

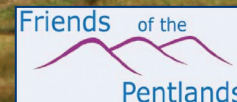
Pentland Place-Names:

An introductory guide

John Baldwin and Peter Drummond



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Green Hairstreak butterfly on Blaeberry painted by Frances Morgan,
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View of the Howe, Loganlee Reservoir and Castlelaw by Victor Partridge.

Pentland Place-Names:

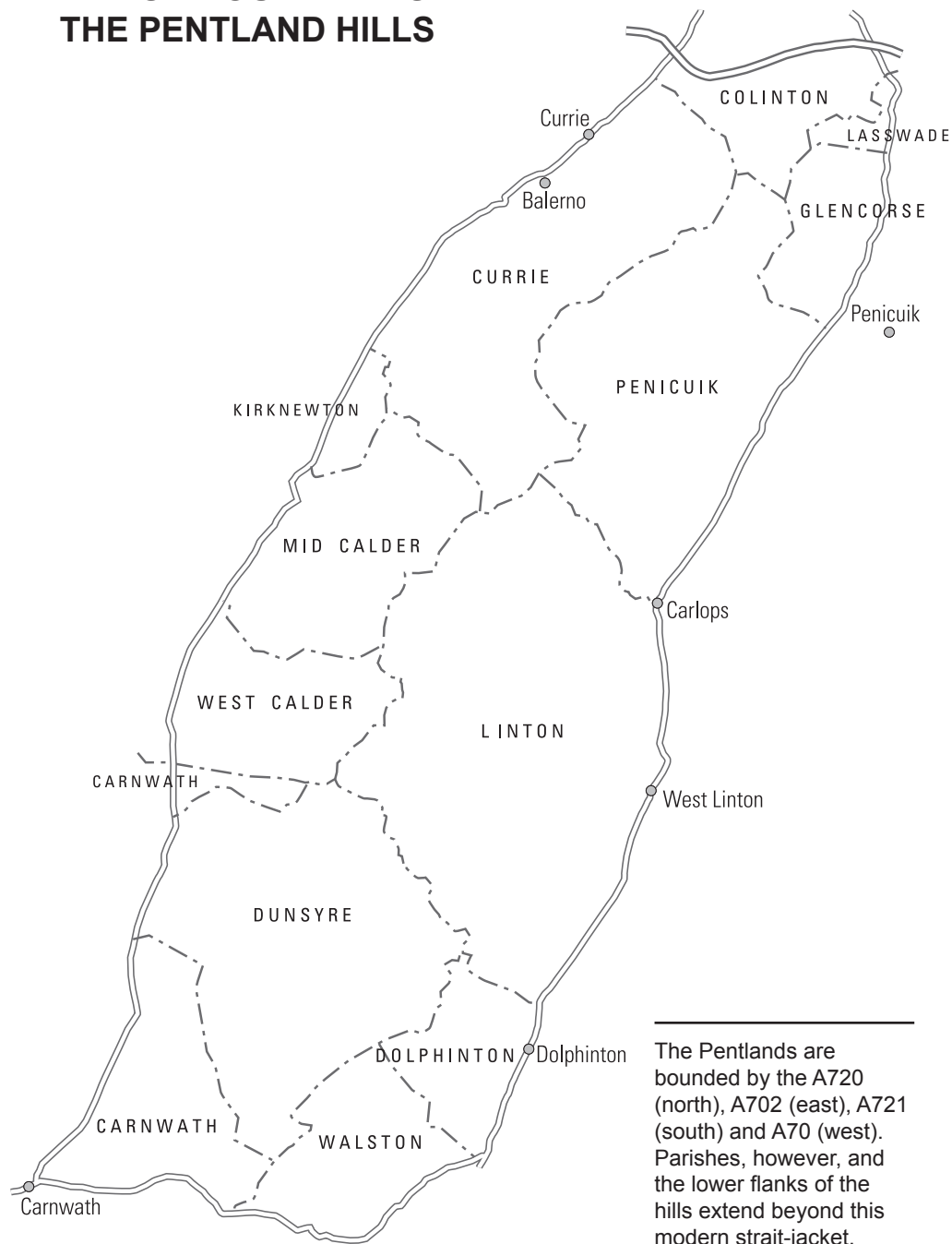
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PARISH BOUNDARIES WITHIN THE PENTLAND HILLS



HISTORIC PENTLAND LANDSCAPES

John Baldwin

Today, the Pentland Hills are used mainly for farming, forestry, water catchment and recreation. However, the northern parts in particular are threatened by an ever-creeping lava flow of brick, glass, concrete and tarmac as 'development' overrides the more measured approach of planners, conservationists and others who recognise value as more than short-term solutions and financial advantage.

Prehistory and Romans

The Pentland landscape betrays some 5,000 years of human impact. Once-massive **burial chambers** feature prominently on Caerketton and East/West Cairn Hill, between North Muir and Mendick Hill and up from Dunsyre; and huge **standing stones** thrust skyward at Auchencorth (Gowk Stane), Fairmilehead (Caiystane) and formerly at Harlaw, close to a long-demolished cairn. They provide haunting insights into the lifestyles of prehistoric farming communities. However, equally-impressive **fortified settlements** and **hill forts** (not always on hill tops) at such as Hillend, Lawhead, Braidwood and Clubbiedean underline major changes as Celtic-speaking, Iron Age metal workers (Britons) replaced earlier cultures. In the final centuries BC, maybe some 2,300 years ago, the need for defence became more pressing than preoccupations with ancestors, the land and the skies.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, these less-settled times became yet more troubled. During their military occupation of southern Scotland, the **Romans** seemingly cleared the multi-ramparted hill forts (though Britons re-occupied them after the Romans left, building **round houses** over the rings and digging a **souterrain** or 'earth-house' into the ramparts at Castlelaw). In their turn, the Romans built small **square forts** at Castle Greg, Slipperfield and recently-rediscovered Flotterstone.

These small forts and camps lay close to new roads linking their southern empire with strategic harbours and major forts at Cramond, Inveresk and north of the Forth – for Scotland was never colonised, only occupied militarily. Their main 'motorway' from England, over the Cheviots, ran a little east of the Pentlands (the line of medieval Dere Street), but additional **Roman roads** ran between Upper Clydesdale and the Forth, echoing routes from prehistoric to modern times (the A702 and the A70 'Lang Whang'). They followed the lower flanks of the Pentlands, above the boggy, low-lying lands beside the River Esk and the Water of Leith.

Hill Routes

Surviving **trackways** from different periods pass close by the Slipperfield burial cairns, above West Linton and Carlops and along to Eight Mile Burn, whilst the farm name **Spittal** ('hospital') reflects the provision of wayside shelter by medieval religious foundations. These routes were complemented by **routes through the hills** – notably through Glencorse and over low passes to Colinton, Currie, Bonaly and Balerno, but also linking Penicuik, Carlops, West Linton, Dolphinton and Dunsyre

to northside and westside communities stretching south from Cairns and Colzium to Tarbrax, the Calder and Carnwath.

Routes via the **Clachmaid Stane** (at the head of Maiden's Cleuch), Den's Cleugh, Green Cleuch, the Borestane, Cauldstaneslap and the Covenanter's Grave provided shorter and often drier alternatives to the frequently-marshy lowland gap between the northern Pentlands and the sea. Some were also used by **Border reivers** seizing lowland livestock; some were **drove roads** for taking Highland livestock to southern markets; the **Font Stane** (base for a medieval cross) on the **Monks Rig** recalls one-time foundations at Newhall and/or Spittal; and the **Kirkgate** (Scots *gait*, a path or track) encouraged parishioners in remote parts of the parish to attend Sunday worship.

Medieval Land Use and Settlement

Most historic landscape features are found around the fringes of the Pentlands. There is little surviving evidence of early settlement within the hills, which suggests that their primary value was as grazing. The economy would have been **largely pastoral**, and the name Kitchen Moss suggests that a significant part of the hill ground remained **common grazing** c.10th-12th century (Gaelic *coitcheann*, common pasture). Within the feudalising framework of an increasingly unified and independent Scottish kingdom, much of the Pentlands was designated Royal (later Baronial) **hunting forest** in the 12th-14th centuries. This was subsequently broken up into **smaller estates**, and Threipmuir (Scots *threapan*, disputed) helps confirm that by the 13th-14th century, subdivision and consolidation of boundaries was leading to more specific disagreements over particular bits of land.

Place-names help show further how lands were divided. Temple House and Temple Hill reflect the granting of extensive estates to the Knights Templar; Listonshiels suggests one-time grazing links with lowland Liston (close to Edinburgh Airport); and the addition of Easter-, Wester-, Over- and Nether- confirms the splitting of larger into smaller farms. Names such as Cairns, Lymphoy, Malleny, Balerno, Auchinoon, Auchendinny and Auchencorth help pinpoint the settlement of **Gaelic speakers** both sides of the Pentlands, probably 10th-12th century, as do such topographical names as Craigengar, Tarbrax, Colzium, Currie, Torduff, Logan and Glencorse. Meantime Baberton, Riccarton, Warriston, Colinton, Swanston and Dolphinton confirm a mix of **'English'-speaking English, Anglo-Norman/Flemish and Scando-Northumbrian settlers**, probably from the 12th century. As 'new Scots', they were successors to the Iron-Age **Britons** whose 'early Welsh' linguistic legacy survives in such hill names as Carnethy, Caerketton and Mendick; and in Carnwath, Penicuik and Pentland itself.

Mainly ruinous **tower-houses** at Bavelaw, Fulford/Woodhouselee, Lymphoy/Lennox and Cairns (generally 13th-early 17th century) betray continuing unrest, whilst the **Covenanter's Grave** and the battle site of **Rullion Green** (1666) reflect more particularly religious troubles. Tower-houses can also mark the highest extent of late-medieval settlement (notably at Bavelaw and Cairns, and a likely 'fortalice' at Loganhouse); and the survival along the upland fringe of **pre-improvement field systems** highlights a downhill retreat of cultivation in later times. **Cultivation terraces**

survive on Dunsyre Hill, and extensive blocks of **rig and furrow** (set at angles to each other for natural drainage) characterise the muirland above Dunsyre and Carnwath, around Bavelaw and Colzium, and below Castlelaw, Capelaw and Caerketton. Meantime, the humps and hollows of **former farm clusters** stand out well with a dusting of snow or low sunlight.

Later Settlement and Land Use

Much of the **present-day agricultural landscape** is little more than 150-250 years old. Large **geometric fields** with underground drainage, enclosed with **hedges or drystone dykes** and complemented by **woodland shelterbelts**, betray Scotland's agricultural revolution and a series of 18th-century **Lowland clearances** that were just as revolutionary, harsh and socially-disruptive as the later and better-known Highland clearances.

Many smaller **post-improvement farms**, generally 19th-century and on the outer edge of better farmland, have been amalgamated with their neighbours in more recent decades, and many of their buildings put to **other uses** (or left ruinous like Threipmuir, Craigentarrie and Wester Colzium). Now-gentrified, the white-painted, flower-bedecked thatched cottages at Swanston provide perhaps the best surviving example of a **Lowland 'farm-toun'** that once housed the joint-tenants of a pre-improvement agricultural landscape. Successor **Swanston Farm** includes a large, well-built 19th-century **farmhouse**, an equally well-built **courtyard steading**, and a separate half-square of **farm servants' cottages** – all reflecting the new order and an increasingly economically-unequal and socially-divisive hierarchy. Like many buildings on other farms within commuting distance of urban areas (and R.L. Stevenson's one-time retreat at Swanston Cottage), these have now been converted to **residential or business use**. And where the land is no longer worked agriculturally, it has been laid out as golf courses, leased as recreational horse paddocks, planted with new native woodland, or simply allowed to revert to muirland.

The 19th century saw other very considerable changes – mainly around the fringes, but directly dependent upon the Pentlands' resources. **Quarries** were opened up in many places (the largest is at Torduff); and **water-powered mills** proliferated along the Esk and the Water of Leith for manufacturing the likes of snuff, gunpowder, and more particularly paper and textiles (as well as grinding grain). Carlops, meantime, originated as a late 18th-century **planned village** to harness the Esk for weaving cotton, later wool. Patie's Mill (now a private house) stands nearby; former weavers' cottages flank the A702; and the local hotel was once the warehouse.

