad mar as trice air an ainmeachadh às dèidh dhaoine, mar eisimpleir **Sgeir MhicArtair** air taobh Àird an t-Sratha de Loch Sgathabhaig



**Sgeireagan Druimeanaich**, which means 'the little skerries of the ridge-place' or possibly 'belonging to a Drummond'. **Sgeir a' Chaisteil**, 'the skerry of the castle', lies below **Caisteal Maol**, 'bald castle'. Sgeir na lasgaich of the maps should be **Sgeir an lasgaich**, 'the skerry of the fishing', as it is known locally.

**Cnoc an t-Saighdeir**, 'the hill of the soldier', is on croft 37 in Breakish. The identity of the soldier is not known, but as the name is not on Ordnance Survey maps, whose place-names were gathered in the mid to late nineteenth century, it is possible that the soldier fought in the Boer War or either of the World Wars. **Creag an Stòir** 'the crag of the store', by an old fank near Heaste, is made of two large blocks of limestone and is a well-known local feature.

Clach an Fhuarain, 'the stone of the spring', near Elgol, is also known as **Clach an Fhiodhaich**, 'the stone of the shrubs'. Forbes' relates a tale that Clach an Fhuarain was thrown by one of the giants from Soay during a game of 'putting' the stone, much like An Tuairisgeul. The nearby well is known as **Tobar Clach an Fhiodhaich**, 'the well of Clach an Fhiodhaich', which previously supplied water to a house in Elgol, nearly half a mile away.

Passes between hills have names too. One is **Cadha a' Chumain**, 'the pass of the pail', near Elgol through which one would climb to get to Camasunary. On it is **Leabaidh na Bà Uidhre**, 'the bed of the yellow cow', which is thought to relate to a particularly green patch on the pass. This may be linked to the *Glas-ghoilean* creature mentioned later. Near here is **Uirigh Theàrlaich**, 'Charlie's couch'. The identity of Charlie seems to have been forgotten, but the couch (Uirigh) relates to a shelf of rock resembling a couch or bench. *Uirigh* is not commonly found in place-names, but on Cairnburgh

<sup>1</sup> Forbes, 111.



agus ann an Heasta tha **Sgeir Mhòr Niall 'ic Dhonnchaidh**. Nuair a tha muir-tràigh ann tha an sgeir seo mar aon sgeir, ach aig leth-làn tha e comasach seòladh eatorra. Cuideachd faisg air làimh tha **Sgeireagan Druimeanaich** ann, a tha a' ciallachadh 'sgeirean beaga an àite druimeach' no 's dòcha 'le fear leis an t-sloinneadh Druimeanach'. Tha **Sgeir a' Chaisteil** na suidhe fo **Caisteal Maol**. Bu chòir Sgeir na lasgaich air na mapaichean a bhith air a h-ainmeachadh mar **Sgeir an lasgaich** mar as aithnichte i gu h-ionadail.

Tha **Cnoc an t-Saighdeir** air croit 37 ann am Breacais. Chan eil fios cò a bha san t-saighdear, ach leis nach eil an t-ainm air mapaichean Suirbhìdh Òrdanais, leis na h-ainmean-àite a chaidh a thional eadar meadhan is deireadh na naoidheamh linn deug, dh'fhaoidte gun robh an saighdear an sàs ann an Cogadh nam Boer no ann an aonan de na Cogaidhean Mòra. Tha Creag an Stòir ri taobh seann fhaing faisg air Heasta, air a dèanamh suas le dà chnap mòr de chlach-aoil agus tha i na feart-tìre ainmeil san sgìre.

Tha Clach an Fhuarain faisg air Ealaghol aithnichte cuideachd mar **Clach an Fhiodhaich**. Tha Forbes' ag innse sgeul gun deach *Clach an Fhuarain* a thilgeil le aon de na fuamhairean à Sòaigh mar phàirt de gheama 'cuir an clach', caran coltach ris An Tuairisgeul. Tha tobar faisg air làimh aithnichte mar **Tobar Clach an Fhiodhaich** às am b' àbhaist taigh ann an Ealaghol, faisg air leth-mhìle air falbh, a bhith a' faighinn uisge.

Tha ainmean cuideachd air na bealaich. Is e aon dhiubh **Cadha a' Chumain** faisg air Ealaghol trom biodh duine a' streap gus Camas Fhionnairigh a ruigheachd. An seo tha **Leabaidh na Bà Uidhre** agus thathar a' smaoinneachadh gur e lianag shònraichte ghorm air a' bhealach a tha seo.

<sup>1</sup> Forbes, 111.





Leac a' Chlàrsair

in the Treshnish Isles of Mull there is **Uirigh Ailean nan Sop**, where a man called Ailean nan Sop became stranded on a rock of similar form.

**Bealach Udal** is 'the pass of distress', and is a path used for walking between Breakish and Kylerhea. It probably gained its name because it is very steep and difficult to climb. **Fireach Clach** is the highest spot on the old road to Heaste just next to Tobar an Ruaidh. *Fireach* means an ascending slope, or hill ground. Beside it is **A' Ghlac Chàrnach**, 'the stony hollow'. Next to **Loch a' Mhullaich**, 'the loch of the summit', is **Leac a' Chlàrsair**, 'the slab of the harper'. This is not a slab of rock, as you would expect, but an exposed part of the bedrock in the shape of a *clàrsach* or Scottish harp.

In the centre of Strath, **Beinn na Caillich**, 'the hill of the old lady', is known as the last resting place of 'Saucy Mary'. Saucy Mary was a Norwegian princess who wanted to be buried on the mountain so that the winds of Norway would blow over her. Her castle was said to be Caisteal Maol, in Kyleakin, the remains of which still stand today. Many places-



Beinn na Caillich





Fireach Clach

Dh'fhaidte gu bheil seo a' buntainn ris a' chreutair *Glas-ghoilean* air an toirear iomradh nas fhaide air adhart. Faisg air seo tha **Uirigh Theàrlaich**. Chan eil cuimhne air cò bh' ann an Teàrlach, ach tha an uirigh a' buntainn ri sgeilp creige a tha coltach ri uirigh no being. Chan eil *uirigh* gu cumanta ri fhaighinn ann an ainmean-àite, ach air Càrn na Buirgh ann an Eileanan Treisnis Mhuile tha *Uirigh Ailean nan Sop*, far an deach fear air an robh Ailean nan Sop fhàgail air sgeir den aon chruth.

Is e frith-rathad a tha ann am **Bealach Udal** eadar Breacais is Caol Reatha. Tha e coltach gun d' fhuair e an t-ainm a chionn 's gu bheil e gu math cas agus doirbh a dhìreadh. Is e am **Fireach Clach** an t-àite as àirde air an t-seann rathad gu Heasta ri taobh Tobar an Ruaidh. Tha *fireach* a' ciallachadh leathad ag èirigh, no fearann beinne. Ri taobh tha **A' Ghlac Chàrnach**. Ri taobh **Loch a' Mhullaich** tha **Leac a' Chlàrsair**. Chan e leac de chreig a tha seo, mar a bhiodh tu an dùil, ach pìos fosgailte den fhochreige ann an cumadh *clàrsaich*.

