

Some Place-names in and around the Fleet Valley

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Cairn Farm

Scots *cairn* ‘a heap of stones’ is an adopted word from Gaelic *càrn*. In place-names it can refer to a rocky hill or hillock, a tumble of stones or scree, or a man-made feature, such as a boundary, a way-mark, or a prehistoric cairn or burial-mound .

Cairn Farm, high on Irelandton Moor overlooking the old road from Ringford and Trostrie, might have been Gaelic *càrn*, or even the Cumbric cognate *carn*; there are ancient cairns not far away, but those in the vicinity are apparently relatively recent clearance cairns, the name is probably Scots.

Cairnharrow

The name of this grand hill is curiously absent from Maxwell’s *The Place Names of Galloway*, and is referred to by Watson in *The Celtic Place-Names of Scotland* as *Cornharrow*. Nonetheless, and although Watson only says ‘may be’, his tentative derivation, **Càrn na h-airbhe*, ‘cairn of the wall’, is entirely appropriate. The eponymous cairn is marked as an ancient monument near the summit on current OS maps. Middle Irish *airbe* meant primarily ‘a fence of palings’, but it came to mean ‘a boundary’, and in Scottish Gaelic ‘a wall’ (later *airbhe*, now obsolete). The parish boundary-wall between Anwoth and Kirkmabreck crosses the summit.

The same element is seen in the Stewartry in two Pulharrow Burns, in Kells (with Loch Harrow) and Minigaff parishes, also in Arvie Burn and a number of places with Arvie or Ervie (Black, Low, Mid, Nether and Upper) in Parton parish, and at Kinharvie, **Cenn na h-airbhe*, ‘head, i.e. end, of the wall’) in New Abbey.

Cairnholy

The dramatically located pair of Neolithic chambered cairns, in a landscape rich with other archaeological features, seems poorly documented prior to the 1st edition OS map, though it is interesting that Maxwell lists it as *Cairnholly*. Still, we can be reasonably certain that the name is Gaelic **Càrn na h-ulaidhe*, ‘cairn of the stone tomb’. There is a Huly Hill at Newbridge in West Lothian, a Bronze Age barrow with standing stones (thanks to John Wilkinson for this information). At Craighenholly by Glenluce Abbey in Wigtownshire, the same element probably refers to the monastic cemetery.

Awareness that ancient burial-places sometimes contained valuable goods led *ulaidh* to acquire a secondary sense, ‘treasure, hoard’, its usual meaning in modern Scottish Gaelic, but whether any precious items were ever found at Cairnholy before modern archaeologists investigated is not recorded.

The King Galdus supposed to be buried under ‘Cairnholy 2’ (a belief first recorded in 1846) is an echo of some local folklore, an antiquarian Latin-looking name based perhaps on some derivative of Gaelic *gallda* ‘foreign, non-Gaelic-speaking’, or even a contraction of a Latinised form of Gall-Ghàidheil, **Galuadelus* or similar. But it is unlikely that there is any connection between ‘Galdus’ and ‘Holy’.

Cairny Hill

The hill overlooking the old main road between High Auchenlarie and Bardristan has a cairn marked near its summit on the 1st edition OS map, and indeed there are several other neolithic or bronze-age monuments as well as undatable or natural heaps of stones. So the name could be Gaelic **Càrnach* ‘abounding in cairns’ or Scots **Ca(i)rnìe* ‘wee cairn’.

Cairnsmore of Fleet

Like the Cairnsmores of Carsphairn and Dee, the granite dome on which the headwaters of the Fleet rise is Gaelic **Carnas mòr*, ‘great rocky hill’. Most of it lies outwith the parish of Girthon, in Minigaff. It is not named on the maps in Blaeu’s Atlas, but the text (taken, like the map, from Timothy Pont’s survey) refers to it as *Karnsmoor*.

Carnas, a regular by-form of *càrn* ‘cairn, heap of stones’, does not appear in Gaelic dictionaries but occurs as a place-name element. Kirkinner in Wigtownshire was in mediaeval times *The Church of St Kenere in Carnesmoel* (‘bare rocky hill’).

Cairn Tammock

A hill now swathed in forestry plantation, between the Big and Little Waters of Fleet. It looks like a Scots version of Gaelic **càrn* ‘a heap of stones’ plus *tom* ‘a hillock, a knoll’. The final syllable could have been Gaelic *-ach*, making **tomach* ‘a hillocky place’, or an equivalent suffix in Scots. *Tammock* is attested in the Scottish National Dictionary as a variant of *tummock*, ‘a small mound, a hillock’, especially in Galloway; however, the order of elements and stress on the second syllable (as shown by Maxwell) implies a Gaelic predecessor. Otherwise, it might have been formed with *tamhnach*, used in the hill country in Ulster of patches of land cleared for cultivation in otherwise unproductive places: see discussion of *Tanniefad* under Creoch below.

Cairntop

The hill between Windywalls and Townhead is indeed topped with cairns. ‘Top’ (Old English *topp*) is an obvious word for a summit, but more common in field-names and other names for parts of a farm than in names of major features; this may well be a relatively modern name given by a farmer or shepherd.

Cairntosh

Cairntosh Hill is the highest of the series of summits to the south-east of the Barlay Burn, from Glengap to Disdow. The eponymous cairn, marked as an ancient monument on OS maps from 1st edition on, is a large ‘ruckle o stanes’ near the summit, where traces of a cist have been noted by some archaeologists, though others have failed to find it. On a platform nearer the south-eastern foot of the hill is a complex landscape of banks, cairns, former buildings and enclosures that could have originated at many different periods from the Bronze Age to early modern times.

Kairntoish hil on Blaeu’s map: *-tosh* may be, as in the clan-name Macintosh, from the genitive form of Gaelic *toiseach*, which means ‘chief, leader’ in both personal and impersonal senses, so **Càrn an toisich* could be ‘cairn of the chieftain’ or ‘cairn of the chief place’. Either way, it would suggest that the location had some special significance in the neighbourhood, perhaps as an assembly-place and one where local chieftains were inaugurated.

Cally

Cally is well documented from 1418, *ze Cale*, 1424 *Caly*, onwards, with significant variants *Kalecht*, *Kalacht*, in 16th century records; in Blaeu’s Atlas, *Kelly*.

In view of the evidence, Maxwell is probably right in referring this to Gaelic *caladh*, originally ‘a hard-standing, a landing place’, but coming to mean ‘a harbour’. The Scots form may echo the Gaelic dative *calaidh* ‘at a harbour’.

Maxwell’s claim that ‘there is a tidal harbour here at the mouth of the Fleet’ is somewhat surprising even in 1931 (unless he was referring to Port MacAdam across the river), but in mediaeval times the low-lying land at the foot of Cally Lake, overlooked by Cally Moat, would probably have been a tidal bay.

It should be noted, though, that there is a Cally on the Isle of Man, near Perwick in Rushen parish. This is otherwise Kallow (Point), and is near Collooway Bay: all these are likely to be from a Norse formation with a personal name, *Kalli* or *Kolli*, plus *vágr* ‘bay’. A similar origin would not be impossible for our Cally, but the 15th century records do not encourage such an etymology.

Camp Hill

In older English place-names, ‘camp’, from Latin *campus*, has an interesting and complicated history. However the Old English word went out of use fairly early; in the early modern period, ‘camp’ was reintroduced from French as a term for a military encampment or fort (first recorded in the OED in 1528). It came to be used fairly frequently for ancient earthworks from the eighteenth century on, and that is

certainly the background to the name of the hill to the east of Enrick, now overlooking the junction of the B727 out of Gatehouse with the A75, which has ramparts of an iron-age fort on the summit ('Enrick Camp' on the 1st edition OS map).

Cardoness

The name Cardoness must have first been applied to the small headland to the south of Trusty's Hill, where Cardoness Motte stood between the mouth of Boreland Burn and the Fleet Estuary. It is the southern tip of the lozenge-shaped block of hills, and in the first millennium would have been a more prominent 'nose': lowering in relative sea-levels and the digging of the Fleet Canal have altered the coastline here.

The final-syllable stress in local pronunciation supports the strong possibility that Old Norse *-ness* 'nose, point' has been added to a pre-existing name, *Carden*, which is recorded once, in 1240; later records include *Cardernes* 1536, *Cardeneis* 1556, and *Kardeness* on Blaeu's map. (Note that Maxwell, in *The Place-Names of Galloway*, misplaces this in Girthon parish, it is in Anwoth.)

Carden is a P-Celtic place-name element that is found frequently in the Pictish heartlands of the north-east, from Fife to the Moray Firth, for example in several places named Kincardine (with early Gaelic *cenn-* 'head, end' prefixed), but also at Cardross, the important early ecclesiastical, and later lordship, site on a peninsula on the Clyde close to the British stronghold of Dumbarton (with Brittonic *-ros* 'headland' suffixed). However, Cardoness seems to be the only possible example south of the Clyde or Forth.

The meaning can only be deduced from a probable cognate *cardden* found in a small group of Middle Welsh texts, where the contexts imply a secure enclosure of some kind, perhaps a fort. The name may, then, indicate some stronghold on or near the headland where Cardoness Motte stood, but it could have been a name for the 6th to early 7th century fort on Trusty's Hill, or for whatever remained either of its earlier Iron Age predecessor (if the name was given earlier than the 6th century), or of the timber-laced fort after it had been destroyed by fire (if the name post-dated the early 7th century). In any case, the presence of a name strongly associated with Pictland in the vicinity of the perplexing stone by the fort carved in Pictish style is tantalising.