Reservoirs such as Harlaw, Threipmuir and Harperrig gathered water to power mills and clean out the river to encourage breeding salmon; Glencorse, Loganlea and others did likewise, or provided drinking water for an ever-expanding city. They have **drowned lands** that were once cultivated or grazed; and except in times of severe drought (which reveal its stony ruins) only the farm name **Kirkton** recalls the 12th-century chapel of **St Katherine's-in-the-Hopes**. Close by, **cattle-hollowed tracks** emerge obliquely from the waters of Glencorse to mark the line of a former drove road.

The Present-Day

Hill-farming today is uncertain. Sheep still graze much of the uplands, and butts and burnt patchworks of heather muir betray seasonal grouse shoots. Other areas (notably around Colzium) have been turned over to **forestry**; vast lengths of **drystane dyke** are falling into disrepair; very few people now live amongst the hills; and the army maintains a **firing range** at Castlelaw. Some reservoirs remain 'in service' to help slake Edinburgh's thirst; but others have been adapted as holding areas for new **flood prevention schemes** for the city (most particularly for the Water of Leith and the Braid Burn). And Edinburgh's new **water treatment plant** sits just east of Flotterstone.

Above all, for many people today, the Pentlands offer opportunities for **recreation** – solitude and contemplation; hill-walking, jogging and fell-running; fishing and horse-riding; mountain-biking, para-gliding and dry-skiing; camping and expedition training; bird-watching, botanising ... and gentle dawdling and picnics (with or without a dog or a pushchair). Albeit an **attractive, undulating skyline** for locals and visitors alike, they are far more than just a scatter of lowish hills lying in the shadow of Scotland's capital. And they are by no means a poor man's substitute for the higher, more extensive and more rugged hills of the Highlands. Often smooth, but sometimes rocky and wrinkled, they present a multi-coloured **mosaic** of shapely peaks, scree, rough muirland and boggy-bottomed, steep-sided little valleys – and they can be decidedly challenging under winter snows.

But the Pentlands are in no sense an empty landscape. They reveal a remarkably **eclectic and often-complex cultural past**; their story reflects the **inter-dependence of man and environment**, where **landscape history** is much more than recognising and understanding the three-dimensional evidence of man's everyday life and impact. It includes the **mental evidence** (songs, stories, customs, beliefs, folklore and suchlike) of how man viewed the natural environment over time, and how he came to terms with living within it. **Material evidence** spans maybe five millennia; and **place-names** – part of that **mental landscape** – highlight at least seven linguistic layers, the earliest stretching back maybe 2,500 years. Some of these linguistic layers (like British, Gaelic and Scots) are very substantial; others (like early Northumbrian, Norman-French, Scandinavian and Latin) are fleeting.

Ecology seeks to maintain and restore the biodiversity of flora and fauna. A fully-inclusive **human ecology** nurtures individuality, difference, initiative and collaboration amongst people within a natural environment where virtually everything has been modified by man. The Pentlands offer a fascinating window on man's interaction with the environment; and initiatives by the Regional Park, the Friends of the Pentlands, landowners and other land-users seek to preserve and enhance the overall **human landscape**, future as well as present and past.

PLACE-NAMES IN THE PENTLANDS

Peter Drummond

The hills, valleys, rivers, farms and villages in and around the Pentland Hills all had names, and this booklet explores the meanings and origins of a wide selection within the area bounded by the A720 (Edinburgh city bypass), the A70 (west), A702 (east) and A721 (south). Every place-name means something, although that meaning has often changed over time. Today, **Castlelaw** may suggest a 'firing range', **Flotterstone** a 'pub' or a 'visitor centre', **Threipmuir** a reservoir, and **Balerno** a 'commuter suburb'. But these are not their original meanings!

Place-names are clues to the past, since most were given at a time when society and culture were overwhelmingly rural and the languages spoken differed from modern English. Scots **Cauldstane Slap** (a hypothetical 'Cold Stone Pass' in English!) reflects the long history of access and communication through this well-defined gap in the hills; **Torphin** and **Torduff**, above Bonaly, are evidence of the Gaelic language that dominated the western side from the 10th century and continued to be spoken until maybe the 15th/16th centuries. In today's English they would be White (or Pale) Hillock and Black (or Dark) Hillock, reflecting how they looked (grassy, heathery/rocky).

Linguistic Heritage

The earliest place-names in this part of Scotland appear to be British, the language spoken by Iron Age Britons throughout Scotland, Wales and England, and ancestor of modern Welsh. East of the Slamannan muirs it is sometimes referred to as Brittonic; Cumbric in the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde. The names include such rivers as **Esk**, **Leith** and **Medwin**, but also names with the element **pen*, **caer* or **tref* (head, fort, homestead respectively) – as in **Penicuik**, **Caerketton** and Edinburgh's **Niddrie**. Meantime, British **monith* (ancestor of Welsh *mynydd*, mountain, moorland) is the probable root of **Mendick Hill** and nearby hills with 'mount' in their names.

British, cousin to Pictish, was spoken in Lothian until about the 10th or 11th century. During the first millennium AD, however, two other languages had appeared and gradually replaced British. From north-east England came a northern form of Anglian or Old English that had been influenced by Scandinavian settlers, and this gradually transmuted into Scots under the influence of other, generally Celtic languages. From the west and north-west (and originally from Ireland before reaching Argyll and Galloway), Gaelic penetrated the central lowlands and became dominant here from roughly the 10th to the early 13th centuries.

The Pentlands were effectively a boundary between these two major linguistic, cultural and political forces. As they survive, small but significant numbers of Gaelic names are found to the east, not least **Auchendinny**, **Auchencorth**, and **Pittendreich** (which latter also suggests very rare Pictish influence south of the Firth

of Forth). But most are to the west: hill- and moorland names such as **Dunsyre**, **Mealowther** and **Currie**, and farm names such as **Auchinoon**, **Malleny** and **Balerno**. Scots names dominate the east and centre of the range, whether for hills like **Scald Law** and **Allermuir** and such settlements as **Carlops** and **Threipmuir**, or linguistically-related Anglian names like **Dolphinton** and **West Linton**.

Gaelic (and Irish and Manx) are sometimes referred to as **Q-Celtic** languages, and British and Pictish (with Welsh, Cornish and Breton) as **P-Celtic**. This reflects the way in which the Celtic languages evolved from an older form of Celtic, the difference being seen in words such as Gaelic *ceann* / British **pen* (head, end) and Gaelic *coig* / British **pump* (five). Scots, on the other hand, like other descendants of Old English and Old Norse, is a Germanic language.

Studying Place-Names

Ordnance Survey maps, especially the 1:25000 Explorer series, contain a huge number of place-names. The Ordnance Survey gathered most of its names from local informants in the mid-19th century, but particularly for smaller landscape features, there are also locally-used and still-current names not officially recorded. In times of much human mobility, these can be very ephemeral, often changing with a change of owner or tenant.

To establish the meaning of place-names, however, we need to track down the very oldest forms of the name. This is because they often change in pronunciation or spelling over the centuries, and the oldest forms are most likely to be closest to the original. The current name of the farms and house of **Bavelaw**, for instance, might suggest *law*, one of many Scots names for a hill, but early forms also end in *-lay*, which maybe indicates Scots *lea*, a meadow. And the older form of **Henshaw Hill (Hainshaw Hill)**, hints at Scots *hain* + *shaw*, hedge/enclosure + copse, rather than anything to do with poultry!

Many names of settlements, farms and villages were first recorded in the *Register of the Great Seal* (in effect, Scotland's registry of land transactions from medieval times to the 17th century), or in charters and other legal documents dating from the 12th century onwards. However, such has been Scotland's troubled past, difficult geography and relative poverty, that virtually no earlier records survive. And hill-names are more elusive still. Not being units of economic importance, they were not named in early charters and most first appear only on maps.

The most important maps are those compiled by such as Pont (1590s), Blaeu (1654), Roy (1755) or Armstrong (1773/1775); others include the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Six-Inch to a Mile maps (mid-19th century). All can be viewed online. The two best general works on Scottish place-names are those by W.J. Watson and W.F.H. Nicolaisen; and since 1996, their work has been continued by the Scottish Place-Name Society. PhD theses from the 1940s provide thorough, though now-dated coverage of names in West- and Midlothian and the Borders; and most recently, the five-volume *Place-Names of Fife* provides invaluable comparative material for place-names around the Pentlands, as well as an exemplary model for future regional studies. (See Further Information below.)

The range name, *The Pentlands*

We call the hills **The Pentlands**. This is a plural noun signifying the range of hills, and derives ultimately from British **pen* meaning head, end (or by analogy, hill). The word is found wherever the British languages were spoken. Hill names elsewhere include Pen y Fan (Wales), Penyghent (England) and Penvalla (Scotland); local settlement names include **Penicuik** and **Pencaitland**.

The way in which this range of hills came to be named was more by way of accident than intention. It has absolutely nothing in common with the Pentland Firth, originally an Old Norse name for the sound between Caithness and Orkney and commemorating the land of the Picts. By contrast, it seems to originate in the farm or hamlet of **Pentland**, just south of the Edinburgh bypass, close to Straiton Retail Park and IKEA!

Recorded as *Pentland* (c.1050, 1200), it probably derives from British **pen llan*, head or top end of the church or enclosure. In the late-15th to mid-16th centuries, land transfers refer to *Pentlandmure* and *Pentland* – documents that also list adjacent bits of land with such still-recognisable names as *Loganehous*, *Hilend*, *Boghall* and *Mortounhall*. 'Muir', in *Pentlandmure*, describes common grazings where the farm's livestock would be pastured in summer; and gradually the name was linked more specifically with the slopes of the nearby hills (perhaps **Allermuir**, **Woodhouselee** or **Castlelaw**).

By the beginning of the 17th century, therefore, the name and concept of a 'Pentland Hill' was emerging: a hill linked by its grazing function, and hence its name, to the farm below, in much the same way that other Pentland hills are named after their association with a particular farm (**Colzium Hill**, **Buteland Hill**, **Temple Hill**, **Spittal Hill**, **Patie's Hill**). It was a small (if fortuitous) step to the name being applied to a whole range. Timothy Pont mapped the area in the 1590s, and his work appeared in the maps of the Dutch cartographers Hondius (1630s) and Blaeu (1650s). Interestingly, Blaeu gives the name in two forms, in two different locations: **Pentland Hill** (roughly in the area of Castlelaw); and **Penth-landt hill** (further south and clearly intended as a name for the wider range).

A document of 1642, granting rights of pasturage and foray to Alexander Foullis of Colinton (in the *Register of the Great Seal*), is the first to give the name in the plural (in Latin): '*... una cum communia super pentlandhilles tarn animalia pascendi quam focalia lucrandi sicuti.*' And local use of 'Pentland' for the hills (as opposed to the original farm) led the 17th-century antiquarian David Buchanan to write (in a description of the province of Edinburgh, c.1650): 'This more raised part of the region is commonly called Penlan, badly pronounced by the ignorant as Pentland. The name is a compound and means high land, for *Pen* or *Pin* or *Bin* is high ... and *Lana* is land or dwelling from Hebrew *Lun* to inhabit. This whole Penlan is elevated here and there into mountains which are called the Penlan mountains ...'.

Whilst his etymology is nonsense (and we might quibble about 'mountains!'), it is clear that by the mid-17th century local people used the same name as we use today. But what if the hills had been credited with a less euphonious farm name? **The Spittles** perhaps, or **The Boghalls!**

FURTHER INFORMATION

Books:

A selection of titles. Some have been reprinted, many are now out-of-print, but most can be accessed through public libraries.

Pentlands:

- J. Crumley, *The Pentland Hills*, Edinburgh: J. Donald, 1991.
- S. Falconer, *The Pentland Hills: A Walker's Guide* [2007], Milnthorpe: Cicerone, 2010 (with updates).
- W. Grant, *The Call of the Pentlands*, Grant, 1927.
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- A. Morris, *The Pentlands' pocket book: a new guide to the hills of home*, Edinburgh: Pentland Associates, 1991.
- D.G. Moir, *Pentland Walks*, Bartholomew, 1977. [Revision of earlier editions by R. Cochrane]
- G.M. Reith, *The Breezy Pentlands*, Edinburgh: Foulis, 1910.

