

Dumcrieff G. *dun craobh* hill or fort among the trees.

Craigbeck Hope Icelandic *hop* Sc. *hope* a valley among hills, a place or refuge.

Wamphray Burn G. *uaim phraith* cave of slumber or sorrow.

Selcoth Burn probably from O. Sc. *selcuth* – strange, rare, unusual (as it is in the vicinity of Craigmichen Scars).

Craigmichen Scars micken or michen from G. *muilceann* the plant Spignel (not very convincing for this bare rocky outcrop).

Ettrick Head head of the Ettrick Water (Ir. *etrice* a small stream).

Hopetoun Craig farm in the valley by the crags.

Phawhope variegated valley / the valley of different colours.

Broadgairhill wide strip of marshy ground in the heather on the hill.

Kirkhope Burn stream in the valley of the kirk (church).

Brockhoperig ridge by the valley with the badgers.

Pikestonerig stone cairn ridge.

Riskinhope probably the boggy land in the valley (G. *riasg*, *reisg* – moor, morass).

Loch of the Lowes probably loch of the black marshes.

St Mary's Loch the graveyard of St Mary's Kirk is near the north shore, the only remains of the church that has given the loch its name. In 1292 it was recorded as the church of St Mary of the Lowes.

Tibbie Shiels Inn Isabella Richardson (whose maiden name was Shiels) was known to everybody as Tibbie. She opened the inn after her mole-catcher husband died in 1824.

Bowerhope cattle shed in the valley.



Dryhope dry valley.

Ward Law hill with pasture, or beacon hill.

Hawkshaw Rig ridge by the thicket, or small wood with the hawks *i.e.* where the hawk nests.

Traquair homestead on the Quair.

Quair Water O.N. *kyrr* – gentle; or W. *gwer* – green.

Innerleithen confluence of the River Leithen (G. *liath* – grey).

Yair Yair (or yare) is on Old Scots word for a fish trap (of stones or wattle-work) and is sometimes applied to fish nets set on poles in a river.

Fairnielee ferny pasture.

Selkirk church of the (king's) hall. O.E. *sele* – hall.

Eildon Hills a hybrid name from G. *ail* – rock or cliff and O.E. *dun* – hill.

Calfshaw calf wood.

Hog Hill hill of the young sheep.

Galashiels shelters by the full stream (shiels = shelters).

Darnick O.E. *dearne wic*. Secret or hidden dwelling.

Melrose Cu. *maol/mai, ros*. Bare moor or meadow.

Housebyres O.E. house with the byres (sheds).

Mosshouses houses by the bog.

Kedslie meadow of *Cade, Cadda* or *Cado* (all O.E. personal names).

Chester Hill camp hill (from Latin *castra*).

Lauder perhaps equivalent to lowther (O.Ir. *lothur* – canal or trench).

Leader Water perhaps from W. *lledwr* – the spreader.



Traquair House

Thirlestane pierced rock (from *thirl*: to drill).

Wanton Walls possibly, the undisciplined or naughty wells.

Edgarhope Wood Edgar's valley wood.

Snawdon wooded valley where the snow lies or snowy hill.

Braidshawrig wide wooded ridge.

Gairmuir patch of marshy ground in the heather moor.

Twin Law The Twin's Hill. There is a local legend that two twins separated at birth fought to the death near here not knowing that they were brothers - though the name Twin Law may be a corruption of another name with the legend dreamt up in an attempt to fit an improperly understood name.

Scarlaw N. & D. *skjaer* cliff, rock *i.e.* rocky hill.

Longformacus church on the field (or slope) of Maccus.

Caldra Farm O.N. *kald-r* – cool (or G. *call dothar* – hazel stream).

Ellemford ford by the slope.

Abbey St Bathans Abbey of St Bothan.

Bowshiel Wood wood by the cattle (herders') hut.

Penmanshiel shelter by the height with the great rock (or stone).

Pease Dean O.E. paths and M.E. *dene* – glen, usually deep and wooded.

Cockburnspath path of Colbrand (O.E. personal name).



The upkeep, development and promotion of the Southern Upland Way is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Councils.

