

We walk through **Bankwell Crescent** [*Bankwell* 1785 ‘well on a bank or slope’, the well itself situated at the east end of Skene Street] and into the park, formerly the bleaching green, heading for the kirk, dedicated to St Martin, dating back to Pictish times, as indicated by the former alternative name for Strathmiglo, which was **Ecclesmartin** [*Eglismarten* c.1248, *Eglismartene* 1605, town of *Strathmiglo* called *Englishmartin* 1781, Pictish **eglēs* ‘church’ + Martin, ‘church dedicated to St Martin’]. Along the north side of the park was the mill lade, which took water from the Miglo (Eden) to drive both the **West** and **East Mills of Strathmiglo**. A part of this lade can still be seen in the garden of the old gasworks house beside the kirkyard. We finish the walk at the kirk, with its Pictish stone (from near Gateside).

Lunch can be had in the Strath Tavern at the west end of the High Street (beside the station, closed in the 1960s) and there are frequent buses back to Falkland [13 09 14: 13:11 (no. 64), 13:42 (no. 66), 14:11 (no. 64)] from the High Street opposite the village supermarket.

This leaflet was compiled by Simon Taylor of the University of Glasgow, a partner of the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership, from volumes of The Place-Names of Fife vols. 2 and 4 (Taylor with Márkus), produced as part of a research project based at the University of Glasgow and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (2006–10).

Further reading:

- Gilbert Márkus, *Place-Names, Protein and Power: The meaning of the Falkland Trenches* (Falkland Centre for Stewardship, Falkland 2010).
 Simon Taylor, with Gilbert Márkus, *Place-Names of Fife Vol. 2* (Central Fife between Leven and Eden) (Shaun Tyas: Donington 2008)
 Simon Taylor, ‘The Trenches at Falkland, Fife: a Legacy of Royal Deer-Management?’, in *Carmarthenshire & Beyond: Studies in History and Archaeology in Memory of Terry James*, ed. Heather James and Patricia Moore (Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen 2009), 235–44
 Simon Taylor, with Gilbert Márkus, *Place-Names of Fife Vol. 4* (North Fife between Eden and Tay) (Shaun Tyas: Donington 2010)
 Simon Taylor, with Gilbert Márkus, *Place-Names of Fife Vol. 5* (Discussion, Glossaries, Texts) (Donington 2012).



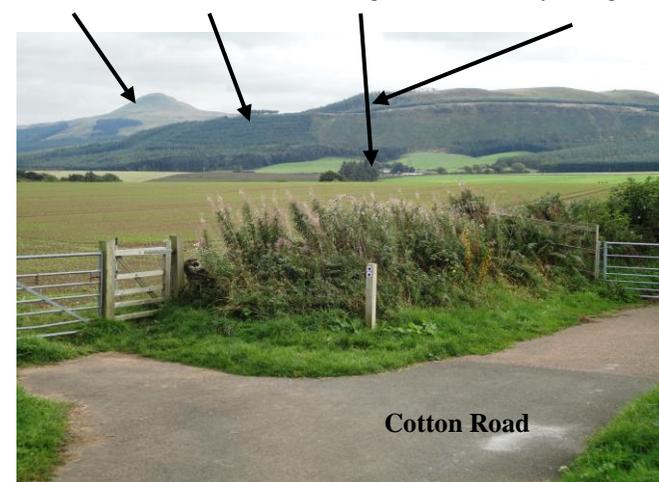
Living Lomonds Landscape Project

Place-Name Walk: Falkland to Strathmiglo via Kilgour, Barrington Muir Plantation and the Cotton Road

Saturday 13th September 2014

Depart Falkland Estate Car Park (at Stables) 10.00
 led by David Munro and Simon Taylor: Duration **c.3 hours**
 [options of buses or walk back to Falkland]

East Lomond Black Hill Kilgour Arraty Craigs



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 Fife these are chiefly **Pictish**, **Gaelic** and **Scots**, together spanning around 1,500 years, with the last names coined in Gaelic around 1200.

The walk spans two parishes: **Falkland** [*Falleland* c.1128 × 1390, *Falecklen* c.1160, *Falkeland* 1233, *Falcland* 1336, perhaps Old Gaelic *falc* ‘heavy rain’ (cf Gaelic *failc* ‘wash, bathe’); or Gaelic *falach* ‘hidden, concealed’; the last element being Gaelic *lann* ‘enclosure’] and **Strathmiglo** [*Stradmigeloch* c.1175,

Stradmigloc c.1175, *Strathmiglok* c.1229, *Stramiglok* 1294, *Stramyglo* 1409, Gaelic *strath* ‘strath, broad valley’ of the river **Miglo** (see below)]. It follows the old route to Kinross beneath the steep north slopes of the **Lomonds** [*Lomondys* c.1350, probably from a Pictish **lumon* related to Welsh *llumon*, ‘a beacon’, found in the Welsh hill-name Pumlumon (English Plynlimon)], above all West Lomond. Note that on Ainslie’s map of 1775 West Lomond is called *Mid Lawmond*, while *W. Lawmond* is the name given to the Bishop Hill above Kinnesswood (on land held by the bishop of St Andrews, hence the name).