Like the carvings, it is not necessarily evidence of direct influence from Pictland, still less of the presence of native 'Picts', it could be consistent with the cultural hybridity evidenced in the sixth-century fort, but, again like those carvings, it could have originated at a later date, even as late as the tenth century. Either way, it is one of the most interesting and significant name of all in this immediate area.

Cardoness Castle stands on Castle Hill, and Castle Cottage, Castle Bridge and Castle Pool in the Fleet are all marked on the 1st edition OS map upstream (north-east) of the hill. There was also a Castle House, not named on the OS map but listed in the 1851 Anwoth Census between Boreland Cottage (now called Little Boreland) and Castle Cottage. Cardoness House and Cardoness Wood were formerly Bardarroch House and Wood, see above; their present name probably dates from the extension of the estate in the nineteenth century.

Cardoon Burn

This burn that wanders across boggy land from several headwaters below the Knee and Door of Cairnsmore eastwards towards the Big Water of Fleet, seems to be, as Maxwell proposed, **Càrr-dùin*, 'rock of a fort'. Gaelic *càrr* can mean more specifically a rock-ledge or projecting piece of rock, and that could apply to the Knee of Cairnsmore. There is no fort anywhere in the vicinity of the burn, only a cairn on the Knee, but *dùin* can be a natural hill (see Doon below).

Carrick

Carraig 'a rock' is a very common place-name element in Ireland and the Isle of Man. There is great concentration of place-names of the 'Carrick' type too in Ayrshire, Galloway and the Solway region, especially in the Rinns (Maxwell lists fifteen in Kirkmaiden parish alone), though it is rather less frequent elsewhere in Scotland.

It Ireland especially, it occurs very frequently as a simplex (single element) name, as it does in the name of the settlement close to the boundary between Girthon and Kirkandrews (formerly Borgue) parishes, after which Carrick Bay, Point, Neck and Shore are named.

There is a Carrick Isle on the upper Cree, now no longer an island, close to the point where the shires of Kirkcudbright, Wigtown and Ayr meet: Carrick Burn, the Ayrshire/ Wigtownshire boundary joins the Cree (Gaelic *crioch* 'boundary'), the Stewartry/ Wigtownshire boundary at Carrick Burnfoot nearby. These names may well be associated with the district-name Carrick in what is now south Ayrshire, but was at one time part of the Lordship of Galloway; this is *Karrek* on Blaeu's map, indicating that it might have a Brittonic/ Cumbric (Old Welsh *carecc*, modern *carreg*) origin, but the many other 'Carrick' names in south-west Scotland, including the popular beauty-spot on the Fleet estuary, are more likely to be Gaelic.

Carrouch Burn

The Carrouch Burn is a tributary of the Big Water of Fleet, rising on Meikle Mulltaggart. Maxwell reports the pronunciation 'Carrugh' with a guttural final consonant (he also refers to *Kerroch* on the Blaeu map, but that is in fact Carroch in Dalry parish on the road from Carsphairn to Moniaive).

As this burn forms part of the boundary between Girthon and Kirkmabreck parishes, Maxwell may be right in seeing this as as Gaelic *ceathramh* 'quarterland', an important unit of land-assessment in mediaeval Galloway corresponding to a quarter of a *davoch* (see Cullendoch below). The pronunciation in Scottish Gaelic is 'keroo', cf. the Manx form *kerroo*, or 'karoo', the latter being closer to Irish Gaelic *ceathrú*. The element occurs quite frequently in place-names, sometimes as *Kirrie-* or *Kir-* in Galloway when combined with descriptive words, though *Carrow-* is usual in Ireland (e.g. Carrowdore Co. Down), and Carhowe in Twynholm parish, on the old road to Senwick, is probably a single-element name **Ceathramh*.

However, it can be difficult to distinguish *ceathramh* from *carrach* 'stony, rocky', certainly appropriate to this burn (there are places where the latter has replaced the former, e.g. Carrickart in Co. Donegal). The 'u' sound in the pronunciation reported by Maxwell, and the 'ou' in the Ordnance Survey's spelling, both favour *ceathramh*, but the final consonant suggests *carrach*.

Carsluith

Recorded as *Carsluthe* in 1422, *Carsluth* 1517, and interestingly *Karsluyth* on Blaeu's map, this is a Cumbric name. The first element is probably *cors*, as in modern Welsh, 'reeds, rushes, sedge', but influenced by Scots *carse* 'marsh, riverside, floodland' (Older Scots *kers* from Old Norse *kjarr* 'brushwood'). -luith corresponds to Old Welsh *luit* (pronounced 'lu-id'), meaning primarily 'pale, faintly-coloured'; modern Welsh *llwyd* is usually translated 'grey', but 'pale reed-bed' is still a strikingly appropriate description for this location by the Cree estuary. It is certainly a historic place, with the Doon of Carsluith, and traces of old fields, an early slipway and possible fish-trap, pre-dating Carsluith Castle, mill, barn, quay and bridge, all of which are important monuments. The name could have originated at any date between the sixth century and the tenth or even eleventh, its preservation is evidence of the likely survival of Cumbric alongside Gaelic for some generations.

Carstramon / Castramont

This is an interestingly difficult name! The records include: *Karstromen* on Blaeu's map, *Castraman* 1610 and 1646 (War Papers), *Carstrammond* c1691 (Hearth Tax), *Carstramon* on General Roy's map c.1750, *Carstramond* in James Murray's Will 1797, *Castramont* 1837, *Carstramont* 1846, *Castramont* on the 1st edition OS map. Nowadays 'Carstramon' usually refers to the house, formerly a farm and then a country house, at one time occupied by the great benefactor of the burgh, Mrs Elizabeth Murray Usher and her husband Neil, while 'Castramont' refers to the Burn, Cleugh (see Cleugh Burn below), Doon, Hill, and Wood, and names the street in Gatehouse heading towards (but no longer serving as the road to) Castramont Wood.

The 19th century forms probably reflect antiquarian interpretations involving Latin *castra* ‘a camp’ and *mons, montis* ‘a hill’; the 1st edition OS map shows a ‘Roman Fort’ next to Castramont House, but that was illusory. However, the 17th century forms with *Cas-* should not be ignored, see below.

Maxwell takes Pont’s *Carstramon* recorded on the Blaeu map as nearest to the original, interpreting the name as **Cars tromán* ‘carse of the elder trees’, a plausible etymology but not without problems. In the first place, *carse* is not really a Gaelic word, it is (as explained under Carsluith above) Scots; though it was eventually borrowed into Gaelic and spelt *cars*, combining with Gaelic elements in place-names such as Carsphairn. Cumbric *cors*, as in Carsluith, should not be ruled out, but it would require a Cumbric second element. It could even be a corruption of Cumbric *crois* (modern Welsh *croes*) or Gaelic *croisg* ‘cross’ in the sense of ‘crossing-place’ (see Corse of Slakes below), which would be appropriate to the stepping-stones and later bridge here. And finally, while the 19th century forms may be deceptive, *Cas-* in the two seventeenth century records should not be ignored: Gaelic *cas* ‘foot’ might be the origin. So the first part of the name must remain doubtful.

As to *-tramon*, Gaelic *droman*, is indeed a word for ‘elder’ (like most Celtic tree-words, it is generally collective, ‘elder bushes’, Scots *bourtrees*). It is rare in Scottish place-names, though though Pittormie in Dairsie, Fife, may involve the singular form *trom*; Trumman in Co. Donegal and Glentramman in Lezayre on the Isle of Man probably preserve the Irish and Manx equivalents. But *droman* can also be a suffixed form of *druim*, ‘a ridge’, found in Ulster at Glasdrumman in Co. Armagh and Drummanbane in Co. Cavan (‘green ridge’ and ‘white ridge’ respectively), and would be appropriate here. And there is even the possibility that *tramont* is a contraction of Cumbric **tre(v)-mōnið* ‘farm by a hill or ridge’; the modern Welsh form would be *tre-fynydd*, but the mutation of *m* to *f* (pronounced ‘v’) is not always found in Cumbric names. *Trev* regularly becomes *Tra-* in southern Scotland (Trabboch in Ochiltree Ayrshire, Trabeattie in Torthorwald Dumfriesshire are just two of many); and *mōnið* (pronounced roughly ‘monith’, with *-th* as in ‘with’) commonly becomes *-mont*, sometimes *-mon*.

There is a Castramon in Dunscore parish, Dumfriesshire. Johnson-Ferguson gives no early forms, he interprets as Gaelic *cas* ‘foot’ plus *tramon* (modern *droman*) ‘elder’. It may be a transferred name, from the place in the Fleet Valley.

So the range of plausible possibilities, in several permutations, is wide, but no-one can ever claim certainty regarding this intriguing name.