Photographs by the Countryside Ranger Services
Designed by the Technical Support Team, Planning & Environment,
Dumfries and Galloway Council October 2005

www.dumgal.gov.uk/southernuplandway



Sanquhar Castle



→ DERIVATION OF PLACE NAMES

Place names reflect the languages spoken by the communities who first named the settlements and can therefore tell us something about the turbulent early history of southern Scotland.

The partial Roman occupation from AD 80 until the end of the 2nd century had very little influence on the language of the native Britons. From the beginning of Christian influence in the 5th century to the present time there have been various waves of invasion and peaceful immigration. The Angles from Northumbria extended their control across the Scottish Borders and into Galloway between the 7th and 9th centuries. The main Gaelic-Norse period of influence, greatest in the 9th and 10th centuries, involved Danish and Swedish settlers who appeared in the east of the region following expansion from their north west England strongholds as well as Gaelic speaking incomers who arrived from Ireland. The latter were the so called 'Stranger Gaels' the Gall-Ghaidel from which the word Galloway is derived.

Gaelic continued to be spoken in the wilder, more remote inland areas until the 17th century and even later at Glen App on the west coast. The majority of today's place names are anglicised versions of their earlier Gaelic names and their original meanings are not always known with certainty (and experts sometimes disagree). A few names reflect the lesser influences of other languages or are modern 19th century creations

G. - Gaelic / Dan. - Danish / Ir. - Irish / O.Ir - Old Irish
O.E. - Old English / O.G. - Old Gaelic / O.N. - Old Norse
Sc. - Lowland Scots / O.Sc. - Old Scots / Sw. - Swedish / W. - Welsh

→ NAMES OF TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Beck	Icelandic <i>bekk-r</i> Dan. <i>back</i> brook, stream
Burn	O.N. <i>brunn-r</i> O.Sc. <i>burn</i> stream or small river
Cleuch	G. <i>cloch</i> O.Sc. <i>cleuch</i> ravine
Clints	Dan. & Sw. <i>clint</i> rocky promontary
Craig	G. <i>creag</i> crag, cliff
Dod	of Sc. <i>doddy</i> bald; bare, round hill
Dyke	O.E. <i>dic</i> ditch. But in Scotland since 16th century dyke = wall, i.e. that thrown up by digging ditch.
Gairy	G. <i>garbh</i> rough place, rocky hillside
Haugh	O.E. <i>halech</i> flat meadow beside a river

Head	Sc. <i>Heid</i> highest part of valley or hill summit
Holm	O.N. <i>holm-r</i> meadow beside a river
Hope	O.E. <i>hop</i> secluded valley
Knock	G. and Ir <i>cnoc</i> hill
Knowe	O.E. <i>cnoll</i> rounded hillock
Lane	G. <i>lean</i> slow moving winding stream
Larg	G. <i>learg</i> side or slope of hill
Law	O.E. <i>hlaw</i> hill
Linn	G. <i>linne</i> waterfall, pool
Moss	W. <i>maes</i> stretch of boggy ground
Pen	O.W. <i>pen</i> hill
Ree	O.N. <i>reethe</i> O.Sc. <i>reid</i> sheep fold
Rhins	O.Ir. <i>rinn</i> G. <i>roinn</i> point of land
Rig	Dan. <i>ryg</i> Sc. <i>rig</i> ridge of high ground
Shaw	Dan. <i>skov</i> O.N. <i>skog-r</i> small wood
Sike	O.E. <i>sic</i> small stream in marshy ground

PLACES ALONG THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY WEST TO EAST

Portpatrick	Named in 1630 for St. Patrick; there was a chapel here dedicated to him long before. Formerly called Portree G. <i>port righe</i> harbour of the King.
Dunskey	G. <i>dun</i> fort, hill G. <i>sciah</i> wing or shield i.e. shielded fort.
Killantringan	G. <i>cill</i> cell or church. Church of St. Ringan or Ninian.
Knock and Maize	G. and Ir. <i>cnoc</i> hill and perhaps G. <i>maothais</i> soft place W. <i>maes</i> moss, bog.
Stranraer	(pronounced Stran-raa) G. <i>sron reamhar</i> thick point, nose i.e. Loch Ryan peninsula.
Castle Kennedy	The village takes its name from the castle built around 1607 by the Kennedy family.
New Luce	New in relation to Glenluce G. <i>lus</i> herb or plant.

