

Introduction

The place-names in this book were collected as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Board-funded (AHRB) 'Norse-Gaelic Frontier Project, which ran from autumn 2000 to summer 2001, the full details of which will be published as Crawford and Taylor (forthcoming). Its main aim was to explore the toponymy of the drainage basin of the **River Beaully**, especially **Strathglass**,¹ with a view to establishing the nature and extent of Norse place-name survival along what had been a Norse-Gaelic frontier in the 11th century. While names of Norse origin formed the ultimate focus of the Project, much wider place-name collection and analysis had to be undertaken, since it is impossible to study one stratum of the toponymy of an area without studying the totality. The following list of approximately 500 names, mostly with full analysis and early forms, many of which were collected from unpublished documents, has been printed out from the Scottish Place-Name Database, for more details of which see Appendix below. It makes no claims to being comprehensive, but it is hoped that it will serve as the basis for a more complete place-name survey of an area which has hitherto received little serious attention from place-name scholars.

Parishes

The parishes covered are those of **Kilmorack** KLO, Kiltarlity & Convinth KCV, and **Kirkhill** KIH (approximately 240, 185 and 80 names respectively), all in the pre-1975 county of Inverness-shire. The boundaries of Kilmorack parish, in the medieval diocese of Ross, first referred to in the medieval record as **Altyre**, have changed relatively little over the centuries. The main change concerns the large estate of **Crochail** (now **West, Mid and East Crochail**), along with **Inchully**, on the south side of the **River Glass**. These lands lay in Kilmorack parish until 1891, when they were transferred to Kiltarlity & Convinth. There have been other, smaller, changes north of Beaully, involving exchanges of land between Kilmorack and Urray; for example in 1891 **Ardnagrask** was transferred from a detached part of Kilmorack to Urray, while **Barnyards** and **Tomich** were transferred from Urray to Kilmorack (see Kilmorack, Parish Notes, below, for more details). Such changes are expressed below as follows:

CROCHAIL (5801)

KILTARLITY & CONVINTH(KCV)/KILMORACK(KLO).

ARDNAGRASK (5744)

KILMORACK(KLO)/URRAY(URY).

In these cases where a place has changed parish in the modern period, the order in which the parishes appear is simply alphabetical (by three-letter abbreviation), without any chronological implications.

Kiltarlity & Convinth parish KCV, as the name suggests, consists of two older parishes, **Kiltarlity** KXT and **Convinth** CTX, which were united c. 1500. Kirkhill also consists of two older parishes, **Wardlaw** WLX (formerly **Dunballoch**) and **Farnway** FRX. They were united in 1618.

Most places have been assigned not only to their modern parish but also, where possible, to their medieval one. This is expressed below as follows, with the modern parish always appearing first:

KINLEA # (21729)

KIRKHILL(KIH), FARNWAY(FRX)

¹ Place-names in **bold** in the Introduction are fully analysed in the Survey. As a rule such place-names will be marked in bold only the first time they appear in the text.

Full Parish Notes on each of these five parishes in the Database have been printed out under the respective parish-name below.

When a place lies in two or more parishes, for example because a boundary passes through it or because it is a feature which itself forms a boundary, such as a water-course, the relevant parishes are not printed out at the start of the entry in the usual way, but are mentioned in the Notes attached to the place-name involved.

The names are arranged alphabetically, without regard to parish. The definite article has been ignored in this alphabetical arrangement, as has the lenited form following the Gaelic feminine definite article. This means for example that **A' Chraobh-Leamhainn** appears in the list as if it were **Craobh-Leamhainn**.

Root-Names

A root-name is a place-name for which a name analysis exists, therefore most names in the Survey are root-names. However, there are a few names which are classified as not being root names. These are names which have come to refer to more than one distinct entity. They can be categorised as follows: 1) Parish-names, both ancient and modern: the Database (and therefore this Survey) treats most such names as deriving from hypothetical root-names, classified according to their actual meaning, as far as that can be established. Furthermore the separate entities are treated under separate head-names. For example Dunballoch (the older name of Wardlaw parish) is given root-name treatment, with full linguistic analysis, as a hypothetical vegetation-/water-name, which reflects its actual meaning, although it never appears as such in the record. Early forms however are given under Dunballoch as a parish- and as a settlement-name. There are clear cross-references between all these names, using the tags (is source of) and (derives from).