Castle Wilkie

A prominent peninsular rock at the north end of Mosseyard Bay. Wilkie is a familiar form of William in Middle English and Scots, probably ultimately of Dutch or Flemish origin. I have no information as to the identity of Wilkie here, but the rock-name name was probably a joke at his expense. The inverted formation, as at Castle Douglas and Castle Kennedy, would have originated with bilingual speakers of Gaelic and Scots, but Castle Douglas certainly long post-dates the death of Gaelic in the Stewartry, and Castle Wilkie is likewise surely a Scots formation.

Cat Craig

The rocky outcrop off Cardoness Point in Dalavan Bay was probably named by seafarers for its appearance as a crouching cat in the water at high tide, a threat to boats.

Cauch Moss

Coffe in Girthon parish appears in the Register of the Great Seal in 1512, and Maxwell records *Cauch Moss*, but I can find no trace of these on OS or earlier maps. Variation between (Scots) ‘ch’ and ‘ff’ is not unusual (cf. Affleck, Auchinleck) these two records probably imply a long vowel, ‘aw’.

Glenlaggan in Parton parish was formerly *Cauchie*: this might be from the surname Mac Eachaidh, ‘horseman’s son’ (MacGaughey, MacGaffey, etc.) and that might conceivably be relevant to the Girthon name. On the other hand, *coff(e)* in Older Scots meant ‘a dishonest rogue’ (modern Scots *coof* ‘a fool’, and English slang ‘cove’, ‘a fellow’, are both related), and a range of other words in Cumbric, early Gaelic, Old English and Old Norse could be suggested, though none would be free of phonetic

difficulties. In the absence of evidence for both the location and the historical forms of the name, there is little point in speculating.

Clauchan of Girthon, Clachan of Anwoth

Early Gaelic *clochan* meant ‘stones’ (as it still does at Muscle Clachan rocks on the Colvend coast), but (with a slight modification to the sound of the suffix, *-án*) it came to refer, especially in place-names, to prehistoric stone monuments, kirkyards, and ultimately to buildings, especially ‘a church and the cluster of buildings around it’. Adopted into Scots, *clachan* is the usual word for a small nucleated settlement, a hamlet (a larger settlement is a *toun*, ‘village’ is not a Scots word).

Clauchan of Girthon was the early nucleus of the parish, around a kirk that existed by the thirteenth century. The spelling *Clauchan* is usual in earlier records for Galloway and Ayrshire, suggesting a pronunciation closer to Manx *claghan* and Irish *clochan* than modern Scottish Gaelic *clachan*. As well as at Clauchan of Girthon, the old spelling is still used in Clauchandolly (probably **Clachan na dalach*, ‘hamlet of the meadow’) a former stithy in Senwick (formerly Borgue) parish, and Langbarns in Tongland was *Low Clauchan* on the 1st edition OS map.

But on the same map, the farm further up the hill in Tongland is already ‘standardised’ as High Clachan, and the settlement around Anwoth Old Church is Clachan of Anwoth, though *Clauchan* is used in the 1853 Census, and the term Kirkland also occurs. Clachan is found as a single-element name in Wigtownshire at Kirkcolm in the North Rinns and Clachan of Myrton in the Machars, and is an element in at least ten more place-names in Galloway.

Cauldside

Cauldside, on the north-east side of Cairnharrow overlooking the road up to The Corse of Slakes, with Cauldside Burn, Cauldside Steps where the burn flows into the Skyre Burn, and Cauldside plantation, is a dourly descriptive Scots name. It is found pretty frequently in Scotland, for example in Buittle parish (‘in ruins’ on the 1st edition OS map) and Cauldside Hill in Lochrutton, and in Canonbie and Dunscore parishes in Dumfriesshire. ‘Cold’ is quite common in place-names in England too, though the combination with ‘side’ seems characteristically Scots.

The Cauldside Stone Circle, higher up the Cauldside Burn, is not marked on the 1st edition 6” OS map, but is shown, along with cairns and a cup and ring marked stone, on current OS 1:25000 maps.

Chain Bridge and Wood

On the 1st edition OS map, the road climbing up from Creetown towards Dromore crosses the Moneypool Burn at Chain Ford, but by 1907, when it featured on a postcard, Chain Bridge had been built. Moreover, the road out of Creetown is Chain Road, and the woodland alongside the road and burn here, all appearing as part of Chapelton Wood on the 1st edition map, is distinguished as Chain Wood on later maps (varying somewhat in its size and shape) from the 1920s onward.

While there might have been a chain for some reason at the ford, it seems unlikely that the name would have been kept for the bridge, which has no chain. The chain as a unit of measurement might possibly be involved: the standard Gunter’s Chain was 22 yards and, though there was good deal of local variation, the ford and subsequent bridge are nothing like this length. However, approaching the ford from Creetown, the road ran close alongside the watercourse, and then skirted some marshy ground probably prone to flooding, so this stretch might have been perceived as a ‘long ford’ of approximately that length.

But the extension of the name to the road itself and to the wood suggests that Chain was actually the name of the location, not just the ford. This raises the tentative possibility of Gaelic *teanga* ‘tongue’: the low-lying ground immediately below the ford projects in a shape much like that of an ox-tongue. In Mochrum parish on the Machars there is Changue (with Changue Fell, Burn, Bridge, Heugh, Point and Port; *Schaing* 1636, *Chang* on Blaeu’s map), on a ‘tongue’ of land. There are also a pair of Changues, with Changue Plantation between them, near Barr in Carrick, and Chang Hill in forest near Dalleagle near the border between Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire. All of these are likely to reflect *teanga*, and it is not inconceivable that ‘Chain’ was a reinterpretation of **Chang*.

Clene

Clene Farm, on a hillside to the east of Airds Bay, was part of the Barony of Laick and was mentioned in James Murray of Cally's will in 1797. It is shown in ruin on the 1st edition OS map, and the land is now incorporated into Boreland of Girthon Farm.

Maxwell was doubtless right in seeing this as Gaelic *claon* 'a slope', seen as Cleen in townland names in Ulster, and as Clane in Co. Kildare. The spelling Clene (sometimes Clean) indicates a pronunciation closer to the Ulster Gaelic than the northern Scottish Gaelic reflected in Clyne, Brora, in Sutherland.

Cleugh Burn

Cleugh Burn flows from the Doon of Culreoch down into the Little Water of Fleet.

Cleugh or *cleuch* is the Scots word for a steep-sided gorge, from Old English *clōh*, likewise *cleugh* in Cumbria and Northumberland, and *clough* further south, especially in place-names in the millstone grit country of the Pennines and the Dark Peak. There are many names formed with this element in the Stewartry, for others in Girthon parish see Cleugh of Eglon and Crowcleugh; also near Gatehouse are Cleugh, with Cleugh Burn, south of Twynholm on the Gatehouse to Kirkcudbright road, and Cleugh of Carsluith with Cleugh Head.

Cleugh of Eglon

Cleugh of Eglon is marked on the 1st edition and subsequent OS maps, between Craighowrie and Craigherron. It is a narrow, rocky defile followed by an old road, now a forestry track, to Loch Grannoch in the far north of Girthon parish. Two sites nearby are reminders of earlier users of the routeway: Souter's Stone, recalling itinerant shoe and harness makers, and a memorial stone inscribed 'In memory of Maggie', commemorating a pony that used to carry goods to Loch Grannoch Lodge until she collapsed and died on the road.

Eglon is obscure. Maxwell compares Eglin Lane, which flows from Loch Enoch in Wigtonshire to Loch Doon in Ayrshire, and refers to 'Eglon Hole in Yorkshire which Lucas (p. 101) derives from a man's name.' Lucas is unfortunately missing from Maxwell's bibliography, and Eglon Hole is not to be found in any of the English Place-Name Survey volumes for the Yorkshire Ridings, but internet research suggests that it was a name for what is now Hole of Horcum in the North Yorkshire Moors, where Eglon was a local man's name. But here, unless we care to pursue it to the biblical city of Eglon (possibly Aijlon in Jordan, but there is nothing to suggest that Eglon was in a gorge), or even to the very fat King Eglon, the trail goes cold.

Clints of Dromore

Clint 'a crag or cliff' is of East Norse origin, passing into Scots and northern English dialects. It occurs quite frequently in place-names in the hills of the Pennines and the Borders, and in Galloway; in all areas it is seen most often as a single element name Clint or Clints, or in an uncompounded phrase as here and at the Clints of Clenrie in Kells and the Clints of the Buss and the Spout in Minnigaff. As well as the impressive Clints of Drummore (sic, see Dromore below), the 1st edition OS map marks Oak Clints to the east, at the southern tip of the Craigs of Burnfoot.

Cloven Stone

This is presumably a natural feature on the easter slope of the Rig of Burnfoot, but now hidden among forestry. The name is obviously English, the Scots form **clowen-stane* is preserved in Clownstane Burn that flows through Clownstane Gill into the Buckland Burn in Kirkcudbright parish.

Collin Island

Collin Island, by the Otter Pool on the Black Water of Dee, and no longer an island, is marked on the 1st edition OS map with Collin Ford crossing from Girthon to Kells alongside it. This is likely to be from early Gaelic *cuilionn* (modern *cuileann*) 'holly'; there is a Holly Island (again no longer an island) in the

Dee upstream of Collin Island (not, pace Maxwell, downstream); it is certainly a common element in Gaelic place-names.

