Channel of Pittendreich 1861], which we will be following for much of the way up to the farm and Loch Leven's Larder. The farm of Pittendreich lies to the north of the main road [*Pettindreich* 1544; *Pettyndreich* 1544, Gaelic *pett* 'farm, estate' + Gaelic *an dreach* '(of) the (good) aspect, gentle slope'].

We turn away from the loch just before **Pow Burn** [*Pow Burn* 1857; Scots *pow*, earlier *poll* 'a slow-moving, sluggish, ditch-like stream flowing through carse-land', with Scots *burn* added later, when *pow* no longer understood. It is also found in nearby Powmill (*Polmyln* 1546)]. This burn also forms the parish boundary between Portmoak and Orwell.

This leaflet was compiled by the Scottish Toponymy in Transition project (STIT), with help from the Kinross (Marshall) Museum. STIT is based at the University of Glasgow and is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for three years (2011–14). It aims to: research and publish a place-name volume each for Clackmannanshire, Kinross-shire and Menteith; commence place-name surveys of Ayrshire and Berwickshire, and develop a framework for completing the survey of Perthshire (of which Menteith is the first volume); exchange knowledge with local communities through a series of talks, walks, exhibitions and other events. For further information, see ***http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/stit/***

Further reading:

David Munro, *Loch Leven and the River Leven: A Landscape Transformed* (Markinch 1994).

Place-Name Walk, Portmoak: Leaflet created for two walks led by D. Munro and S. Taylor, Tuesday 25th June and Saturday 29th June 2013.

Simon Taylor, 'The Rock of The Irishmen: an Early Place-Name Tale from Fife and Kinross', in *West Over Sea*: *Studies in Scandinavian Sea-Borne Expansion and Settlement before 1300*, ed. B. Ballin Smith, S. Taylor and G. Williams (Leiden and Boston 2007), 497–514.

Simon Taylor, with Gilbert Márkus, *Place-Names of Fife* Vol. 2 (Central Fife between Leven and Eden) (Shaun Tyas: Donington, 2008)

Simon Taylor with Peter McNiven and Eila Williamson, *The Place-Names of Kinross-shire* (forthcoming).

Arts & Humanities Research Council

LIVING LOMONDS

University *of Glasgow*

Perth & Kinross Archaeology Month
Place-Name Walk, Loch Leven Heritage Trail
Saturday 28th June 2014
Depart Vane Farm (RSPB Reserve) 10.00
Walk to Channel Farm (Loch Leven's Larder)
led by David Munro and Simon Taylor: Duration **c.3 hours**
[with options of lift back to The Vane OR walk back or on round the loch]

A walk along the shores of Loch Leven from Vane Farm to Channel Farm, taking approximately 3 hours.

Balnethill   Kinnesswood   Kilmagad Wood   Munduff Hill

The Bishop Hill

St Serf's Island
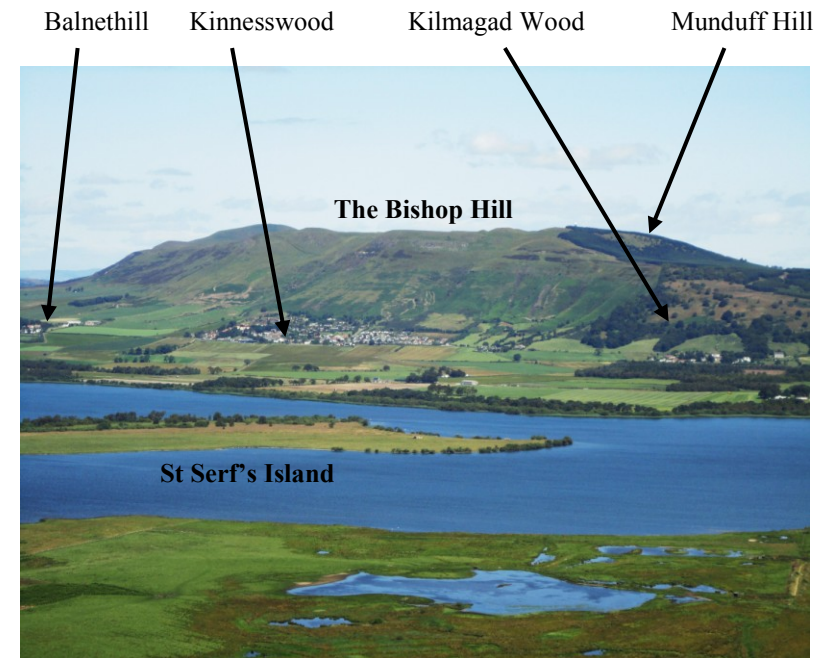
Introduction

What is a place-name walk? It is a walk through past and present, through landscape and language. It is an attempt to see the modern environment through the eyes of the people who gave it the names which we still use today, taking the names themselves as our guides. These names are guides also to the languages of the past: for Kinross-shire these are chiefly **Gaelic** and **Scots**, with some **Pictish** and even one **Norse** name (Kirkness), together spanning around 1,500 years, with the last names coined in Gaelic around 1200.