Tha **Beinn na Caillich** ann am meadhan an t-Sratha aithnichte mar an t-àite far an deach 'Saucy Mary' a thiodhlacadh. B' e bana-phrionnsa Lochlannach a bh' ann an Saucy Mary a bha ag



names in the Hebrides containing the word *cailleach* have a traditional link with a Norwegian princess. Another story says a hag was being chased and jumped from Beinn na Caillich in Kyleakin onto Beinn na Caillich in Broadford, where she was caught and killed.

**Creag an Leabhair**, 'the crag of the book', is a distinctive hummock at the end of the Broadford airstrip around which Abhainn Aisig runs. Tradition has it that this was used as a pulpit by Saint Maol Rubha. Maol Rubha was an Irish monk who founded a monastic community in Applecross, Wester Ross. The name is also recorded as **Leac** (slab) instead of *Creag* (crag) or **Creagan (n)an Leabha(i)r**, 'the crags of the book' or 'books'.

iarraidh gun rachadh a tiodhlacadh air a' bheinn gus am biodh gaothan Nirribhidh a' sèideadh thairis oirre. Thathar ag ràdh gur e Caisteal Maol, ann an Caol Acain, an caisteal aice, agus tha an tobhta fhathast ri fhaicinn an-diugh. Tha mòran de dh'ainmean-àite ann an Innse Gall anns a bheil an t-ainm *cailleach* le ceangal traidiseanta ri bana-phrionnsa Lochlannach. Tha sgeulachd eile ag ràdh gu robhar a' dol às dèidh cailleach agus gun do leum i bho Bheinn na Caillich ann an Caol Acain gu Beinn na Caillich anns an Àth Leathann, far an deach a glacadh agus a marbhadh.

Is e bruthach sònraichte a th' ann an **Creag an Leabhair** a tha aig ceann raon-laighe an Àth Leathainn agus bidh Abhainn Aisig a' sruthadh timcheall air seo. A rèir beul-aithris chaidh seo a chleachdadh mar chùbaid leis an Naomh Maol Ruibhe. B' e manach Èireannach a bh' ann am Maol Ruibhe a chuir coimhearsnachd mhanach air chois air a' Chomraich, air Taobh Siar Rois. Tha an t-ainm cuideachd air a chlàradh mar **Leac** an àite *Creag* no **Creagan (n)an Leabha(i)r**.





## Man-made Areas

There is a local proverb that describes Strath through reference to well-loved places:

Cill Ma-Ruibhe air sgèith a' chuain  
Camas Fhionnairidh fhuar nam beann  
Ròbastan a' choice ghlais  
Leam a b'ionmhainn a bhith ann

Kilmarie on the wing of the ocean  
Cold Camasunary of the hills  
Robastan of the unripe corn  
I would love to be there.

Kilmarie or **Cill Ma-Ruibhe** is, like Killarow on Islay and Amulree in Perthshire, coined from Saint Maol Rubha, mentioned earlier. Camasunary



Robastan  
An Ròbastan

or **Camas Fhionnairigh** is 'the bay of the white sheiling'. Robastan is in Gaelic **An Ròbastan** or also **Na Ròbastanaich**. It is not clear if this name relates simply to the Gaelicised form of Robertson or if it reflects a name of Norse derivation.

Heaste is now divided into crofts. They were laid out by a rich man called Charles MacInnes, or *Teàrlach an Òir*, 'Charles of the Gold'. He had given himself a large area of the best land for his own croft, so the people at the top of the village, who had been given very rocky ground, complained bitterly. They were given some extra, more fertile land for cultivation at the front of the village, which is called **A' Phàirc Tharsainn**, 'the transverse park'.

Ashaig is understood locally as *aiseag*, 'ferry', which fits the topography you will find here. The



A' Phàirc Tharsainn

## Àitichean Togte

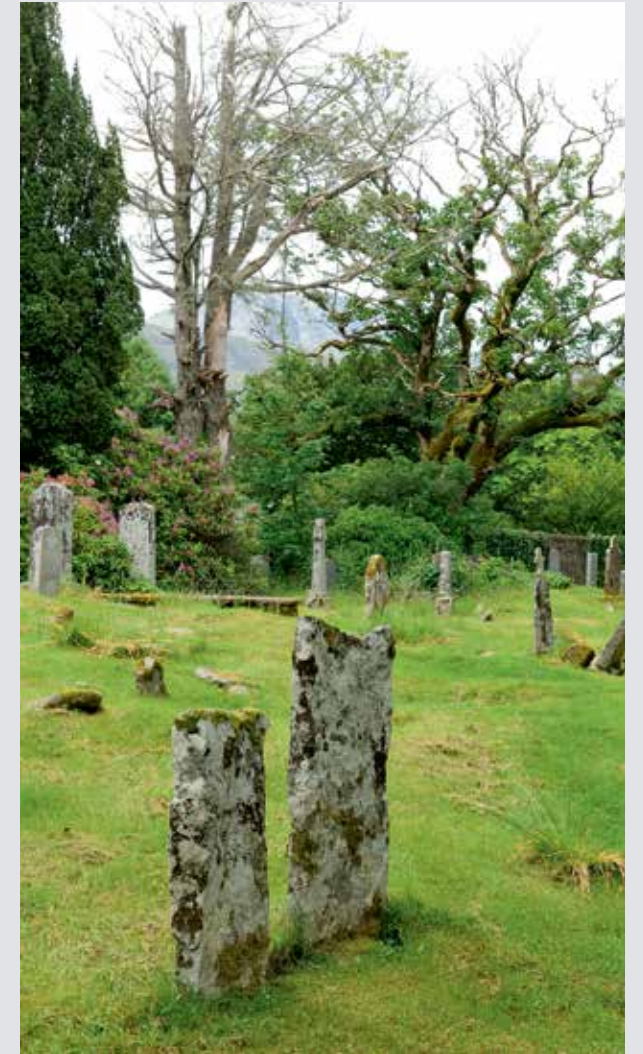
Tha sean-fhacal mu dheidhinn an t-Sratha a tha a' toirt tuairisgeul air àitichean sònraichte:

Cill Ma-Ruibhe air sgèith a' chuain  
Camas Fhionnairigh fhuar nam beann  
Ròbastan a' choice ghlais  
Leam a b' ionmhainn a bhith ann

Tha Kilmarie no **Cill Ma-Ruibhe** mar Cill A-Rubha ann an Ìle agus Àth Maol Ruibhe ann an Siorrachd Pheairt, a' tighinn bhon Naomh Maol Ruibhe, air an deach aithris na bu tràithe. 'S e **Camas Fhionnairigh** an cruth ceart airson Camasunary a' ciallachadh 'camas na h-àirighe finne, no bàine'. Anns a' Ghàidhlig canar Robastan mar **An Ròbastan** no cuideachd **Na Ròbastanaich**. Chan eil e soilleir a bheil an t-ainm seo a' buntainn ris an dreach Ghàidhlig de 'Robertson' no a bheil e a' comharrachadh ainm Lochlannach.

