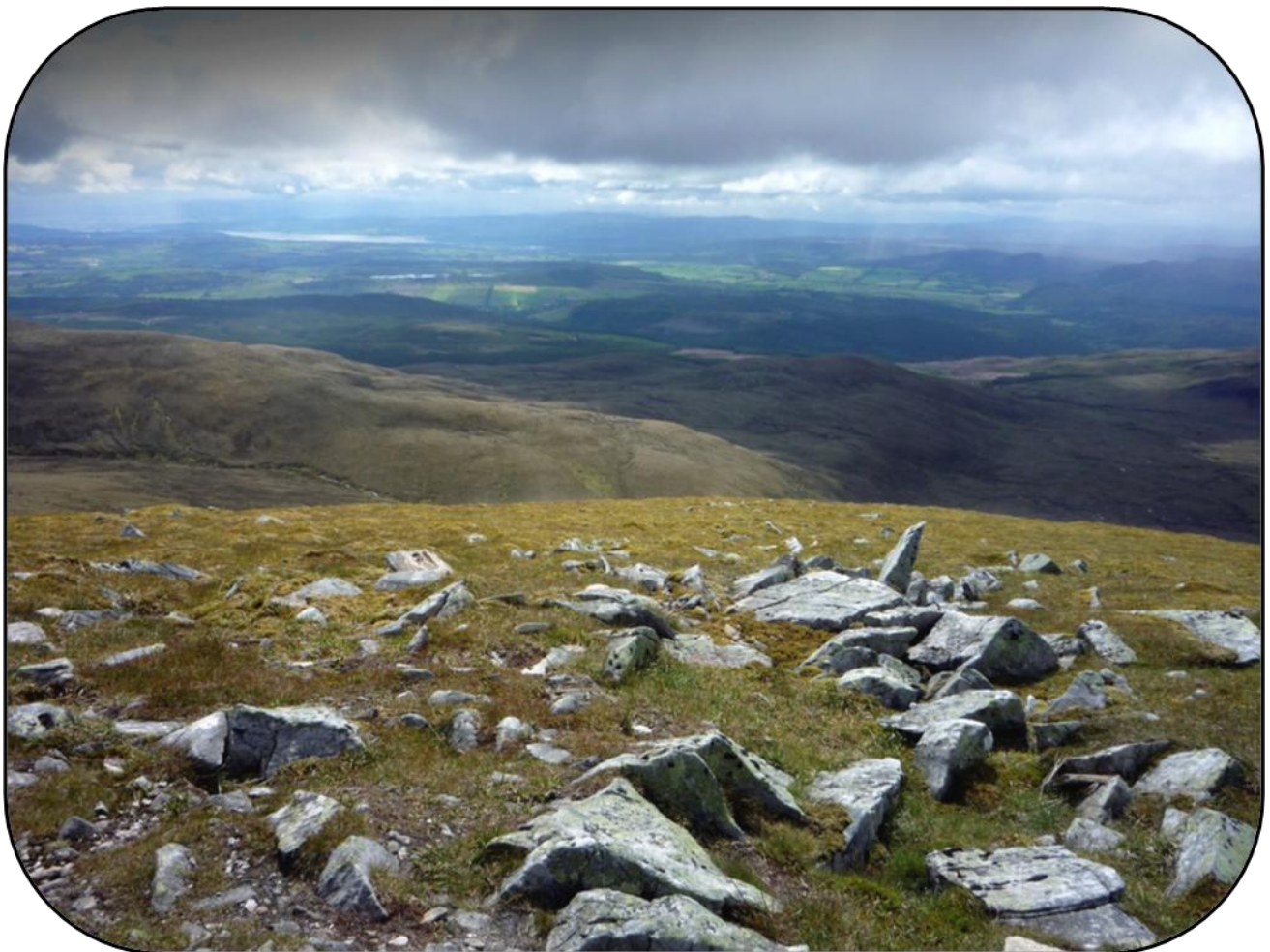# SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME NEWS

No. 31
Autumn 2011

The Newsletter of the
SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
COMANN AINMEAN-ÀITE NA H-ALBA

Sun and showers in an eastward view from Ben Wyvis. Dingwall, venue for the SPNS's Autumn conference, is at the head of the Cromarty Firth, the sunlit water in the distance. The complex history of place-naming in this area is epitomised by the names for Dingwall itself. This is from Old Norse Þingvöllr, *'assembly field', testifying to its importance under Norse rule. The Gaelic* Inbhir Pheofharain *is formed of the usual Gaelic word for a river mouth and a P-Celtic stream name (cf. Welsh* pefr, *'radiant, beautiful'), also found at several other places in eastern Scotland as far south as the Peffer Burns and Peffermill in Lothian, as well as Peover in Cheshire. Those attending the conference may learn of the story behind an unofficial Gaelic name,* Baile Chàil, *'cabbage town'. (Photo: Simon Taylor)*

EDITORIAL

Continuing the theme of the editorial in issue 30 and defying the mood of doom and gloom in many other fields, the following news reports include further welcome news about place-name research in Scotland. It is particularly gratifying that the new half-time post at Glasgow University, to be first occupied by former SPNS Convener Simon Taylor, includes a teaching role. There is still a vast amount of place-name research to be done in Scotland, even to catch up with the situations in neighbouring countries, and the education of future scholars to take the work forward is as vital for its long-term success as current research is.

NEWS OF PLACE-NAMES PROJECTS

• There is a new forum for informal discussion and information about Scots words and colloquial and unofficial place-names, **SWAP** (Scots Words and Place-Names). The intention is to encourage as many people as possible to take an interest in place-names. SWAP has a serious academic purpose but is designed to be welcoming and unintimidating for the casual or novice user and for young people. So besides a 'traditional' website there is also access to the discussions through Facebook and Twitter.

> http://swap.nesc.gla.ac.uk/
> www.facebook.com/scotswap
> www.twitter.com/scotswap

The website includes a helpful list of relevant links.

• **Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba** / Gaelic Place-names of Scotland, the national advisory board for researching Gaelic forms of place-names in Scotland announced in May that its work will continue to be funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig over 2011 and 2012. Highland and Argyll and Bute Councils will also continue their contributions to the project.

AÀA evolved from the Gaelic Names Liaison Committee in 2006 to meet the growing demand for Gaelic place-name research. Since then the project has researched over 3,200 Gaelic place-names throughout Scotland including names for trunk roads, settlements, core paths networks for the Highland Council and the Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage's National Nature Reserves, ScotRail's stations, bus and ferry depots, street names in Inverness, Fort William and Glasgow and the Gaelic names for Scotland's electoral constituencies. Alongside on-going work for clients and partners, AÀA is also preparing a book on the Gaelic place-names of Islay and Jura in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, with funding from Soillse and Iomairt Ghàidhlig Ìle agus Diùra. The publication is due out later this year.

AÀA's research is being uploaded to the National Gazetteer of Gaelic Place-names, a free online database available on www.ainmean-aite.org. There are over 1,000 entries at present, with links to digital maps and sound files to aid pronunciation. With funding secured for another year, AÀA has confirmed that it will continue to expand and develop this invaluable resource for Scotland's cultural and linguistic heritage.

• The **University of Glasgow** (GU) has created a half-time research and teaching post in the field of Name Studies (Onomastics), based partly in the School of Humanities (through Celtic and Gaelic) and partly in the School of Critical Studies (through English Language). This post will be held from October 2011 by Simon Taylor, one of the founder-members of SPNS, and convener of the Society from 2007-2011. It constitutes a significant investment in Scottish Name Studies, for which GU is to be congratulated, and establishes the University as the epicentre of the discipline in Scotland, complementing the three place-name research projects already based there: the Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Scottish Toponymy in Transition (STIT)' (2011-14), the Leverhulme 'Commemorations of Saints in Scottish Place-Names' (2010-2013) and the Joint Information Systems Committee 'Scots Words and Place-Names' (2011). For more details of all

these, see the Editorial in the previous *SPNNews* 30 (Spring 2011). While name-studies in English Language at GU are well served by Carole Hough, professor of Onomastics (and our present convener), one of the results of Simon Taylor's appointment will be to ensure the teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level of regular onomastic (especially toponymic) courses covering the whole corpus of Scottish place-names. He will also continue as half-time researcher on the STIT Project, working on Kinross-shire and Clackmannanshire.

PLACE NAMES IN AND AROUND THE LANDS OF TROUP IN THE PARISH OF GAMRIE, BANFFSHIRE
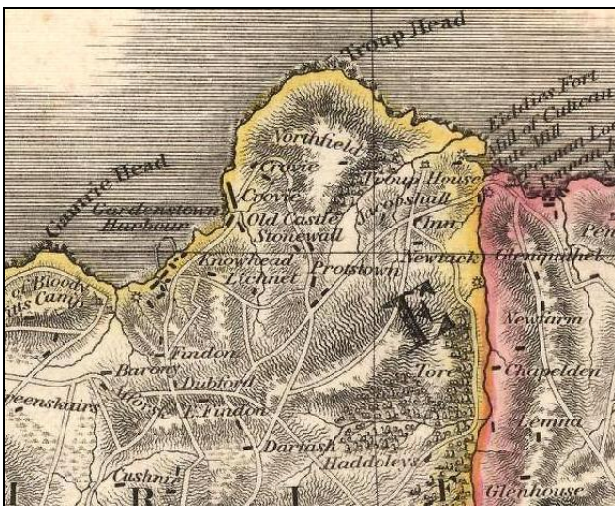
From John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland 1832 (Acknowledgements to NLS online maps)

This attempt to unravel the onomastic puzzles of the Lands of Troup stems from an enduring interest in the archaeology of Cullykhan promontory, and comprises a review of literature, maps, photographs and field observations.