There are several ‘Collin’ names in our region, especially east of the Dee. Collin Hill in Buittle parish, south-east of the Old Military Road between Haugh of Urr and Castle Douglas, is said by Maxwell to be close to *Knockwillan* (sic, though he lists it later as Knockwhillan, like the hill of that name in Balmaghie parish); that name is not found in this location on OS maps, but if Maxwell is correct, he is justified in interpreting this as **cnoc chuilinn* ‘holly hillock’, and Collin Hill as a ‘part translation’ of the same.

Collin Burn, otherwise Hass Burn, has first-syllable stress, again probably reflecting *cuilinn*: it flows from Bengairn down to Auchencairn, with Collin Hill, Mains of Collin, Collin Cottage, Collin Farm (*Colynn* on Blaeu’s map), Collin Mill, and Collin Wood along its course (*Collin Dub*, an obscure feature, possibly a well, marked on the 1st edition OS map to the north-east of Collin Wood, is presumably associated).

However, not all these need have the same origin: Collin in Torthorwald parish, Dumfriesshire (well-documented as *Culy* in 1320, *Coulyn* 1363, *Convyne* (sic) 1370, *Koulyin* 1660) is pronounced with stress on the second syllable, implying Gaelic **cùil-fhionn* ‘white nook’ (see Cuil Hill below); the same might be true of other Collins east of the Nith, including Collin Burn and Collin Hags in Langholm; Colin Craigs and Colin Hill west of Beattock; Collin Bank (otherwise Side Fell, close to the border) in Askerton, Cumberland.

Other possibilities (all with first-syllable stress) include Gaelic *colluinn*, recorded by Dwelly as a variant of *calluinn* ‘hazel’, Cumbric **collin* (modern Welsh *collen*) ‘a hazel bush’, *cuilean* ‘whelp, puppy’ (suggested, as ‘wolf cubs’, by Maxwell as an alternative to the identical *chuilinn* ‘of holly’ at Alwhillan in Kells, a name I’ve not found on OS maps), or *cailin* ‘girl’. The last is phonetically close to ‘Collin’, and women and girls played a key role in tending the livestock on summer pasture along with milking, butter-churning and cheese-making, but this is seldom reflected in place-names.

Corbie Craig

Corbie Craig is the prominent spur of the Craig of Grobdale visible across the Castramont Burn from the Gatehouse to Laurieston road. *Corbie*, from an Anglo-French diminutive of *corbeau* is one of the Scots words for ‘crow’, but sometimes, and I think likely here, ‘raven’. There is another Corbie Craig, in Kells parish on the steep east flank of Bennan, north-east of Clatteringshaws Loch.

Corbie’s Cove

The little bay at the foot of the wee burn (un-named on OS maps) marking near the coast the boundary between Anwoth and Kirkmabreck (earlier Kirkdale) parishes. *Corbies* might refer to crows here, but the final –s, reinforced by an apostrophe on the 1st edition OS map, is likely to imply a personal name, either the surname or nickname of someone associated with this place. Corbieton in Buittle parish may likewise preserve a personal name.

If it was a surname derived from a place-name, the nearest Corby of several in Scandinavian-influenced parts of England is across the Solway in Cumbria: Great Corby in Wetheral, with Little Corby close by in Hayton, in the Eden Valley. *Bý* is an Old Danish settlement term, ‘a farm or village’, but early records show the first element here was either a common Middle Irish personal name *Corc*, or Gaelic *coirce* ‘oats’ borrowed into Norse as *korki*, either way reflecting the mixed Gaelic – Scandinavian settlement in the Solway basin.

Corse Burn

‘Corse’ is a challenge to place-name scholars. There are two Corse Burns in the Stewartry, four more in Dumfriesshire, and more than sixty names involving the sequence ‘Corse’ on OS maps in our region. Sometimes it the Scots form of ‘cross’, referring either to a monumental cross, or to a crossing-place – a crossroads, a boundary, or a road across upland (see Corse of Slakes below) - and often it could equally be both, as a stone or wooden cross may once have stood at any crossing-place; in yet others, it may have been *carse* ‘marsh, riverside, floodland’ (see Carsluith above).

Corse Burn is a short burn flowing down a cleuch to join the Little Water of Fleet upstream of Craigie Linn. It was bridged by the railway line, which followed a route earlier proposed for a turnpike road, though there is little reason to suppose it corresponded to any pre-existing way between the Glenkens and the Cree. It seems doubtful if the name referred to any crossing-point or route, nor is there any reason to suppose a cross stood in the vicinity.

It is tempting, then, to see Cumbric *cors* in this burn-name as in Carsluith, though the reference here would be to rushes rather than reeds: to judge by the maps and photos on the internet, heath-rush and wood-rush are abundant in the marshy areas close to the burn that are not covered by forestry plantations.

Another Corse Burn, in Minigaff parish, is the main headwater of the Tonderghie Burn. That burn was crossed by the Old Edinburgh Road downstream of the point where Corse Burn becomes Tonderghie Burn, but it is conceivable that Corse Burn was the earlier name for the whole course of the stream down to its confluence with the Palnure Burn, in which case a 'crossing' would be appropriate.

Corse Loch, below Sour Hill just south-east of Twynholm village, seems largely man-made, with a small channel (unnamed on OS maps) running from it to feed the Old Mill Burn. It is impossible to say whether this was yet another Corse Burn; it is not close to any obvious crossing place or likely site for a cross, but as with all these 'Corse' names with little or no early record, it behoves us to be cautious.

Corse of Slakes

The bracing road over the hills from Skyeburn to Ferrytown, now Creetown, is formed with two guid Scots words. *Corse* is here pretty surely the Scots form of 'cross' in the sense of 'a crossing'; Corse o Cornhulloch in Mochrum, Wigtownshire, is another example where this is likely.

A *slake* (sometimes *slack* as in northern England) is primarily 'a hollow or depression in the ground', but here more specifically, 'a valley between hills, lower, frequently boggy, ground between stretches of rising ground.' This clearly applies to the high part of the road as it crosses Glenquicken Moor, the watershed between Pibble Hill and Cambret Hill. It is from Old West Norse *slakki*, probably related to Old English *sloh* 'slough', which corresponds to *slake* in southern England, and to Gaelic *sloc* 'a hollow'.

Corseyard, Corsemartin and Corsewood

Most conspicuous for its 'cow palace', Corseyard, with Corseyard Point, by Kirkandrews, lacks early documentation. It would appear to be Scots, 'cross-yard', implying a cross once sttod in an enclosure here, perhaps the dun on the point. Theoretically, Older Scots *cors-zard* could be a 'corpse-yard', but there is no record of any such compound.

'Corse' occurs not far away, in Corsemartin to the east of Borgue Old Manse, and Corsewood, with Corsewood Drum (ridge) to the north-west. Corsemartin is the name of a hill, though it seems to imply a cross associated with St Martin of Tours, the pioneer of monasticism in Gaul, with whom Anglian hagiography associates St Ninian of Whithorn (Maxwell lists a Corsemartin in Balmaghie, but this seems to be an error). This group of names is intriguing, but in the absence of early documentation, speculation is pointless.

Court Knowe

A small but prominent rocky *knowe* 'knoll' just below High Auchenlarie farm has traces of a possible iron-age 'fort' with remains of a stone structure within and traces of early cultivation in the vicinity, though in the absence of systematic archaeological investigation, it is hard to judge how much is natural formation, or to give date or context to whatever was man-made or engineered.

The name (paralleled by several Court Hills etc. in Scotland) seems to imply that it was at some time a local meeting-place; given its location and prominence, that is not unlikely, but there is no historical record. *Court* is also used in Scots for a yard or an enclosed garden, which might be relevant given the

ambiguous archaeological remnants; I am advised by John Wilkinson that it can also mean ‘a covered enclosure for cattle’, though that usage is not recorded in the DSL.

Cow Park

One of the Parks enclosed within the grounds of Cally House, this being the area immediately to the east of the house; the name probably refers to the herd of White Park Cattle kept by James Murray in the late 1700s.

Craig

Scots *craig*, from Gaelic *creag*, ‘crag’, occurs not surprisingly in a great many names in the rocky Stewartry. Names in which ‘Craig-’ precedes a (certainly or probably) Gaelic specific are Gaelic in origin and considered separately below. Michael Ansell has pointed out to me that *creag* in Galloway seems to have been used in the same sense as *clach* further north, for a single large boulder or slab (see Craigherron Island below). Uncompounded ‘Craig of’ or ‘Craigs of’ are Scots: to be found in or around the Fleet Valley are the following:

Cat Craigs of Auchenloy, west of Loch Skerrow, see Auchenloy; there are other Cat Craigs (singular or plural) in Balmaghie, Colvend, Crossmichael, Kells, and Minigaff parishes, the ones in Colvend and Minigaff actually ‘Wild Cat Craigs’ on the OS map, and wild cats no doubt frequented all these crags in the past (but see above for the maritime Cat Craig).

Craigs of Burnfoot, to the south-west of Loch Skerrow, see Burnfoot.

Craig of Grobdale, south-east spur of the White Top of Culreoch, overlooking the course of Grobdale Lane, see Grobdale.

Craig of the Fell, on the south-west of Castramont Hill, presumably that is ‘the Fell’; see Carstramon.

