



## **Place-names of East Lothian: A journey through time**

*Liz Curtis*

Third edition

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## Introduction

East Lothian is the Scottish county east of Edinburgh, on the corner where the Firth of Forth meets the North Sea. To the south, it is bordered by the long line of the Lammermuir Hills. Between hills and sea stretches the East Lothian plain, which offers some of the best agricultural land in Scotland.

Over thousands of years, this land has drawn wave upon wave of immigrants, with different cultures and speaking different languages. Each group named the land in their own way, whether adopting the place-names of their predecessors or adapting them or creating new names. As a result, East Lothian has a wonderfully varied collection of place-names, providing windows on the past.

This book presents a selection of these names, mainly those of major settlements and landscape features, as well as names which illustrate particular periods of history, and some interesting or curious names.



Haddingtonshire (now East Lothian) in centre of map  
 From *Bartholomew Survey Atlas of Scotland 1912*  
*Land surface features and population. Reproduced with the permission of the  
 National Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk>*

## Meanings

Starting from the earliest known records of a name, we aim to discover the language or languages it was composed in, and then its meaning. The earliest records often point to names created much earlier. The county town of Haddington, for example, was recorded as *hadintune* in the 12th century. This is an Old English name dating to the seventh century or later. It has three parts or 'elements': Old English *tūn* 'substantial farm', *-ing* 'called after', and the personal name Hada. This gives us the meaning, 'farm called after a man named Hada'.

Meanings are often uncertain, hence the frequent use of words such as 'possible' or 'probable' when describing them. Often, where the meaning of a name has been forgotten, communities have invented stories to account for the name. Such stories are known as 'folk etymologies'. In the case of Haddington, for example, many locals today believe the mistaken – though charming – explanation that it means 'hidden toun', because 'you can't see it until you arrive'.

Many of the resources needed for researching East Lothian place-names will be found on the Scottish Place-Name Society website, [spns.org.uk](http://spns.org.uk), especially in the Useful Links section.



## Historical overview

Our story starts thousands of years ago, with the hunters and gatherers who arrived after the last ice age, and the early farmers who followed them. They populated the whole of Britain. We don't know what languages they spoke.

River-names are often the earliest names: Adder (found today in Whiteadder) and Tyne may date from this period, before Celtic-speaking peoples arrived.



The River Tyne

### **Britons**

The people we call Britons populated the whole of Britain during the first millennium BC. They spoke a P-Celtic language, Brittonic, which is the forerunner of modern Welsh. Some thirty Brittonic names are still used in East Lothian, while other 'lost' ones are recorded in old documents and maps, but are no longer in use.

These people were farmers and herders, who lived in the hillforts and other settlements which were dotted throughout the county. They have left us names which reflect their way of life and their relationship to the environment. Some of these names relate to forts, including Carfrae, Dunbar, Dunglass, *Dunpender* (an old name for Traprain Law) and Tantallon. Others relate to farms: Longniddry, Trabroun, Traprain and Tranent. There are also Brittonic names of hills, rivers and woodlands. More details will be found in individual entries below.

A mysterious name, much discussed by scholars, is Lothian itself. It was recorded in around 1098 as *in Lodoneo* and also appears in the early Welsh poem, *Y Gododdin*. Koch has suggested that it derives from an ancient Celtic place-name, *\*Lugu-dūniāna*, meaning 'the country of the fort of the Celtic god Lugus'.



Two prehistoric forts: White Castle with Traprain Law in the background

## Romans

In the first centuries AD, Roman armies moved through Britain. They travelled west of our area, building a fort at Inveresk, and did not have any impact on East Lothian place-names.

## Angles

After the Romans left, Angles, Saxons and Jutes from the continent conquered most of what would become England. Angles established a kingdom in Northumbria, then from the seventh century moved northward. They expanded their kingdom up to the Forth, including what is now East Lothian.

The Angles spoke a northern dialect of Old English known as Old Northumbrian. This dialect became the dominant language in East Lothian, forming the basis of Scots.

Unlike the Britons, the Angles did not occupy hill-top forts or defended enclosures. Their main interest, as the place-names reveal, was in farmland. The spread of Old English place-names shows that they pushed the Britons to the fringes of the area and established large farms or estates, some of which may have much the same boundaries today. They also controlled a network of churches from their ecclesiastical base at Lindisfarne.

The names of the Anglian farms often ended in *hām* (pronounced 'hahm'), *wīc* (pronounced 'week') or *tūn* (pronounced 'toon'). A *hām* is a 'house and landholding, or

a settlement', a *wīc* is a 'specialised farm', and a *tūn* is a 'substantial farm'. Names with *hām* include Auldham, Oldhamstocks, Morham, Whittingehame and Tynningame.

There are two *wīc* names in East Lothian: North Berwick and Hedderwick.

There are many *tūn* names in the county. They have come down to us with the spelling *ton*. It is not always easy to tell whether the names are Old English, as the descendant of *tūn* continued to be used to coin names long after Old English had developed into Scots. We need to check the early forms, and if these end with the spelling *tūn*, and if the first element is Old English, the name probably is Old English. *Tūn* names likely to be Old English are Belton, Bolton, Clerkington, Dirleton, (East) Linton, Elphinstone, Haddington, Ormiston, Preston, Saltoun, Seton, Smeaton, Spartleton, Stenton and Winton.