Life, local history and place-names around and beyond the Pentlands:

- Anon., *Balerno: The Village and District* [1967], Balerno: SWRI, 1998.
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- M. Williamson, *The Non-Celtic Place-Names of the Scottish Border Counties*, Univ. Edin. PhD thesis, 1942, ms (see SPNS website).
- J.J. Wilson, *The Annals of Penicuik*, Stevenage: Spa, 1985.
- I. Whyte, *Edinburgh & The Borders: Landscape Heritage*, Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1990. [Introduction to the wider area]

Websites:

- FoP (Friends of the Pentlands): www.pentlandfriends.plus.com
- PHRP (Pentland Hills Regional Park Ranger Service): www.pentlandhills.org
- DSL (Dictionary of the Scots Language): www.dsl.ac.uk
- NLS (National Library of Scotland): www.nls.uk/maps
- RCAHMS (Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historic Monuments of Scotland): www.rcahms.gov.uk
- SPNS (Scottish Place-Name Society): www.spns.org.uk
- OS (Ordnance Survey): www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk
- ScotWays (Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society): www.scotways.com

THE NAMES

'Further Information', 'Commoner Elements' and the 'Gazetteer' are joint compilations by both contributors. They cannot be more extensive within this modest booklet, but hopefully will help all who venture into the Pentlands to develop a greater understanding of how man has interacted, through time, with the hills and their surrounding fringe.

COMMONER ELEMENTS IN PENTLAND PLACE-NAMES

auch	Gaelic <i>achadh</i> , a field or enclosure, later permanently settled, as in Auchinoon.
ba(a)d	As in Baad Park. Maybe Gaelic <i>bad</i> , thicket, place (where trees or scrub once grew?), but probably already taken into Scots. Scots <i>baud</i> , an extensive mass of gorse or thistles (or even Scots <i>bawd</i> , a hare?).
bal(l)	Gaelic <i>baile</i> , farm, settlement, as in Balerno. The equivalent of Scots <i>toun</i> .
burn	Scots/northern English <i>burn</i> , 'a stream, as in the functionally-named Mill Burn.
caer	British * <i>caer</i> , fort, as in Caerketton.
cairn	Scots <i>car(n)e</i> , <i>cairn</i> , a pile or small heap of stones (especially one serving as a boundary- or land-mark, or marking a grave). Generally refers in older names to the prominent ruins of a prehistoric stone structure, as in East Cairn Hill. A loanword from Gaelic <i>càrn</i> , heap of stones.
cape	Scots/northern English <i>caip</i> , <i>cape</i> , <i>cap</i> , the highest part of anything, as Capelaw. Possibly influenced by or borrowed from Gaelic <i>ceap</i> , a block, (shoemaker's) last, top (of a hill).
cleuch	Scots/northern English <i>cleuch</i> , a steep, often rocky-sided gorge or ravine. Green Cleuch is a meltwater channel cut round the side of Black Hill.
cock	Scots <i>cock</i> usually refers to the male grouse, black grouse or other game bird, as in Cock Rig, Cocklaw. (Black-cock = black grouse; muir-cock = red grouse)
cors(s)	Scots <i>cors</i> , an alternate form for 'cross' (whether a cross or a crossing), as in Glencorse.
craig	Scots <i>crag</i> , <i>craig</i> , for a crag, loanwords from Gaelic <i>creag</i> . Cloven Craig and Peaked Craig are self-explanatory.
dene	A narrow, often quite long valley, sometimes with a ravine, as Dens Cleuch. Scots <i>dean</i> , <i>dene</i> and <i>den</i> are alternative forms, the last one mainly north of the Forth.

dod	Scots/northern English <i>dod</i> , a bare round-topped hill, like plain Dod Hill.
dun	Gaelic <i>dùn</i> , a fortress, fortification (as Dunsyre), or Scots <i>dun</i> , <i>doon</i> , a hill, generally isolated and often with a prehistoric hill-fort or other defensive structure. English <i>dun</i> (ultimately from Celtic) is more 'a fairly low hill whose top is suitable for a settlement', and often used of ridges.
edge	A shelf of high ground above an escarpment (steep dip) to one side. Bavelaw Edge (above the farm of that name) is now lost, but occasionally given on 18th- to early-19th century maps. English <i>edge</i> .
faw, fa'	Scots <i>faw</i> , <i>fa'</i> , speckled, as in Fala Knowe.
gate	Scots <i>gate</i> , <i>gait</i> , track, as in Kirkgate.
gill	Scots/northern English <i>gil(l)</i> , <i>gyll</i> , for a narrow ravine, gully, originally from Old Norse <i>gil</i> . As in Baddinsgill.
glen	Gaelic <i>gleann</i> , a valley. If it forms the first part of a name (Glencorse, Glenmade), it is probably a Gaelic name, but the Gaelic word also passed into Scots (where it normally comes second).
grain	Scots/northern English <i>grain(e)</i> , <i>grane</i> , for a branch of a river or valley, especially high in the hills (Grain Head). Possibly from Old Norse <i>grein</i> , branch, division.
gutter(s)	Scots <i>gutter</i> , <i>gitter</i> . Generally in plural: thick mud, mire, muddy puddles, as in Gutterford.
hagg	Scots/northern English <i>hag</i> , bog, but possibly influenced by Old Norse <i>hagg</i> for a cutting or clearing in woodland. As in Hagierae Moss.
hare	Sometimes a hare, but can be Scots <i>hair/hare/har</i> , hoary or grey, and may refer to rocks or a boundary stone, as in Hare Hill.
haugh	Scots <i>haugh</i> , a piece of level ground beside a watercourse, as in Haughhead.
heugh	Scots <i>heugh</i> , a pit, as in Quarrel Heugh (Scots <i>quarrel</i> , for the nearby quarry). Can also mean a cleft or hollow with steep overhanging sides; or a heel, projecting ridge of land or promontory.
hope	Scots/northern English <i>hope</i> , a small, often partly-hidden or enclosed upland valley, as in Deer Hope or Fairliehope.
howe	Scots <i>how(e)</i> , a hole, hollow, low-lying area, as in The Howe.
jaw	Scots <i>jaw</i> , a falling or outpouring of water, as in Rowantree Jaw.
kaim	Scots <i>kame</i> , a long, narrow, steep-sided hill-ridge or crest, as in Kame-end.

kip	Scots <i>kippit</i> , upturned, jutting; <i>kip(p)</i> , a jutting or projecting point on a hill, the summit of a sharp-pointed hill, as in West Kip. Possibly influenced by or borrowed from Gaelic <i>ceap</i> , a block, (shoemaker's) last, top (as of a hill).
kirk	Scots/northern English <i>kirk</i> , for church.
knock	Scots <i>knock</i> , from Gaelic <i>cnoc</i> , a small hill or hillock.
knowe	Scots/northern English <i>knowe</i> , a small hill or hillock, as in Birny Knowe.
law	Classic southern Scots/northern English <i>law</i> for a hill, seemingly more or less round or conical in shape and often applied to isolated hills. Braid Law is broad hill.
lea	Scots/northern English <i>lea</i> , <i>ley</i> , a meadow or woodland clearing (sometimes a piece of arable), as in Woodhouselee.
loan	Scots <i>loan</i> , a lane, loaning or driftway that once linked the byres and the common grazing, as in Loanhead.
loch	Loanword into Scots from Gaelic <i>loch</i> , lake, as in Crane Loch.
loup	Scots/northern English <i>leip</i> , <i>lowp</i> , <i>loup</i> , for a leap, steep drop; therefore a place to be leapt or jumped over, as in Carlops.
moss	Scots <i>moss</i> , a morass, bog or area of soft wet ground, as in Bawdy Moss.
mount	Scots <i>munt</i> , a low (formerly tree-covered?) hill, largely confined to this area but found also in Fife and Ayrshire. Probably British <i>*mynydd</i> , a hill, as in Mendick (and several other nearby 'mounts'), but could simply be Scots?
muir	Scots <i>muir</i> , <i>mure</i> , rough hill and moorland seen as part of an estate and often associated with summer grazing or as a source of heather, whin (gorse), turf etc., as in Allermuir, Pentlandmuir.
nick	Scots <i>nick</i> , a narrow gap or pass in a range of hills, as in atmospheric Windy Door Nick.
pen	From British <i>*pen</i> , head, top, whence Penicuik, Pentland.
pike	Scots/northern English <i>pike</i> , a sharp pointed hill (also a cairn or pile of stones). There are two hills called The Pike in the southern Pentlands.
rig	Scots/northern English <i>rig(g)</i> can be either a ridge of high ground, a long narrow hill or a hill-crest (as Whauplie Rig), or a long narrow strip of agricultural land (originally probably the ridge of earth thrown up by the plough).
shiel	Scots/northern English <i>shiel</i> , a rough shelter for sheep or cattle and their herds in a remote place on a summer grazing, as in Listonshiels.
slap	Scots <i>slap</i> , a pass or shallow valley through the hills, as in the Cauldstane Slap.

stane	Scots <i>stane</i> , stone, as in Fingerstane Cleuch.
syke	Scots/northern English <i>syke</i> , <i>sike</i> , a small slow-flowing stream meandering through a hollow or across flat or boggy ground and often dry in summer; sometimes the marshy ground crossed by such; sometimes an open field-drain or ditch. As in the colourfully-named Sinkie Syke.
temple	Latin <i>templum</i> , temple, and often given to lands granted to the Knights Templar in the 12th century, as in Temple Hill.
tod	Scots/northern English <i>tod</i> , fox, as in Todhole Knowe.
tor	From Gaelic <i>tòrr</i> , meaning a low, often-conical hill. This element is found on the western and north-western hills, as in Torgeith between the city by-pass and Allermuir.
toun	Scots <i>toun</i> , a farm or farm settlement, as in Swanston. The <i>ferm-toun</i> was a group of dwellings and other buildings, with associated lands, inhabited by the tenants of an estate before the agricultural improvements.
water	Scots <i>watter</i> , <i>waater</i> , a large stream or small river usually seen as between a burn and a river in size. Often a tributary of a main river, or sometimes applied to the upper reaches of what becomes a larger river, as in West Water.

GAZETTEER

Derivations and etymologies are notoriously difficult to determine. The absence of early forms for most of the names makes this doubly so; the pitfalls are many and not always obvious; and suggested meanings and origins (inevitably selective and simplified) should not be considered definitive.

Abbreviations:

O.S. = Ordnance Survey (all grid references begin with NT unless otherwise stated)
 N/S/E/W = North/South/East/West
 N/A = Not applicable
 * = hypothetical form (applies to all elements from P-Celtic British/early Welsh)
 q.v. = look for this name elsewhere in the Gazetteer

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Allermuir Hill	L8	22 66	Scots <i>aller</i> , 'alder (tree)' + Scots <i>muir</i> , 'moor, hill-pasture'. In Scots, <i>muir</i> can mean a hill where beasts are grazed, so 'hill' is superfluous.
Bawdy Knowes	D5	06 54	Not a scene of lewd activities, but probably hillocks where hares (Scots <i>bawd</i>) disported. But may have similar origins to Baad Park (q.v.).
Bell's Hill	K8	20 64	<i>Bell Hill</i> (1816), <i>Bell'd Hill</i> (1834) – perhaps from Scots <i>beld</i> , <i>bellit</i> , 'bald'. <i>Bell</i> is one of several Scots words for a hill, although mainly nearer the Border.
Black Birn	D5	05 54	Scots <i>birn</i> , 'dry, heathy pasture' where young sheep were pastured in summer. Birny Knowe (07 57) probably featured similar terrain, maybe where heather was burnt off to provide short springy new growth (muirburn).
Black Hill	K8	18 63	Refers to its very distinctive dark heather cover. A common name, this Black Hill was formerly known as <i>Loganhouse Black Hill</i> or <i>West Black Hill</i> , and George Reith (1910) described it as looking like " ... a dirty patched gypsy tent."
Black Mount	E2	08 45	Named from the dark heather on its upper slopes, compared to the adjacent White Hill. Mapped as <i>Black Munth & Welstoun Month</i> (Pont, 1590s), <i>Elsrickle Hill</i> (Blaeu, 1654), <i>Wallstonhill</i> (Armstrong, 1775), reverting to <i>Black Mount</i> in 1821. Both Black and Walston (hills) were used in the New Statistical Accounts (1830s-40s). Walston (q.v.) and Elsrickle (q.v.) are hamlets below the hill.
Bleak Law	D4	06 51	<i>Black Law</i> in 1755; but possibly 'bleak', or Scots <i>blaik</i> , 'pale-coloured'. Scots <i>law</i> , 'hill'.