Black Craig, the secondary summit of Shaw Hill, north-east of the Fell of Fleet.

The last two could be Scots or Scottish Standard English.

Craigbrack

With the Rig (ridge) of Craigbrack, now a location in the forestry plantation across the Fleet from Dromore. It is certainly Gaelic **Creag bhreac* ‘speckled craig’, probably referring to the coarse-grained, quartz-rich granite outcrop here.

Craigherron Island and Craigherron

The small island near the southern end of Loch Skerrow, and the south-east spur of Craigherron that overlooks the Cleugh of Eglon to the east, are both probably **Creag a'chaorann* ‘rowan craig’. The name of the former now refers to the whole island, and the latter to a wide plateau of rough, grassy moorland, but in both cases, we can presume, originally to a specific craig: indeed, the island itself might be seen as an example of a *creag* in the sense of a massive boulder, see under Craig above.

Craigenboy

In Kirkmabreck parish, with Craigenboy Wood, on the road from Pibble Mine down to Creetown, this is *Creagan bhuidhe*; *-an* here is diminutive, it is a (relatively) small craig; *buidhe* is ‘pale yellow’, it typically refers to places where moorland grasses, like Matt Grass and Wavy Hair Grass, give the place a bleached appearance in winter.

Craiggibboch

Rocks in Skyreburn Bay, covered at high tide; the name looks like **Creag ghibeach* ‘rough, hairy craig’, referring maybe to an abundance of kelp.

Craigie Linn

Gaelic *creagach* might be behind Craigie, but it is probably Scots, and certainly ‘craggy’.

In Welsh place-names *llyn* is generally ‘a pool’, including ‘a river-pool’, but in the other Celtic languages the meaning is wider, in place-names referring to streams, marshland and sea-pools. A particular use in Gaelic place-names is for ‘a pool beneath a waterfall’, and this is adopted in Scots generally. However, a different and unrelated word, Northumbrian Old English *hlynn* underlies the dialectal usage of *linn* in Northumberland and in southern and south-western Scots for ‘a waterfall, a cataract’. Craigie Linn is a small waterfall and a pool below it, just above Burnfoot on the Little Water of Fleet; as often in southern Scotland, the two senses fall together.

There is a Craigy Linn in Dalry parish, and twenty or so other ‘linns’ in the Stewartry.

Craiglowrie

Maxwell offers **creag labhrach* ‘speaking crag, i. e. echoing’; though ‘echoing’ is not recorded in Dwelly’s dictionary, it is plausible, a ‘speaking crag’ somewhere on the hill might indeed have had a remarkable echo. However, Gaelic *labh(a)rach* ‘talkative, noisy’ is commonly a burn-name: Lavery Burn in Carrick, by the Newton Stewart to Girvan road, is an example, while Louran Burn in Minnigaff (*Lauren b(urn)* on Blaeu’s map, rising on Meikle Mulltaggart a couple of miles to the west of Craiglowrie), and Lowring Burn in Kells, both preserve a suffixed form **labar-án*. Craiglowrie Burn, might have been originally **Labharach*, after which the fell was named.

Alternatively, the second element might perhaps be the personal name *Lowrie* or *Laurie*, the Scots short-form of Laurence, as in Laurieston; that however is a relatively modern name. *Lowrie* has been a literary name for a fox, like Reynard, since Robert Henryson’s *Fables* in the fifteenth century, but there is no evidence for its use in Galloway (but see Craighshinging etc. below). ‘Craig-’ in first position implies a Gaelic formation, a combination with a Middle Scots personal name is not impossible, but not very likely.

Craignesket

The outermost group of rocks at Mossyard Bay is marked as ‘Craignesket’ on OS maps, but as *Kraigneskan* on Blaeu’s map, and Maxwell is surely right to take this as authentic, a contraction of **Creag nan fheusgan* ‘rock of the mussels’.

Craigmore Point

The headland at the south end of Airds Bay, Gaelic **Creag mòr* ‘great crag’. This combination of elements is common, in the Stewartry there is also Craigmore, with Craigmore Bridge, in Parton parish, and Craigmore Hill in Lochrutton.

Craigmule

Across the Kirkdale Burn from Cairn Holy, Craig Mule is probably Gaelic **Creag maol* ‘bald, bare crag’, or **Creag a’ mhaoil* ‘crag of the bald hill’.

Craigronald

Craigronald is the fell, an eastward spur of Meikle Multaggart overlooking Grennoch Lodge, at the northernmost tip of Girthon parish. The Stey Green of Craigronald on its northern edge is, very appropriately, Scots *stey* ‘steeply sloping’, from Old Norse *stegi* ‘a steep ascent’; the aimiably named Bonny Bosom is a boggy area to the east of The Stey Green.

Blaeu’s map marks *Kraig Randell* straddling what appears to be a (non-existent?) western tributary of the Pullaugh Burn that flows north from Loch Grennoch into the Black Water of Dee. Maxwell identified this with a ‘Craig Rounal’ in Minigaff, which I have been unable to locate; he saw that as having the same etymology. But the names on Blaeu’s map in this area relate generally to locations immediately to their left (south), *Kraig Randell* is pretty clearly Craigronald.

Rögnvaldr, evolving to Ragnall in West Norse, Raghnull, Raonall in Gaelic, Ranald, Ronald in Scots and English, Reginald in Anglo-Norman French, and many other variants, was a very popular name among the Scandinavian sea-lords who strove for control of power-bases on the islands and coastlands of the Irish Sea and the to the north as far as Orkney and Shetland: Ragnall grandson of Ímar arrived on the scene in 914 and established bases at Waterford, on the Isle of Man, and quite possibly Galloway too, from where he presented a serious threat to the rulers and people of Dublin, Ulster, the Scots' kingdom of Alba, and Anglian Northumbria; Rögnvaldr Guðröðson, claimant to the kingdom of Man, was a close ally of Alan Lord of Galloway between 1215 and 1229 when he died; in the three centuries between these two, several others of this name (in one form or another) may have had some connection with, or impact upon, or region; we cannot have any certainty whether the eponymous Ronald was one of these, or some other, more peaceful farmer.

The name is of the 'inversion' type: although both Craig- and -ronald are Scots in form, the order of elements is Celtic, it probably began as Gaelic **Creag-Raonail*, subsequently adapted to Scots pronunciation.

Craigshinging, Craigshinnie and Craigshundie

Craigshinging hill near Murayton, across the Fleet from Upper Rusko, is pretty surely Gaelic **Creag-sionnaich* 'fox crag'. Craigshinnie beneath Bennan in Kells parish has the same origin, and Craigshundie Loch, in Kirkandrews parish to the east of Knockbrenn, interestingly preserves an earlier form, Middle Irish *sindach*, implying that the name was given by early Gaelic speakers, and had already passed into local Scots usage by about 1200. 'Fox', in the absence of the definite article in all these cases might, as Maxwell points out, have been a man's nickname (see also Craiglowrie above). Under Craigshinnie and Craigshundie he refers to names from Pont, *Kraigsinday* and *Kraigsunday hil*, but I cannot find these on the Blaeu maps.

Craigtype

The secondary summit of the Laghead Fell, overlooking Loch Whinyeon, is interestingly formed with the regional Scots word *type* 'a low, conical hill'. The Types overlook Tonderghie Burn and the wild goat range by The Queen's Way in Minigaff parish, and Black Type and Type Knowe are among several hill-names formed with this word in Dumfriesshire.

The Scottish National Dictionary leads us to two possible meanings. One is verbal, 'to become weary with hard work, to toil, labour, to walk with difficulty from weakness or weariness', though Chambers Scots Dictionary also lists it as a noun 'hard labour, accompanied by much walking'. The origin is obscure, though in northern English dialects, *type* can mean 'to tip' in the sense of 'topple over'.

However, the SND relates the Dumfriesshire (and, we must infer, Galloway) usage to an early modern English *type* or *tipe*, which the Oxford English Dictionary in turn shows firstly in architectural contexts, 'a small dome or cupola', but extending to 'the summit, acme, highest point', and declares the origin and history obscure, though apparently synonymous with 'tip' in the sense of highest point.

Whether it be 'wearisome crag' or 'summit crag', Craigtype is a true example of an 'inversion', two Scots elements, the second certainly not Gaelic, put together in Celtic order, probably by speakers who were bilingual.

Craigwhinnie

The high fell at the northern end of Girthon parish, overlooking Loch Fleet, is probably **Creag mhuine* 'crag of low, shrubby thicket', or else *mhòine* 'of peat'. There is another Craigwhinnie, in Kirkmaiden on the south Rinn; Maxwell lists a *Craigfinnie* in New Abbey, though I do not find this on OS maps; Craigenfinnie hill near Dalbeattie is formed with the diminutive *creagan*; all these probably share the same second element with Craigwhinnie. Gaelic *mhuine* would have sounded to Scots speakers sufficiently like 'whinnie' to suggest an abundance of *whin*, gorse (*whin* could be from the Gaelic, though the SND does not mention that possibility, considering it 'probably Scandinavian').

Craigy Braes Wood

Scots ‘craggy steep slope’, which accurately describes the location of this wood in Anwoth, on the south-west edge of Low Ardwall Hill, overlooking the Skyreburn.