Tha Heasta a-nis air a roinn ann an croitean. Chaidh an suidheachadh le duine beairteach dom b' ainm Teàrlach MacAonghais, no *Teàrlach an Òir*. Bha e air cuibhreann mòr den fhearann a b' fheàrr a thoirt dha fhèin mar chroit, agus mar sin rinn na daoine a bha a' fuireach air taobh shuas a' bhaile, don deach fearann creagach a thoirt, gearan mòr. Chaidh fearann a bharrachd, nas torraiche, a thoirt dhaibh airson àiteach aig beul a' bhaile, ris an canar **A' Phàirc Tharsainn**.

Thathar a' tuigsinn Ashaig gu h-ionadail mar *aiseag*, a tha a' dol leis a' chumadh-tìre a gheibhear an seo. Tha an t-ainm, ged-thà, air a thaisbeanadh



Kilmarie  
Cill Ma-Ruibhe



name however is always presented without an article and with a slender vowel ending, **Aisig**. This is unexpected for a name derived from the word *aiseag*. It is therefore possible that the name is Norse in origin: *æsk-víkr*, 'ash-bay', and named from the tree. The church in Ashaig is called **Cill Aisig**, 'the church of Ashaig'. A local story tells that the bell of this church always rung of its own accord at sunset on Saturday and at sunrise on Monday. Because of this, the bell was removed to the main parish church of Strath at Cill Chrìosd near Torrìn, but it thereafter discontinued its voluntary ringing.<sup>1</sup>

Lephin is **An Leth-Pheighinn**, and Lephin Bridge is **Drochaid na Leth-Pheighinn**. *Leth-pheighinn*, 'halfpenny', was part of a system of land assessment that counted land by the cost of what it could produce, whether this was a halfpenny, as there is here, a *peighinn*, 'penny' or a *sgillinn*, 'shilling', as may be seen in Rubha na Sgillinne mentioned earlier. The area Liveras Park is a small place nowadays, but Liveras, **Laoghras** or **Ladhras**, once denoted the whole of the north-west side of Broadford Bay. Laoghras is probably a Norse name of unknown origin. Where Liveras previously extended is Corry, which is **An Coire**, 'the corrie', or **Coire Chatachain**, 'the corrie of the Catachs'. The word *Catachan* may be a surname or relate to *cat*, which translates as 'cat'. Corry was originally between Beinn Dearg Mhòr and Beinn Dearg Bheag. Corry is famous for its links to the Mackinnons of Strath. They were persecuted for hosting the young pretender Bonnie Prince Charlie. Later, however, Corry was praised for hosting Dr. Samuel Johnson and James Boswell on their well-known journey here in 1773.

Luib or **An Lùib** is also referred to locally as An Lùib Ghrianach, 'sunny Luib'.

**Goirtean a' Chabhail** is a small enclosure in Drinan and possibly relates to *cabhail*, 'creel or fish

<sup>1</sup> Robertson, MS411, 123.



às aonais uilt agus le fuaimreag chaol aig an deireadh: **Aisig**. Chan eil dùil ri seo bho ainm a tha a' tighinn bhon fhacal *aiseag*. Dh'fhaoidte gur e ainm Lochlannach a th' ann o thùs: *æsk-víkr*, 'bàgh uinnsinn', agus air ainmeachadh às dèidh na craoibhe. Tha an eaglais ann an Aisig air ainmeachadh mar **Cill Aisig** agus tha sgeulachd co-cheangailte rithe gum biodh glag na h-eaglaise seo a' bualadh leis fhèin aig àm dol fodha na grèine Disathairne agus aig àm èirigh na grèine Diluain. Air sgàth seo, chaidh an glag a ghluasad gu prìomh eaglais sgìre an t-Sratha aig Cill Chrìosd faisg air Na Torrain, ach an dèidh sin sguir e a' bualadh le a thoil fhèin'.

Is e Lephin **An Leth-Pheighinn**, agus Lephin Bridge **Drochaid na Leth-Pheighinn**. Bha *Leth-pheighinn* mar phàirt de shiostam a bha a' measadh fearainn a rèir luach an toraidh a thigeadh às, ge b' e sin leth-pheighinn, mar a tha againn an seo, *peighinn* no *sgillinn*, mar a chithear ann an Rubha na Sgillinne air an tug sinn iomradh na bu tràithe. 'S e àite beag a th' ann an Liveras Park an-diugh, ach aig aon àm bha **Laoghras** no **Ladhras** a' comharrachadh taobh iar-thuath Bàgh an Àth Leathainn air fad. Tha e coltach gur e ainm Lochlannach a tha seo gun fhios cò às a thàinig e. Far an robh crìoch Laoghrais aig aon àm tha Corry, **An Coire** no **Coire Chatachain**. Dh'fhaoidte gur e sloinneadh a tha san fhacal *Catachan* no gu bheil e a' buntainn ri *cat*. Bha An Coire o thùs eadar Beinn Dearg Mhòr agus Beinn Dearg Bheag. Tha An Coire ainmeil airson cheanglaichean le Clann Mhiclonmhainn an t-Sratha. Dh'fhuiling iad geur-leanmhainn airson aoigheachd a thoirt don A' Phrionnsa Teàrlach. Ach an dèidh sin, bha An Coire air a mholadh airson na h-aoigheachd a sheall e ris an Dr. Samuel Johnson agus James Boswell air an turas iomraiteach aca an seo ann an 1773.

<sup>1</sup> Robertson, MS411, 123.



trap', but this is not certain. **Goirtean an Ùghdair**, 'the enclosure of the author', is in Heaste and may be coined after a poet or author, possibly a shepherd who composed poetry. Originally however it could have been **Goirtean an Fhùdair**, 'the enclosure of the powder', which is pronounced the same and refers to where gunpowder was kept. At the back of the school in Heaste is **A' Bhuaile Chàrnach**, 'the stony fold'. Aricharnach of the maps is **An Àirigh Chàrnach**, 'the stony sheiling', traditionally used for cattle.

**Bothan an Tairbh**, 'the pen of the bull', is a ruin in Ardnish where a bull was supposedly kept. Until recently, wooden posts that made up a pen beside the ruin were visible. Locals still remember when there were bulls at Ashaig, Ardnish and the grazings at Achadh a' Chùirn. One of the bulls – either at Ardnish or Ashaig – escaped and fought with the other bull and no-one could get near them for a week. Today crofting practices have changed, and a single bull is hired over the summer and kept at Ashaig.