We find Celtic, Scots and English place names in our area. There is one tantalizingly Scandinavian-looking name, **The Gammels**, (*gammel*, old), rocks in the sea below Gamrie Head. **Pitgair** is the only name with the characteristic element of former Pictish territory *pett*, although the neighbouring parish of Aberdour has Pitsligo, Pittendrum, Pitnacalder, and Pittullie.

All sources consulted agree that **Gamrie** is of Gaelic origin. Our earliest reference is a charter of William the Lion. Between 1189 and 1198 he granted the Kirk of **Gameryn** with the church of *Trub* to Arbroath Abbey. And the meaning of Gamrie? Six suggestions have been found:

gaineamhach 'sandy',[1] *gamhainn-àiridh* 'stirk sheiling',[2] *gamhainn* 'stirk',[3] *geamhradh* 'winter'[4] (this last the most likely), and the fanciful folk etymologies running leap for '*kemri*[5] and running battle for '*ghaemrie*'[6].

The antiquity of the name **Troup** suggests a Celtic origin but Johnston[7] offers: true hope or harbour of refuge based on Old English *treowe* or Old Norse trygg-r, true and *hop*, Old Norse for an enclosed bay. The absence of such a bay and of Norse names in the area makes this unlikely.

Gordon of Straloch's map of 1654 reveals the following farm names: *Lichnot, Cruvie, Troup, Cuishny* and *Northfield.*

Lichnot is explained by Watson[8] thus: "by the sea, between Gamrie church and Troup is Lethnot, for *Lethnocht,* 'naked-sided place,' with reference to its exposed situation." In 1226 Alexander II confirmed a gift of lands of *Lethenot* to the monks of St Mary of Kinloss.

All our sources agree that **Crovie** derives from *craobh*, tree. Our earliest reference is from 1413 when Robert, Duke of Albany confirmed a charter of *Curvi*.

Of **Cushnie** Watson[9] writes: "the name doubtless comes from *cuisne*, ice or frost".

Farms omitted by Gordon are**: Findon,** on the Hill of Findon overlooking the motte on which Findon Castle once stood. The meaning is transparent: *fionn*, white and *dùn*, a fort. **Afforsk**, on a 1391 charter *Achqwhorsk*, Watson[10] states is for *Achadh a' Chroisg*, 'field of the crossing'. A glance at a map confirms that Afforsk sits on high ground between the Dens of Afforsk and Findon.

On the 1871 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey we also have **Dubford** and **Stonewells**, These farms probably emerged during agricultural improvements of the late eighteenth century as they do not feature on Home's estate plan of 1767. Dubford, on Thomson's map of 1826, is a Scots description also found elsewhere in the North East. Stonewells was designated Stonewall on Robertson's map of 1822.

Middleton and **Protston** are older. In a list of farms compiled in 1559, Middleton was held by William Keith. Early references to Protston indicate that in 1488 *Pratistone* belonged to the Thanage of Glendowachy and in 1592 James VI granted *Pratstoun* to the Earl Marischal. William Alexander suggested that the name contains the surname Pratt[11], but I am not wholly convinced.

Our area is riven by dens: *den*, Scots for narrow wooded valley. In addition to the Dens of Afforsk and Findon, there are **Bracoden**, possibly containing a place-name from Gaelic *breac*, speckled, **Doocot Den**, **Crovie Den**, **Pains Den and Top Den** and one is called the **Tore of Troup**, locally **The Tore**. Allan[12] asserts the existence of an obsolete Gaelic term, *teora*, meaning boundary. The Tore Burn is, indeed, the boundary between the parishes of Gamrie and Aberdour. However, half way up the Tore, marked on early maps and the modern OS map, is a holy well. Overlooking the well a farm, **Tore**, was recorded on Thomson's map of 1826. A possibility therefore is that Tore is for the Gaelic *tobar*, a well, with exceptional loss of the medial 'b'; Gaelic *tòrr*, hillock, would be the most straightforward explanation, but for the location in a valley.

Prominent coastal features have Gaelic names: Gamrie Head, also known as **More Head**, is the highest. Between Crovie Head and Troup Head is **Collie Head,** possibly deriving from Gaelic *coille*, a wood. Lesser features have Scots or English names, perhaps given by Scots-speaking fishermen settled in the villages of Gardenstown and Crovie by Garden of Troup in the eighteenth century. From the west, we have **Pecking Craig** and **Muckle Wife**. **St John's Stone** sits on the beach below Gamrie Kirk which was dedicated to St John. Off Gardenstown harbour is a skerry, **Craigandargity**. Troup Head comprises four fingers of rock; the westernmost is **Thirlet Point**. To *thirl* is Scots for to perforate, thirlet the past participle. The easternmost is **Nether Stair**; its lower reaches a series of wave-cut steps in the sedimentary rock. Next is **Maw Craigs**, Scots *maw*, seagull. **Hell's Lum** is a blowhole through **Lion's Head** and finally we reach **Cullykhan**, our starting point.

Although Cullykhan is the local name for the promontory, maps give **Castle Point** and Cullykhan is the bay, shore and the slope above the beach. The **Needle's E'e** penetrates the peninsula terminating in the **Deil's Kitchen** cave. Cullykhan is an odd spelling; it was supplied for the Ordnance Survey Name Book in 1869 by Mr Garden Campbell of Troup. Previous spellings are Cullican (Home 1767) and Culican (Thomson 1826). A nineteenth century photograph is captioned Cullican. Garden Campbell was surely in orientalising mode when he offered his version. The khan element is likely to derive from Gaelic *ceann*, head, but cully is less

clear-cut. It has been postulated[13] that it is for *coille*, giving 'wooded headland'. However, as the *ceann* element is usually at the beginning of a name, in the form 'kin', I would expect a wooded headland to be called 'Kincully'. Other contenders for the cully element are Gaelic *cùl* and *cùil*, back and corner, respectively. A visit to the site clearly demonstrates that Cullykhan foreshore lies in a sheltered neuk tucked behind the headland. I am persuaded that the name describes this landscape.

Jennifer McKay (from the talk given with her husband Alexander at Troon, May 2011)

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PLACE-NAMES AROUND THE MOSSES OF MENTEITH

Menteith is a part of Perthshire covering an area stretching roughly from Loch Lomond in the west to near Stirling in the east, and from Loch Lubnaig in the north to Kippen in the south. The area is split in two by the Highland Boundary Fault – to the north and west of this fault is a Highland area, to the south and east is the Lowland area, consisting mainly of undulating land or that large flat area containing or formerly containing what is now mainly known as Flanders Moss. (There is an extract from a map of 1783 on the back cover. Ed.)

The area I focused on contains the eastern area of what we now call Flanders Moss plus the remnants of Kincardine or Blair Drummond Moss. In other words the parish of Kincardine, with the southern part of KMA and the SE part of PMH or from Lake of Menteith to the meeting of the Rivers Forth and Teith just a few metres north of Drip.

I had heard anecdotally that the name Flanders Moss was so called because the area was settled by Flemish followers of kings such as David I and William the Lion – presumably in similar fashion to those who settled around Biggar in Lanarkshire, leaving their names in place-names such as Thankerton and Lamington. However,

there is no evidence for such a group of Flemish settling in Menteith. The only known non-indigenous lord who settled in the area at this time was Richard Montfiquet who was granted the lands of 'Kincardin iuxta Strievelin' in 1189 x 95 by William I. The Montfiquets came from Calvados in western Normandy. The earliest evidence for the name Flanders Moss only dates to c.1685 when it appears on John Adair's map of the area. It is possible is that trade and military adventures in Flanders from the Middle Ages until the 17th C may have influenced the name. Prior to this the name of the moss was called in one source as the 'great moss cald the kings moss'. William Drummond, in the mid 17th C, wrote of an area called Tilly moss, which must relate to the area near Cessintully. The earliest form suggests Gaelic seiscenn 'bog, marsh, unproductive ground', which seems to the specific in Blaircessnock in Port-of-Menteith, just to the east of Lake of Menteith; the generic here being Gaelic blàr 'grazing, plain', probably the grazing lands of Inchmahome. The -tully element in Cessintully is Gaelic tulach meaning small hill, but often an assembly or court mound.

Near Blair Drummond, in Kincardine, there are place-names that indicate the centre of the medieval barony of Kincardine. Kincardine itself contain Gaelic ceann 'head, end' and thought to be a translation of p-Celtic pen 'head', with p-Celtic * carden, the meaning of which is given in older place-name books as 'copse, woodland', but Andrew Breeze has recently suggested it means 'enclosure, encampment' i.e a fort of some kind. The fort in this case may be the dùn of Doune, where the castle now sits, or perhaps more likely the broch at Coldoch c. 3 km W of Blair Drummond.