Crannoch

Crannoch Island, with Crannoch Ford just downstream (marked on the 1st edition OS map), are on The Black Water of Dee where it forms the parish boundary of Girthon. The Otter Pool picnic spot on the Raiders’ Road is a short way further downstream.

Crann is an important word in Gaelic: in Old Irish, the primary meaning was ‘a tree, standing timber’. In Scottish Gaelic, it developed several specialised senses reflecting the importance of good quality wood in the rural economy, ‘plough’ and ‘mast’ being two most significant. But **Eilean Crannach* here must have had the original sense, ‘wooded island, rich in timber’.

Cree

The river forming the western boundary of the Stewartry appears as *Crethe* in 1301, *Creth* 1363, *Creich* 1451. The variation between ‘ch’ and ‘th’ may simply reflect common scribal confusion between ‘c’ and the rounded form of ‘t’, but in Scots forms of Gaelic names, the sounds represented by ‘ch’ and ‘th’ are frequently confused.

Middle Irish *creth* (modern Irish *creath*, apparently not found in Scottish Gaelic) meant ‘a piece of craftsmanship, skilled work’, *crech* (Scottish Gaelic *creach*) ‘plunder, booty’, and *crith* (as in Scottish Gaelic) ‘shaking, tremor’. But, while the range of words used for river names can seem pretty wide, the most plausible etymology for Cree (which, along with *Kree*, is how the name appears on Blaeu’s maps) is early Gaelic *crìch* (modern *crìoch*) ‘boundary’: compare Drumcree Co. Armagh and Lisnacree in Co. Down, both on historic boundaries marked by rivers (the Upper Bann and the Cassy Water).

The river, with its wide estuary in Cree Bay is a natural border, there are indications (from differences in styles of carved crosses) that it divided the ecclesiastical influence of Whithorn from that of another centre to the east (perhaps Kirkcudbright) by the tenth century, that it was the western boundary of the original core area of Fergus lord of Galloway’s power (again, probably centred on Kirkcudbright) in the early twelfth century; it was certainly the border between the lands ruled by his sons, and subsequently between the Sheriffdoms of Wigtown and Dumfries, and later the western bound of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The Urr to the east, probably early Gaelic *or* (modern *oir*), another word for ‘a border’, was the boundary between the mediaeval dioceses of Whithorn and Glasgow, although the Lordship of Galloway, and subsequently the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, included *Desnes Ioan* to the east, making the Nith its eastern border.

Creoch

The spellings of High and Low Creoch are perplexing: High Creoch is High *Croach* on the 1st edition OS map (likewise High *Croach* Wood), but High Creoch in the 1851 Census, and on subsequent censuses and OS maps; Low Creoch is likewise Low *Croach* on the 1st edition OS map, but Low *Creach* in the 1851 Census, Low *Croech* in 1881, Low Creoch on later OS maps. local pronunciation seems to be consistent with ‘Croach’. Whatever the origin, there is a significant possibility of a connection between this name and Culreoch a couple of miles up the valley, with a pronunciation that rhymes with ‘Croach’: see discussion of that name below.

The best explanation for Creoch name is probably Gaelic *craobhach*, *craobh* ‘tree’ plus an adjectival suffix, so ‘abounding in trees, wooded’. The 1st edition OS map shows the hillsides overlooking the Fleet between the Barlay Burn and Lag Burn as mainly open grassland or heath with a good many scattered trees, the kind of land characterised by landscape historians as ‘wood pasture’, former woodland that had been regularly grazed by livestock over many centuries: see also Cruffock and Culreoch below.

In Scottish Gaelic, ‘ao’ is pronounced as a rounded vowel, rather similar to German ‘ö’ or French ‘eu’, but in Irish it is ‘ee’ or ‘ey’: the alternation between between ‘Croach’ and ‘Creoch’ here might reflect

some variation in the local pronunciation of *craobhach* between ‘crö(w)ach’ or ‘cre(w)ach’. However, see also Cruffock below.

An alternative consideration could be *cruach*, meaning literally ‘a heap, pile, stack’, but in place-names used of hills. There are several hills with ‘Cruach’ names in south-west Argyll, including at least four named simply A’Chruach; most are low, rounded, and stand somewhat apart from others, though Cruach Àrdrain is a Munro, and Cruach Innse a Corbett. In Ireland, *cruach* is commonly Anglicised as ‘Croagh’, as in Croaghgorm, the Blue Stack Mountains in Donegal. Much nearer home, Croach Hill between Boreland of Kelton and Gelston Lodge seems a good example of a *cruach*; High Croach in Inch in Wigtownshire is likewise on a rounded hill; Croachie Moss in Kells parish is overlooked by a small rounded hill; Maxwell lists a Croachan in Borgue parish which I cannot find on OS maps, but it would probably be a diminutive **Cruachán*. If this is the origin of the two Creochs in Girthon parish, the Bar of Barlay would probably be the *cruach*.

However, we should also notice Creoghs in Balmaghie, recorded as *Meikle Creochis* in 1511: Maxwell associates this with *Crows* (now Crouse) in Kirkinner, *Crows* (now Crews) in Old Luce and *Cruise* in New Luce, deriving all of them from Gaelic *crua(dh)as* ‘hardship’. The related word *cruadhach* ‘endurance’ is another possibility of Creoch. However, MacQueen (on the basis of early recorded forms) again sees Gaelic *craobh*, with an added Scots plural *-is* in the Luce Valley names, and that is perhaps preferable for Creoghs too.

High Creoch Burn is *Tanniefad* Burn on the 1st edition OS map, after the subsequently abandoned *Tanniefad Farm* upstream. This is surely Gaelic **Tamhnach fada* ‘distant cultivated spot’, very appropriate to the remote location. *Tamhnach* is used in hill country in Ulster and northern Connacht of patches of land cleared for cultivation in otherwise unproductive places: examples include Tamnaghbane Co. Armagh, Tamnabradly and Tamnamore Co. Tyrone, Tawny and Tawnalahan Co. Donegal, Tonaghmore and Tonaghneev, Co. Down. In Wigtownshire there are Tannyflux and Tannylaggie in Kirkcowan, Tannieraggie in New Luce, Tannoch in Penninghame, and in the Stewartry, Tannoch in Kells (both now deserted, one a ruin above The Raiders’ Road, near the Otter Pool, with Tannoch Burn and Tannoch Flow, the other in woods between Glenlee Mains and Old Glenlee), Tannoch Burns in Kells, Colvend and New Abbey, with Tannoch Hill and Gill also in the latter parish. *Tamhnach* is an interesting example of a place-name element shared between Ulster and Galloway, it is relatively uncommon elsewhere in Scotland and Ireland, and I am not aware of it on the Isle of Man.

Cross Cottage

This small house near Cally Palace, with its arched doorway and stepped gable with a cross on top, is thought to have built as a chapel for the Episcopalian English workers on the Cally Estate. The chaplain was appointed in 1796 (see Cushat Wood below). The chapel was closed in 1820, and on the 1st edition OS map, and in the 1851 Census, what is now Cross Cottage was called Porter’s Cottage. So its identification as the former chapel is not entirely certain, it may have just been a workers cottage designed to look interesting because it was close to the road leading to Cally House.

Crowcleugh

Crowcleugh is a narrow valley to the east of Dalmalin Hill, now in Glengap Forest: the name appears on the 1st edition OS map where Crowcleugh Burn flows down from gorge to join the Barlay Burn. A track runs past the confluence linking Barlay to Glengap, but there does not appear to have ever been any settlement here.

The name might simply be what it seems to be in English, though bear in mind that Scots *crows* are likely to be rooks (hooded crows are *hoodies* or *corbies*). But rooks and crows are so common as to hardly be a distinguishing feature of this or any other place in our area.

Gaelic *crò*, and its Cumbric cognate **cröw* (modern Welsh *crau*) means ‘a fold, pen or sty’. The word was taken up by Norse speakers as *kró*, and passed from them into southern (and Ulster) Scots and northern English dialects. In our region it is typically *crue*, which the Ordnance surveyors might well have taken for English ‘crow’. If so, Crowcleugh would most likely be ‘sheepfold gorge’. Alternatively

Gaelic *crobh* ‘hand, claw’ may in place-names refer to a hollow (thanks to John Wilkinson for this suggestion).

Cruffock

Downstream of Burnfoot on the Little Water of Fleet, this settlement is recorded in a Hearth Tax Return of 1691, and mentioned in the will of James Murray in 1797, but was ‘in ruins’ on the 1st edition OS map. It could well have been Gaelic *craobhach*, ‘wooded’, maybe sharing that description with Creoch above and Culreoch below (see the discussions of these), though the spelling implies a more typically Scottish Gaelic pronunciation. Alternatively, allowing for the possibility of Gaelic ‘ch’ becoming Scots ‘ff’ (see Cauch Moss above), Gaelic *cruachach* would be ‘a place of (hay or peat) stacks’ (thanks to John Wilkinson for this suggestion). Maxwell lists Cruffock in Balmaghie parish, but that seems to be a mistake.

Cuil Hill

Cuil is the easternmost of the three summits of the ridge with Mid Hill and Tor Hill, it overlooks Rusko.