2) Similarly barony-names are treated separately from those of the settlement from which they derive, although in this case it is the settlement-name which supplies the root-name, irrespective of the original meaning of that name (see for example under **the Aird** Settlement and Barony below).

3) Sometimes on the OS Pathfinder map the same name is found twice, with different functions, referring to different entities, one of which is obviously the entity from which the other name derives. For example OS Pathfinder name **Allt na Ceardaich**, referring to the burn, flows past the OS Pathfinder settlement-name **Altnacardich**. The burn-name Allt na Ceardaich (more correctly Ceàrdaich) 'burn of the smiddy' is clearly the origin of the settlement-name. In this case Allt na Ceardaich is treated as the root-name, with Altnacardich signalled as deriving from it.

Pronunciation

An important aspect of any place-name is its pronunciation. It is discussed under individual names below only when it helps with the interpretation of that name, or if it is in any way remarkable. Pronunciations are expressed below in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) (using the Word for Windows font SILSophiaIPA), as well as by giving SSE (Scottish Standard English) equivalents. However, many more pronunciations than are given below were collected by the Project, and these have been entered into the Scottish Place-Name Database using IPA. These include pronunciations collected on tape in 1970 by Mr Ian Fraser of the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, in interviews with Mr William (Willie John) MacRae of Eskadale KCV and Mr Alexander (Alex) MacRae of Ardochy KLO (PN1970/17 and PN1970/18).

Languages

The toponymy or place-nomenclature of any area of Scotland reflects its linguistic, political and cultural history over the past 1000 to 1500 years, and the area of this Survey is no exception. In terms of the medieval provinces or territories of Scotland the parishes of this

Survey occupy the southern limits of Ross and the northern limits of Moray, east of the Atlantic- North Sea watershed. The River Beaully and Strathglass not only formed the boundary between these two provinces, they also formed the southernmost limit of Norse settlement in northern Scotland on the east coast, as evidenced by place-names. This makes the toponymy of the Survey area especially complex. Besides Old Norse (ON), for which see under such names as **Eskadale** KCV, **Plodda** KCV and **Ruttle** KCV, the place-names in the Survey area testify to the presence of speakers of Pictish (P), Gaelic (G), French, Scots (Sc) and Scottish Standard English (SSE). These languages did not always follow each other in neat chronological order, but it can be assumed that the Pictish names form the earliest major stratum that we encounter. Pictish was a p-Celtic language, and therefore closely related to Welsh. It was the language of the Picts, the dominant people throughout what is now eastern Scotland, from the Firth of Forth northwards. In the Beaully and Inverness area Pictish would have begun to be displaced by Gaelic in a major way during the 9th century. Gaelic is a q-Celtic language very similar to Old Irish, and was spoken by the Scots who were moving up the Great Glen into Moray and east Ross from Dalriada (Dál Riata), roughly modern Argyll. Gaelic will have penetrated the Survey area even earlier than this, through the influence of the great Gaelic-speaking west coast monastic centres such as Iona, Lismore and Applecross, and it is quite probable that the two parish names Kilmorack and Kiltarlity go back to this earlier (pre-800) period of Gaelic ecclesiastical influence. Probable Pictish names in the Survey area are **Altyre** KLO, **Dunballoch** KIH, **Erchless** KCV, **Groam** (one in KLO, one in KIH), and **Urchany** KLO, while Farrar takes us back to the proto-Pictish (or Pritenic) period before c. 500 AD. It is only the existence of an exceptionally old source (the second century map of Ptolemy) which indicates how early the name Farrar actually is, since in its later form (with initial f) it would appear to be of Gaelic origin. This warns us that we must be very careful in our dating of place-names, especially in an area where early sources are rare, and where languages from the same linguistic family (in this case Celtic) have succeeded each other, since the likelihood of adaptation from one language to another is very high.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that the bulk of place-names in the Survey area are of Gaelic origin, coined in the period when Gaelic was the dominant language in most parts of the area, from the 10th to the 19th century. Because of this long period of dominance, it is often very difficult to date the formation of a Gaelic place-name even approximately, a situation made even more difficult by the lack of early sources. **Knockfin** KLO, for example, *G cnoc fionn* ‘white knowe’, is first recorded in 1513, which provides a latest possible date for its coining. The earliest possible date, however, assuming that it is not a Gaelicisation of an earlier Pictish place-name, must be the earliest period when Gaelic was spoken in the Strath, which, as we have seen above, could have been the late 9th century or even earlier. On the other hand **Drumindorsair** KLO, *G druim an dorsair* ‘ridge of the door-keeper or porter’, an office attached to Beaully Priory, must belong to a period when the priory was a going concern, and therefore must have been coined sometime between the 13th and the 16th centuries, although the earliest forms I could find were from the early 19th century.