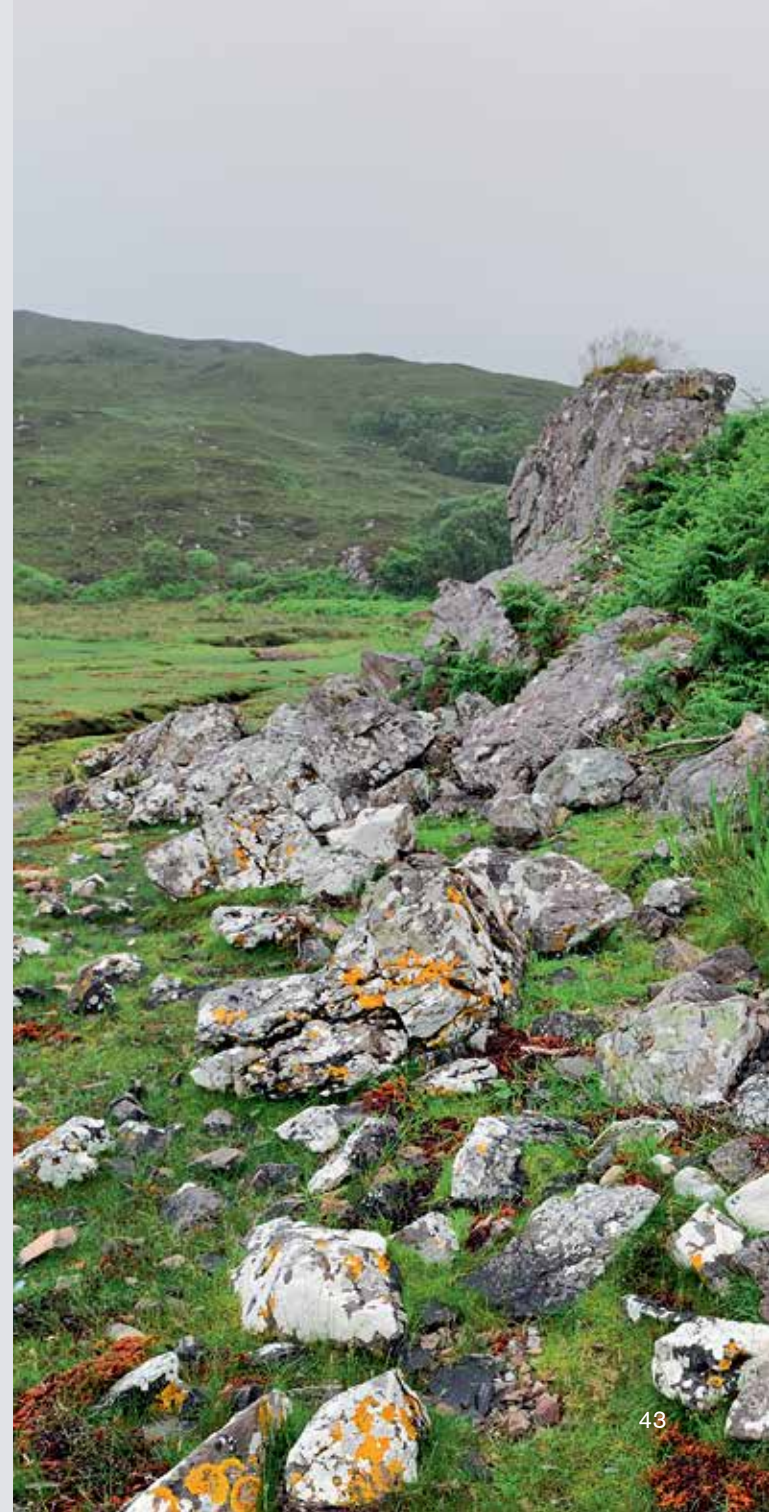


Tha Luib no **An Lùib** cuideachd air ainmeachadh gu h-ionadail mar an An Lùib Ghrianach.

Tha **Goirtean a' Chabhail** na phàirc bheag anns an Draoighnean agus is dòcha gu bheil ceangal aig an seo ri *cabhail*, ach chan eil sin cinnteach. Tha **Goirtean an Ùghdair** ann an Heasta agus coltas ann gu bheil seo air ainmeachadh às dèidh bàird no ùghdair, no is dòcha giobair a bha ri bàrdachd. Bho thùs, ged-thà, dh'fhaoidte gur e **Goirtean an Fhùdair** a bh' ann, leis gu bheil e air fhuaimneachadh san aon dòigh, far an robh fùdar gunna ga chumail. Air cùl na sgoile ann an Heasta tha **A' Bhuaile Chàrnach**, àite creagach far a bheil crodh air a chumail. Is e Aricharnach a th' anns na mapaichean **An Àirigh Chàrnach**, far am b' àbhaist crodh a chumail.

Tha **Bothan an Tairbh** na thobhta ann an Àrdnais agus thathar a' smaoinneachadh gun robh tarbh air a chumail an seo. Chan eil cho garbh fada ann bhon a bha puist fhiodha airson crò a dhèanamh rim faicinn ri taobh na tobhta. Tha cuimhne aig daoine fhathast nuair a bha tairbh aig Aisig, Àrdnais agus san ionaltradh aig Achadh a' Chùirn. Fhuair aon de na tairbh – an dara cuid aig Àrdnais no Aisig – ma sgaoil agus chaidh e a shabaid ris an tarbh eile agus chan fhaigheadh duine faisg orra airson seachdain. An-diugh tha cleachdaidhean croitearachd air atharrachadh, agus gheibhear aon tarbh air màl fad an t-samhraidh agus bithear ga chumail aig Aisig.

Ri taobh Na Torrain tha sloc, agus tha coltas air gu robh loch beag an seo aig aon àm, ris an canar **Leabaidh na Glais-Ghoilein**. Bithear ag ràdh gur e a bh' ann an *Glas-Ghoilean* ach beathach mòr gun chron, mar as trice air a ràdh gur e mart a bh' ann, a bhiodh a' gluasad bho àite gu àite a' sireadh ionaltraidh. Tha beul-aithris an Eilein Sgitheanaich





Next to Torrin is a flat-bottomed hollow, evidently once the site of a small loch, called **Leabaidh na Glais-Ghoilein**, 'the bed of the grey greedy-gut'. The *Glas-Ghoilean* was said to be a huge harmless animal, generally taken to be a cow that wandered about from place to place seeking grass to eat. Skye folklore tells of the *Glas-Ghoilean* travelling to several other places on the island such as Glendale, Glen Uig in Waternish and Ben Tianavaig. A well-travelled beast!

Two small places with simple names can be

found at Ardnish. **A' Chreit** is a place where peat was cut. It is perhaps a dialectal version of *A' Chroit*, 'the croft'. Within this area is **A' Chnuac**, given to mean 'the lump', which is an overhanging rock behind Brainphort. Brainphort or **Breun-Phort** exists in other places, including Fort William, and means a 'putrid port', a smelly area of stale water.

**Na Preasaichean**, 'the shrubs', is a rocky area with a stand of hazel trees and brambles at Ardnish opposite crofts 29 to 31. Local oral history remembers that hens were kept in this area.



ag ràdh gum biodh an *Glas-Ghoilean* a' siubhal do chaochladh àiteachan eile san eilean, leithid Gleann Dail, Gleann Ùig ann am Bhatarnais agus Beinn Tiannabhaig. Beathach a shiubhail fad is farsaing!

Lorgar dà àite beag le ainmean simplidh ann an Àrdnais. Bhithe a' buain na mòna anns **A' Chreit**. Dh'fhaoidte gur e *A' Chroit* a tha seo ann an dual-chainnt na sgìre. Taobh a-staigh na sgìre seo tha **A' Chnuac**, air a mhineachadh mar 'an cnap', a tha

na sgeir a tha a' sìneadh a-mach air cùl Breun-Phort. Tha an t-ainm Brainphort no **Breun-Phort** ri fhaighinn ann an àiteachan eile, nam measg An Gearasdan, agus tha e a' ciallachadh àite le àileadh uisge stalda.