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Buiselaw	M9	24 67	Maybe Scots <i>buss</i> , 'bush', or less likely Scots <i>buist</i> (also spelt <i>buise</i>), 'a branding mark on sheep', or an elided Scots <i>bowhouse</i> , cattle house, vaccary + Scots <i>law</i> , 'hill'. No early forms, so uncertain!
Byrehope Mount	F5	11 54	Mapped as <i>Common Head</i> in 1816, <i>Barhope Rig</i> was shown on NE edge of the hill. Maybe from Gaelic <i>bàrr</i> , 'top or end of a hill', or after a later byre (cow shed). Scots <i>hope</i> , 'a small upper valley'. Byerside Hill (23 66) may also derive from byre.
Caerketton Hill	M8	23 66	There are the remains of a prehistoric burial cairn on its summit and a hill-fort on Hillend (q.v.), its NE ridge, so British <i>*caer</i> , 'fort' is more likely as the first part. W.J. Watson thought it might be a corruption of <i>caer Gatell</i> , the latter word being a British personal name, and recorded as <i>Carkettyl</i> from 1543 (as a house, not a hill). Later the hill was mapped as <i>Kirkyetton</i> or <i>Kirketton</i> (1763, 1816, 1834) or <i>Kairnketton</i> (1682), the map-makers presumably basing their spelling on local pronunciation.
Camp Hill	K6	19 59	Probably refers to the gentle rise on which can be seen the outline of a prehistoric site generally referred to as Braidwood (q.v.) palisaded settlement. Scots <i>camp</i> , 'camp, enclosure or (battle) field', tended to be used in recent centuries to refer any old earthwork resembling a fort.
Cap Law	J6	17 59	Will Grant (1927) and O.S. (19th century) referred to it as <i>Gap Law</i> , so perhaps it refers to the gap west of West Kip and an important medieval trackway (c.f. Monks Rig; q.v.). If Cap Law, then Scots <i>caip</i> , 'highest part of anything, coping stone, cap', possibly influenced by or borrowed from Gaelic <i>ceap</i> , 'top (as of a hill)'.
Capelaw	L8	21 65	Scots <i>caip</i> , 'highest part of anything, coping stone, cap', but possibly influenced by or borrowed from Gaelic <i>ceap</i> , 'top (as of a hill)'. Scots <i>law</i> , 'hill'.
Carlops Hill	H5	14 56	The top above Carlops Hill was mapped as <i>Cairn Muir Hill</i> (1755) and <i>Turnip Hill</i> (1816).
Carnethy Hill	K7	20 61	Probably British <i>*carneddau</i> (plural of <i>*carnedd</i>), 'stone heaps', and pronounced like modern Welsh <i>Carneddau</i> (the extended ridge of the Carnydds in Snowdonia). The huge mounds of stones on top are the remains of a prehistoric burial cairn. Will Grant (1910) suggested <i>Caer Nechtan</i> , from the Pictish king Nechtan, but this is without historical foundation.

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Castlelaw (Hill)	L8	22 64	The 'castle' is an Iron Age hill-fort dating to 1st/2nd century BC/AD. It incorporates a souterrain cut into the earthen ramparts after the 'fort' was abandoned around the time the Romans arrived. In 1755 the main hill was known as <i>Law Hill</i> , whilst what is now called Castle Knowe (q.v.) was mapped as Castle Law.
Castle Knowe	L8	23 64	'Castle' (used commonly in recent centuries for an old, generally fortified earthwork) probably refers to the remains of a settlement/enclosure on top of the <i>knowe</i> (small rounded hill). It lies across the track, just a short distance away from Castlelaw fort.
Catstone	F4	09 52	Scots <i>catstane</i> , 'hearthstone, or one of two uprights on which the grate rests'. Conceivably also the one-time home of a wildcat?
Chucklie Knowe	L9	22 67	Possibly from Scots <i>chuckie</i> , 'a pebble or small stone'. This does not explain the <i>ll</i> , but possibly assimilated with English <i>chuckle</i> , referring to a noise made when walking over small stones? (Used in Scots of curling stones bumping into each other.)
Cock Rig	H6	15 59	Scots <i>cock</i> in place-names usually refers to the male grouse or other game bird. Similar names on the W side of the Pentlands include Cocklaw and Cock Rig, with a Cockup near Dolphinton!
Craigengar	E5	09 55	From Gaelic <i>creag na gearra</i> , 'cliff or crag of the hare'. One of several hills hereabouts with Gaelic names.
Cross Sward	K7	18 60	An area of green turf (Scots <i>sward</i>) between Scald Law and East Kip. The Reverend McCourty of Penicuik (1790s) described a stone here, in the gap. It measured about a metre square, with a recess as if to support a cross. It seemingly resembled the Font Stane (q.v.) on the Monks Rig (q.v.), but has long disappeared – perhaps incorporated into a nearby drystone dyke?
Darlees Rig	D4	06 53	<i>Dorleck Rig</i> (1773) might suggest Gaelic <i>leac</i> , 'slab or stone', but Scots/northern English <i>leck</i> is 'a hard subsoil of clay or gravel'. It and other nearby tops boast shepherds' cairns, presumably waymarkers in a largely rounded, featureless landscape.
Dod Hill	J6	17 57	Scots <i>dod</i> , 'a rounded hill', thus 'hill hill'. A common name in the Borders.
Dun Kaim	H5	15 55	Possibly Gaelic <i>dùn</i> , 'a fortress, fortification' or Scots <i>dun</i> , <i>doon</i> , 'a hill, generally isolated and often with some kind of early defensive structure' + Scots <i>kame</i> , 'a long, narrow steep-sided ridge' – the long, narrow ridge stands in the middle of a marshy flat-bottomed hollow.

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Dunsyre Hill	D3	07 48	Gaelic <i>dùn siar</i> , 'western hill(-fort)' – with Keir Hill (q.v.), 3 km east, maybe its eastern counterpart? Dunsyre Hill is the last high ground in the S Pentlands; the cultivation terraces on its slopes could be prehistoric through to medieval.
East Cairn Hill	G6	12 59	Scots <i>cam(e)</i> , <i>cairn</i> , a pile of stones (especially one serving as a boundary- or land-mark, or marking a grave), and a loanword from Gaelic <i>càrn</i> , heap of stones. East and West Cairn Hill, with their still-prominent ruins of prehistoric burial cairns, are significant landmarks either side of the Cauldstane Slap (q.v.). East Cairn Hill was mapped as <i>Harper Rig</i> (q.v.) in 1816/1834.
East Kip	J7	18 60	Scots <i>kip</i> , 'jutting or projecting point on a hill', possibly from Gaelic <i>ceap</i> , 'top (of a hill)'. East Kip is not pointed like the West Kip (q.v.), so may be a secondary name. Mapped as <i>Kipps</i> (1763) and – probably in error – <i>Black Hill</i> (1766).
Fadden	F4	09 53	This was <i>Fadden Hill</i> in 1855. The meaning is obscure, unless it be Scots <i>fa' den</i> , 'speckled dene' (valley), from the narrow cleft on its south side.
Fala Knowe	L8	22 65	<i>Falaw</i> in 1542. Possibly the original name for Castlelaw, with Fala Knowe the lower outlier? Scots <i>faw</i> , <i>fa'</i> , 'speckled' (as in Falkirk) + Scots <i>law</i> 'hill'. There are many hills with this name in S Scotland.
Fauch Hill	E6	07 58	Probably Scots <i>fauch</i> , 'part of the outfield left fallow in alternate years or never ploughed'.
Faw Mount	G4	13 54	Either Scots <i>faw</i> , <i>fa'</i> (speckled) or a form of Scots <i>fauch</i> (fallow). 'Mount' may originate in British <i>*monith</i> or <i>*mynydd</i> (see The Mount below).
Gask Hill	K7	19 62	Gaelic <i>gasg</i> , 'tail', a term sometimes applied to a wedge-shaped piece of ground, and here referring to the E spur of Black Hill, overlooking Logan House.
Grain Hill	K7	19 60	Scots <i>grain</i> , 'the branch of a stream or valley'. The hill stands above Grain Burn, with Grain Heads Hill not far to the W (14 57). Scots <i>grain</i> (Old Norse <i>grein</i>), a 'branch, division, fork' – lots of uppermost tiny tributaries coming together like the tines of a graip!
Green Law	J6	16 59	Literally 'green hill' (Scots <i>law</i>), perhaps from the relative lushness of its vegetation compared to neighbours, although subsequent improvement of hill ground means this is no longer obvious.
Hagierae Moss	F7	09 59	A boggy upland area. Scots <i>hag</i> is normally 'a bog or rough/wild unbroken ground', here with Scots <i>rae</i> , <i>ree</i> , 'a cattle enclosure + Scots <i>moss</i> , 'bog'. So 'the bog of the boggy cattle pound'. Also Haggies Ho. (q.v.).

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Harbour Hill	K8	20 65	Running SE and curving N to produce a slightly cupped flank giving some shelter to Phantom's Cleuch (q.v.) from the prevailing (south-)westerlies. Old English <i>heorde-beorg</i> , 'herd hill' is linguistically very unlikely; alternatively, Armstrong (1773) appears to show it as <i>Torbrack</i> , which would be from Gaelic <i>tòrr breac</i> , 'speckled hillock' (as in Tarbrax).
Hare Hill	J7	17 62	Possibly refers to the number of hares once seen there (Craigengar a few kms SW means the same in Gaelic). However, Scots <i>hair/hare/har</i> can also mean hoary, grey or rocky (it has a partly-quarried rocky summit), and could contrast with nearby Black Hill. It might also be associated with a long-standing boundary which passes close by.
Harper Rig	F7	12 59	An old name for East Cairn Hill, it was shown thus on late-18th/early -19th century maps. Will Grant (1927) suggested it referred to Druidic harpers linked to the burial cairn on top, but this is fanciful. It may have derived from Harperrig farm (q.v.), since Scots <i>rig</i> can mean either 'the ridge of a hill' or 'the riggs of a farm's fields'.
Harrows Law	D4	05 53	<i>Harras Law</i> (1755), <i>Harris Law</i> (1816). Obscure. Possibly derived from a family name?
Henshaw Hill	D5	06 54	Probably the hill above the Scots <i>hain</i> , 'hedge' + <i>shaw</i> , 'wood' (i.e. the hill above the enclosed wood, or above the wood that gave shelter). Mapped as <i>Hainshaw</i> (1755), <i>Hinchy Hill</i> (1773). C.f. Cobbinshaw nearby.
Keir Hill	F2	10 47	Scots <i>keir</i> , 'hill-fort' (from British * <i>caer</i>). Dunsyre Hill (q.v.), 3 km away, means the western fort, so this was possibly the eastern fort? There are ancient fortifications on top of this steep little hill.
King Seat	F4	11 53	Mapped as such in 1654, but as <i>Mickle Kingside Hill</i> in 1816. O.S. also has Little King Seat (12 52) above North Slipperfield – from Scots <i>side</i> , 'the side/slope of a hill or bank'.
King's Hill	L8	20 63	A low hill above Kirkton (Glencorse) from where (or so it is said) Robert the Bruce, having wagered his deerhounds against those of St. Clair of Roslin, watched the 14th century hunt of a white stag and lost the hunting forest of Pentland.
Kitchen Moss	H7	15 60	Various lowland place-names incorporate 'Kitchen' (e.g. Kitchen Wood, -Burn, -Rig), and there is an occasional 'Cat(h)kin' or 'Catcun(e)'. They derive from Gaelic <i>coitcheann</i> , 'common grazing land'. Hag-ridden Kitchen Moss (Scots <i>moss</i> , 'a bog, morass') lies high on the watershed with burns running off in most directions – not a place for a wet, stormy, dark or foggy night!