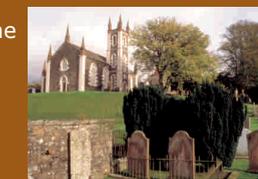


New Luce Church

Cruise	G. <i>craidh</i> hard firm ground, or hillside.
Kilhern	Probably G. <i>cill earrain</i> church of the district.
Balmurrie	G. <i>baile</i> farm, village - of Murray.
Laggangarn	G. <i>lagan</i> little hollow and G. <i>gearain</i> to sigh or groan; perhaps referring to the noise of the burn flowing through the hollow. More likely G. <i>g-carn</i> hollow of the cairns.
Tarf Water	G. <i>tarbh</i> a bull i.e. violent stream.
Craigairie Fell	The fell (hill) named for the craig (cliff) of the shieling (farm) G. <i>airdh</i> sheiling.
Derry	G. <i>dithreibh</i> moor or G. and Ir. <i>doire</i> an oak wood.
Tannylaggie	probably G. <i>tamhnach</i> meadow G. and Ir. <i>lag</i> hollow.
Knowe	O.E. <i>cnoll</i> Sc. <i>knowe</i> a rounded hillock.
Glenruther	G. <i>ruadh gleann</i> reddish glen.
Ochiltree	W. <i>ucheltre</i> high house or farm.
River Cree	G. <i>crioch, criche</i> the boundary (between E and W Galloway).
Minnoch	G. <i>meadhonach</i> the middle river (between the Cree and Trool).
Bargrennan	G. <i>bar grianain</i> height of the summer house or sunny spot.
Caldons	G. <i>call</i> wood. G. <i>donn</i> brown or G. <i>dean</i> hazel.
Glen of Trool	G. <i>t-sruthail</i> stream.
Ben Yellery	G. <i>beann iolaire</i> hill of the eagles.
Merrick	G. <i>meurach</i> pronged or branching place. When seen at a distance from the west the hills appear as a series of prongs or knuckles - hence the name sometimes used: Range of the Awful Hand.
Blackwater of Dee	G. <i>dhu</i> dark, black.
Clenrie	G. <i>clao</i> n slope G. <i>reisg</i> moor.
Garroch	G. <i>garbhach</i> rough place.
Water of Ken	O.G. Can G. <i>cain</i> white, fair.

St. John's Town of Dalry

St. John's Town is said to be derived from a dedication given by the Knights Templar to the church here.
Dalry G. *dail righ* meadow of the King.



Dalry Church

Ardoch	G. <i>ardach</i> high place.
Culmark	G. <i>cul</i> at the back of. O.E. <i>mearc</i> boundary or march.
Stroanfreggan	G. <i>sron</i> nose, cape, promontory. G. <i>creagain</i> craig i.e. headland of the craig.
Stroanpatrick	Patrick's headland.
Manquhill	(pronounced Manwill) G. <i>moin</i> hill G. <i>coil</i> a wood.
Benbrack	G. <i>beinn</i> hill, mountain G. <i>breac</i> speckled, mottled.
Polskeoch	G. <i>poll</i> pool or stream G. <i>sgitheach</i> blackthorn. (There used to be a small loch here).
Polgown	G. <i>poll</i> pool or stream G. <i>gugan</i> flower Sc. <i>gowan</i> daisy or G. <i>poll gobhairn</i> smith's stream.
Sanquhar	(pronounced Sankar) G. <i>sean cathair</i> old fort.
Cogshead	Head of the Cog Burn G. <i>cog</i> basin.
Wanlockhead	Head of the Wanlock Water. W. <i>gwen llech</i> white hollow.
Lowther Hills	O.Ir. <i>lothur</i> canal, trench i.e. pass between the hills.
Fingland	G. <i>fionn gleann</i> white glen.
Daer	G. <i>deifr</i> haste, speed i.e. fast flowing stream.
Brattleburn	O.N. <i>breid-r dal-r</i> broad dale burn.
Rivox	G. <i>reisg uisge</i> moorland stream or G. <i>riabhach</i> brindled moor
Garpol	G. <i>garbhpoll</i> rough stream.
Earshaig	G. <i>ear</i> east G. <i>taigh</i> house.
Beattock	G. <i>battock</i> land between two burns.
Moffat	G. <i>magh fada</i> long plain.