With the intensive settlement of southern Scots and Franks² in Moray in the 12th and early 13th centuries, Scots, the language of the burghs, which was rapidly spreading at the expense of Gaelic in the lowlands north of the Forth, was also introduced into the Survey area. Scots is a descendant of the Old English spoken in northern England (Northumbria) and the Lothians, with heavy Norse (Danish or East Scandinavian) influence from the time of the Scandinavian occupation of Yorkshire. No doubt the royal burgh of Inverness, founded probably in the second quarter of the 12th century, was a major impetus to Scots in the area. The earliest example we have of a Scots place-name in the Aird is the charter of c. 1221 which records an agreement between the bishop of Moray and John Bisset, lord of the Aird, anent the parish

² A convenient catch-all term now being used by historians to refer to Normans, French, Bretons and Flemish, either directly from northern France or via England.

kirk of Dunballoch, which is to be moved to *Wardlaue* ‘scotice (i.e. ‘in Gaelic’) *Balcabrac*’.³ *Wardlaue* (wardlaw) is a Scots place-name, and refers to the hill now known as Kirkhill; its meaning ‘watch hill’ well illustrating the unsettled nature of this frontier area, as well as its strategic significance. The next Scots place-name on record is **Donaldston**, now obsolete, beside Lovat and near Wardlaw kirk. It may have been coined c. 1250 x 1275, since the eponymous Donald, bearer of a Gaelic personal name, and no doubt a Gaelic speaker, is probably the Dofnaldus del Ard (Donald of the Aird) whose son witnesses charters of Beaully Priory around 1300 (*Beaully Chrs.* nos. 8, 9). The son is called Harald, a name which looks northwards to the Scandinavian cultural area of the north of Scotland and the Northern Isles. Therefore this one place-name, and the family of the man who gave it its name, looks culturally, if not linguistically, in three directions, to the Scots-speaking lowlands, the Gaidhealtachd, and the Norse north.

There is one further important point to make regarding Donaldston, and other non-Gaelic names in this area. It would appear from the *Fraser Chronicles*, the richly detailed account of the history of the parish of Kirkhill, as well as of the Lovat Frasers, written by the admirable Rev. James Fraser, minister of Kirkhill between 1661 and 1709, that Donaldston was also known as Ballbra<n> (*Wardlaw MS*, 112). The implication here is that Donaldston was known as such only in a Scots and Scottish Standard English speaking context; in a Gaelic-speaking one it had a different name, sharing only the equivalent generic element (Scots *toun*, Gaelic *baile*). This is of course a common phenomenon still in relation to important settlement-names in the Gaidhealtachd, but it is noteworthy that we are finding it here applied to individual farms. So the two earliest recorded Scots place-names in Kirkhill parish are shown to have different names in a Gaelic-language context. These names can be completely unconnected with each other, as in Wardlaw/Balcabrac, or Beaully/A’ Mhanachainn. Or they can share a generic element, as in Ballbra<n>/Donaldston (*baile* being the Gaelic equivalent of Scots *toun*). A third kind of relationship between a Scots (or Scottish Standard English) name on the one hand and a Gaelic name on the other is one of total equivalence, where one is simply a translation of the other. An example of this would be **Bridgend/Ceann na Drochaid** by Beaully. In this way each linguistic community had its own distinctive toponymy, overlapping with each other in a variety of ways, although the dramatic decline of Gaelic within the Survey area over the past century has greatly obscured this fact.