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Lead Law	H4	14 53	MacFarlane's 17th century MS states: "here are likewise the silver mines of Lead Law". Silver and lead are often found together. Scots <i>law</i> , 'hill'.
Mealowther	E5	07 55	From Gaelic <i>meall odhar</i> , 'dun-coloured hill'. Mapped as <i>Malouther</i> in 1775, and as <i>Millowderhill</i> in 1821. (Mealowther Hill near Eaglesham, and Meanlour Hill near Muirkirk have similar meaning.)
Mendick	F3	12 50	From British * <i>monith</i> or * <i>mynydd</i> , 'hill'. It stands clear of the main mass of the hills, distinctive enough to be a simple <i>mynydd</i> without further qualification (although one scholar suggests it must have had an adjectival suffix to create the last syllable). It is one of a cluster of 'mount' names in the area, maybe suggesting a late surviving pocket of P-Celtic (British) speakers.
Monks' Rig	J6	17 59	Seemingly named after monks associated with the medieval hospice at Spittal (q.v.) or some other nearby ecclesiastical foundation. The ridge (Scots <i>rig</i>) served as a route north towards Queensferry and the abbey at Dunfermline, hence also the connection with the name Font Stane (q.v.). Monks Burn and Monkshaugh are nearby.
Mount Maw	G5	14 55	Possibly British * <i>monith mawr</i> , 'big hill' (modern Welsh <i>mynydd mawr</i>), but could simply be Scots <i>munt</i> , 'a low hill'.
Mount, The	H6	14 57	Possibly British * <i>monith</i> or * <i>mynydd</i> , 'hill', but could simply be Scots <i>munt</i> , 'a low hill'.
Muckle Knock	F5	11 56	Scots <i>muckle</i> , 'large' + Scots <i>knock</i> (from Gaelic <i>cnoc</i>), 'knoll'.
Muilieputchie	L9	23 66	Scots <i>moolie</i> , 'mouldy, earthy or damp' + <i>pootch</i> , 'pocket, pouch'. The Swanston Burn emerges from such a marshy hollow here.
Patie's Hill	H6	16 57	An 1816 map showed Paties Hill at NT158566, and the present top as Wester Spittal Hill. Patie was a central character in Allan Ramsay's pastoral play <i>The Gentle Shepherd</i> (1724), set in and around Carlops. The name of this hill, along with such as Habbies Howe and Rogers Rig, derives from this work.
Pentland Hills	N/A	N/A	Named after the old hamlet of Pentland (q.v.).
Pike, The	D4 & E5	06 52 & 07 54	Scots <i>pike</i> suggests 'pointed', but these are round hills and the word seems rather to refer to the cairns on top. As Armstrong (1775) wrote: "These piles of stones [on hills] are often called Cairn, Pike, Currough, Cross ..."

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Scald Law (- Hill)	K7	19 61	The highest hill in the range, mapped as <i>Scadlaw</i> (1755) and <i>Scald Law</i> (1855). Scots <i>scaud</i> or <i>scad</i> , 'scalded or burnt', and <i>scawd</i> , 'scabby or patchy', perhaps referring to large screes on the S slope. A common Scots hill-name, with over a dozen examples in S Scotland.
Shearie Knowe	L9	23 67	No early forms, so uncertain, but various possibilities. Some suggest Gaelic <i>siar</i> , 'west' or <i>sear</i> , 'dark/black', but the name is sometimes <i>Shearing knowe</i> or <i>Shearer Knowe</i> (1855). Latter may be the surname Shearer, the former a low rounded hill where sheep were sheared (clipped)?
South Black Hill	K6	19 60	Black from its dark heather cover. Mapped simply as <i>Black Hill</i> in 1763/1816.
Spittal Hill	H6	16 58	From Scots <i>spital</i> , 'a medieval hospital, hospice or wayside inn' at Spittal (q.v.). Mapped as <i>Spittle Hill</i> (1755), <i>Spittle Hills</i> (1817).
Stotfold Craigs	M9	23 67	Scots <i>stot</i> is 'a young bullock', generally two-year old or older; Scots <i>fold</i> refers to a herd of a dozen or so cattle, kept for breeding purposes. The 'craigs' and the steep ground to the south would keep them from wandering far; alternatively <i>fold</i> could be an enclosure.
Temple Hill	F7	11 61	'Temple' often refers to properties given to the military ecclesiastical order of the Knights Templar. Temple House (q.v.) is nearby. Knightfield Rig near Glencorse (21 64) may have had similar associations, albeit more likely with secular owners?
Tocher Knowe	G4	13 53	Scots <i>tocher</i> , 'a bride's dowry' (loanword from Gaelic <i>tochar</i> , 'dowry') – so presumably this land, a small low hill, was given to a new husband upon marriage?
Todhole Knowe	L9	22 67	Scots <i>tod</i> , 'fox', so presumably a low hill where there were foxes' dens. Todhole(s) is a common name in lowland Scotland.
Torduff Hill	K9	20 67	Gaelic <i>tòrr dubh</i> , 'dark hillock' (also Torduff Reservoir).
Torgeith Knowe	M9	23 67	Gaelic <i>tòrr gaoth</i> , 'hillock by the marsh'. When Gaelic was no longer understood locally, <i>knowe</i> (the Scots equivalent of <i>tòrr</i>) was added to make sense.
Torphin	K9	20 67	Gaelic <i>tòrr fionn</i> , 'fair or white hill', in contrast to neighbouring Torduff. Called <i>Lady Hill</i> by Armstrong (1773), presumably after the Lady Burn (in Clubbiedean, q.v.) with Torphin restricted to the farm and the N end of the hill.

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Torweaving Hill	E6	07 56	Gaelic <i>tòrr + uaimhinn</i> , 'hillock of terror or dismay'? This is a rather dull eminence, with little to terrify anyone, so perhaps <i>tòrr uamhan</i> , 'hillock of the hollows'? Another example of a name with no early record, so difficult to offer any sensible etymology.
Turnhouse Hill	L7	21 62	Named after Turnhouse farm (q.v.), and recorded as <i>Turnochhill</i> (1609). Some doubts about the meaning – ironically for one of the most-climbed and shapely hills in the range!
Twin Laws	C4	04 52	Two (in effect three) green knolls standing above mosses – any two being visible from afar. Scots <i>law</i> , 'a hill'.
Warklaw Hill	K9	19 67	Scots <i>wark law</i> , 'the hill with/close to the wark' (man-made structure), presumably the ancient earthwork at the SE end of the Clubbiedean Reservoir (q.v.). Once said to be Roman, this preserves the rings of an Iron Age hill-fort similar to Castlelaw (q.v.). The name may have replaced Gaelic Torphin (q.v.), which now applies only to the heavily quarried north end.
Weather Law	D4	05 52	Probably from Scots <i>wether</i> , 'castrated ram'. A hill where wethers were put to graze. Also Wether Law (13 58).
West Cairn Hill	F6	10 58	[See East Cairn Hill]
West Kip	J&	17 60	Scots <i>kip</i> , 'jutting or projecting point on hill'. The distinctive outline of this sharp-pointed hill meant it has been named on almost every map from 1755 onwards. <i>Kip</i> is a not uncommon hill-name element in SE Scotland, and may be related to Gaelic <i>ceap</i> , 'head, top (of a hill)'. Whauplie Rig
Whauplie Rig	F5	11 55	Possibly Scots <i>whaup</i> , 'curlew', the mellifluous bird of the moors, with its haunting call, though difficult to explain the <i>ll</i> . Possibly Scots <i>whalp</i> , <i>whaulp</i> , 'a whelp, young animal' (diminutive <i>whalpie</i> , <i>whaulpie</i> , <i>wholpie</i>), so 'a ridge frequented by young animals (c.f. Whelpside, hill-slope frequented by young animals: 14 65)?
White Hill	E2	09 46	There are many such hills! Covered in light-coloured grasses, it contrasts with heathery neighbour Black Mount. In the New Statistical Account (1834), this White Hill was called <i>Dolphinton Hill</i> .
Windlestraw Top	E2	08 46	<i>Windlestrae</i> is 'long, thin-stalked, withered grass'. Scots <i>windle</i> , 'a bundle' + Scots <i>strae</i> , 'straw', often as much as a man could carry in the crook of his arm, so maybe a good source of roofing thatch?

HILLS AND UPLANDS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Windy Door Nick	L8	23 66	A steep, narrow saddle high on the ridge between Caerketton and Allermuir. Scots <i>nick</i> refers to the pass; the rest defines a common Scottish climatic feature: the wind howls through the gap as through an open door! Compare Windy Gowl (q.v.) – Scots <i>gowl</i> , a narrow ravine.
LOCHS, BURNS AND VALLEYS			
Adder Burn	C5	04 53	Although rivers containing <i>-adder</i> in Scotland (Whiteadder and Blackadder, Berwickshire) have been linked to the Indo-European root <i>*adro</i> , ‘water-course’ (c.f. Germany’s ‘Oder’), this stream is probably too small to have been named so far back in time. It more likely refers to snakes that may make a home on Black Birn, with its drier, heathy cover.
Baddinsgill Burn	G5	12 55	The stream (Scots <i>burn</i>) in a small ravine (Scots <i>gill</i>). The name is also used for the reservoir and Baddinsgill farm (q.v.).
Bassy Burn	E3	08 50	The burn flows into West Water from a wide marshy hollow, and may derive from the Scots <i>bassie</i> , ‘basin’.
Clubbiedean	K9	20 66	Probably Scots <i>clabby</i> , ‘muddy, boggy’ + Scots <i>dene</i> , ‘long valley’ with a small ravine. Before Clubbiedean and Torduff Reservoirs were built, the name likely referred to the whole valley of the Lady Burn, where Scots <i>ladie</i> , ‘slow-running stream’, well suits certain weedy, miry sections (alternatively, some link with the Blessed Virgin Mary?).
Coldwell Strand	E6	07 57	Scots <i>strand</i> , commoner in Galloway, means ‘a little stream’, in this case flowing from a cold spring.
Crane Loch	C4	04 52	A small and lonely loch on the southern muirs. Mapped by Forrest (1816), it was much bigger in the past, being steadily infilled by rushes and mosses. Scots <i>crane</i> , ‘heron’, which this quiet shallow loch would suit perfectly.
Crosswood Burn	E5	05 57	Possibly named from the wood near the A70, but as likely associated with Crosswood farm (q.v.), which gives its name to the Reservoir. It appears as <i>Corsitburne</i> in 1680.
Dean Burn	L9	21 66	A <i>dene</i> is ‘a narrow, often wooded valley’, while Scots variant <i>den</i> can also include a ravine. Either suits the lie of the land, the latter especially the upper reaches. There are other occurrences in Clubbiedean (q.v.) and Thrashedean (q.v.).

LOCHS, BURNS AND VALLEYS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Dens Cleuch	K7	20.63	Scots <i>dene</i> , ‘a long valley’ + Scots <i>cleuch</i> , ‘ravine’. The sometimes steep-sided cleuch heads down from Bells Hill (q.v.) above Craigentarrie (q.v.) to Logan Cottage in Glencorse (q.v.). The narrow watershed over to Threipmuir (q.v.) is extremely flat, boggy and rush-ridden.
Gal(l)a Ford	F7	10 61	W.J. Watson said this was Gaelic <i>geal àth</i> , ‘white ford’ [‘th’ is not pronounced in Gaelic.] When Gaelic died out and <i>àth</i> was no longer understood, <i>ford</i> was added to make ‘white ford ford’. But could it be Scots ‘ford of the gallows’ (beside the seemingly high-status medieval farm of Harperrig)? (q.v.)
Glencorse Burn		22 63	<i>Glenkrosh</i> (1317), <i>Glencrosk</i> (1336) and <i>Glencors</i> (1463) show Gaelic word-order, so Gaelic <i>gleann</i> + <i>crasg/croisg</i> (<i>croiseadh</i>), ‘valley of the crossing(s)’. Before the Glencorse Reservoir was built (1822), it provided an ideal low route through the hills (from Penicuik, say, to Colinton, Currie or Balerno). Some have suggested that if there were wayside crosses at Cross Sward (q.v.) and the Clochmaid (q.v.), perhaps the glen was named after these (Gaelic <i>crois</i> , ‘a cross’), but several 14th century forms in <i>-crosk(e)</i> effectively confirm ‘crossing’.
Gutterford Burn	H6	15 60	This tributary of the North Esk appears to be named from Scots <i>gutter</i> , ‘a muddy puddle, thick mud, mire’. Perhaps the <i>ford</i> was drowned when the Reservoir was built. (See Goodtrees)
Hare Burn	L9	23 67	This tributary of the Swanston Burn flows between Todhole Knowe (Scots <i>tod</i> , ‘fox’) and Stotfold Craigs (Scots <i>stot</i> , ‘bullock’). It too would appear to refer to an animal.
Howden Burn	L9	22 67	Probably Scots <i>howe</i> , ‘hollow’ + Scots <i>den</i> , ‘long narrow valley’.
Lochan Eck	D3	05 48	A man-made pool, mapped in the 19th century as a millpond, but now incorporated into Little Sparta (q.v.) and re-named by Ian Hamilton Finlay after his son. Not a genuine Gaelic name.
Logan Burn	K7	19 62	Before the valley was drowned for Loganlea Reservoir, the land either side was maybe Scots <i>lea</i> , ‘pasture land’. Logan likely derives from Gaelic <i>lagan</i> , ‘little hollow’. Also Logan House (q.v.).
Lothian Burn	M9	24 66	An ancient water name, first recorded in 1254. May be British <i>*lugodun</i> (as in Loudun on the Ayrshire/Lanarkshire border), and is sometimes said to have given its name to the one-time vast territory of ‘Lothian’. There is a Lothian Rig at 07 54.