Tha **Na Preasaichean** na raon creagach le bad chraobhan calltainn agus dris aig Àrdnais mu choinneimh chroit 29 gu 31. A rèir beul-aithris na sgìre bhathar a' cumail chearcann anns an àite seo.





## Wells

The Gaelic for 'well' is *tobar*. Wells were an important feature in pre-industrial life and Strath has many, although most of them have fallen into disuse and are now overgrown.

In the area around Elgol are several wells that although not mentioned on maps, are known locally.



Some are coined simply from nearby features: **Tobar Buaille Molaig** and **Tobar Buaille na h-Àthaidh** are coined from a nearby *buaille* or cattle-fold. Others are named from nearby rocks or protuberances: **Tobar Creag a' Bharrain** and **Tobar Ruadhchreig**. **Tobar a' Bhristidh** is related to a place called

## Tobraichean

Tha tobraichean nam feartan cudromach ann am beatha ro-thionnsgalachd agus tha grunn dhiubh anns an t-Srath, ged a tha a' mhòr-chuid dhiubh air tuiteam às a chèile agus a tha a-nis gun lorg orra.

Anns an sgìre timcheall air Ealaghol tha grunn tobraichean air a bheil eòlas aig daoine sa choimhearsnachd, ged nach eil iomradh orra air na mapaichean. Tha cuid aithnichte bho chomharran faisg air làimh: Tha **Tobar Buaille Molaig** agus **Tobar Buaille na h-Àthaidh** air an ainmeachadh bho *bhuaille* faisg air làimh. Tha cuid eile air an ainmeachadh bho chreagan no mheallan faisg air làimh: **Tobar Creag a' Bharrain** agus **Tobar Ruadhchreig**. Tha ceangal aig **Tobar a' Bhristidh** ri àite leis an ainm **A' Bhristeadh**, is dòcha seach gu bheil creag an sin a tha a' briseadh air falbh.

Aig An Draighnean bithear a' cleachdadh tobar leis an ainm **Tobar na Sròine** no **Tobar Sròn na Glaodhaich** nuair a bhiodh muinntir na coimhearsnachd a' buain na mòna. Tha e ri taobh **Sròn na Glaodhaich**, air Beinn Miobost. Tha dà sgeulachd a tha a' buntainn ris an tobar. An toiseach, bhiodh luchd-caoidh a bhiodh a' giùlan ciste gu àite tiodhlacaidh ann an Cill Ma-Ruibhe gu tric a' stad airson fois mus rachadh iad air an t-slighe fhada sìos an leathad chun a' chlaidh. Ghabhadh na boireannaich an cothrom a bhith a' caoineadh os cionn na ciste. San dara àite, nuair a bha blàr a' dol eadar Clann MhicFhionnghain agus na Dòmhnallaich, bha na Dòmhnallaich gus buaidh a thoirt nuair a dh'èigh an fheadhainn eile gu h-àrd airson cobhair. Thàinig na daoine a bha san sgìre a'





**A' Bhristeadh**, 'the breaking', possibly because there is a cliff there that crumbles.

At Drinan a well called **Tobar na Sròine** or **Tobar Sròn na Glaodhaich** was used when locals would cut peat. It is next to **Sròn na Glaodhaich**, 'the nose-shaped hill of weeping', on Ben Meabost. There are two stories attached to the well. Firstly, mourners carrying a coffin for burial to Kilmarie would habitually rest here before the long downhill to the old graveyard. The women would take the opportunity to weep over the coffin. Secondly, during a battle between the MacKinnons and the MacDonalds, the latter were about to get the upper hand when the former gave out a great cry for help. The people in the surrounding area rushed to their aid and the MacDonalds were defeated.

The people to whom **Tobar Theàrlaig Mhòir**, 'Big Charlie's well', **Tobar Muinntir Dhòmhnail Ruaidh**, 'the well of Red Donald's people' or **Tobar Iain Mhic Dhòmhnail**, 'John MacDonald's well', each refer are unknown. In other cases, such as **Tobar Ghallachain** and **Tobar an Fhannagaidh**, the meaning has been lost.

**An Tobar Ruadh**, 'the red/iron well', is marked on the map as the 'Chalybeate Well', meaning that it has water containing iron and will thus be 'red' in colour. There is also **Tobar an Ruaidh**, next to Fireach clach mentioned earlier, in which the *ruadh* may relate to the 'red iron', and there is another Tobar Ruadh chalybeate well in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire. There are two other wells of this name in Breakish, one on the east side of Upper Breakish and one at Ardnish, beside Òb an Fhaing (mentioned earlier). The latter runs red and is always somewhat oily.

Tobar Ceann, 'head well', is known as **Tobar a' Chinn** (the well of the head) locally. A story associated with it speaks of a time when if a man died, the family or widow would give a cow to their

landlord or to his chief, a practice known as 'heriot'. This happened to a family in Keppoch. The widow was very poor and she had only one cow. When the bailiff came to the house to take away the cow, the woman did not want to lose it because she had only one and she needed it for herself and her boy. The bailiff mistreated her and he left with the cow. The widow had a son called Donald who was away from the house when this happened. When he returned and saw what had happened to his mother he became very angry, so he went after the bailiff and the cow. He reached them on the road home at Druim an Fhuarain where Tobar a' Chinn is. A fight ensued: Donald was intending only to hit the bailiff, but he ended up killing him, taking his head off. He cleaned the head in the well and went to the chief and told him what had happened. The chief considered putting him to death, but then he thought to himself and said, 'well, you killed the bailiff, you must be the bailiff in his place,' so the boy ended up getting his job.

Another story tells of a man who lived by stealing who killed his own teenage son at this well lest the son inform on him. As the boy stooped to take a drink the father stabbed him.

Somewhere round Strollamus is a well called **Tobar na Cloinne**, that is, 'the well of the children'. It is said that a woman who goes there and repeats the following words will become the mother of twins:

Uisg' an Easain air mo dhosan  
Tog dhìom do rosad  
'S aoih fir an cabhaig orm,

Water of the little falls on my forelock  
Lift me from your curse  
and speed a male visitor to me.

Tobar Clach an Fhiodhaich (see page 30)  
Tobar Clach an Fhiodhaich (faic duilleag 31)







ruith nan deann airson an cuideachadh agus chaidh na Dòmhnallaich a ruagadh.

Chan eil fios cò na daoine ris a bheil **Tobar Theàrlaig Mhòir, Tobar Muinntir Dhòmhnail Ruaidh** no **Tobar Iain Mhic Dhòmhnail a'** buntainn. Ann an cùisean eile, leithid **Tobar Ghallachain** agus **Tobar an Fhannagaidh**, thathar air na tha iad a' ciallachadh a chall.