Types of Place-Names

While place-names can provide unique information about languages and linguistic relationships, as discussed in the previous section, they can also tell us about many other aspects of human activity and perceptions of the environment over the past millennium or more. These include agriculture, industry, social and ecclesiastical organisation, archaeological remains, route-ways, trees and other flora, and fauna including mammals, birds and reptiles. The Scottish Place-Name Database can sort place-names by categories such as these through the elements which go to make up a place-name, since each element is assigned to one or more of these categories. The full significance of a place-name in terms of environmental, industrial or settlement history and archaeology can only be revealed through detailed individual case studies. However, a place-name can provide an important, sometimes indeed an essential, starting point in any such study. For example **Tom a’ Mhein** clearly flags up mine working in Glen Strathfarrar, as does the farm-name **Main** on the south bank of the River Beaully. However, details of what was mined, and when, are usually supplied from other sources. These sources exist for Tom a’ Mhein, but not for Main, where the name supplies the key piece of evidence for such activity. The presence of a named mineral, without any toponymic evidence for mining, is found in the name of the hill at the very far western end of Glen Strathfarrar, in Kilmorack parish, Beinn Dubh an Iaruinn (‘black hill of

³ The Latin adverb *scotice* here means ‘in Gaelic’. It did not come to refer to Scots until the late medieval period.

the iron'), which appears in 1758 on May/Glen Strathfarrar simply as *Bane Yeern* (for Beinn Iaruinn).

Other place-names contain personal names, ranging from those who lived on and worked the land to dimly perceived historical figures such as Goraidh (for whom see **Donie Gorrie** and **Leum Ghoiridh**), and purely legendary figures such as Fionn mac Cumhaill, whose name seems to be preserved in Dùn Fionn (for Dùn F(h)inn), the impressive hill-fort perched high above the River Beaully north of Eilean Aigas. A personal name found in remote upland territory, both within the Survey area and beyond, is Fearchar and MacF(h)earchair (either as a personal name or a patronymic), as for example in **Coire Mhic Fearchair** and **Creag Fhearchair**. Given the importance of Fearchar (Farquhar) as the name of arguably the most famous of the earls of Ross, Fearchar mac an t-sagairt (Farquhar MacTaggart or son of the priest),⁴ who flourished in the first half of the 13th century, the distribution of places containing his name certainly deserves a fuller study.

The headings below make no claim to be comprehensive, nor are the examples listed under each heading exhaustive. However, they do give an idea of the range and variety of information, covering a wide time-period, that is encoded within the place-names of the Survey area.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Agriculture, including arable and pastoral activities, dominated the life of the bulk of the population of pre-industrial Scotland, and this is reflected in the place-names. The cultivation of grain-crops is probably indicated by the second element of **Moniack**, a name which is at least 800 years old. The importance of the pastoral economy cannot be overemphasised. Some place-names refer to the domesticated animals involved, such as **Blàr na Gamhna**; **Caochan a' Mheanbh Chruidh**, and probably **Tòrr nan Caorach**. Tarradale, an important estate and medieval parish, now part of Urray ROS, less than 3 km north-east of Beaully, whose name in Gaelic means 'bull-haugh', also belongs to this category. Several names contain *G gobhar* 'goat', which was certainly domesticated at an early date. However, where the name occurs in an upland context it is difficult to know whether it refers to domesticated, feral, or even wild goats, as for example in **Carn nan Gobhar** (twice), **Gleann Goibhre** and **Loch nan Gobhar**.

An important part of the pastoral economy was transhumance, that is the seasonal movement of livestock to exploit to the full the grazing potential of any given region. It is also referred to as the sheiling-economy, using the Scots word for the buildings and land associated with the summer part of the process. The many *ruighe*-names probably arose in this context (for example **Ruisaurie**), although this word, besides meaning 'sheiling' can also have the purely topographical meaning 'slope'. A less ambiguous sheiling-word is *àirigh* 'sheiling, summer milking place'. Given the importance of the sheiling-economy in the extensive upland areas of the Survey area, this word occurs surprisingly rarely in its place-names. However, its rarity in names on the modern map seems rather to reflect the rapid decline in importance of the cattle economy in the 19th century. For on the 1758 map of Glen Strathfarrar (May/Glen Strathfarrar) no less than ten names containing *Arie* (*àirigh*) are recorded, all of them described by May as sheillings (sic). None has survived on the modern OS Pathf. map.

Salmon-fishing along the River Beaully has been an important source of food and income, and has been a matter of dispute almost since records began (see for example *Moray Reg.* no. 123). Both **Cruivend** (**Keanachrow**) and **Cruives** refer to the traps and fixed nets laid to catch this fish.

Archaeology

⁴ See Grant 2000, 117-26 for a full discussion of Earl Fearchar's origins, career and achievements.