Blair Drummond incidentally, is a modern transferred name. The Drummonds, who became earls of Perth, held the barony of Kincardine until 1683 when it was sold by the earl of Perth to a kinsman, George Drummond of Blair in Blairgowrie. He may have called it Blair Drummond to distinguish it from Drummond Castle 22km to the north. The original house of Blair Drummond was built in the early 1700s.

The centre of the barony of Kincardine was just 200m E of the modern kirk of Kincardine. As well as a mote and a medieval church there was also a court hill or cuthil. Sc couthal, itself a borrowing from ScG comhdhail meaning '(place

of) assembly, meeting'. As Barrow pointed out, the word itself need not mean a court of law, but at only 400m south of Gallow Hill and 400m north of the site of a motte and the site of the castle of Kincardine-in-Mentieth, as well as being 600m NE of the church of Kincardine, the location of the Cuthil, a large mound on Cuthil Hill, surely points to it being one. Nearby Boreland Hill which ostensibly appears in a 12th C charter. However, the document in question is a charter which was copied into the Register of Cambuskenneth Abbey in 1535, and this highlights a problem with the source material . The fact that Borland appears this early in a charter for Menteith ought to make one a bit suspicious; the earliest attestation for Bordland in Scotland I have found so far is 1324 for Suthbordeland in Inverkeithing parish, Fife (Taylor, PNF i, 374). Angus Winchester, who has done a study of bordland-names in Britain has no earlier forms for Scotland than 1376, his earliest attestation for the term in England is 1315, while in Wales he has one dated to 1272.

In the detached portion of Kincardine is Boquhapple, often said to mean 'house or hut of the chapel' presumably from Gaelic both + caibeil or Scots chapel; the place-name Chapel of Boquhapple, perhaps a chapel of Inchmahome, although no medieval evidence for such a chapel exists, has probably misled people into thinking the –quhapple element is chapel. However, the specific is probably ScG capall 'horse, mare' and we may be looking at a horse sheiling or similar and this may have been a horse rearing area in the middle ages. It is notable that in the 1470s nearby Wards of Goodie was used as waste for the king's horses during hunting trips in the area. This detached potion of Kincardine was presumably the barony of Boquhapple as can be seen from the place-name Brae of Boquhapple and Moss-side of Boquhapple some 3 km apart.

Drip lies near the meeting of the Rivers Teith and Forth. This name brings us onto the subject of language change, Drip is probably derived from Sc threip 'debateable land; disputed land'. Le Drep, now Meikle Dripps LAN, on the border of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, was granted to Walter son of Alan by Malcolm IV in 1161. A confirmation charter in 1172, mentions Threp. It may be that it was Richard Montfiquet who was granted the lands of Kincardine in 1189 x 95 who was the conduit for the first Scots-speaking settlers into Menteith.

In the barony of Cessintully in Kilmadock there

is much firmer evidence for the replacement of Gaelic by Scots. The map shows a number of *toun*-names with a particular cluster in the barony of Cessintully. Some of these are clearly Gaelic surnames, but they may have been Scots speakers, although Gaelic was spoken in Port-of-Menteith just 5 miles to the west in 1724. The earliest of the *toun*-names is *Donald-youngistoun* in 1488-9, which then disappears. The others don't come on record until the 1520s but some of the names are found in the Kings Rentals in the *Exchequer Rolls* dating from the 1480s and continue right up until the mid 15th century.

Mackeanston: Donald McCane is on record from 1480 as a tenant in the lands of *Sessintuly*

Mackreiston: toun of someone called MacRae; no McRae found in rentals but others are found elsewhere in Menteith

McOrriston: Thome and Forsith McCorane are tenants in the lands of Cessintully in 1480.

Munnieston: this is perhaps a surname based on the Gaelic word for monk, *manach*.

Murdieston: Murdaco Smyth was a tenant of Cessintullie from at least 1480 to 1488. In 1484 Johanni Murthoson becomes a tenant, while in 1486 Murtho Kesskisson and Kessok Murthauson are both mentioned as tenants.

The possibility is that these are first or second generation descendants of Gaelic speakers. However, Gaelic place-names do not suddenly stop being coined in the later Middle Ages. In the northern part of the parish of Kilmadock there is what is now a field name called Balmacansh. This is shown as a settlement called *Ballacauich* on Stobie's map of Perthshire in 1783, but is on record from at least 1670. What is notable here is that the tenant Donald McCawis appears in the Kings Rentals from 1480 at exactly the same time as Forsith McCorran and company are being named as tenants in the barony of Cessintully. So at around the time when Scots *toun*-names are being formed south of the River Teith, *baile*-names are still being coined north of the river.

Peter McNiven (summarising his talk at Bridge of Allan, November 2010)

HILL-TERMS IN THE PLACE-NAMES OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM

This paper is based on a talk given at the Troon conference. In my talk, I presented some provisional findings of my PhD work on the uses and meanings of hill-terms in the place-names of the historical counties of Northumberland and County Durham.

Introduction

In Anglo-Saxon England the relationship between the landscape and its inhabitants was very, very different from our own relationship with the landscape surrounding us. While for many of us landscape is chiefly about scenery, for the Anglo-Saxons it was about survival: a settlement could not, for instance, survive without water supply, and settlement sites which could be easily defended or which were on good, rich soil were highly sought after. The importance of the landscape is reflected in the Old English (OE) language as an extensive, potentially highly nuanced vocabulary for topographical features such as hills and slopes. It has been observed in previous studies by Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole (see Gelling 1984, Gelling and Cole 2000) that the use of topographical vocabulary in major settlement names of OE origin is characterised by 'internal consistency': rather than being applied more or less randomly, topographical terms are used in place-names consistently of landscape features of a particular type, often with highly specialised meanings, for example OE *dūn* of a flat-topped hill and *hōh* of a heel-shaped one (Gelling 1988:59). In this paper, I will refer to this observation as the Gelling hypothesis.

In my PhD research, I investigate the meanings and uses of hill-terms, i.e. place-name elements referring to features such as hills, slopes and summits, in the place-names of Northumberland and County Durham, with special reference to the Gelling hypothesis, as one of my main aims is to establish whether the hypothesis is valid for the north-eastern counties, and, if so, whether it could be extended to other place-name types than major settlement names of OE origin.

Research methodology

As I set out to explore the meanings and uses of the hill-terms in the study area, the first step was to choose the base map from which the names to be included in the study corpus would be extracted. The current Ordnance Survey (OS) Landranger (1:50,000) map was chosen as it was thought to yield a sufficiently high, yet manageable number of different types of names. All names found on the relevant map sheets were listed and checked systematically to identify those names which do, or may contain hill-

terms. For each name, Watts (2004), Ekwall (1960), Mawer (1920), Mills (2003), *DCDP* and *PNDu* were consulted for early forms and interpretations. Previous editions of OS maps were consulted for 19th and 20th- century forms. A wide range of different types of reference works, such as *EPNE* and the *OED*, were also used, and after the names which were to be included in the study had been identified, 18th-century maps (*ADu*, *ANb*), as well as a selection of other sources such as the Newminster Cartulary (*NC*), were consulted for additional early forms. All names certainly or possibly containing hill-terms were entered into an electronic corpus.

In order to investigate the reference and meaning of the hill-terms in actual instances, I conducted a detailed topographical analysis of selected sites, based on extensive map-work and field-work. The areas included in the analysis were in the Cheviot Hills, south-eastern County Durham and immediately northwest of Newcastle, and were chosen as I considered them to be as representative as possible of the varying physical and linguistic landscape of the study area. Except for ME, ModE *hill*, all occurrences of hill-terms were analysed, which brought the total number of occurrences included in the topographical analysis to 510.

Corpus overview

The total number of names in the study corpus is 2,227. With 739 occurrences, OE *hyll*, ME, ModE *hill* is by far the commonest hill-term overall, followed by OE *hlǣw*, ME *loue*, ModE dial. *law* (250 occurrences). There are also six other hill-terms with more than a hundred occurrences (Table 1).

Table 1. Commonest hill-terms in the study corpus

Hill-Term	Occurrences		
	Certain	Uncertain	Total
OE *hyll*, ME, ModE *hill*	732	7	739
OE *hlǣw*, ME *loue*, ModE dial. *law*	203	47	250
OE, ME *sīde*, ModE *side*	154	7	161
OE *hrycg*, ME *rigge*, ModE *ridge*, dial.	140	3	143

rig(g)			
OE *hēafod*, ME *heved*, *haved*, *hede*, ModE *head*	127	3	130
ME *cragge*, ModE *crag*	123	4	127
OE *dūn*, ME *doun*, ModE *down*	57	68	125
ME, ModE *fell*	105	0	105

One of the most striking features of the corpus is the dominance of English as a language of origin: of the 2,227 corpus names, 2,156 (96.8%) are made up entirely of English elements of varying antiquity. Six names are of purely Celtic origin while another six are of Old or Modern French origin. The remaining 59 names are either hybrids or their etymology is uncertain to the extent that their origin cannot be established reliably. The scarcity of names containing Scandinavian elements is worth noting; there is not a single certain occurrence of a Scandinavian element in the corpus, and in 11 of the 30 names containing possible occurrences, the element in question is a personal name.