LOCHS, BURNS AND VALLEYS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Lyne Water	G4	13 54	An old British river name cognate with Welsh <i>llyn</i> , 'stream, pool'. There are several Lyne Burns in Scotland, and another River Lyne just across the border in England.
Maiden's Cleuch	K8	20 64	On Roy's 1755 map this was named <i>Clochmead</i> , later <i>Clochmaid (Gate)</i> (q.v.). The present name is a gross corruption and has nothing to do with maidens! <i>Cleuch</i> is a common Scots word for a ravine. In this instance, however, it is almost certainly a late replacement for Gaelic <i>cloch</i> , <i>clach</i> , 'stone', by analogy with several nearby cleuchs.
Medwin Water	E3	08 48	Another old British river name, origin uncertain, but possibly meaning 'a full or extended river'. Whence the small hamlet of Medwynhead.
North Esk	H6	15 57	Like many river names, it is ancient. There are several Esks in Britain, from British * <i>esc</i> , 'water'. The North Esk is joined near Dalkeith by the South Esk, flowing down from the Moorfoots. It gives its name to the Reservoir.
Quarrel Burn	J6	18 59	Scots <i>quarrel</i> , 'quarry' – there are two old quarries here, the stone probably used to build drystane dykes.
Rowantree Jaw	E6	06 56	Scots <i>jaw</i> , 'a spurt or large quantity of water', which suggests a strong spring flowing into the adjacent Crosswood Burn.
Shear Burn	E6	06 58	This is an area with several surviving Gaelic names (e.g. Colzium, Torweaving), and some have suggested a part-translation into Scots from Gaelic <i>allt siar</i> , 'west burn'.
Thrashedean	F7	11 61	Scots (<i>th</i>) <i>rash</i> , 'rush' gives two forms of the name: <i>Thrashedean</i> and <i>Rushiedean</i> (1773 cottage) on what is now called the Dean Burn: 'the valley where rushes grow'. But Scots <i>thrashie</i> , 'rushing noise', may suggest the sound of the burn, in which case a more poetic 'noisy/bubbling valley'?
Water of Leith	J9	12 64	'Leith' is believed to be a very early river name, and to derive from British <i>llaith</i> , 'damp or moist'.
West Water	F4	13 51	West Water (Scots <i>watter</i> , 'tributary or upper reaches of a larger river') is a 10 km long 'western' tributary of the Lyne Water, which it joins downstream of West Linton. Now dammed, with a reservoir.

PLACES OF INTEREST	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Bore-/Boarstane	H6	14 98	Possibly a stone bored through to receive the mast of a flag or standard, typically that of a king or military leader; later maybe a boundary stone? It marks the furthest NW boundary of the former county of Peebles.
Cauldstane Slap	G6	11 58	<i>Caldstane Slap</i> (1845) was defined as 'A hollow slope or declivity' – Scots <i>slap</i> , 'a pass' between the hills. <i>Cal(d)staineslope</i> (1684) was historically part of a drovers' road taking cattle south. At 443 m, it was the highest and probably coldest place between the former trysts (livestock marts) near Falkirk and West Linton.
Clochmaid Gate	K8	20 64	Recorded thus in 1900, and as <i>Cleuchmaid Gate</i> later in the 20th century. Scots <i>gait</i> , refers to the 'track' (up Maiden's Cleuch, q.v.); Gaelic <i>clach</i> (earlier <i>cloch</i>) + Gaelic <i>maid (meadhan)</i> is 'the stone at the middle or neck of the pass' – the huge, millstone-like <i>Clochmaid Stane</i> that lies below the stile on the saddle between Glencorse and Currie/Balerno. The stone may once have supported a wayside cross, and may also have been used as a boundary marker.
Covenanter's Grave	E4	07 52	The grave of John Carphin, a Covenanter mortally wounded at the battle of Rullion Green (q.v.) in 1666. He was buried here by local man Adam Sanderson, the grave facing south-west to his native Ayrshire hills. The original grave marker was replaced by this headstone c.1841.
De'il's Riddlins		11 47	The alternative local name for Kippit (literally 'conical') Hill. Said to be the riddlings left over after the devil sieved out bigger rocks and threw them into nearby Biggar Moss! The summit cairn is in memory of a local man killed in World War One.
Font Stane	J6	17 59	A large earthfast stone (Scots <i>stane</i>) said to be shaped like a font, roughly half-way up the Monks Rig (q.v.). It is more likely the slotted base for a free-standing cross, possibly a wayside shrine on the route from Newhall/ Spittal (q.v.) to Dunfermline Abbey.
Habbie's Howe	J5	17 56	Scots <i>howe</i> , 'hollow' – here containing a stretch of the R. North Esk, deep between steep banks. The name was given by 18th century poet Allan Ramsay in <i>The Gentle Shepherd</i> .
Harbour Craig	J5	18 56	A vertical cliff above a fork in two tributaries of the North Esk where religious conventicles were held in the 17th century. Tradition says the name is derived from its protective function – since such gatherings were illegal at the time.

PLACES OF INTEREST	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Kirkgate	K9	18 66	Scots <i>kirk gait</i> , 'the track to and from the church'. This one runs from Currie towards the Kinleiths and the 'Ranges Road', so-called from the disused Malleny Rifle Range immediately E of Cock Rig (19 65). There is more than one Kirkgate in the Pentlands. They refer to routes through the hills taken by the faithful to attend church.
Lang Whang	N/A	N/A	The A70 between Carnwath and Balerno is known as The Lang Whang – Scots <i>whang</i> , 'a long narrow strip of anything'. It skirts the Pentlands above the west bank of the Water of Leith.
Little Sparta	D3	05 48	A house name created in the 1960s by the artist Ian Hamilton Finlay, who lived here and created a sculpture and nature garden, drawing some of his inspiration from the art of ancient Greece. Close by Stoneypath (q.v.), and includes Lochan Eck (q.v.).
Lover's Loup	K7	18 61	A narrow steep-sided valley opening onto the upper Logan Burn and the Green Cleuch, just above The Howe. Said to have been a resting/dallying place for younger parishioners on their way back from the kirk on Sundays! Scots <i>loup</i> , 'leap'.
Martyrs' Tomb	L7	22 62	A monument erected in memory of those Covenanters who died hereabouts at the battle of Rullion Green (q.v.) in 1666.
Old Kirk Road	K7	20 61	The hill track from the head of Logan Glen towards Penicuik, said to have been travelled every Sunday by the people of the glen en route to kirk in Penicuik. Anglicised form of Kirkgate (q.v.)
Phantom's Cleuch	M8	21 65	A late-20th century name given by the Pentland Hills Ranger Service to honour the work of a man nicknamed 'The Phantom' who was often seen doing minor path repairs here, but refused to engage in conversation!
Rullion Green	L7	22 62	<i>Rulzeangreen</i> in 1665. Obscure, but possibly from Scots <i>rullion</i> , 'thick rough cloth, mammal or person'; therefore poor, rough grassland? Said also to have been known as <i>Yorling's Green</i> . The Covenanters of the 1666 Pentland Rising were defeated here by Sir Thomas Dalryell. About 50 died on the field, 34 were executed, and others transported. (See Martyr's Tomb and Covenanter's Grave).

PLACES OF INTEREST	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
St Katherine's Chapel	L8	21 63	<i>St Katherine-of-the-Hopes</i> (1593). Scots <i>hope</i> , 'a partly-hidden upland valley, often narrow and twisting'. The late-12th century kirk lies beneath Glencorse Reservoir, close to the Kirk Burn and below Kirkton Farm. It was one of many in Europe named after Saint Catherine of Alexandria, she of the fiery 'Catherine Wheel'! Called 'of the Hopes' to distinguish it from St Katherine-of-the-Kaims (a few kms away in Liberton parish). A few remaining piles of stones can be seen when the reservoir is extremely low.
T-Wood	M9	24 66	Above Swanston (q.v.) and appearing from many directions to be a T-shaped. It is cross-shaped but spreads over a low hill, so that one arm is usually invisible from any direction. Planted c.1766 by Trotter of Mortonhall as a memorial to a relative killed in battle.
The T-Wood	B3	02 47	A T-shaped woodland near Newbigging (q.v.).
Windy Gowl	G4	14 54	A narrow, flat-bottomed, steep-sided glacial meltwater channel, running SW-NE below Faw Mount and open to the prevailing wind. Scots <i>gowl</i> , 'throat', or by analogy 'a narrow cleft in the hill'. There is another Windy Gowl/-Goul on Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh.
Wolf Craigs	F5	09 56	Mapped as <i>Wolfield Craigs</i> in 1821. Highly unlikely to have been one of the (many) places in Scotland where the 'last wolf' allegedly lived/was killed! It may be related to Walston (hamlet and parish), perhaps their summer grazing grounds? The Craigs are real enough, jutting out over a small valley.
FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS			
Auchencorth	K6	19 57	<i>Auchincorth(e)</i> (1604+), <i>Auchincro(i)ch</i> (1674+). Gaelic <i>achadh na coirthe</i> , 'field of the standing stone', referring to the Gowk Stane (Scots <i>gowk</i> , 'cuckoo'), a large prehistoric stone standing a little above the E bank of the Esk (20 57). Forms in <i>-croich</i> , however, may suggest 'gallows'.
Auchinoon	F7	09 61	<i>Auchnolynshill</i> (1538-9), <i>Auchinhoundhill</i> (1773). Dixon suggested Gaelic <i>achadh na h-olainn</i> , 'field of wool'; Watson Gaelic <i>achadh nan uan</i> , 'field of the lambs'. But no earlier forms, and neither is certain. Probably an (enclosed) grazing, later converted into a permanent settlement.

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Baad Park	F7	10 60	Possibly Gaelic <i>bad</i> , 'thicket, place (where there were trees?)', but more likely Scots <i>bad</i> , <i>baud</i> (borrowed from Gaelic), 'a thicket, clump of trees, bushes or plants', or more specifically 'an extensive mass of gorse or thistles'. A not uncommon naming element west of the Pentlands.
Baddingsgill	G5	12 54	Said by some to be Gaelic, but <i>Baldwynesgille</i> (1410-11) has to be Scots <i>gill</i> (from ON <i>gil</i> , narrow ravine) preceded by Baldwin (the Fleming), recorded in a local deed, c.1150.
Balerno	J9	16 66	<i>Balhernoch</i> , <i>Balernaghe</i> in the 13th century, from Gaelic <i>baile na h-airneach</i> , 'farm at/with the sloe-bushes (blackthorns)'. Later spellings include <i>Bry(e)no</i> , <i>Biarna</i> , <i>Byerno</i> .
Balleny	J8	17 65	Usually said to be Gaelic <i>baile léanaidhe</i> , 'farm of/at the damp meadows'. However, earliest form (c.1280) is now thought to read <i>Balma[ly]</i> , and <i>Balveny</i> is also found, so it may have a quite different pedigree! Often confused in the records with Malleny (q.v.), of which it was seemingly a part.
Bavelaw	J8	15 62	An important farm/estate frequently recorded from the 13th century. Early forms include <i>Bavelay</i> , <i>Bavilley</i> and <i>Baueley</i> (from 1230), <i>Bavillaw</i> (1515) and <i>Baiflaw</i> (1558); the Easter and Wester farms were <i>Bewlawis</i> (1549, 1565) and <i>Bavelay</i> (1580, 1594). The early forms suggest Scots <i>lea</i> , 'meadow' (maybe amongst scrubby woodland?), rather than <i>law</i> , 'hill' (it is not on a hill); and the first element may be an Old English personal name <i>Bēaw(a)</i> or OE <i>bēaw</i> , a cleg – a cleggy clearing!
Blinkbonny	K9	18 67	A fairly common lowland name for a farm with a sunny aspect, probably an inversion of Scots <i>bonnie blink</i> , 'a fine outlook or view', and a Scottish alternative to Bellevue or Belvedere. The farm went with the East Mill of Currie.
Boghall	M8	24 65	Neither euphonious nor unusual – there are at least 20 other farms of this name in Scotland. It means the farmhouse by the bog or marshy ground. First recorded here in 1542.
Bonaly	L9	21 67	Recorded as <i>Bannazelin</i> (c.1280) and <i>Benhathelyn</i> (c.1340). Seems to incorporate Gaelic <i>àth</i> , ford, but suggestions that other elements may refer to a 'place', 'cliff' or 'pool' are difficult to justify. Nonetheless, 'ford' indicates a key crossing point, possibly close to where tributaries merge to become the Bonaly Burn (near Bonaly Tower)?

