

## Some Place-names in and around the Fleet Valley

### ===== I =====

#### **Irelandton**

As *Irelandtown* on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, on the Twynholm side of the parish boundary, the farm lies by the Auchengashell Burn with Irelandton Moor to the north-west, Irelandton hill to the south-east, and just off the earliest route of the Old Military Road, which followed a way used by drovers and was probably an ancient cross-country track.

The name, which could have been a Scots or an English formation, , indicates either that the place was perceived as a ‘little Ireland’, or that it belonged to a man surnamed Ireland. In either case, it is a reminder of the strong and pretty well continuous links between Galloway and Ireland, with migration in either direction. The name could have been formed at any date from late Northumbrian to early modern, but the latter is more likely, when Irish immigrants were involved in cattle-rearing and droving, and the established Scots-speaking community would have regarded them as a distinctive community. Ingleston south of Twynholm, a Scots formation, likewise reflects a time when any *Inglis*, English, settlers were seen as a distinct group.

#### **Isle of Pins**

This tiny islet in a bend of the Little Water of Fleet between the Doon of Culreoch and the Scrogs of Drumruck might have been a source of ‘pins’ in the sense, both English and Scots, of wooden pegs used in many types of carpentry and joinery; they would have been made from a few coppiced bushes that could have grown here to produce the required slender stems where livestock could not graze.