Given the richness of OE topographical vocabulary, one might expect to find differences when names of OE origin are examined separately from later names. The number of names in the OE dataset is 391; in total, these names contain 430 certain or possible occurrences of hill-terms. The commonest OE hill-terms are shown in Table 2. As expected, an altogether different picture does emerge, with *dūn* being the commonest term. Considering the relatively low proportion of OE names in the corpus, the number of different hill-terms found, 69, is quite striking, and clearly shows that the Anglo-Saxons living in the study area did, indeed, make use of their rich topographical vocabulary.

Table 2. Commonest OE hill-terms

Hill-Term	Occurrences		
	Certain	Uncertain	Total
dūn	48	66	114
hlǣw	46	39	85
hōh	29	3	32
hyll	21	7	28

sīde	13	5	18
clif	8	6	14
hrycg	12	0	12
hēafod	4	3	7
other	//////	//////	119

Table 3 shows the corresponding data for names containing ME or ModE hill-terms. The number of names in the ME, ModE dataset is 1,895; the total number of occurrences of hill-terms is 2,098. Here the dominant term is *hill*, which occurs in 711 names. Despite the high total number of names, the number of different hill-terms is, at 79, only slightly higher than in the OE dataset, which, together with the dominance of *hill*, can be interpreted to reflect a gradual loss of the subtleties of the earlier topographical vocabulary.

Table 3. Commonest ME, ModE hill-terms

Hill-Term	Occurrences		
	Certain	Uncertain	Total
ME, ModE *hill*	710	1	711
ME *loue*, ModE dial. *law*	157	8	165
ME *sīde*, ModE *side*	141	2	143
ME *rigge*, ModE *ridge*, dial. *rig(g)*	128	3	131
ME *cragge*, ModE *crag*	123	4	127
ME *heved*, *haved*, *hede*, ModE *head*	123	0	123
ME, ModE *fell*	105	0	105
other	//////	//////	594

Topographical analysis

In this section, I summarise my provisional findings on the meanings and uses of the seven most common 'pure' hill-terms in the corpus.

OE *hyll*, ME, ModE *hill*

OE *hyll* is usually thought not to have had a specialised meaning in place-names (Gelling and Cole 2000:192). In the study area, it is typically used of relatively large features of irregular shape: of the 14 *hylls* included in the analysis,

seven are at least 1,000m long while nine have the maximum width of at least 500m. Thus, there are clearly tendencies as regards typical use, but the element can still hardly be said to have a highly specialised meaning. ME, ModE *hill* does not have a characteristic meaning, or meanings, in the study area. It can apparently be applied to nearly anything – not surprisingly, of course, since it is today our usual word for an elevation.

OE *hlāw*, ME *loue*, ModE dial. *law*

The first thing to note about the use of OE *hlāw* and its reflexes in the study area is that the OE word is almost invariably used of natural features – there is not a single certain instance of the element referring to a tumulus in the corpus (cf. e.g. *EPNE*, Gelling and Cole 2000:178). As a term for a natural elevation, *hlāw* is characteristically used of relatively small, rounded hills and hill-spurs; when the *hlāws* are compared with the *hylls*, there is a marked difference in the average size of the features, with the average length of a *hlāw* being 516m, as opposed to the 988m average length of a *hyll*, while the average maximum widths are 353m and 673m, respectively.

Like OE *hlāw*, its reflexes are used frequently of relatively small, rounded features; the most common use of ME *loue*, ModE dial. *law* seems to be, however, of the summit of a hill or hill-spur, with 18 of the 61 features referring to summits. The average size of the later examples does not differ significantly from that of the OE *hlāws*.

OE *hrycg*, ME *rigge*, ModE *ridge*, dial. *rig(g)*

OE *hrycg* has been described by Gelling (1984:169) as one of 'the less subtle items in the OE ... place-name vocabulary', with '[a]nything which a modern observer would call a *ridge* [having probably been] eligible for the corresponding word in pre-Conquest and medieval times'. This lack of subtlety is clearly evident in the study area as no characteristic uses of the element could be identified. Interestingly, and perhaps rather surprisingly, such uses could, however, be established in the case of ME *rigge*, ModE *ridge*, dial. *rig(g)*. The ME and ModE reflexes of *hrycg* have two clearly distinct meanings in the study area, namely, 'long and/or narrow hill' and 'triangular hill-spur'; of the 30 features included in the analysis, nine (30%) are long, narrow hills (see Maps 1a and b) while eight (26.7%) are triangular hill-spurs (see Maps 2a and b).
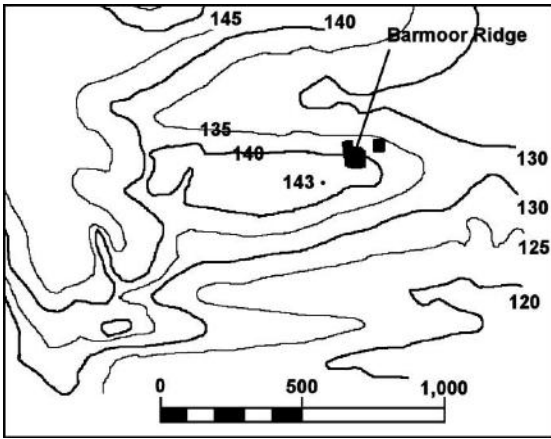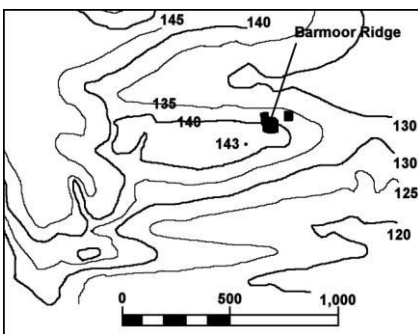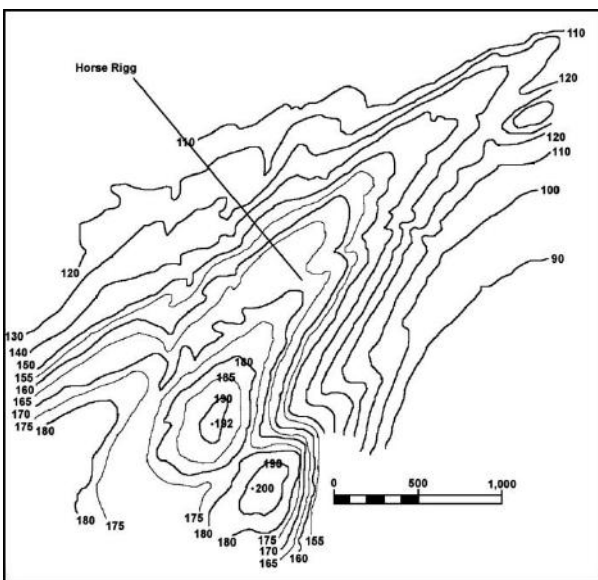
Map 1a Ferneyrigg Burn (Nb, NY 9683)
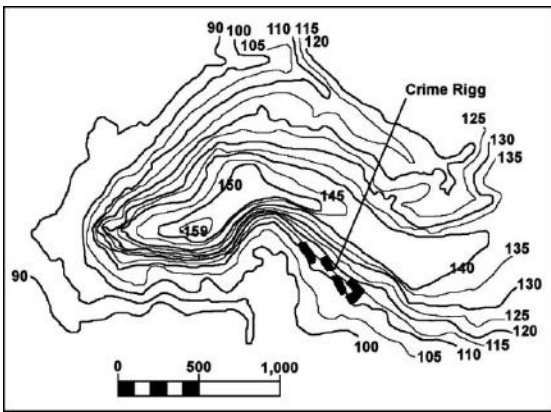
Map 1b Crime Rigg (Du, NZ 3341)

Map 2a Barmoor Ridge (Nb, NT 9639)

Map 2b Horse Rigg (Nb, NT 8233)

OE *dūn*, ME *doun*, ModE *down*

OE *dūn* is one of the elements for which a specialised meaning, namely, 'a flat-topped hill providing a good settlement site' (Gelling and Cole 2000:164), has been established in previous studies (see Gelling 1984, Gelling and Cole 2000). In the study area, *dūn* is typically used of hills of irregular shape which are comparatively large in terms of length and width, but relatively modest in terms of comparative height; these features tend to have the fairly extensive, level summit which is thought to be perhaps the most salient feature of a classic OE *dūn*, and they also quite often have settlements on top of them (see Figures 1a and b). While the classic *dūn*-shape is found frequently in the study area, it is also quite easy to find counter-examples, however (see Figures 2a and b).

Figure 1a Brandon (Du, NZ 2339)

Figure 1b Earsdon (Nb, NZ 1993)

Figure 2a Heddon (Nb, NU 0317)

The extent to which the reflexes of *dūn* have been productive in place-name formation is uncertain. It seems that ME *doun* and ModE *down* are used, like their OE predecessor, of comparatively large hills, but it should be borne in mind that some of the apparently late

examples could be of OE origin despite the absence of early forms.