In hill names, the likeliest origin is Gaelic **cùl* ‘the back, behind, posterior’ of anything: older dictionaries politely tell us that *cùl* can mean ‘back of the head’, and this might be appropriate for the ridge-spur above Rusko, though a ‘lower’ anatomical meaning cannot be ruled out. The same could apply to Drumcuil, a ridge in a forestry plantation in the north of Minigaff parish, west of Bargrennan, and Cuil Hill, with Cuil Burn, north of Caulkerbush in Colvend Parish, as to some Irish hill-names, such as Coolmore and Coolboy in Co. Donegal.

An alternative is *cùil* is ‘a corner, a nook’. It is often impossible to tell *cùl* and *cùil* apart in surviving forms, though a number of names north of the Forth combined with saints’ names must be *cùil* in the sense of ‘retreat’. In Ireland, *cùil* is especially common in Ulster, examples including Castle Coole, Coleraine, Rathcoole, as well as several townlands; it is also occurs, as *cooil*, on the Isle of Man. *Cùil* seems less appropriate to Cuil Hill, but it may be more likely at the farm named Cuil south-east of Carlingwark Loch in Buittle parish, and another, with Cuil Wood and Back Wood of Cuil, located below Blairs Hill, a western spur of the Cairnsmore of Fleet.

Besides examples already mentioned, Maxwell lists a Cuilpark in Balmaghie, though I have not found this on OS maps. In Dumfriesshire there is Cuil Bridge in Dunscore and Cuil Plantation (recorded 1610) in Westerkirk. Several names with ‘Cul-’ may involve *cùl* or *cùil*, we shall need to consider both elements further in the examples that follow.

Culcaigrie

Culcaigrie Moat is a deceptively motte-like natural feature just north of Trostrie Moat, and Culcraigie Farm (*Culquhreauch* 1510, *Culcreochy* on Blaeu’s map), along with Culcaigrie Loch and Meikle and Little Culcaigrie Hill with the Nick of Culcaigrie between, lie north of Trostrie in Twynholm parish. Here, *cùl* might refer (perhaps a little cheekily!) to the appearance of the pair of hills, though *cùil* for the location of the settlement, may be equally plausible.

For the descriptive element, here and at Caggrie in Inch, Drumcaggrie at Kirkcolm and Kirkcowan (the former not found on OS maps, the latter now Drumcagerie), Gaigrie In Urr (not found on OS maps) and Glengagrie in Buittle (I have not found this either), Maxwell suggests *cathagreach*: Middle Irish *caóg*, modern *cág*, Scottish Gaelic *cathag*, is a jackdaw. A suffix *-reach* would make it ‘abounding in jackdaws’, but no such suffixed form is recorded in the dictionaries, and an abundance of jackdaws is hardly unusual in Galloway. MacQueen suggests for Drumcagerie in Kirkcowan, *cathag-dhearg* ‘chough’, but choughs are *cathag dearg-chasag* or *casdearg*, ‘red-legged’, and normally nest on sea-cliffs.

But, most seriously, here at Culcaigrie, the sixteenth century records hardly support any proposal involving *cathag*. *Creach* in the sense of ‘ruin, devastation’, or *creachaidh* ‘of ruin’ would be phonetically closer to those, and *cruach* ‘heap’, *cruachadh* ‘heaped up’ (see Creoch above) or *croiche* ‘gallows’ (see Culcronchie below) cannot be ruled out. The name remains something of a mystery, and a

caution against confidence in inferring etymologies from present-day forms, or from relatively recent records, including the Ordnance Survey.

Culcronchie

Culcronchie on Fore Moor, by the road and former railway line between Dromore and Creetown, might take its name from Culcronchie Hill, the substantial fell to the north from which Culcronchie Burn flows down to the farm (*Kilcronchy* on Blaeu's map), if the hill was a *cùl*, or from the spur on which the farm is sited.

However, the second element is equated by Maxwell with that in Culcreuchie in Penninghame, *Culquhreauch* 1505, *Coulcreochy* on Blaeu's map; he interprets both as **Cùil-croiche*, 'gallows corner'. He cites Gala Hill near Culcreuchie as evidence for gallows there; Gala may well have been 'gallows', as is probably the case at Galashiels (Gala Water being a back-formation from the town-name) though it does not follow that *-creuchie* was *croiche*; the sixteenth century forms leave that in doubt (and they are strikingly similar to those for Culcaigrie above). Michael Ansell has also drawn my attention to Craigcrocket on the old drove road south of Carsphairn, now hidden in forestry, but overlooked to the north-west by the curiously-named hill, Irongallows – another possible *croiche*.

Culcronchie overlooks a bend in the road, though its route was probably affected by the building of the railway. A relatively remote roadside location like this would have been a typical site for gallows (compare Gallows Knowe marked on the 1st edition OS map west of the Skyreburn Bridge and close to the parish boundary between Anwoth and Kirkmabreck - earlier Kirkdale - on the old road to Carsluith), and *croiche* becoming *-cronchie* not impossible phonetically, but I know of no historical evidence for gallows here. Although Creoch, Culcaigrie and Culcronchie look very different, they all take us to a similar range of possibilities in early Gaelic, and the evidence in all three cases is insufficient for any certainty.

Cullendoch

This farm on the Big Water of Fleet above where the viaduct now stands is recorded in a Girthon Kirk Session minute of 1823, and appears as Meikle Cullendoch on the 1st edition and subsequent OS maps. Little Cullendoch is a short way downstream, across the water, so in the parish of Kirkmabreck; this was probably the Cullindach granted by David II to the Abbey of Dundrennan.

There is another Cullendoch (marked as a ruin on the 1st edition OS map), with Cullendoch Hill, in Carsphairn parish beside Carsphairn Lane, a headwater of the Dee; Cullendeugh in New Abbey is on a wee burn high above Shambellie; Balcullendoch is in Penninghame parish in Wigtownshire, on the uppermost reach of the River Cree, the name has been prefixed with Gaelic *baile-* 'farm'. Another group, without the medial syllable *-en-*, includes Culdoach Mote in Kirkcudbright parish, apparently the *Culyn Davach* in David II's grant (subsequently muddled in the Register of the Great Seal as *Culyndonald*), appearing as Kouldowoch on Blaeu's map (Maxwell misplaces it in Twynholm; the 1st edition OS map shows Culdoach farm along with the Burn, Moor and Hill, but the motte itself was not shown until more recently), and another dwelling named Culdo(a)ch shown on OS maps in Parton parish; Kildoach Hill near Straiton in Ayrshire may well have a similar origin.

Watson, followed by Maxwell, offers for Cullendoch the suggestion **cuilinn dabhach*, which he says is 'holly hollow', but this would have to be a very early formation (before about 500 AD): by the time of the *Gall-Ghàidheil*, 'holly hollow' would have been (in modern Gaelic spelling) **dabhach (a')chuilinn*, **cuilinn dabhaich* would be 'holly of, at a hollow'. This seems unconvincing, especially as there are three 'Cullen-' names, as well as the Culdoachs, to be explained.

However it is intriguing that four of these names in (or at Balcullendoch just outwith) the Stewartry involving 'cullen' or 'cul' are associated with boundaries. Cullendoch on the Fleet, as we have seen, straddles the parish boundary between Girthon and Kirkmabreck; Cullendoch Hill in Carsphairn overlooks Loch Doon and the boundary with Ayrshire; Balcullendoch is near where the boundaries of Wigtownshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Ayrshire meet (see Carrick above); Cullendeugh is adjacent to the

boundary between New Abbey and Kirkgunzeon parishes; and the Dee below Culdoach separates Kirkcudbright and Tongland parishes.

Gaelic *cùl seems unlikely in these case, unless ‘back, end’ was applied metaphorically to places at the edge of a parish or other defined district. *Cùil* as ‘a corner, a nook’ seems more appropriate to the locations in topography, and each could be said to lie at an angle or ‘corner’ of the adjacent boundary.

Turning to the second element, it is interesting to notice Culdaff in Co. Donegal, Irish *Cúil Dabhcha*, ‘corner or recess of a vat’, which (according to MacKay) refers to a rock in the Culdaff River near the site of an early church. The rock has a large hollow in it and was formerly known as ‘Baodán's boat’ in which the patron saint of the parish sailed from Scotland to Ireland. I am not aware of any comparable features at any of these sites in Galloway, though it might be a possibility to be borne in mind.

In any case, *dabhach* is indeed primarily ‘a tub, a vat’, but in what became Scotland, it was an important term for a unit of land (Scots *davoch*), measured by potential yield rather than area, and serving to define both tenurial rights and fiscal obligations. It is most evident in the former Pictish territories of the north-east, though there are good reasons for seeing its origins in Gaelic Dalriada (later Argyll).

Besides the ‘Cullendoch’ and ‘Culdoch’ place-names, *dabhach* is likely to be a single-element name at Doach, with Doach Burn and Doach Wood in Buittle parish, and Doach Steps marked on the 1st edition OS map on the Pulharrow Burn; we should note that this Doach Burn too is a parish boundary, between Buittle and Gelston, and Doach Steps were close to the boundary between Kells and Dalry parishes (which ran parallel to the Pulharrow Burn on the ridge above). *Dabhach* is also more or less probable in Knockendoch, the outlying summit on the northern edge of Criffel, Drumdoch near Souseat, Wigtownshire, and Dochryle and Docherneil in Carrick, south Ayrshire.