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Bowbridge	M9	24 67	Earlier <i>Bowbrig</i> (1573). Scots names in <i>rig</i> , <i>brig</i> , <i>stane</i> , <i>kirk</i> are commonly Anglicised as <i>ridge</i> , <i>bridge</i> , <i>stone</i> , <i>church</i> when written – even though the Scots forms are alive and well in the spoken language. Scots <i>bow</i> , arch, suggests that the road to West Linton crossed the Swanston-/Lothian Burn over a single-arched stone bridge.
Braidwood	K6	19 59	<i>Brad(e)wod(e)</i> in 1374-5. Scots for 'broad wood'.
Buteland	G8	13 64	Dixon suggested Scots <i>butt</i> , referring to lands detached from the main part of an estate. However, a new reading gives <i>Botland</i> (1280), which requires further analysis. The name had several derivatives by the 18th century, e.g. Butelandhill, Buteland Muir, But Ford.
Cairns	F7	09 60	<i>pe Ca(e)rnys</i> , 'the cairns' (1359-92), suggests Scots <i>cairn</i> , possibly adapted from an earlier Gaelic <i>càrn</i> , 'heap of stones'. It refers to the prehistoric burial cairns atop East- and West Cairn Hills. The ruins of a medieval towerhouse stand beside the farmhouse at the head of Harperrig Reservoir.
Carlops	H5	15 55	<i>Kerlinglippis</i> or similar (13th-14th century); <i>Karling Houps</i> (Scots <i>hope</i> , 'upland valley') and <i>Karling Brigge</i> (Blaeu 1654). This points to Scots <i>carline</i> , 'old woman or witch' + <i>loup</i> , 'leap' or 'steep drop'. It probably refers to the rocky cliff from which she allegedly leapt – once almost an arch at the S end of the late-18th century textile village, but long ago part-quarried away for the road. Carlops from 1665.
Carnwath	A2	NS 99 46	<i>Karneuid</i> (1179), <i>Carnewithe</i> (1315). Watson suggests a British cognate of Welsh <i>carn gwýdd</i> , 'cairn of the wood (beside/amongst the trees). The name would be c.1,000 years earlier than the 12th-century motte – that inverted pudding basin known variously as the Cairn, Castle Mote Hill or Mound.
Causewayend (E. & W.)		08 60	Given as <i>Calsayend</i> in 1535, Scots <i>causey</i> is 'a paved track'. So the farm or steading 'at the end of the paved road'. Did it in some way connect with Templar lands at Harperrig?
Cockburn	H9	14 65	This seems straightforward: 'the stream of the wild birds' (generally male or cock grouse, red or black). However, the earliest (but still relatively late) surviving forms are <i>Coleburn</i> (Blaeu 1654) and <i>Colburn</i> (Adair 1682) – maybe pronounced approximately as nowadays [co' burn/cow burn]? Also Cockburnhill (14 64).

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Cockdurno	H8	15 64	Formerly <i>Shothead</i> (q.v.). According to Harris, the name was coined in 1951 by its owner to link his own estate (<i>Cockburn</i> q.v.) with that of his wife's farm at <i>Drumdurno</i> in Aberdeenshire. Any part of Gaelic <i>druim domach</i> , pebbly ridge, is topographically meaningless in this location.
Colinton	L9	21 68	An old name: <i>Colbanestoun</i> (1319), <i>Colintoun</i> (1488), <i>Colingtoun</i> (1557). Scots <i>-toun</i> , farm, preceded by the personal name Colban (Old Norse <i>Kolbeinn</i> , from Gaelic <i>Columbán</i>). During the 16th century, Colinton replaced Hailes (c.1095) as the parish name.
Colzium	E6	08 58	First recorded as <i>Culzeane</i> (1539) and <i>Colzane</i> (1540). Gaelic <i>cuing-leum</i> , literally 'defile leap', is a common place-name where there is a narrow gorge in a stream. There are two or three such places near Colzium. Armstrong (1773) records it as it was pronounced: Collium.
Craigentarrie	K8	19 64	Probably Gaelic <i>creag an tairbh</i> , 'cliff/rock of the bull'.
Crawcraigs	C1	04 43	Scots for 'crow cliffs' and related to nearby Craw Knowe.
Crosshouse	L8	23 63	A Scots name probably linked in some way to Glencorse (q.v.). The old track up the glen is said to have passed by Crosshouse and Castlelaw farms, rather than along the often-boggy bottom beside the burn.
Crosswood	D6	05 57	Recorded from 1475 as <i>Corswod(e)</i> , so perhaps 'the wood at/of the cross(ing)'. Since there is no evidence for an actual cross, 'crossing' (of either the burn or the hills) may be more likely. The route over to Medwynhead skirts Mid Crosswood farm.
Currie	K9	18 67	First recorded in 1210 as <i>Curey</i> , opinion is divided. Most probably Gaelic <i>currach</i> , 'a boggy plain', a common place-name element. It would have referred to the flood-plain of the Murray Burn (with its Currie Muir place-names), rather than to narrow, flat haughland in the gorge of the Water of Leith.
Dolphinton	F2	10 46	<i>Dolfinston</i> in 1243. Old Norse personal name <i>Dolgfinnr</i> + Scots <i>-toun</i> , 'farm' (there are others in East-/West Lothian and Roxburghshire). The New Statistical Account (1834) states that the eponymous owner was the eldest brother of the Earl of Dunbar and acquired the land in the early-12th century. In the 16th century it was recorded variously as <i>Dolphintoun</i> (1511), <i>Dolphingtoun</i> (1573) and <i>Dolphingstoun</i> (1581).

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Dreghorn (Mains)	L9	22 68	Spelt <i>Dregerne</i> , <i>Dregarne</i> (13th-14th centuries) and <i>Dreghorne</i> (16th century). Probably Scots <i>dreg horn</i> , 'a narrow spit of land' (in a corner formed by the Howden Burn). 'Mains' is the 'home farm' of a landed estate (via English <i>demeyne</i> , from Norman French <i>desmayne</i>).
Dunsyre	D2	07 48	A settlement named after the hill, rather than the other way round. Gaelic <i>dùn siar</i> , 'western hill-fort'. Recorded as <i>Dunsyare</i> , <i>Dunsiare</i> , <i>Dunsiar</i> (15th century).
East Rigg	H8	15 63	In the mid-18th century, <i>East-</i> and <i>West Rigg</i> (q.v.) were still part of Balerno Common. By 1820, <i>East Rigg</i> is <i>Back of the Rigg</i> – Scots <i>rig</i> , 'strip of land', or 'a ridge' where 'back of' might refer to its location as seen from Cockburn or Cockburnhill.
Easter Howgate	M8	24 64	Scots <i>howe gait</i> , 'the track in/through the hollow', and commonly found across lowland Scotland. Easter, Wester, Mid, Over and Nether refer to the relative locations of individual units carved out of an earlier, larger farm.
Easthills	G3	04 48	Paired with nearby Westhills. The former is on top of a low hill, the latter on its southern slopes.
Easton	E3	08 49	<i>Estirstoune</i> (1452), <i>Eastoun</i> (Blaeu, 1654). Maybe paired with Weston, although there is almost a 5 km gap between them. Scots <i>toun</i> refers to 'a cluster of farm dwelling and buildings'. (see Swanston)
Eastside	J6	18 60	Paired with nearby Westside across the valley, although it is more north than east of it. Scots <i>side</i> often suggests 'hillside or slope', which is appropriate here.
Eightmileburn	K6	19 59	Marking the distance from central Edinburgh. Also Ninemileburn (q.v.).
Elsrickle	D1	06 43	Pont maps this as <i>Elsrickle</i> (1590s), but earlier forms often lack the letter /s/ – <i>Elgeriggil</i> (1511, 1624), <i>Elgariggil</i> (1581, 1594), <i>Ellisriggill</i> (1584). These suggest Gaelic <i>eileirig</i> (often anglicised to <i>elrick</i>), a narrow pass in a hill or V-shaped structure into which deer were driven to be slaughtered. Compounded with Scots <i>gill</i> , 'ravine' (from ON <i>gil</i>).
Fairliehope	H5	15 56	Scots <i>hope</i> is an 'upland valley'; Scots <i>fairlie</i> normally means 'strange or wonderful'!
Flotterstone	L7	23 62	First appears on early-19th century maps. Scots <i>fluthers</i> can be loose flakes of stone or boggy/marshy ground. Maybe a reference to stepping stones across the Glencorse Burn?

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Fulford	M8	24 64	The remains of the 14th-century towerhouse of Fulford or <i>Foulfourde</i> (1428+) now form part of the mansion of Woodhouselee (q.v.). Scots <i>foul</i> shows this to have been a 'dirty ford, muddy and miry' on the upper Bilston Burn. The present track from Boghall to Castlelaw farm crosses a little above Woodhouselee – a glutinous mire in all but the driest of conditions!
Garvald	E3	09 49	Probably from Gaelic <i>garbh allt</i> , 'rough stream', but there are several Garvalds in SE Scotland and the name may have been borrowed ready-made into Scots for a specific kind of burn. This Garvald Burn flows in a narrow steep-sided valley.
Goodtrees	H9	15 65	Recorded as <i>Gutters</i> (1763), <i>Goodtrees</i> (1812) and pronounced [gitters]. Not uncommon in lowland Scotland: Moredon in Edinburgh was earlier <i>Guters</i> , (1654), <i>Guttaris</i> (1501) and <i>Goodtrees alias Guthers</i> (1663). Scots <i>gutters</i> , 'mire, muddy puddles' – as in <i>Gutterford Burn</i> (q.v.). Goodtrees was probably an attempt to rationalise <i>Guttaris</i> or render it more agreeable!
Haggies Ho.	H8	14 62	Mapped as such in 1817, but seems later to be Damhead (1834). Scots <i>hag</i> , 'a bog or rough/wild unbroken ground', it lay close to the Bavelaw Burn, above Bavelaw Mill (hence presumably the dam), part-way to Listonshiels.
Harlaw	J8	17 65	Possibly Scots <i>hare law</i> , 'hill with a heap of stones'. The New Statistical Account (1840s) claimed that an immense heap of stones from a burial cairn had been removed some decades previously, along with five large standing stones. These stones may well have acted as a one-time boundary marker.
Harperrig	F7	10 61	Blaeu's 1654 map had it as <i>Herperridge</i> . Possibly incorporates a personal name or refers to a 'harper'; but possibly Scots <i>herepare</i> , 'army road'? It is close to an old paved way (Scots <i>causey</i>) that ended at Causewayend (q.v.).
Haughhead	G8	13 65	The farm at the head of the haugh (Scots <i>haugh</i> , 'low-lying land beside a river'). Roy (1753) gives nearby Pathhead (q.v.), 'the top of the steep path' leading up from the haugh and the ford.
Hillend	M9	25 66	Recorded from 1542 as <i>Hilend</i> . Literally the NE end of Caerketton and the Pentland Hills.
House o' Muir	L9	23 62	Recorded in 1546 as <i>Hous-of-Mure</i> , and by Blaeu as <i>Huse in the Moor</i> . The name describes its location. There is another (see Pathhead) on the west side of the Pentlands, close to the A70 (12 64).