The Route

We start from the stables of House of Falkland, formerly **Nuthill** [*Nuthill* 1515, *Nuthill* 1528, *Nutehill* 1540, *Nuthill* 1542, ‘hill associated with nut-trees’?], the old house of which stood in the field opposite. On or near the site of the present House of Falkland, built in the 1830s, was a small settlement called *Redhill* (1775). We cross the **Maspie Burn** [aqua de *Mospy* 1595, *Mospy* & *Mospy-Den* 1602, *Maspy b<urne>* 1654, the water of *Mospie* 1654, Scots *moss peth* ‘the steep path leading to the moss or muir’] then continue westwards past **Westfield** [*West Field* 1821], one of four farms created by the Bruces on the Nuthill Estate in the 1820s, along with Annfield, Summerfield and Chancefield (see below). On the 1757 plan of Nuthill there is only a field here, called *The Long West Owre* (*Lang West Hours* 1909). We continue past the remarkable feature called **The Trenches** [*The Trenches* 1757], probably connected with the capturing and management of deer to supply the royal hunting parks (see next page).

Passing **Chancefield** [*Chancefield* 1828, ‘happy or fortunate field’], another of the 1820s farms (see Westfield, above), we join a straight farm-road, also created in the 1820s, and make a short detour to the old farmstead of **Kilgour** [*Kilgouerin* 1224, *Kilgoueri* & *Kilgoueryn* c.1250, *Kylgouerin* 1275, *Kilgoveri* 1329, *Kilgoure* 1417, Gaelic *cill* ‘church’ + a saint’s name Gobhran or a burn-name containing Gaelic *gobhar* ‘goat’], the old name for the parish of Falkland and the site of the parish kirk till early 17th century, marked by a small, overgrown graveyard. A little south-west of Kilgour stood the lost farmstead of **Cairngate** [*Carcat* 1507, *Carncatt* 1510, *Cairnegat* 1606, *Karnecatt* 1654, *Kirncat Bank* 1757, *Cairngate* 1782, Gaelic *càrn* + Gaelic *cat* ‘cairn of wild cats’]. Above us are the **Arraty Craigs**, from which flows the **Arraty Burn** through the **Arraty Den** [*Arraty-Den* 1602, possibly containing Old Gaelic *arrachta* ‘strong, vigorous, bold’, apt for the Arraty Burn as it tumbles down the steep north side of the Lomonds].



Detail from ‘*A Plan of the Estate of Nuthill, the Property of William Thomson Esq., surveyed by Thomas Winter, Anno 1757*’ (owned by Falkland Estate). It is the earliest representation of *The Trenches*, which it terms ‘an Old Fortification’. Note also the fields or enclosures called ‘Deerends’ to the west (right-hand side). The ‘Road’ lower right is ‘Road to Arngosk’ i.e. Arngask.

The road continues westward into Strathmiglo parish and **Barrington Muir Plantation**, formerly the muir or rough grazing attached to the farm of Barrington, a late division of Wester Cash [*Barrton* 1818, *Barrington* 1828, ‘barn-farm’, less likely ‘barren farm’ (Scots *toun* ‘farm’)]. At or near the sharp right turn which we take towards Strathmiglo was **Jenny Nettles’ Grave**. This track is the **Cotton Road**, because it passed the **cottoun of Cash** [*Cash Cottown* 1775, *The Cottown* ‘the farm or settlement of cottars (small-holders) on (Wester) Cash’]. This formerly stood at the Strathmiglo end of the track.

West (left) of the Cotton Road is the farm of **Drumdreel** [*Drundol* c.1243, *Dru(m)dol* c.1250, *Drumdele* 1506, Gaelic *druim* ‘a ridge’+ Gaelic *daol* ‘a beetle’, so ‘(beetle)-black or dark ridge’, in shadow of the Lomonds], with **Barrington** (see above), part of the lands of **Cash** [*Esterchasse* 1294, *Westerchasse* 1294, *Casche* 1502, prob. Gaelic *cas* ‘steep’].

Reaching Strathmiglo and the **Dryside Road** we pass the end of **Skene Street**, (local laird who established a linen mill there in the 19th c.). We walk through **California** [*West Wynd* 1832], probably a humorous name bestowed in the 19th century because it lay at western edge of the village, when California became synonymous with the far (and wild!) west. The name first appears as *California Well* 1856 OS 6 inch 1st edn. This was later reduced to the Cali Well (recently sadly infilled). Here we cross the **Miglo** [aqua<a> lie *Miglo* 1605, the *Water of Miglo* 1722, *Water of Miglo* or *Eden* 1832), containing Pictish **mig-*, related to Welsh *mign* bog, marsh’] the name referring to its boggy course between Gateside and Dunshelt, where it flowed into the Eden. It is now known as the Eden..