Various names point to the existence of remains which appear in the archaeological record. A good example of this is **Ballindoun**, near the *dùn* ('hill-fort, fortification') of its name, while **Dounie** 'place of the *dùn*', refers to the direct predecessor of **Beaufort** Castle. Sometimes the feature referred to in the name no longer exists; for example **Achnacloich** may well refer to a now lost prehistoric or early medieval standing-stone.

Ecclesiastical history

The Church has left behind many place-names, from many different stages of its history. Some of the earliest names in the Survey area may be those containing *cill* 'church', such as **Kilmorack** and **Kiltarlity**, while from the later medieval period come such names as A' Mhanachainn ('the monastery'), the Gaelic for Beaulieu, referring to the Valliscaulian priory founded there in the early 13th century. **Allt an Affrainn** points to church ownership, as do the field-names *Wester Apen*, *Mid Apen* and *Easter Apen*, which appear on Brown Plans no. 17 from 1800 beside the medieval parish kirk of Kiltarlity. *Apen* derives from *G apainn*, literally 'abbey', but it was also frequently used from a relatively early date to mean 'kirklend, land belonging to the Church' (see Barrow 1992, 120-3). It appears as *The Abban*, also a field-name, in 1757 on Peter May's Lovat/1757 plan, on the no longer extant farm of Teanalán, about a kilometre due north of Beaulieu Priory. The Scots name Kirk Hill/Kirkhill, (a relief-, settlement- and, later, parish-name) simply indicates the presence there of a church; however, the Gaelic name for the same feature, while still ecclesiastical, refers not to the church as such but to the saint under whose protection or patronage the place (and by implication its church) lay i.e. St Mary (**Cnoc Mhuire**). Just as Cnoc Mhuire preserves the dedication of the church of Kirkhill, formerly Wardlaw, so too are the cults of other saints preserved in toponymic aspect throughout most of the Survey area. More or less certain examples of this can be found in the names Ault Trusty (St Drostan at **Guisachan**, for which see **Allt na Sidhean**), Sputan Bhàin (St Beathan or Bean at **Comar**, for which see **Clachan Comair**), **Coridon** (St Curadan at **Struy**; there is also evidence for Curidan's cult at **Buntait**, where there is a Croit Churadain and a Tobar Churadain, for which see MacDonald 1992, 38; as well as at **Farnway**, although the evidence here is not toponymic); **Kilmorack** (Morag), **Kiltarlity** (Talorgan); and perhaps **Culnaskiach** (Sciath or Sgiath at Convinth).

Environment

One of the commonest types of place-name is topographical i.e. one which describes the landscape. While most of the features described in such topographical names are relatively unchanging, some indicate considerable change in landscape and land-use over the centuries. Examples of this latter type are **Groam** (which occurs twice, once in KIH, once in KLM), indicating boggy ground, as does **Bogroy** KIH. In all these cases the bogs in question have been drained. The settlement-name Muillidh Riabhach, 'variegated or striped (strippit) **Mulie**', a now lost settlement which lay on the south side of Loch Mulie, probably took its name from the impression on the observer from the more populated and frequented north side of the loch made by the collection of rigs or intensively cultivated arable strips of the old settlement, which are so clearly shown in 1758 on May/Glen Strathfarrar (at *Moyley Riach*). [See map detail].

Flora and Fauna

Other categories relating to the historical environment are those of wildlife (birds, fish, mammals and other animals), and vegetation, covering everything from trees to grass. A place-name such as **Beinn Eun**, containing the generic G word *eun* 'bird', indicates the presence of game-birds in particular, while species-names are found for example in **Tighchuig** (cuckoo), in **Bad a' Chlamhain** (buzzard or kite), and perhaps in **Torgormack** (the bird of prey the hobby). The eagle (G *iolair* or *iolaire* (fem.)) is found on the May/Glen Strathfarrar map of 1758 in the name '*Craig-Na-Halyour* or the Eagle's rock', which applies to one of the tops of the 700m-high hill which appears on OS Pathf. (191) as Carn nam Fiacal ('of the teeth') at NH20 36.