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Howe, The	K7	19 62	Scots <i>howe</i> , 'hollow'. The farm lies deep in the hills between the steep slopes of Black Hill and Carnethy, at the head of Glencorse.
Howlet's House	K7	19 62	Now rather less than a stump, but with the remains of a vaulted ground floor (and associated turf-covered enclosures). The ruins are said to have been a 13th-century chapel (confused with St Katherine's?), or maybe a modest 'fortalice' (pele or bastle?) similar to that claimed for Logan House? The name means 'the house of an owl or owls' (Scots <i>houlat</i> , 'owl'), reflecting later occupants!
Kame End	A2	NS 99 46	Land/farm at the end of the kame (Scots <i>kame</i> , 'a long, narrow, steep-sided crest or ridge'.
Kersewell Mains	B3	01 48	'Mains' is standard Lowland Scots for 'home farm' – the principal farm on an estate. Scots <i>kerse</i> is 'flat, low-lying and generally heavy, wet land' that could not easily be cultivated until improved underground drainage was developed in the 18th/19th centuries.
Kinleith (E., W., Middle)	K9	19 67	These farms were once part of a single estate. Obscure, but not Gaelic <i>ceann</i> , 'head of' (a tributary of the Water of Leith q.v.), normally Scotticised as <i>kin</i> . Early forms include <i>Kyldeleth(e)</i> (1250), <i>Killeith</i> (1550), <i>Kendeleith</i> (1647). Possibly Gaelic <i>cill</i> , 'church' (12th-century Currie Kirk), or <i>coille</i> , 'wood' + the ancient river name or Gaelic <i>liath</i> , 'grey'? One scholar suggests Old Norse <i>keldu hlið</i> 'slope of the springs', which is topographically appropriate, if linguistically very doubtful.
Kirkland	D3	06 48	A parcel of land near to the old parish church of Dunsyre, and most likely belonging to the church (Scots <i>kirk</i>) in medieval times.
Kirkton	L8	21 63	The farm (Scots <i>toun</i>) at the crook of Glencorse reservoir, near the drowned late-12th century kirk of St Katherine-of-the-Hopes (q.v.). Called <i>Kirkton de Pentland</i> in 1476.
Lawhead	L7	21 61	Scots <i>law</i> , 'hill'. The adjoining Lawhead Hill, with its Iron Age hill-fort, is separated from the higher Pentland hills by a small dip.
Leap(s)	L8	23 65	A lost farm, high up the short narrow valley above Boghall (q.v.). Recorded as <i>Leipis</i> in 1636, and survives as a fieldname. Probably Scots <i>leip</i> , 'leap, a place where one leapt (across), a steep drop', as in Carlops (q.v.).
Leithhead	G8	11 63	The farm (close to) the head of the Water of Leith. <i>Lethishede</i> in 1454.

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Listonshiels	G7	13 61	<i>Listunschelis</i> c.1280. Liston was the old parish/estate, later subdivided into Auld Liston and Newliston, of which Kirkliston (12th-century church) became its religious centre. Originally British * <i>llys</i> , 'a high status dwelling, hall or administrative centre', adopted by early Northumbrians who added OE <i>-tūn</i> , 'farm'. Scots <i>shiel</i> , 'a hut on summer pastures for livestock'. The grazings were evidently associated with Liston.
Little Vantage	F8	10 62	A late name, also given as <i>Aimville</i> (1773). Both unclear, but 'Vantage' may suggest as attractive outlook?
Loanhead/ Loneheid	H8	13 64	'At the head of the track' running from Buteland (q.v.) to the But Ford at Pathhead (q.v.: see also Haughhead). Scots <i>loan</i> was commonly 'a dyked driftway allowing livestock to move between byres and common grazings' without damaging/eating crops growing on the unfenced rigs before the onset of enclosures.
Logan House	K7	20 63	Shown as <i>Logane House</i> (1410). Probably from Gaelic <i>lagan</i> , 'little hollow', which is precisely the situation of Logan House in the sunny valley of the Logan Burn. Loganlea (reservoir), 'little grey hollow', uses the same word; Gask Hill (q.v.), another Gaelic name, overlooks it.
Lymphoy	J9	17 66	Difficult! <i>Lumphoy</i> (Blaeu 1654) refers to the towerhouse of <i>Keldeleth</i> (later Kinleith, q.v.). Given as <i>Lymphoy C</i> in 1682 (for Castle: Adair), albeit renamed <i>Lennox Tower</i> from 1593. Probably Gaelic for 'bare grass meadow', and possibly taken over from earlier British; but may be Gaelic <i>longphort</i> , 'a tent, shieling hut' (or a hunting bothy/lodge)?
Malleny	J9	16 65	Early forms (from c.1280) include <i>Malemmy</i> , <i>Malenie</i> , <i>Mallynny</i> . May be British, but survives as a Scotticisation of Gaelic <i>magh léanaidhe</i> , 'the field/plain of the damp meadows'. Sometimes records refer to <i>Balleny</i> or <i>Malleny</i> (the two names were often confused), so Balleny (q.v.) may have been a specific farm within a wider area of grazings.
Marchbank	J8	16 64	Seems to have mapped as <i>Muir Farm</i> (1788) and <i>Muirbank</i> (1812), which confuses the issue as to whether it was a moorland edge or ownership boundary (Scots <i>march</i> , 'a boundary, border'). ? <i>Ramblebank</i> (1817, but maybe ? <i>Bramblebank</i>) adds to the confusion.

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Mount Parnassus	K9	18 67	Parnassus – the home of the Muses in Greek mythology! Beside the gorge at Middle Kinleith, and otherwise known as <i>Kenleith Cottage</i> (1890s), it first appeared in 1893 (O.S.) along with Poet's Burn (replacing Kinleith Burn), Poet's Glen etc. These names were given in memory of the Currie weaver-poet, Jamie Thomson, who lived there until 1832.
Newbigging	B2	01 45	A common Scots name for a 'new building'. Seemingly first recorded in 1599, and mapped as <i>Newbiggin</i> in 1654 (Blaeu).
Ninemileburn	J6	17 57	<i>Nywmilburn</i> (Blaeu 1654) appears to mark the distance from central Edinburgh. But Ninemileburn is c.1.4 miles (2.3 kms) from Eightmileburn and c.11.5 miles (18.5 kms) from Edinburgh Castle. An old or 'lang Scots mile' was of variable length (sometimes defined as the length of Edinburgh's Royal Mile), but generally 1,984 imperial yards (c.1,814 m) by the 18th century – compared to an English mile of 1,760 yards (c.1,609 m). It was finally abolished in 1824. The early forms of the name, however, suggest 'new mill', when it was also known as <i>Gaitsyde</i> , 'beside the road'.
Pentland		26 66	The original settlement after which the hills were named. First recorded as <i>Pentlant</i> (12th century), the first element is British * <i>pen</i> , 'head or end of; the second element perhaps British * <i>llann</i> , 'enclosed land' or * <i>llan</i> , 'church'. The nearby hill, used as grazings for the settlement, became known as <i>Pentland Muir</i> or <i>-Hill</i> , and the name had spread to the entire range by the mid-17th century.
Pathhead	G8	12 64	Literally 'the top of the track' (Scots <i>peth</i>) leading up from the river/ford. Known also as <i>Hous(e) of the Mure</i> (q.v.).
Patieshill	H5	16 56	The farm and the hill behind it appear to have taken their names from Allan Ramsay's 18th century <i>The Gentle Shepherd</i> , set in and around Carlops. The same source gave such other local names as Scroggy Brae, Rogersrig and Wanton Wa's.
Penicuik	L6	23 60	First recorded in 1250 as <i>Penikok</i> , from British * <i>pen y gog</i> , 'head(land) of the cuckoo'. There are a number of place-names round Britain which record the cuckoo, a bird hard to ignore in spring; and very many more that incorporate * <i>pen</i> .

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Shothead	H8	15 64	Scots <i>shot</i> , 'a piece of ground/rig, sometimes cultivated in rotation'. Therefore 'the top of the strip'. Now called Cockdurno (q.v.), but sometimes confused on earlier maps with Todholes (1753) – which became Cockburn Mains (1766), then Cockburn Hill (1893).
Silverburn	K6	20 60	First recorded in 1593. Although lead and silver were mined on a small scale elsewhere in the Pentlands (e.g. Lead Law near West Linton and nearby Siller Holes), there is no obvious evidence of workings here.
Slipperfield	G3	13 50	A substantial estate with North and South Slipperfield, and a 'big hoos'. Slipperfield Loch was important enough to be mapped in the 1590s by Pont, and was noted a few years earlier as <i>Slipperfeild</i> . Gently rolling, poorly-drained countryside might support Scots <i>slipper</i> , 'slippery', smooth, difficult to stand on'.
Spittal	J6	16 57	Scots <i>spital</i> meant 'hospital, hospice or inn', where travellers, the sick or the aged could gain shelter. It was reputedly run by Cistercian monks from nearby Newhall, if indeed there were a monastery there. Formerly divided into Backspittal and Forespittal.
Stoneypath	D3	05 48	<i>Stonypeth</i> in the 1590s (Blaeu), but recorded earlier in its Scots form <i>Stanepeth</i> (1452, 1572). Scots <i>pth</i> , 'track', commonly up a steep slope or river-bank.
Swanston	M9	24 67	Nothing to do with large white birds, it was recorded as <i>Swaynstoun</i> in the 13th century, a Scots name incorporating the Old Norse personal name <i>Sveinn</i> and Scots <i>toun</i> , 'farm'. The single-storey whitewashed cottages of old Swanston village provide a manicured reminder of the pre-improvement 'ferm-toun'.
Temple House	G8	13 64	'Temple' refers to lands granted by the Scottish crown to the Knights Templar (HQ at Temple, Midlothian), later transferred after their suppression by the Pope (1312) to the Knights Hospitaller (HQ Torphichen). Temple House may have been the centre of Templar activity around Buteland; other names include Temple Hill (q.v.), the 'temple-lands' of Harperrig, and the templelands of Swanston (location now lost). Latin <i>templum</i> , temple.
Threipmuir	J8	17 64	Scots <i>threap</i> , 'quarrel or argument' + <i>muir</i> , 'moor', suggests an area of moorland (probably grazings) whose ownership was disputed. No early forms, but could date from c.13th century, when estates were increasingly sub-divided and boundaries were increasingly important. <i>Threap</i> in various spellings is a

FARMS AND SETTLEMENTS	FoP Map Ref	O.S. Grid Ref.	Meaning/Comment
Turnhouse	L7	22 62	Recorded as <i>Turnoch</i> (1609) and <i>Turnehouth</i> (1611). Some have suggested the first element is English/Scots <i>turn</i> , perhaps where travellers could turn into Glencorse (q.v.). It may be Scots <i>heugh</i> , 'a cleft or a projecting bit of land', referring either to higher ground above little gullies running down to the Glencorse Burn, or to the gullies themselves – in either case, covered with thorn bushes.
Walstone	J6	18 58	Blaeu's <i>Welstoun</i> might lend credence to the New Statistical Account's claim (c.1845) that the name derived from the wells or springs behind the settlement. Or maybe a personal name + Scots <i>toun</i> , 'farm settlement'? Recorded as <i>Walystoun</i> (1359), <i>Wailstoun</i> (1511), <i>Welstoun</i> (1584, 1647), <i>Walstoun</i> (1584) and <i>Wolstoun</i> (1594). There is another Walston (05 45) just S of Dunsyre.
West Linton	H3	14 52	<i>Lyintoun</i> in 1654 (Blaeu), the farm (Scots <i>toun</i>) beside the Lyne Water. 'West Linton' since early-20th century, to distinguish it from East Linton near Dunbar, nearly 50 km away (E. Linton was also just Linton until then, but probably named after Scots <i>linn</i> , 'a waterfall, pool or narrow ravine' on the river Tyne).
West Rigg	H8	15 62	<i>Unthank</i> in 1817 (Kirkwood), albeit possibly in a slightly different position. If not a personal name, Scots <i>unthank</i> , 'thanklessness', could refer to poor quality land (here low-lying and boggy), but was also a technical term for 'land occupied by a squatter who did not pay rent'. Complements East Rigg (q.v.).
Woodhall	K9	20 68	An early name in the barony of Redhall, Colinton (<i>Wodhalle</i> , 1374). Scots <i>wuid ha</i> , 'hall in a wood', or <i>wuid haugh</i> , 'low-lying land beside the river at/of the wood'.
Woodhouselee	M8	23 64	<i>Wodehouseleye</i> (1501) and <i>Wodhously</i> (1530), 'the clearing of/beside the house in or beside the wood', from Scots <i>lea</i> , 'meadow, clearing'. The 18th-19th century mansion incorporates the lowest vaulted room of the old towerhouse of Fulford (q.v.), which was otherwise demolished to allow the new house to be built.