Figure 2b Pittington (Du, NZ 3244)

ME, ModE *fell*

ME, ModE *fell* has two clearly distinct uses in the study area: it is used in some names in the sense of 'hill, mountain' (cf. e.g. *Comb Fell*, one of the peaks in the Cheviot Hills), but the typical use seems to be of a fairly extensive stretch of high or sloping ground. The average length of the *fells* is an impressive 1,594m while the average maximum width is 641m; as the more extensive features can often not be measured reliably, an average *fell* would in fact be even more extensive than these averages suggest. It seems possible that when applied to stretches of high or sloping ground, *fell* could, rather than being a purely topographical term, be a technical term for a particular type of land or land use, such as rough grazing. This would explain the frequent occurrences of *fell* compounded with earlier place-names, as in e.g. *Ewesley Fell* and *Keepwick Fell*.

OE *hōh*, ME *hough*, ModE dial. *hoe, heugh*

Like *dūn*, OE *hōh* is one of the elements for which a specialised meaning, namely, 'a heel-shaped hill-spur' (Gelling and Cole 2000:186), has been established in previous studies (see Gelling 1984, Gelling and Cole 2000). Of the 16 OE *hōhs* included in the analysis, nine (56%) have the classic *hōh*-shape: they 'rise to a point and have a concave end', thus resembling 'the foot of a person lying face down, with the highest point for the heel and the concavity for the instep' (Gelling and Cole 2000:186). However, as was the case with *dūn*, there are also some notable counter-examples, including two instances where the reference of *hōh* could not be established at all.

ME *hough* or its reflex apparently refers to a feature with a classic *hōh*-shape in three out of the nine instances included in the analysis while there is only one instance of ModE dialect *heugh*

in its Scottish and northern dialectal sense of 'steep, precipice, cliff'. It should be borne in mind, however, that the extent to which the reflexes of *hōh* have been productive in place-name formation remains uncertain, and some names could be of OE origin despite the apparent absence of early forms.

ME *knol*, ModE *knoll*, dial. *knowe, know*

ME *knoll* and ModE *knoll*, dial. *knowe, know* are typically used in the study area of small, rounded features, usually small hills. Of the 11 identifiable features included in the analysis, seven are rounded or oval-shaped, and seven have the length of 250m or less while nine have the maximum width of 250m or less. OE *cnoll*, the predecessor of these elements, is rare in the study corpus, with only two occurrences, neither of them within the areas included in the topographical analysis.

Conclusion

In this paper, I have shown that characteristic, fairly specialised meanings can be identified in the study area for both OE and later hill-terms. The relationship between the OE hill-terms and the types of landscape features they refer to is, however, not as straightforward as the Gelling hypothesis seems to predict. In some names, these terms have specialised meanings which are consistent with the ones attested elsewhere in the country, but it is also quite easy to find counter-examples. Thus, while the Gelling hypothesis appears to be valid in principle for OE hill-terms, there is definitely not a one-to-one correspondence between, for instance, OE *hōh* and a heel-shaped hill-feature. On the other hand, a perhaps surprising level of consistency and precision is observable in names of ME or ModE origin. It is also worth noting that specialised meanings are not restricted to reflexes of 'classic' OE hill-terms as they can be established for elements such as *fell*, which is ultimately a Scandinavian borrowing, and *knoll*, which apparently has not been common as a place-name element until relatively recently.

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AT ST MEDDAN'S CONVENIENCE: THE PLACE-NAMES OF TROON AND ENVIRONS

This paper takes its name from 'St Meddan's Public Convenience', adjacent to the Walker Halls in Troon where the May 2011 conference was held.

It, like Lower and Upper St Meddan's and other local names, bears testimony to the name that once described that portion of land, as may be seen, for instance, from the Fullarton Estate Map of 1806. Both Fullarton and St Meddan's will be returned to later in the paper.

The main purpose of the paper is to give an overview of the place-nomenclature of the area around Troon, concentrating where possible on Dundonald parish (DDN), in which Troon is situated, but straying also north into Cunninghame, and in particular to some examples from the parishes of Kilmaurs (KRS), Stewarton (STW), and Beith (BEH). Cunninghame is one of the areas covered by the new AHRC-funded project 'Scottish Toponymy in Transition: Progressing County Surveys of Scottish Place-Names', which started in May 2011, so this talk more or less constitutes its debut. As Simon Taylor has recently observed in regard to Ayrshire in general, [1] the area is endowed with examples of place-names in most of the major contributing languages of Scotland: Northern British (NBr), Old English (OE), Old Norse (ON), Gaelic (G), Scots (Sc) and Scottish Standard English (SSE) (and a few other rarities thrown in for good measure).[2] This linguistic diversity is to be seen in tight proximity to Troon: NBr represented by Troon itself; OE by Prestwick, just down the railway line, ON by Crosbie, the ruined kirk on the outskirts of Troon, Gaelic by Barassie and Dundonald, Older Scots by Monkton, and SSE by, for instance, Troon Point and host of others. It is worthwhile reviewing each of these languages and their relative contributions to local toponymy.

As far as we can tell, Northern British, a variety of Brittonic closely akin to Welsh, was the base language of northern Ayrshire in the early medieval period. The toponymic witness is there, though it is perhaps not as prominent as in other places in southern Scotland. Troon DDN is probably to be related to W. *trwyn* 'nose, headland'. The early forms seem to bear this out: *(terra de) le Trone* 1371-2 RMS; *le Trune* 1464 RMS; *Trwn* 1605 Retours; *le Trwyn* 1654 Blaeu.[3] There

[1] S. Taylor, 'Ayrshire Place-Names: a rich seam still to mine', Ayrshire Notes 38 (Autumn 2009), 4–18.

[2] I have in mind here for instance the farm of Girgenti STW, the name of which is Italian. Originally Bonnyton, it was named by owner and designer Captain James Cheape after Girgenti in Sicily sometimes between 1827 and the 1850s.

[3] W. J. Watson, Celtic Place-Names of Scotland (1926), 324, 516. The audience in Troon were keen to explore other possibilities, such as ON, citing Shetland dialect trunie, 'nose, snout'; and Gaelic sron 'nose, promontory' (with def. art. an t-sron). Arran Gaelic for

may also be a reference in one of the poems in praise of a sixth-century northern British king, Gwallawg: *kat ymro vretrwyn trwy wres mawr* 'a battle in the region of *Bre Trwyn*, through great heat of fire',[4] where *Bre Trwyn* 'the hill of Troon', might be the Dundonald Hills.

Nonetheless, it is noticeable that, although the underlying toponymy of the rivers of northern Ayrshire seems to be Brittonic (the main rivers Garnock, Lugton,[5] Glasert, Irvine, Annick, and Ayr are all arguably Brittonic), there are rather fewer surviving Brittonic names otherwise. An exception might be Giffen BEH, with its now lost castle at Mains of Giffen, which has been proposed as a NBr name related to Welsh *cefn* 'ridge'. The name suits the location very well, lying just at the northern end of the long low ridge which gives its name to the various farms named Lugtonridge, once part of the Giffen estate.

The early forms (territorio / ville de *Giffyn* 1196 x 1200 *Dryburgh Lib.*; dominus / territorio de *Geffyn* 1325 *RRS* v; totam terram de *Gyffeyn* 1371 *RMS* i) do not decide the matter, and there are problems, as I have recently explored.[6] Whilst a NBr name, its estate contained a large number of smaller settlements, mostly with Scots names, though some are Gaelic and at least one probably of earlier OE origin.

This situation of proximal linguistic complexity can be seen elsewhere in northern Ayrshire. Another potential NBr name is Plann KRS. Although a Scots derivation is not impossible for this poorly attested name, it may derive from the NBr equivalent of W *blaen* 'end, summit, foreland', lying as it does at the end of the prominent rise of Busbiehill.

The proximity here of potentially NBr name with Knockentiber (G), Busbie (ON), and a great variety of Sc names (some of which could have OE roots) is striking.

I have already mentioned the presence of Old English in the area. The background is suggested by the only known historical event attached to

this part of Ayrshire in the early middle ages, that is the taking of the plain of Kyle by king Eadberht of Northumbria in 750. What domain he was adding it to is uncertainty; the problem of whether Bede's visionary Dryhthelm was in Cunninghame or some other place is a persistent issue. But place-names testify to an earlier, and perhaps continuous phase of English settlement in this area, as has long been recognised. Names like Fenwick STW and especially Prestwick give us a vision of this community, as do potentially the names Trearne BEH and Dreghorn DRE, both containing OE element *ærn* 'dwelling, building'.[7] The earliest mention of Prestwick gives us some sense both of the linguistic strata in the area and the mixed linguistic terrain of the later 12th century:

'the church of *Prestwic*, with all of that land which Dovenaldus filius Yweni perambulated between the land of Simon Loccard (= *Symington*) and the land of Prestwic as far as *Pulprestwic* and along Pulprestwic as far as the sea, and from the sea along the burn between the land of Arnaldus and the land of Prestwic, as far as the boundaries of Simon Loccard; and that church of my burgh of Prestwic…' (1165 x 1174 Paisley Reg.).

The name *Pulprestwick* suggests to us that the name Prestwick was already an existing name when this burn was named in Gaelic after the fact that it marks its boundary, and thus belongs to an earlier phase of English nomenclature than that ushered in with the domination of lords like Simon Loccard, Walter fitz Alan, and Paisley Abbey.