Names of mammals are frequent in place-names, especially in upland areas where hunting would have been the main pursuit. Examples are **Gleann nam Fiadh**, **Cnoc an Fhèidh** and OS Pathf. Fuaran Féidh ('red deer well', which lies around the 700m contour west of Meall Tarsuinn, NH30 42), **Doire Damh** and **Cnoc nan Damh Mòra**, as well as Leaba nan Damh ('bed of the stags') at NH20 36. Badgers are found at **Creag a' Bhruic** and **Creag nam Broc**, as well as in the SSE name Badger Fall on the River Affric. The fox is found in **Foxhole**, as well as in OS Pathf. Carn an t-Sionnaich ('of the fox') north of Cannich. An example of a non-mammalian animal occurring in a place-name is provided by **Lochan nan Losgann** ('of the frogs or toads'). The horse, such an important animal in former times for carrying both humans and loads long distances over difficult terrain, would have lived in a semi-wild state before being broken in for use, and their presence is well-attested in place-names from a wide range of environments, from **Faschapple** and Caiplich in the east to Coire nan Each ('corrie of the horses') at around 800m in the north (NH27 44).

Tree-names are also common in place-names, and offer important clues as to the presence of tree-species in the historical period. **Eskadale**, a Norse name meaning 'valley of ash-trees', was probably the name the Norse gave to the whole of Strathglass and its eastern extension (for which see also **Aulteskadaleguain**). This means that the ash was one of the dominant tree-species here a millennium ago, and was certainly the one which made the biggest impression on the Norse, probably because of their interest in it for boat-building (see Crawford 1995 and Crawford and Taylor, forthcoming). The restricted presence of elm is indicated by the place-name **Crelevan** (*craobh-learnhain* 'elm tree'), while Scots pine (traditionally known as Scots fir, or simply fir, in Scots and Scottish English) is signalled in many names containing *G giuthas*, such as **Guisachan**, **Loch Salach a' Ghiubhais**, and OS Pathf. Coille Giubhas nan Saighead ('Scots fir wood of the arrows'). Although not named on the May/Glen Strathfarrar map of 1758, a wood is marked at this spot with the description 'A large Clump of Firs, with fine pasture, declining NE'. A more unusual tree-species is named in **Allt nam Fiodhag** 'burn of the bird-cherry trees'. An element which certainly merits further investigation is *doire* 'grove', which occurs in the Survey area at remarkably high altitudes, such as **Doire Gheal** (550m), **Doire nan Gillean** (600m), and **Doire Tana** (760m). The great advancement in the techniques of pollen analysis over the past decades offers toponymics exciting possibilities of increasing and refining our understanding of such elements.

Other flora is represented in such names as **Knocknashalavaig** (sorrel), **Ardendrain** (thorn, black-thorn), and **Ardchuilk** (rushes). *G sliabh* in its meaning 'purple moor grass', rather than its topographical sense of '(high) moor' may well occur in **Sliabhach**.

Industry

For names indicating mining activity, see above. The most important industry in earlier times was milling, which could also be classified under agricultural activity. It was a highly controlled activity, especially in lowland areas, where milling monopolies were jealously guarded and enforced. **Culmill** was one such early mill, first recorded in 1496. Another important early industry was that of smiddyng, alluded to in **Altnacardich** (*Allt na Ceàrdaich*), 'burn of the smiddy'.

Landholding

This small but important category includes place-names relating to units of landholding, or conditions of landholding, for examples of which see **Lettoch** and **Convint**. The element *taigh* 'house', which occurs in the Survey area much more frequently than in most, if not all, other parts of Scotland, also deserves further study. The especially high density of this element in Kilmorack parish, in such names as **Taigh Cubhaige**, **Teachnuick**, **Teafrish**, **Teagate**, **Teanacoil**, **Teanalan #**, and **Teawig**, raises the question as to whether it might not be related to some aspect of the pre-Reformation organisation of the monastic lands of Beaulieu, which included all the eastern part of this parish, or to its subsequent laicisation.

Legal history

Several place-names in the Survey area refer to sites of legal assembly and the execution of justice. **Tomnacross**, ‘hillock of the gallows’, originates from a time when the local baron court had the power of condemning to death those found guilty of certain crimes. **Croiche Wood** and **Croicheil** may also refer to these places of execution. Often such places were at or near the site of the court: traditionally Tomnacross was known as the site of a baron court, while **Knockvoit** ‘knowe of the moot or court’ may also have been known by a name which meant ‘gallows knowe’. **Torranerrick** may refer to a place of assembly, although one less closely associated with baronial jurisdiction than those names containing words such as *croich* ‘gallows’ or *mòd* ‘court’.