The presence names involving this word has been seen as evidence of *davochs* in the administrative system of mediaeval Galloway; it may have been introduced into Galloway by the *Gall-Ghàidheil*, but more probably under the Lordship of Galloway in the twelfth or thirteenth century. So a *cùl or *cùil (*na*) *dabhaich* might be interpreted as place at the ‘back’ or ‘corner’ of a *davoch*, if that was understood as an area of land, reflected in later parish bounds.

But there is another Scots derivative of *dabhach*, *doach* or *doagh*, that seems to be peculiar to the Stewartry, indeed to the River Dee, and is associated especially with the Doachs o Tongland (Meikle, Priory and Wee Doachs), a very productive salmon-trap on the natural cascade there, probably first set by the monks of Tongland Abbey, and lying directly below Culdoach Mote. Mactaggart gives ‘Doach – A waterfall; or a trap for fish in a waterfall.’ That a word for a large tub associated with rich produce should be used for a valuable fish-trap is unsurprising, and Culdoach could well have been named from the doach below.

Could a similar explanation apply to the others, in particular to Cullendoch on the Fleet? None are in locations where salmon-trapping on the scale of the Tongland doach would have been possible, though our Cullendoch is said to be quite a good spot for angling, and Cullendoch in Carsphairn, Balcullendoch and Doach Steps are all on watercourses probably followed upstream by spawning salmon; indeed, Michael Ansell considers the ‘stepping stones’ at Doach Steps to be possible relics of a fish-trap, there is a space in the middle suitable for a funnel-shaped wicker basket. On the other hand the burns at Cullendeugh and Doach in Buittle are hardly substantial enough to have held such features. At least in the first three cases the term *doach* might have extended to relatively small falls and fishing-pools, and traps to catch the salmon close to their spawning-beds cannot be ruled out.

Finally, a more general, topographic sense of ‘a tub-like hollow’ takes us back to ‘Baodán's boat’. Knockendoch is formed with *cnoc na-* (compare *Cnoc Dabhaich* in Lochinver, Assynt) or *cnocan*: although these are generally translated ‘knoll, hillock’, they can refer as here to significant eminences. The hill is not on any boundary or significant water feature, but there is a large corrie on the north-east side of the ridge between Knockendoch and Criffel where the Craighrockall Burn rises, maybe *dabhach*

refers here to this feature of the landscape. Culdoach in Parton might possibly be seen as lying in a hollow too: it is on no known boundary, and the burn nearby is only small, but it is a doubtful case.

To sum up, Cullendoch on the Fleet may most plausibly be interpreted as the ‘corner of a davoch’, and the same could well apply to Cullendoch in Carsphairn, Balcullendoch and Cullendeugh; Doach in Buittle and Doach Steps in Kells might also be associated with that unit of land. Alternatively, the two Cullendochs, Balcullendoch and Doach Steps might involve doach as a word for cascades or pools, and/or places where fish-traps were set. Culdoach above the Doachs o Tongland could be another ‘davoch corner’, but it would be a surprising coincidence that the prototypic doachs are immediately beneath it; Culdoach in Parton remains a puzzle.

Culreoch

Coulreoch on Blaeu’s map, mistakenly *Culdoach* in the 1851 Census, the farm at the foot of the Cleugh Burn that flows down to The Little Water of Fleet from the fell with double summits, The Doon of Culreoch and The White Top of Culreoch. There is another Culreoch, in the parish of Inch in Wigtownshire. The first element here is certainly *cùil* ‘corner, nook’, appropriate to the location of the farm sheltered in a small embayment in the hillside.

The pronunciation of the Girthon name is given on the *Place-Names in the Stewartry* website as ‘cul-row-ch’, i.e. rhyming with that give for Creoch, while the Wigtownshire Culreoch according to Maxwell is pronounced ‘Culroigh’ (presumably ‘gh’ representing a voiced form of Scots ‘ch’). Michael Ansell tells me Kirriereoch in Carsphairn is likewise pronounced with ‘-oach’.

Maxwell does not list Culreoch in Girthon, but he takes the second element in the Wigtownshire name to be *riabhach* ‘brindled, grizzled, greyish or brown’. However, MacQueen cites a 1506 spelling *Culquhreauch*: ‘quh’ represents Scots aspirated ‘wh’, which between ‘l’ and ‘r’ would have replaced Gaelic ‘ch’ (‘c’ mutated after feminine *cùil*), implying that the second element could be **-chraobhach* ‘abounding in trees, wooded’, identical to Cruffock discussed above, and the mutated form of *craobhach* proposed above for Creoch. MacQueen likewise takes the second element of the Wigtownshire Culreoch to be **-chraobhach*.

The land at Culreoch has characteristics of ancient wood-pasture (see discussion under Creoch above), so, although the hill-name *cruach* ‘stack’, or *cruadhach* ‘endurance’, are also possible, taking Creoch, Cruffock and Culreoch together, the idea that **Craobhach* was a name given to the whole of this middle part of the east side of the Fleet valley, from the Little Water of Fleet down to the Barlay Burn, seems plausible.

Doon is Gaelic *dùn*, which can indicate ‘a fort’, but the Doon of Culreoch is just a natural summit.

Cushat Wood

The house named Cushat Wood (sometimes one word, Cushatwood) is shown but not named on OS maps at 6” or larger scales, though it has been important in the history of Gatehouse. It was probably built originally as a home for the Episcopalian vicar appointed in 1796 (see Cross Cottage above). The vicar was also rector (in the Scottish sense of ‘headmaster’) of Gatehouse (or Cally) Academy, an Episcopalian school. This school and the small chapel closed in 1820. In 1841 the Cally Estate factor was living at ‘Academy Place’, probably Cushat Wood. A new Episcopalian chapel attached to Cally House was built c.1877; the chaplain lived at Cushat Wood, though the house seems to have been alternatively known as Cally Parsonage.

In 1904, Col. James Murray Baillie let out Cally House and used Cushat Wood as his Gatehouse home. When his son Col. Frederick Murray Baillie inherited the estate in 1908 he continued to live there until his death in 1924. His wife Elizabeth and daughter, also Elizabeth (later Murray-Usher), continued to live at Cushat Wood.

A Scots *cushat* is a wood-pigeon, of which there are still plenty. Presumably the name originally applied to the portion of woodland that was cleared for the original house. There is a Cushat Wood in New Abbey parish, and another near Langholm.

Cuttiemore Burn and Cuttie Shallow Burn

These two small watercourses drain eastwards into Loch Grennoch south and north of High and Low Craigeazle. On the 1st edition OS map, the Cuttie Shallow Burn forms part of the northernmost boundary of Girthon parish, bordering Minigaff; the Place-Names of the Stewartry website lists that under Girthon, though it includes Cuttiemore Burn (which is within Girthon on the OS map) in Minigaff; Maxwell places both in Minigaff, giving an alternative spelling *Kittyshalloch* for Cuttie Shallow Burn.

In spite of their Scots appearance, these burn-names are probably Celtic. Maxwell suggests for the first element *cèide* (earlier *cèite*), a rare word in Scottish toponymy, though Dwelly lists it with the meaning ‘hillock’ alongside ‘market, fair, green’, and it is more common in Ulster, where *Céide* is the town of Keady (pronounced ‘kay-dee’) in Co. Armagh, and Bottlehill in the same county was formerly *Keadymore*, an *Céide Mór*. The meaning in Irish place-names is rather more specific, usually ‘a flat-topped hill’; however, the fact that these burns are associated with a boundary makes another sense recorded in the Dictionary of the Irish Language, ‘meeting-place’, an interesting possibility.

Cuttiemore could well have the same origin as *Keadymore*, meaning either ‘big flat-topped hill’, which could be a fair description of Low Craigeazle, to judge by maps and photos, though it hidden by forestry, or it may have referred to a hillock in the glen of the Cuttiemore Burn. Otherwise, perhaps, ‘great meeting-place’, probably on some prominent raised, level ground.

For the second element in Cuttie Shallow Burn or *Kittyshalloch*, Maxwell offers *seilg* or *sealga* (the latter an Irish form) ‘of hunting’, ‘of a hunt’. Again, the reference might be to Low Craigeazle, or so some lesser hillock, and/ or to a place where hunters gathered.

In the background, there could possibly have been a Cumbric formation with Brittonic **cētos* ‘woodland’; this became modern Welsh *coed*, but in Scottish place-names sometimes developed to *keith*. For the second elements, Old Welsh *maur* (modern *mawr*) ‘big, great’ corresponds to Gaelic *mòr*, and Old Welsh *helgh* (modern *hely*) to Gaelic *sealg*; both these would have been transparent enough for Gaelic speakers to adapt the Cumbric form to their own; they may have substituted the first element (which has no Gaelic cognate) with their word for a hillock or a meeting-place, or simply preserved it without attention to its meaning.

Whatever its precise etymology, the Celtic first element in both names has been replaced by Scots *cuttie* ‘short’, via *kittie*. Both burns are relatively short, and the northern one may at least sometimes be shallow, but not, I think, distinctively so: the form *-shalloch* does support *-seilg* or *-sealga*, and this is a district where hunting would have been a regular feature of mediaeval and early modern life.