Old Norse is particularly represented locally by the name Crosbie, now a ruined kirk, but once an estate (later named Fullarton), south of Troon, called after the family who acquired the estate in the 14th century. The name is ON *kross + by(r)* 'farm at or near a cross/crosses', and early forms are straightforward: (chapel of) *Crosby* 1208x14 Pais. Reg.; *Crosseby* 1230 Pais. Reg.; (mill of) *Corsby* 1371;(Adam de Fullarton, lord of) *Corsby* 1392 Pais. Reg. It takes its place alongside Busbie KRS, and several others, in forming an important cluster of names from ON *by* 'farm, settlement'. These have been much discussed,[8] and I will return briefly to their

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Troon, An Truthail, probably rules this last possibility out.

[4] *I. Williams,* The Poems of Taliesin *(Dublin, 1968), poem XI.*

[5] *Bill Nicolaisen explored this name in 'Notes on Scottish Place Names: 8 Lugton* Water', *Scottish Studies 2 (1958), 189-205.*

[6] *'Two notes on Ayrshire place-names: 1.* Pulprestwic *2.* Trearne'*, JSNS 2 (2008), 99-114.*

[7] *Clancy, 'Two notes'; see also W. F. H. Nicolaisen,* Scottish Place-Names *(Edinburgh, 2001), 98-108.*

[8] *Especially by S. Taylor, 'Scandinavians in Central Scotland – Bý Place-Names and their Context', in G. Williams and P. Bibire (eds),* Sagas, Saints and Settlements *(Brill, 2004), 125-46; and A. Grant, 2005, 'The*

context, but I would first note one other name not so far discussed among these *by* names: Cocklebee STW (very near to Magbiehill; early forms: *Cokilvy* 1482 RMS; *Cokilby* 1524 RMS; *Cocleb*, 1654 Blaeu; *Cocklebay*, 1753 Roy). The fact that the specific element in this name is OE *coccel* 'cockle-weed' is significant, a point I will return to. One problem to note here, however, is the extreme paucity of ON names otherwise.

Gaelic is seen to some extent in the name of the parish, Dundonald, though it is problematic. Although it certainly represents on the surface G *dùn Domhnaill* 'Donald's fort', the underlying name may be NBr, as witness the 11th century form in a saint's life, *Dundeuenel* (suggesting a cognate with W *Dyfnwall*). We are on firmer terrain (at least in linguistic terms) with Barassie DDN. *Barassie-m(u)re* 1602 RMS; *Mora de Barassie* 1634 Retours, and W. J. Watson suggested it was G. *barr (an) fasaidh* 'summit of the ? settled land'.[9] This is not the only solution to the name, and we might suggest, especially given the location, *barr (an) fàsaich* 'summit of the wasteland'; but also note the existence of ScG *rasach* 'shrubby, bushy', cf. OG *ras* 'underwood'. Complicating the matter are earlier forms, certainly of this name, which appear to have a generic *baile* instead of *barr* (e.g. (land of) *Balrasse* 1482 RMS; *Balrassy* 1512 ER), which suggests perhaps G *baile rasach* ?'scrubby farm'. This would be very unusual: northern Ayrshire contains no certain examples of names in *baile*, a striking and still to be explained feature, and I would suggest the underlying element here probably is *barr*, not *baile*, with the *–l-* being the intrusive and unhistoric *–l-* seen in, for instance, Falkirk. The absence of *baile* names contrasts with the very frequent occurrence in northern Ayrshire of another G settlement name element, *achadh* 'field, farm', as in for instance Auchenharvie STW (*Auchinhervy* 1501 RMS), from G *achadh na h-eirbhe*, 'field /farm of the fence / enclosure'.

Barassie, like so many Gaelic names in this area, is situated in a toponymic landscape dominated by Scots. We find it in a 1512 rental listed among the lands of Dundonald including: *Estir* and *Westir Galriggis*; *le Galrig bog* and *medow, Parkthorn*; *Balrassy, Auchinche, Kilfurd, Bogside, Reidbog myln*

and *medow*. Of these, only *Auchinche*, now Auchans, is also Gaelic, and the Scots stratum here seems fairly recent (but as the names themselves testify, we are dealing with fairly poor land). Leaving aside the earlier presence of OE, the incursion of the ancestor of Older Scots into northern Ayrshire occurs alongside this regions full entry into historical record, this area being prominent amongst those doled out to Anglo-Norman followers of the kings of Scots, from the time of David I on. The element that allows us to see this in the historical record best is Sc *toun* (< OE *tun*) 'settlement, farm, fermtoun'. A considerable number of –toun / -ton names in northern Ayrshire take their names from the men given such land during the 12th and 13th centuries: we are on fairly sure ground with Stevenston STV (< Stephen Loccard's *toun*); Symington SYM (< Simon Loccard's *toun*—see the grant of Prestwick above); and Riccarton RIC (< Richard [? Wallace]'s *toun*);[10] others such as Lambroughton STW (< ? Lambrecht / Lamburc's *toun*) perhaps need more consideration. The church too, as landlord, was behind both naming and linguistic change, see for instance, Monkton (mill of, 1390; church of, 1400 Pais. Reg.), though it was originally *Prestwic monachorum*, or just 'the other Prestwick'.

Many of these new landowners, such as the family of the Loccards, held land further south, in for instance Dumfriesshire (cf. Lockerbie) or Cumberland (Geoffrey Barrow has made the case for the family behind the names Warrix and Warwickhill having come from there in the 12th or 13th century[11]). In this context, one might wish to look again at the proposed ON names in –*by*, which cluster near to major settlements owned by such lords, and which mostly reproduce common name types, in contrast to the eastern clusters of –by in Scotland, with their wealth of problematic Anglo-Scandinavian personal names. An exception is Cocklebee, mentioned above, the first element of which is probably OE *coccel* 'cockle-weed'. Given that these landholders were often coming from, or jointly holding land in areas where –by names were common, perhaps we should consider whether the cluster of –by names here relates to this period of landholding, rather than an earlier and Scandinavian dominated one.

Origin of the Ayrshire Bý Names', in P. Gammeltoft, C. Hough and D. Waugh, Cultural Contacts in the North Atlantic Region: The Evidence of Names (Shetland, 2005), 127–40

9 W.J. Watson, History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland (Edinburgh, 1926), 500.

10 On these, see esp. G. W. S. Barrow, The Anglo-Norman Era in Medieval Scotland (Oxford, 1980), 46, 66, and maps on pp. 54-9.

11 Ibid., 83n.

But just as some names in *-toun* are easily and helpfully contextualisable, so too the fact that the element continued to be productive makes it an element to be cautious about. An illustration of this may be seen in the case of the farm of East Lugtonridge BEH. It is first attested as *Ludgar-little* 1590x99 Pont and *Little Lugdrig* 1654 Blaeu (Pont); *Little Ludnerrige* 1663 *RMS*. The modern from is better illustrated by the history of the neighbouring settlement of Lugtonridge: *Ludgar meikele* 1590x99 Pont; *Luderigs* 1654 Blaeu (Pont); *Meikle Lugdnerig* 1663 *RMS*; *Meikle Lugdounridge* 1743 private charter; *Luggtonrigge* 1791. Here the name relates to the burn that flows past the farms, the Lugton Water, an originally NBr name attested as Lugdurr in the 16th century, based on cognates of W *llug* 'shining' and *dwr* 'water'. Sometime in the 18th century, the settlement Lugton was founded—not before as far as can be determined—on this burn, and its name began to affect the form of the name of the burn, and thence the names of farms called from it, the various Lugtonridges once part of the Giffen estate.[12] The element *toun* here is not organic. A further example of the durability of this element is the naming in 1973 of the sub-settlement of Rigton, so called through its descent from the farms of Lugtonridge on whose lands it stands.

A final cautionary tale about *toun* relates to Fullerton, the estate which from the 14th through the 19th century incorporated Troon, St Meddan's, and Crosbie. This is a transferred name, the landholders having taken their name from an earlier property, Fullarton near Irivine, this family having held that property since at least the 13th century, as suggested by a grant to Adam de Fowlertoun son of Alan de Fowlertoun 'de terra de Fowlertoun in Kylesenescall' 1283 x 1309 RMS. It is not impossible, however, that this family gave their name to this Fullarton too; perhaps Adam's ancestor held the office of fowler for the Stewards or the de Morvilles in the 12th century.