Traditions, Stories and Events

Place-names also enshrine local events and traditions, although it is often difficult to separate genuine examples of such names from those which have been re-interpreted or re-formed to fit a local story, or which have even generated their own stories. A genuine example might well be found in **Croftnaballagan**, while **Càrn na Baintighearna** remains more doubtful. The process of creating stories to explain place-names is universal, and my own attempts at explaining **Dounie Gorrie** and **Leum Ghoiridh** prove that it is still very much alive! For more on the complex interaction between place-name and story in both Scotland and Ireland, see Meek 1998.

Travel

Place-names can sometimes serve the function which is nowadays fulfilled by road-signs, indicating both dangers along the route as well as ways of negotiating these dangers, such as crossings across bogs and hills, and fords and ferries across water-courses. A good example of where the two types of information-delivery clash can still be seen today in the sign-post to Stromeferry on Loch Carron in Wester Ross. Pointing down a side-road off the main Achnasheen to Kyle of Loch Alsh road, it reads ‘Stromeferry (No Ferry)’! Ferrybrae KIH on the opposite bank of the river from Beaully is one of the few reminders of the important ferry-crossing across the River Beaully at this point, which was gradually superseded when Lovat Bridge was built about 1.5 km upstream in the early 19th century, and has now been defunct for several decades. The name is taken up again on the other side of the river, in the modern Beaully street-name Ferry Road. An earlier name, also Scots, but now obsolete, was the **Stockford** (of Ross), indicating a third way of crossing the **Forn** or River Beaully in its lower reaches, this time by a ford marked out by stakes or poles, and usually usable only at low tide (see *sub nomine* below). Examples of names indicating crossings over upland are **Crask of Aigas** and **Ardnagrask**.

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Explanation of lay-out and abbreviations used in each entry.

If the name appears on the OS Pathfinder map series (1:25000), the form of the name on that map supplies the head-name, even if it does not conform to modern Gaelic spelling conventions, or contains other minor discrepancies. These will be corrected however in the name analysis or notes.

The number following each head-name is that assigned by the Database.

symbol follows names no longer used. Usually the most recent form of the name is taken as the head-name.

* symbol follows hypothetical, reconstructed name-forms. All such names are of course no longer used.

Parish or parishes. When more than one parish is shown, see above. When no parish is given in the heading, this means that the feature lies in more than one parish.

Feature (such as Water, Relief, Settlement)

NGR (National Grid Reference): this is usually given as a six-figure reference, with assessment of accuracy added in brackets. The NGR of a water-course applies to its mouth, either at the coast or where it joins another water-course.

Approximate height in metres, usually given to the nearest multiple of five.

If the feature is clearly on a slope, the direction of this slope is often given using the eight airts, from North (NO) to North-West (NW) (NO Facing, NE Facing, EA Facing, SE Facing, SO Facing, SW Facing, WE Facing, NW Facing).

If the name appears on the OS Pathfinder series (1:25000) maps, the map sheet number is always given at this point.

The next section contains early forms, dates and sources, along with source notes in square brackets. These source notes give the wider context in which the historical form is found.

These are followed by relationships to other names. These relationships, most of which are self-explanatory, are:

(Alias)

(Derives From) (see **Root-Names** above). Its reciprocal relationship is

(Is Source Of)

(Language) i.e. name exists in the Database in more than one language.

(Name Contains) <an existing place-name>. Its reciprocal relationship is

(Name is Part Of) <an existing place-name>

(Same Specific As)

The next section is the name analysis, which gives the root forms of the elements which make up the name, along with the language of those elements, or whether the element is an existing place-name. The abbreviations used in this section are:

en existing place-name, used as an element to form another place-name.

G Gaelic

OE Old English

ON Old Norse (Old West Scandinavian)

P Pictish

Sc Scots

SSE Scottish Standard English

County and Parish Abbreviations

ABD Aberdeenshire

BNF Banffshire

CAI Caithness

CTX Convinth parish now part of KCV

FIF Fife

FRX Farnway now part of KIH

INV Inverness-shire

KCD Kincardineshire

KCV Kiltarlity & Convinth parish INV

KIH Kirkhill parish

KLO Kilmorack parish INV

KXT Kiltarlity parish now part of KCV

MOR Moray

NAI Nairnshire

PER Perthshire

ROS Ross and Cromarty

SUT Sutherland

URY Urray parish ROS

WLX Wardlaw now part of KIH