For the whole walk we are in the parish of **Portmoak** (*Portemuoch* c.1155, *Portmohoc* c.1180, Gaelic 'harbour of St Móóc/Moag'?), the old parish kirk at the farm of Portmoak, formerly on the shore of Loch Leven, and the harbour for the Culdee (*Céli Dé*) abbey, later Augustinian priory, of Lochleven on **St Serf's Island**. We know nothing about the saint who is apparently contained in the name of Portmoak, also found in Latinised form as *Moanus*. As the name of the island indicates, the major local saint was St Serf, also commemorated at Culross, Dunning and other places regionally, and it is possible *Moanus* is another form of his name. **Bishop Hill** [*Bischophillis* 1539, *the bischoppis hill* 1568; but called *W. Lawmond* on Ainslie's map of 1775, while West Lomond is called *Mid Lawmond*; so called because all the land here belonged to the bishop of St Andrews]. **Leven** itself [(river) *Leuine* c.1050; (island of) *Lochleuen* c.1150] originally applied to the river, the name most likely deriving from Celtic **le:uo-* 'smooth', in the sense of smooth- or slow-flowing (which it is).

The Route

This will follow the Loch Leven Heritage Trail (LHT), as depicted and described in the leaflet of that name. We start at **Vane Farm** [*Wayne* 1592; *Waine of Finnetie* 1625; *Vain* 1642, probably from Gaelic *A' Bheinn* 'the hill, the ben', referring to Benarty]. We set off widdershins or anti-clockwise, with a good view of St Serf's Island and the remains of the priory, heading towards **Findatie** [(Gamell of) *Findathin* c.1150; *Findahin* c.1153; (a mill in the land) *Findachin*); *Findathin* 1251; *Fyndawchty* c.1400; *Findautie* 1576. The first element is Gaelic *fionn* 'white'; the second element probably Gaelic *dabhach* 'a davoch, a large land-unit'; OR possibly Gaelic *àth* 'a ford']. Two fields on the lands of Findatie beside the loch were called *Green Cars* and *Cars Land* (1760). Scots *carse* is 'low land adjacent to a river or loch', originally boggy, but when drained usually fertile. We will encounter more carse-names later in the walk.

Cross the **River Leven** (the new cut, made in 1832 when the loch was lowered) and pass the farm of **Levenmouth**, also a creation of the 1832 lowering scheme, first called **Johntown**, ('John's toun or farm') after a member of the Graham Montgomery family, then proprietors of the lands, but known as **Levenmouth** by the 1850s. It is unusual to have the start of a river called a mouth. Historically *Levinsmouth* (1505), *Levynnismouth* (1546) referred to the town of Leven 20 kms away to the east, where the river enters the Forth. Where the old river Leven issued from the loch near Levenmouth were the Gullets (*Gulottes* 1524; *The G<ul>let causey* 1642) Scots *gullet*, *gullat*, from Old French *goulet* 'throat', 'a narrow channel made or used for catching fish'). The name survives in **New** and **Old Gullet Bridge,** carrying the modern road over the new and old courses of the Leven. Perhaps the Gullets inspired the name Levenmouth!

Sharpe, Greenwood and Fowler map of Fife and Kinross, 1828, from http://maps.nls.uk/

On our right as we walk through Levenmouth Plantation is Portmoak Airfield and Gliding Centre, which now contains the medieval harbour (Gaelic *port*) and church of Portmoak (see above). The path then skirts the lands of **Grahamstone** (*Grahamston* 1839, 'Graham's toun or farm'), established on land drained when Loch Leven was lowered in 1832; named after Sir Graham, elder son of the Graham Montgomery family, elder brother of John of **Johntown** (see above).

We continue along the shore of the loch, with good views of **Bishop Hill**, with features such as **White Craigs** (*White Craig* 1796) and **Fairy Doors** (*Fairy Doors* 1796); also the **Rows** such as **Kinnesswood Row**, from Scots *row* 'roll', hollows in the hillside down which limestone quarried high up on the Bishop Hill was rolled. At the foot of the hill, and above the low-lying boggy margins of the loch, cluster the old settlements such as Kinnesswood (see *Place-Name Walk, Portmoak* leaflet for details), **Balnethill** [*Banathile* 1544; *Balnathill* 1546; *Bannettill* 1583; *Beneath hill* 1753; Gaelic *baile* 'farm' + an unknown second element, but note how the 1753-form has re-interpreted the name!] and **Easter** and **Wester Balgedie** [*Eister & Wester Balgeddie* 1544; *Meickle Bilgedy* 1753 (= Wester Balgedie) *Little Bilgedy* 1753 (= Easter Balgedie); Gaelic *baile* 'farm' + Gaelic *gead* 'a small piece or strip of arable land'].

The path continues along the edge of the loch, across more *carse* (see above), which has given rise to **Carsehall** [*Carsehall* 1828, with Scots *hall* 'a hall, a high-status house' probably being used ironically here: compare names like Boghall, Cabbagehall, etc]. The path passes between **Carsehall** settlement by the main road to our right and **Carsehall Bog** on our left. Look out for the channel or drainage ditch from which **Channel Farm** takes its name [*Channel* 1790;