Tha **An Tobar Ruadh** air a chomharrachadh air a' mhapa mar 'Chalybeate Well', a' ciallachadh gu bheil uisge ann anns a bheil iarann agus mar sin gum bi dath 'dearg' air. Tha **Tobar an Ruaidh** ri taobh Fireach Clach air an deach iomradh a thoirt na bu tràithe, agus is dòcha gu bheil an *ruadh* a' buntainn ris an 'iarann dhearg'. Tha tobar chalybeate eile leis an ainm Tobar Ruadh ann an Srath Dheathain, Siorrachd Obar Dheathain. Tha dà thobar eile ann leis an ainm seo ann am Breacais, aonan air taobh an ear Bhreacais Uachdrach agus aonan aig Àrdnais, ri taobh Òb an Fhaing (air an deach iomradh a thoirt na bu tràithe). 'S ann dearg a tha struth an tobair mu dheireadh seo agus tha e an-còmhnaidh caran olach.

Tha Tobar Ceann aithnichte mar **Tobar a' Chinn** gu h-ionadail. Tha sgeulachd co-cheangailte ris a' toirt iomradh air àm nuair a chaochaileadh duine, bheireadh an teaghlach no a' bhantrach mart seachad don uachdaran no don cheann-feadhna aige, cleachdadh ris an canar 'heriot'. Thachair seo do theaghlach anns a' Cheapaich. Bha a' bhantrach uamhasach bochd agus cha robh aice ach aon mhart. Nuair a thàinig am bàillidh chun an taighe airson a' mhairt a thoirt air falbh, cha robh am boireannach airson a call seach nach robh aice ach an aon mhart agus bha feum aice oirre dhith fhèin agus dhan ghille aice. Rinn am bàillidh droch làimhseachadh oirre agus dh'fhalbh e leis a' mhart. Bha am mac aig a' bhantrach, air an robh Dòmhnall,

air falbh bhon taigh nuair a thachair seo. Nuair a thill e agus a chunnaic e mar a dh'èirich dha mhàthair ghabh e an cuthach, agus chaidh e an tòir air a' bhàillidh agus a' mhart. Rug e orra air an rathad dhachaigh aig Druim an Fhuarain far a bheil Tobar a' Chinn. Theann iad a' sabaid: 's e a bha fainear do Dhòmhnall buille a thoirt dhan bàillidh, ach 's ann a mharbh e e, a' gearradh a chinn dheth. Ghlan e an ceann san tobar agus chaidh e far an robh an ceann-feadhna agus dh'innis e dha mar a thachair. Bheachdaich an ceann-feadhna air a chur gu bàs, ach an uair sin mheòraich e air a' chùis agus thuirt e, 'uill, mharbh thu am bàillidh, agus feumaidh tusa a bhith nad bàillidh na àite,' agus mar sin fhuair an gille an obair aige.

Tha sgeulachd eile ag innse mu dhuine a bha a' tighinn beò le gadachd a mharbh a mhac fhèin 's e na dheugaire air eagal 's gum brathadh e air. Nuair a chrùb an gille airson deoch a ghabhail shath athair e.<sup>1</sup>

Tha tobar ris an canar **Tobar na Cloinne** ann an àiteigin faisg air Stròlamas. Thathar ag ràdh ma thèid màthair an sin agus ma chanas i na faclan a leanas bidh i na màthair do chàraid:<sup>2</sup>

Uisg' an Easain air mo dhosan  
Tog dhiom do rosad  
'S aoigh fir an cabhaig orm.

1 Caimbeul, 43.

2 Caimbeul, 41–2.



## Place-name gazetteer / Clàr ainmean-àite

Many of the names mentioned in the text are small features not recorded on maps. The pronunciation is meant as a rough guide only. CH represents 'ch' as in Scots 'loch', TCH represents 'ch' as in English 'church'. The digraphs 'gh' and 'dh' in the pronunciation make a voiced guttural sound which does not exist in standard English. The letter in brackets after the meaning denotes the language of origin. Where none is stated, the name is Gaelic. (N = Norse, ? = uncertain meaning)

'S e comharraidhean-tìre beaga a tha sa mhòr-chuid de na h-ainmean san teacs nach deach a chlàradh air mapaichean. 'S e tuairmse a th' anns an stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh. Tha an litir ann an camagan an dèidh ciall an ainm a' sealltainn cànan an ainm bho thùs. Far nach eil litir ann 's e ainm Gàidhlig a th' ann.

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Abhainn Aisig	Abhainn Ashik	the river of Aisig	ah-een <b>ash</b> -ik	NG688242
Abhainn Camas Fhionnairigh	same	the river of Camas Fhionnairigh	ah-een kamus <b>yun</b> -aree	NG510187
Abhainn Lusa	same	the river Lusa	ah-een <b>loos</b> -a	NG696249
Abhainn nan Leac	same	the river of the slabs	ah-een nun <b>lyachk</b>	NG517186
Abhainn Shlaopain	Allt Slapin	the river of Slaopan	ah-een h <b>loo</b> -peen	NG573210
An Àird Bhàn	Rubha na h-Àirigh Bàine	the white height	un artch <b>vaan</b>	NG517172
An Àird Dorcha	Ard Dorch	the dark height	un artch <b>dawr</b> -och-uh	NG576289
An Àirigh Chàrnach	Aricharnach	the stoney sheiling	un ah-ree <b>chaar</b> -nawch	NG556277
Aisig	Ashaig	ash-bay (N)	<b>ash</b> -ik	NG692238
Allt Anabhaig	Allt Anavig	the burn of Anabhaig	ault <b>ann</b> -av-ik	NG738264

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Allt na Gaimhne	Allt nan Gamhainn	the burn of the stirk	ault nu <b>ga</b> -een-uh	NG788252
Allt nan Gamhainn	same	the burn of the stirks	ault nun <b>ga</b> -een	NG788252
Allt na Lùibe	Allt na Luibe	the burn of Luib	ault nuh <b>loo</b> -eep-uh	NG564279
Bealach Udal	same	the pass of distress	<b>bee-al</b> -uch <b>oo</b> -dull	NG752207
Beinn na Caillich	same	the hill of the old lady	bayn nuh <b>kal</b> -eech	NG601233
Bogha nan Sasannach	Bogha an t-Sasunnaich	the sunken rock of the Englishmen	<b>bow</b> -uh nun <b>sas</b> -ann-uch	NG721264
Bothan an Tairbh	none	the pen of the bull	<b>baw</b> -han un <b>ter</b> -iv	NG673241
Breun-Phort	none	putrid port	brain <b>forsht</b>	NG669241
A' Bhuaille Chàrnach	Buaille nan Caorach	the stony fold	uh <b>voo</b> -ala <b>chaar</b> -nuch	NG644164
A' Bhristeadh	none	the breaking	uh <b>vrees</b> h-judh	NG519141
Cadha a' Chumain	none	the pass of the pail	caha uh <b>choom</b> -een	NG520150
Caisteal Maol	same	bald castle	<b>cash</b> -jull mool	NG758263
Camas Eiceadail	Port an Luig Mhòir	the bay of Eiceadal	kamus <b>ek</b> -ah-dull	NG519123
Camas Fhionnairigh	Camasunary	the bay of the white sheiling	kamus <b>yun</b> -aree	NG512183
Camas Smalaig	Camas Malag	the bay of saithe	kamus <b>smal</b> -ik	NG582192
Cill Aisig	none	the church of Ashaig	keel <b>ash</b> -ik	NG686242



Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Cill Ma-Ruibhe	Kilmarie	the church of Saint Maol Ruibhe	keel ma- <b>roo</b> -ee-ah	NG553172
Clach an Fhiodhaich	none	the stone of the shrubs	klach un <b>yodh</b> -eech	NG518145
Clach Mhòr na Dòrnaidh	none	the big stone of the dornie	klach vore nuh <b>dawr</b> -nee	NG640153
Cnoc an t-Saighdeir	none	the hill of the soldier	<b>kraw</b> -chk un tie-jir	NG671232
Cnoc nan Loch	Cnoc na Loch	the hill of the lochs	<b>kraw</b> -chk nun loch	NG755257
A' Chnuac	none	the lump?	uh <b>chroo</b> -achk	NG667239
An Coire	Corry	the corrie	un <b>caw</b> -ruh	NG642241
Coire Chatachain	Coire-chat-achan	the corrie of Catachan	<b>caw</b> -ruh <b>chat</b> -ach-een	NG621226
Corran a' Chinn Uachdaraich	same	the point of the upper head	<b>caw</b> -run uh cheen <b>oo</b> -achk-areech	NG587291
Corran na Maodalaich	Corran na Mudlaich	the promontory of the paunch place	<b>caw</b> -run nuh <b>mood</b> -al-eech	NG762251
Creag(an) (n)an Leabha(i)r	none	the crag(s) of the book(s)	<b>krehk</b> (ann) (n)un lee- <b>aw</b> -ur	NG687243
Creag an Stòir	none	the crag of the store	<b>krehk</b> un <b>stawr</b>	NG657186
A' Chreit	none	the croft	uh chreh-tch	NG6623
An Dòrnaidh	none	the narrow sea channel	un <b>dawr</b> -nee	NG6515
Drochaid na Leth-Pheighinn	none	the bridge of the half-penny land	draw-chitch nuh lay-fay-een	NG589206
An Fhaoileann	Faoilean	the raised beach	un <b>au</b> -lynn	NG566203

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Fireach Clach	same	stone acclivity	fir-och klach	NG660203
Geodha an t-Saighdeir	none	the creek/cove of the soldier	gyo-uh un <b>tie</b> -jir	NG547144
A' Ghlac Chàrnach	none	the stony hollow	uh ghlack <b>chaar</b> -noch	NG660200
A' Ghlòmach Mhòr	none	the big chasm	uh ghl <b>aw</b> -mach vore	NG669233
Goirtean a' Chabhail	none	the enclosure of the creel	<b>gore</b> -sh-tchan uh <b>chah</b> -ill	NG545146
Goirtean an Fhùdair	none	the enclosure of the powder	<b>gore</b> -sh-tchan un <b>oo</b> -dur	NG645178
Goirtean an Ùghdair	none	the enclosure of the author	<b>gore</b> -sh-tchan un <b>oo</b> -dur	NG645178
Inbhir Ghualainn	same	the shoulder inlet	inner gh <b>oo</b> -al-een	NG791244
An Lag Mòr	none	the big hollow	un lack more	NG522127
Leabaidh na Bà Uidhre	none	the bed of the yellow cow	lepi nuh ba <b>oo</b> -eera	NG523149
Leabaidh na Glais-Ghoilein	none	the bed of the grey greedy-gut	lepi nuh glash- <b>gholl</b> -een	NG574199
Leac a' Chlàrsair	none	the slab of the harper	lyachk uh chl <b>aar</b> -sir	NG657195
Leac an Leabhair	none	the slab of the book	lyachk un lee- <b>aw</b> -ur	NG687243
An Leth-Pheighinn	none	the half-penny land	un lay-fay-een	NG587206
Laoghras, Ladhras	Liveras	unknown (N)	<b>Lau</b> -uh-rass	NG641238
Loch a' Mhullaich	same	the loch of the summit	loch uh <b>vo</b> -leech	NG656195



Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Loch na Bèiste	same	the loch of the beast	loch nu <b>bay</b> -sh-juh	NG756253
Loch na Crèithich	same	the loch of the brushwood	loch nu <b>cray</b> -huch	NG512206
Loch nam Madadh Uisge	same	the loch of the otters	loch num <b>mat</b> -udh <b>oosh</b> -guh	NG568272
Loch Slaopan	Loch Slapin	the loch of Slaopan	loch slau-pan	NG5718
Lochain Cruinne	Lochan Cruinn	the small round loch	loch-een <b>kroon</b> -ya	NG681217
Lochan na Sàile	same	the lochs of the salt	loch-un nuh <b>sal</b> -ya	NG728228
Lòn a' Chuspair	none	the grassy area of the target	lone uh <b>choos</b> -per	NG686240
Lòn an Fheòir	none	the burn of the grass	lone un <b>yor</b>	NG650176
Lòn na h-Earba	none	the burn of the young deer	lone nuh <b>herr</b> -ipa	NG658184
Lòn na Searraich	none	the burn of the young horse	lone nuh sh- <b>eh</b> -reech	NG654178
An Lùib	Luib	the bend?	un <b>loo</b> -eep	NG563278
A' Mhaodalach	Mudalach	the paunch place	uh <b>wood</b> -al-ach	NG767249
An t-Òb	same	the creek	un <b>tawp</b>	NG749263
Òb a Deas	South Obbe	the south of the creek	awp uh jays	NG754262
Òb Allt an Daraich	same	the creek of the burn of oak	awp ault un dar-eech	NG714257
Òb an Fhaing	same	the creek of the fank	awp un <b>ah</b> -ing	NG673239

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Òb Bhreacais	Ob Breakish	the creek of Breakish	awp <b>vrech</b> k-ish	NG683243
Òb nam Portan	same	the creek of the velvet crabs	awp num <b>pawr</b> -sh-jan	NG761260
Òb nan Gèadh	Òb nan Geodh	the creek of the geese	awp nun <b>gee</b> -uh-dh	NG675242
A' Phàirc Tharsainn	none	the transverse park	uh farchk <b>har</b> -seen	NG648172
Port an Luig Mhòir	same	the port of the big hollow	<b>pawr</b> -sh-tch un luu-eeek vore	NG519123
Port MhicMhannain	none	Buchannan's port	<b>pawr</b> -sh-tch vichk <b>van</b> -een	NG648163
Na Preasaichean	none	the shrubs	nuh <b>pray</b> -seech-un	unknown
An Ròbasta / Na Robastanaich	Robostan	Robertson / Norse ?	un <b>rob</b> -ast-an / nuh rob-ast-an-eech	NG543172
Rubha Àird a' Ghualainn	none	the promontory of the height of the shoulder	<b>roo</b> -ah <b>aartch</b> uh <b>ghoo</b> -al-een	NG630157
Rubha an Easgair	Rubha na h-Easgainne	the promontory of the esker	<b>roo</b> -ah un <b>ace</b> -kur	NG529115
Rubha na h-Àirde Bàine	Rubha na h-Àirigh Bàine	the promontory of the white height	<b>roo</b> -ah nuh <b>har</b> -tcha-ja <b>baan</b> -ya	NG517172
Rubha na h-Easgainne	same	the promontory of the eel	<b>roo</b> -ah nuh <b>hay</b> -sgeen	NG529115
Rubha na Sgillinne	same	the promontory of the shilling-land	<b>roo</b> -ah nuh <b>skill</b> -in-ya	NG760263
Rubha Smuaireag	none	the promontory of the descending mist	<b>roo</b> -ah <b>smoo</b> -ur-ak	NG517146
Sgeir a' Chaisteil	same	the skerry of the castle	skehr uh <b>chash</b> -jell	NG759264
Sgeir an Iasgaich	Sgeir na Iasgaich	the skerry of the fishing	skehr un <b>ee</b> -ask-eech	NG714258



Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Sgeir an Tuairisgeil	none	the skerry of the peat cutting iron	skehr un <b>tour</b> -ash-gill	NG648154
Sgeir MhicArtair	same	MacArthur's skerry	skehr michk <b>ar</b> -sh-jar	NG519162
Sgeir Mhòr Niall 'ic Dhonnchaidh	none	Neil Robertson's big skerry	skehr vore <b>nee</b> -al ichk <b>dhoon</b> -ach-ee	NG643158
Sgeireagan Druimeanaich	none	the little skerries of the ridge-place / drummonds	skehr-ak-un <b>droom</b> -en-eech	unknown
Sloc (an) Altramain	Spar Cave	(the) nursing cave	<b>slaw</b> -chk (un) <b>aul</b> -tram- een	NG538128
An Srath	Strath	the strath	an srah	–
Srath Mhiclonmhainn	Strath	Mackinnon's strath	srah vichk <b>in</b> -av- een	–
Sròn an Tairbh	same	the nose of the bull	<b>strawn</b> un ter-iv	NG779252
Sròn na Glaodhaich	none	the nose-shaped hill of the weeping	<b>strawn</b> nuh <b>glue</b> -eech	NG543157
Tobar a' Bhristidh	none	the well of the breaking	<b>toe</b> -purr uh <b>vreesh</b> -jee	NG519141
Tobar a' Chinn	Tobar Ceann	the well of the head	<b>toe</b> -purr uh <b>cheen</b>	NG562195
Tobar an Fhannagaidh	none	the well of the ?	<b>toe</b> -purr un <b>ann</b> -ak-ee	NG528146
Tobar an Ruaidh	none	the well of the red (iron)	<b>toe</b> -purr un <b>roo</b> -ah-ee	NG660203
Tobar Buaille Molaig	none	the well of pebble-fold?	<b>toe</b> -purr <b>boo</b> -ula <b>moll</b> -ik	NG522138
Tobar Buaille na h-Àthaidh	none	the well of the fold of the kiln	<b>toe</b> -purr boo-ula nuh <b>ha</b> -ee	NG521137
Tobar Clach an Fhiodhaich	none	the well of the stone of the shrubs	<b>toe</b> -purr klach an <b>yodh</b> -eech	NG519145

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Tobar Creag a' Bharrain	(Creag a' Mheannain)	the well of the crag of the baron	<b>toe</b> -purr krayk uh <b>var</b> -een	NG517138
Tobar Ghallachain	none	the well of ?	<b>toe</b> -purr <b>ghal</b> -ach- een	NG526144
Tobar Iain MhicDhòmhnaill	none	John Macdonald's well	<b>toe</b> -purr iain ichk <b>dhaw</b> -ill	NG535144
Tobar Muinntir Dhòmhnaill Ruaidh	none	the well of Red Donald's people	<b>toe</b> -purr <b>moo</b> -yur <b>dhaw</b> -ill <b>roo</b> -ah-ee	NG520139
Tobar na Cloinne	none	the well of the children	<b>toe</b> -purr nuh <b>claw</b> -een-ya	NG5926
Tobar na Sròine	none	the well of the nose	<b>toe</b> -purr nuh <b>strawn</b> -ya	NG543155
An Tobar Ruadh	none	the red/iron well	un <b>toe</b> -purr <b>roo</b> -ah	NG660197
Tobar Ruadhchreig	none	red-crag well	<b>toe</b> -purr <b>roo</b> -ah-chrayk	unknown
Tobar Sròn na Glaodhaich	none	the well of the nose shaped hill of the weeping	<b>toe</b> -purr <b>strawn</b> nuh <b>glue</b> -eech	NG543155
Tobar Theàrlaig Mhòir	none	big Charlie's well	<b>toe</b> -purr he- <b>ar</b> -lik vore	NG517137
An Tuairisgeul	none	the peat cutting iron	un tour-ash-gill	NG648154
Uamh a' Phrionnsa	Prince Charlie's Cave	the prince's cave	<b>oo</b> -av uh <b>free</b> -oo-sa	NG516124
Uamh Mairearad Rois	none	Margaret Ross's cave	<b>oo</b> -av <b>ma</b> -ee-red <b>rawsh</b>	NG516147
Uamh Maolaig	none	the cave of a little bald one	<b>oo</b> -av <b>moo</b> -lik	NG669229
Uirigh Theàrlaich	none	Charlie's couch	oo-ree he- <b>ar</b> -lich	NG512126



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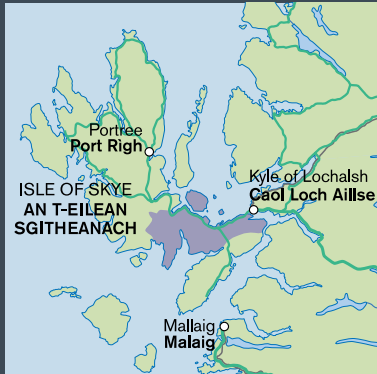
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The place-names of Strath, in the south of Skye, are intimately connected with the landscape and the lives of the people who have lived here for centuries. Coastal, hill and man-made features have been named to reflect stories, past-times, and daily routines; by exploring their meaning and history, many details of past lives are revealed.

In this, the third in our series of place-name booklets, Scottish Natural Heritage and Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba have again collaborated to present a picture of how place-names relate to the landscape. By drawing on the knowledge of local people, a wealth of place-names - including many that have not been recorded in print before - are identified and their meaning discussed.

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**SOILLSE**

Tha ainmean-àite an t-Sratha, ann an ceann a deas an Eilein Sgitheanaich, dlùth-cheangailte ri aghaidh na tire agus ri beatha nan daoine a th' air a bhith a' fuireach an seo fad linntean. Tha feartan oirthire, cnuc agus àitichean togte air an ainmeachadh gus sgeulachdan, cur-seachadan, agus beatha làitheil a chomharrachadh; tro bhith a' rannsachadh an cuid brìghean agus eachdraidh, thig mion-fhiosrachadh mu bheatha nan daoine a dh'fhuirich ann am follais.

An seo, an treas leabhran anns an t-sreath againn air ainmean-àite, tha Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba agus Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba a-rithist air obrachadh còmhla gus dealbh a dhèanamh air mar a bhuineas ainmean-àite ri aghaidh na tire. Le bhith a' cleachdadh eòlas nan daoine às an sgìre, tha beartas de dh'ainmean-àite – mòran dhiubh nach do nochd ann an clò riamh roimhe – gan lorg 's an cuid brìghean gan deasbad.