The Fullerton estate brings us back, in conclusion, to the lands of St Meddan's. This hagiotoponym, revealing some sort of lost saint's cult (though revived in the 19th / 20th century) is intriguing and in need of further investigation. What the name relates to is a problem—was St Meddan the saint commemorated in the chapel of Crosbie? Or the original patron saint of the

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12 *On this, and for some of the forms, see Nicolaisen, 'Lugton Water'.*

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parish of Dundonald? And who was St Meddan—a highly problematic issue, as there is uncertainty over whether we are dealing with a male or female saint (though the modern revived cult has opted for female). There is no space to explore this here. But it is worth closing on one further curious aspect of the toponymy of northern Ayrshire that St Meddan's highlights. The district of Cunninghame is particularly rich in ecclesiastical place-names based on the G generic *cill* 'church'. Many of its parishes derive from this element combined with a saint's name: Kilbirnie, Kilwinning, (West) Kilbride, Kilmarnock, Kilmaurs, and they are joined by a few non-parochial names of a similar sort. In the southern Ayrshire district of Carrick, we find a host of similar names, in both *Kil-* and also *Kirk-* (Kirkoswald, Kilkerran). But Kyle, the middle district of Ayrshire has none. It does have one parish, St Quivox, which almost certainly must be an Anglicisation of an earlier OG/ MG *Cill Coemóc. Perhaps St Meddan's, though not a parish name, is similar. Nonetheless, the contrasting distribution patterns of *cill* names in Ayrshire—like so much else about the names of this toponymically intriguing county-- is something worth exploring on another occasion, in more depth.

Thomas Clancy (from his talk at the Troon conference)

SCOTLAND'S MOST DENSELY NAMED PIECE OF ROCK?

72 names in an area of 700 feet by 250 feet

The reef universally known as the Bell Rock and made famous by Robert Southey's literary ballad "The Inchcape Rock", written between 1796-8 and published in 1802, is based on the legendary rock which is situated off the coast of Angus near the mouth of the Tay. The Abbot of Aberbrothok who had tied a bell to the perilous rock to warn passing ships had become very popular because of this benevolent deed.

The poem tells the story of a pirate who was jealous of the abbot's fame and reputation and out of spite he cut off the bell gloating maliciously and sadistically,

> *Quoth Sir Ralph, "The next who comes to the Rock,*
> *Won't bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok".*

But the poem ends with Sir Ralph being punished for his evil deed. Once when he was returning home with the loot he had plundered

his ship sails into a fog and he becomes completely disoriented:

So thick a haze o'erspreads the sky,
They cannot see the sun on high;
The wind hath blown a gale all day,
At evening it hath died away.

Sir Ralph the Rover's Ledge is part of the "House Rock" - in allusion to Southey's poem.

But this year is the "**Year of the Light**" and we celebrate the 200 years since the construction of the lighthouse - probably Scotland's greatest single engineering feat of the early 19th century. It also celebrates the men who built it: Robert Stevenson, assistant and resident engineer, and John Rennie, who was appointed Chief Engineer, responsible overall for the project.

Only when my attention was drawn to a map of the reef did I realise that the different physical components of the reef have many names linked with the building of the lighthouse. Some of the 72 names honour the "great and the good" such as Arniston Ledge, which is named after Baron Dundas of Arniston, who was Lord Advocate of Scotland in 1812 and similarly Hope's Wharf is named in respect of the Hon. Charles Hope, the Lord Advocate who brought forward the Bill to build the light in 1803.

The King James V Rock on the south-west extremity of the reef is named in reference to the Monarch's voyage round his Dominion in 1540 — after which Lindsay's rutter described it as the *Inchcope* Rock.

Other names celebrate those involved in the construction, such as John Watt Rock on the western approaches, named in tribute to John Watt, the principal mortar maker; and Glen's Ledge named after James Glen, the millwright and joiner.

Local personalities appear in the form of Dunnichen Ledge for Dempster of Dunnichen, and Balfour's Ledge, named after the then Provost of Arbroath.

The Smith's Forge is dedicated to James Dove, the foreman smith (hence the forge), and it was at this point that the first stones were landed.

Craw's Horse rock is named in tribute to James Craw the principal carter at Arbroath and his 16 hands high horse, which carried all the stones to the boats (the skeleton of this famous horse is now in the St Andrews museum!)

Innovators are also acknowledged in the names: Slight's Reach refers to James Slight and his brother who drew the base courses and the stone patterns and went on to become the builders of lighthouses in Chile.

Smith's Rock is named in honour of Thomas Smith, the inventor of the reflecting light and first engineer to the Board; and incidentally boss, stepfather and father-in-law of Robert Stevenson.

Some debate still remains over the derivation of the name of the reef itself and as I mentioned above, the first name of the reef is on the 1540 rutter marked as *Inchcope*; then on a 1583 Dutch map as *Scop*; then on a 1690 map as *Cap* and then in a 1707 map it was shown as *Scap* and then finally in 1750 on Ainslie's map as *Cap* or *Bell*. The Dutch name for the rock – *Schaep*, probably came from the Scots word Scaup, and it does seem to link with the idea of a low reef or mussel bed. Stevenson tried to link Inchcape to the Cape at Red Head and the Gaelic 'Inch', but 'Scaep' as a mis-hearing of 'Scaup' sounds much more plausible. Nonetheless, is there a more densely populated island of names anywhere in Scotland?

Dave Orr

(Wikipedia has yet another theory, that the name is Gaelic: *innis sgeip*, 'beehive isle'. Yet *sgeilp*, for a 'shelf' just below the water, would better describe its hazards to seafarers. Ed.)

It looks as if new owners of the Rossie estate in Fife have been consulting old maps, such as Ainslie's of 1775 (acknowledgements to NLS online maps), and have misread as an f the usual 18th century tall ſ for the first half of a double 's'. Thanks to Gilbert Márkus for information and photo.

In the Beginning was the Name:

Selected Essays by Professor W.F.H. Nicolaisen

Published by the Scottish Place-Name Society, June 2011. 393 pages; price £12.00 plus P&P

ISBN: 978-0-9565172-2-7 ; printed by Shetland Litho, Lerwick

Professor W.F.H. Nicolaisen has been an influential figure in name research on both sides of the Atlantic for the past half-century. In recognition of his achievements, the Scottish Place-Name Society has published this eclectic selection of essays. Essays on place-names from all parts of Scotland predominate but there are also essays which demonstrate Professor Nicolaisen's much wider interests in names from different parts of the world, names in literature and names in folklore. There is a full bibliography of all Professor Nicolaisen's publications at the end of the book.

For further information on how to order this comprehensive book please see the Scottish Place-Name Society website:

http://www.spns.org.uk/news:/

(By fortunate accident the third re-print of Professor Nicolaisen's landmark book *Scottish Place-Names* has also just been produced and is available from John Donald POD: price £20.00.)

FIFE PLACE-NAMES WALKS ABERDOUR AND MARKINCH

On a sunny Saturday morning last September Simon Taylor led a group of 35 people on a three-hour 'place-name walk' in and around Aberdour in Fife. It was one of two such walks organised under the auspices of the University of Glasgow and sponsored by the Fife Council 'Celebrating Fife 2010' initiative, the other having taken place in and around Markinch the previous, even sunnier, Sunday afternoon (5th), in association with the Markinch Heritage Group, and attended by 25 people. These walks aimed to introduce both residents and visitors alike to the rich cultural, historical and linguistic heritage of the two parishes as revealed by their place-names; as well as to encourage exploration on foot of lesser known corners.

In-depth research for the walks had already been undertaken as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) project based at the Department of Celtic and Gaelic, University of Glasgow, the results of which are being published in a 5-volume series entitled *The Place-Names of Fife*, by Simon Taylor with Gilbert Márkus (publisher Shaun Tyas, Donington). Four volumes are already out: Vol. 1, covering west Fife between the River Leven and the Forth (2006), Vol. 2, covering central Fife (2008); and Vol. 3, covering east Fife and St Andrews (2009), and Vol. 4, covering Fife north of the Eden (2010). Vol. 5, which contains discussion and a place-names element glossary, is due out shortly. Aberdour is in Vol. 1; Markinch in Vol. 2.

Building on this research, these place-name walks afforded an opportunity to dig down a bit deeper into the mud (literal and figurative!) of the place-nomenclature of a small area, and to get more detailed local information which can then be fed into future place-name research. It is hoped that more can be organised.

Four-page illustrated hand-outs were prepared for the participants of the walks. 'Celebrating Fife 2010' also funded the production of a longer version of these hand-outs which were available free of charge to anyone wanting to explore Aberdour and Markinch on foot through its place-names. The Aberdour booklet is 'sold out', but if you would like a copy of the Markinch booklet (A5 12 pages) please send a stamped addressed envelope to Simon Taylor, 7 Seaside Place, Aberdour, Fife KY3 0TX.
<st4taylor@btinternet.com>

*Detail from RHP1022 c.1750 (north on the left), clearly showing the division of **The Aberdour Acres** into individual strips or rigs; all this was swept away by about 1770, creating the large fields we are familiar with today (see Fig. 3). By permission of National Archives of Scotland.*

Detail from RHP1023 c.1770 (north at top). This shows roughly the same area as the previous figure, but after the creation of the post-enclosure landscape of large fields. Chesters Park contains modern Humbie Terrace; Sisters Land contains The Glebe. By permission of National Archives of Scotland.

Painting of Markinch c.1820, reproduced by permission of Markinch Parish Church. The distinctive hill is East Lomond and the antiquity of the parish is indicated by the dedication to St Drostan.

Text and photos by **Simon Taylor** (item deferred from issue 30 due to lack of space)

CLASSIC ROAD SIGNS: EAST LOTHIAN'S FINGERPOSTS

Traditional fingerposts have been with us for several centuries. The first recorded fingerpost is thought to been in Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire, England around 1669. These early "guide posts" (as they were sometimes called) were made of wood.

When roads began to be tolled in 1766, the General Turnpike Act was passed stating that signposts had to be erected at all junctions. It was around this time that milestones first appeared.

In 1922, legislation came into force that classified all roads into A, B, C & U categories and specifications were drawn up for the manufacture of signposts. The specifications covered items like lettering size and colour. By this time cast iron fingerposts were being erected, many being manufactured by the Royal Label Factory, Stratford-on-Avon. On occasion limbs were made of a compound called "spelter". This was an alloy of zinc and lead and was cheaper and lighter than cast iron.

In 1964, because of the increase in volume and speed of traffic, new laws were passed to "upgrade" road signage. Lettering sizes were increased to enable signs to be read at higher speeds. Most of the old traditional fingerpost were removed and replaced with signs similar to those seen today. In East Lothian (and to a lesser extent in Ayrshire), many of the traditional fingerposts survived the cull and remain with us today, their likely saviour being the strong traditionalist, Frank Tyndall, then Head of the Planning Department of East Lothian District Council. A timely and worthy preservatory act it was, as visitors to the county often comment on the friendly presence of the old style fingerposts.

Type 1 fingerpost at Chesters cross-roads near Garvald. Or Garvard, as the sign has it. Was the sign-maker thinking of an Ivy League University, or just of Gifford, also on the sign?

A traditional fingerpost has a post (pole), limbs (arms), and a finial (top piece). In East Lothian, there are over 60 cast iron traditional fingerposts. Approximately 90% of them are of two basic types. Type 1 comprises a tapered pole with embellishments (rings), with up to four scalloped or round ended limbs and topped with a ring finial. Type 2 (less common) consists of a tapered fluted post with a spherical ball or teardrop shaped finial with limbs similar to Type 1.

An example of the less common Type 2 sign. This one is at Highlea in the south-west of East Lothian. Like many others it gives distances to a precision of one furlong (⅛ of a mile, about 200 metres).

In an endeavour to maintain continuity, broken cast iron limbs (previously discarded) are now being salvaged and repaired. Where repair is impossible or impracticable, new limbs are cast at a local foundry. This can entail making new mouldings, which can be costly however, as limbs and finials are fairly standard, the moulds can be re-used with the lettering easily changed to suit. A dilemma can arise when the spelling of a town or village name has changed over the years. Does the restorer stay true to the historic spelling or does he/she use the present day form? For example, since the late 19th century the spelling of Whittingham has changed twice, to "Whittinghame" and then again to "Whittingehame", as it is today.

While they may not meet modern day traffic requirements, in their rural settings, the aged traditional fingerpost remains a warm reminder of days gone by; a sentry at crossroads pointing the way for rural travellers past, present and future.

George Machray *(a Roads Network Assistant with East Lothian Council, involved with the upkeep and maintenance of traditional fingerposts within the county.)*

Website References: *Ayrshire History website –*
http://www.ayrshirehistory.org.uk/Fingerposts/fingerposts.htm;
Department for Transport website - http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/traffic-advisory-leaflet-605-traditional-direction-signs/trafficadvisoryleaflet6-05.pdf

AN ANSTRUTHER IN FRANCE

A few years before the French Revolution, the village of Bierry-les-Belles-Fontaines (dept Yonne) in Burgundy was re-named *Anstrude* by an Anstruther family who acquired the fiefdom. The Revolution extinguished that name (and probably the Anstruthers), the commune reverting to Bierry (< Gaulish **berjā-* 'a plain'). The spelling *Anstrude* presumably reflects a Burgundian attempt at a Scots pronunciation **/anstrur/* with /d/ for flapped /r/.

Alan James

BOOK REVIEW

Baldwin, J. and Drummond, P., 2011, ***Pentland Place-Names: An introductory guide***, The Friends of the Pentlands, Edinburgh, pp. 39. Price £3, obtainable from Friends of the Pentlands.

This booklet provides a huge amount of relevant material within a very small framework. In the opening section, John Baldwin provides a useful introduction to the history of the region and includes a map of parish boundaries within the Pentland Hill which illustrates the extent of the area surveyed much more effectively than words can do. Peter Drummond introduces the reader to the study of place-names around the Pentland Hills and the authors jointly present some of the more common elements which crop up in place-names in the locality, demonstrating the variety of languages which can be identified in the names of this historical thoroughfare, en route to Edinburgh. There is also a bibliography on pp. 10-11 for those who wish to read further on either of these topics.

Central to the book is the Gazetteer of place-names in which most names are dealt with as accurately and comprehensively as limited space and fragmentary documentation allow. Most of my quibbles about the authors' conclusions are minor and relate to an interpretation of the landscape which may be subjective on my part. I believe that, in the 14th to 16th centuries, life in the environs of The Pentland Hills was

precarious and frequent raids and wars meant that much of the land south of Edinburgh was regularly laid waste. In these circumstances, Wolf Craigs (p. 29) – a craggy area in the middle of nowhere – would indeed have been the lair of wolves rather than the suggested 'summer grazing grounds' of 'Walston (hamlet and parish) although, of course, the Craigs were not necessarily the lair of the last wolf in Scotland. In addition, it seems much more probable that the Catstane would be the home of wild cats, rather than the suggested 'Catstone: hearthstone, or one of two uprights on which the grate rests' (p. 18). Other names intrigue me, such as Allermuir Hill; it would certainly be a challenge to grow alders in a location so high, exposed and naturally well drained. Presumably the name really applies to the hill above the Alder Muir, but where exactly was the Alder Muir?

A few of the statements in the section entitled 'Historical Pentland Landscapes' can be disputed, e.g. 'Carlops originated as an 18th century planned village' (p.5). Roy's mid-18th century map shows the location of Carlops to be about one mile east of Carlops Turnpike, which is the actual site of the 18th century planned village. Presumably Carlops may originally have been the name of an existing fermtoun. John Baldwin also assigns the proliferation of water-powered mills along the Esk and the Water of Leith to the 19th century (p.5) but these mills were mostly operational before the 19th century.

Writing as one who has wandered over the Pentland Hills for about fifty years, I think that raising such questions as I do is a tribute to this book which inspires me to go out and re-examine places in order understand them more fully. I am also certain that for those who have not yet visited the Pentlands, the book will encourage them and guide them into this fascinating area.

W. Waugh, Howgate

Extract from James Stobie's 'Counties of Perth and Clackmannan' map of 1783; see Peter McNiven's article on pages 4-6 (thanks to NLS online map library).

Starting a trend for the inclusion of old forms of place-names on road signs? Wouldn't it be nice to have dates and sources as well. (Photo Simon Taylor)

No need to travel to Switzerland to see a trilingual roadside sign. This one is in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. The Ulster Scots version is presumably a translation of the possible original of Pomeroy, French Pommeraie, 'orchard'. (Photo courtesy Kay Muhr)
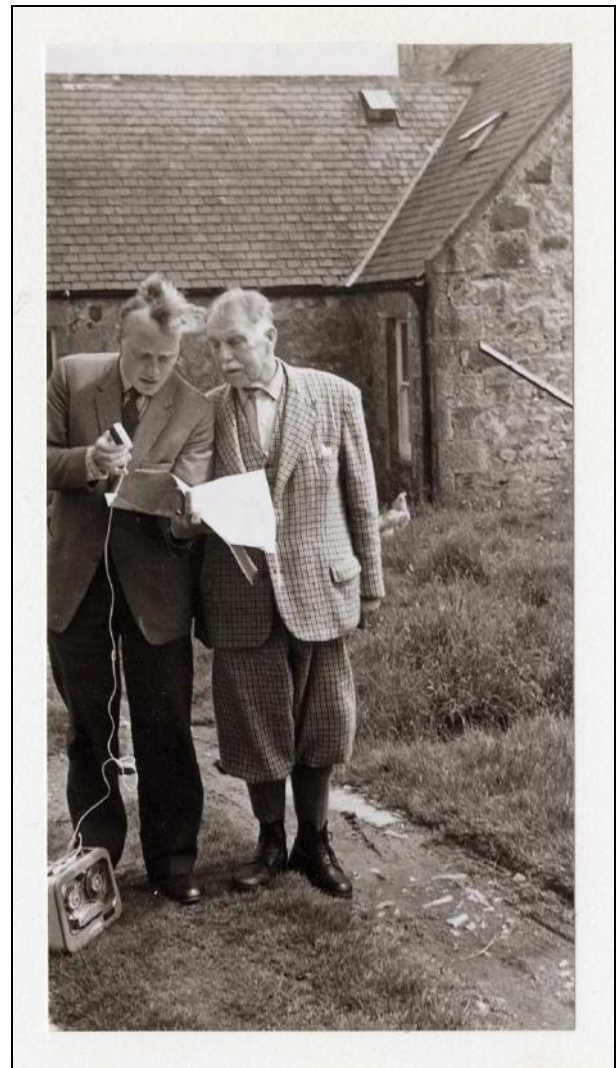
W F H (Bill) Nicolaisen in characteristic pose, carrying out fieldwork in Banffshire with map and tape recorder. This is the cover photo on the Society's new publication of selected articles from Prof Nicolaisen's long and wide-ranging career in name studies.