The Anglian saint Baldred left his mark on the east of the county. Originally known by his Old English name Balthere, he died at his monastery in Tynningame in AD 756. Places bearing his name include a rock called St Baldred's Boat and an inlet called St Baldred's Cradle, as well as holy wells and churches.



Reconstruction of an Anglian cross at Aberlady

## Scandinavians

From around the year 800 onwards, Vikings attacked around the coasts of Britain and Ireland. In the year 941 Olaf Guthfrithson, king of Dublin and Northumbria, sacked Tynningame monastery. Vikings left a few coastal place-names

in East Lothian, including Fidra and probably the Bass Rock. Lamer Island in Dunbar may take its name from Old Norse *hlaðhamarr* meaning 'loading rock', a place where boats could load and unload cargo.

We know from place-names that some Scandinavians established or took over farms in East Lothian. They left place-names ending in *bie*, which is from Norse *bý* meaning 'farm'. This was a common element in southern Norway. In East Lothian there are five such *bý* names. These are Humbie, Pogbie, Blegbie and *Laysynbi* (now called Leaston) which are within an area of about two square miles, and Begbie, which is near Samuelston.



Landing of Danes

© *The Morgan Library & Museum, New York*  
*MS M.736, fol. 9v.*

### **Gaelic-speaking Scots**

From the 10th century, the Scots kings of Alba pushed southwards across the Firth of Forth, eventually taking control of East Lothian from the Angles. The 12th-century Earls of Fife held land in East Lothian and founded the Cistercian nunnery in North Berwick.

The Scots were Gaelic-speakers at the time, and they left a scattering of place-names in East Lothian. According to W.F.H. Nicolaisen, this suggests that there was 'a well-settled Gaelic-speaking population', though their language did not take hold. Two names, Balgone and Ballencrieff, have the common Gaelic element *baile*,

meaning 'landholding or farm'. Knockenhair near Dunbar is from Gaelic *cnoc na h-aire*, meaning 'watch hill'.

Gaelic personal names continued in use after the language was lost, appearing in farm-names coined by Scots speakers: Congalton, Gilchriston and Gilmerton – the farms of Congal, Gilchrist and Gilmour.



## Normans

In the 12th century, many Norman barons were brought to Scotland by Scottish kings. They were given land in return for military service. They did not usually rename their lands, but took their names from their estates – for example Robert de Staintun and Walter de Ormistun. One exception is the village of Gifford, which takes its name from the Norman Giffard family, though the estate retained the older name of Yester. Many Scots farm-names include the term *mains*, meaning 'home farm', which originally comes from Old French *demeine*.



King David I and King Malcolm, *Kelso Liber*  
*Liber S. Marie de Calchou*, Bannatyne Club 1846, facing title page

## Religious institutions

From the 12th to 16th centuries, the main influence of the aristocracy on place-names was through the many religious institutions that they sponsored. They donated large amounts of land in return for prayers for their souls and those of their families.

As a result we have names such as Nungate Bridge, Abbey Bridge and Nunraw, which relate to the Cistercian nunnery at Haddington. In Dunbar, Friarscroft was land beside the Trinitarian friary founded in the 1240s by the Countess of Dunbar. Monkrigg Farm near Haddington belonged to Newbattle Abbey, while Jerusalem Farm once belonged to the Knights Templar. Mayshiel in the Lammermuirs was a shieling – summer pasturage – belonging to the priory of the Isle of May. St Germain's near Seton was a hospital or poor-house of the canons of Bethlehem. St Laurence House near Haddington was also a hospital, caring for the poor and lepers.



## The Scots language

The Old Northumbrian dialect of Old English developed into Scots from about the year 1100. Scots was widely spoken particularly in the Scottish lowlands and continues to be a living language.

In East Lothian, thousands of Scots place-names have been coined, for settlements and farms, fields and muirs, streams and hills. Many farm-names end in Scots *toun* or *ton*, 'farm', which descends from Old English *tūn*. Scots names with other elements include Blindwells, Blinkbonny, Gladsmuir, Glenkinchie, Markle, Ninewar, Nungate, Poldrate, Saltcoats, Skateraw, Wallyford, Yadlee and Yellowcraig.

All these languages – Brittonic, Old English, Old Norse, Gaelic, Norman French and Scots – have contributed to the fascinating mixture of place-names that surround us today.



### **Author's background and acknowledgements**

My interest in place-names began when I was living in Belfast and learning the Irish language. I started researching Scottish place-names when doing a post-graduate course in Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University. After I moved to East Lothian in 2009, I began studying the names of my new home.

This book is very much a collective effort. It has had considerable input from colleagues and friends in the Scottish Place-Name Society and in East Lothian's heritage community: this includes the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society; the U3A Archaeology, History and Genealogy Group; the John Gray Centre (run by East Lothian Council); and various local history societies. The staff of the National Library of Scotland have been very helpful, while their maps website has been an essential resource.

A number of individuals have made special contributions. First and foremost is Carole Hough, who has cast a creative and critical eye over the whole process. Simon Taylor, too, has been very generous with his extensive knowledge, as have East Lothian place-names expert Bill Patterson and Alan James, author of BLITON. Warm thanks are also due to my fellow researcher Val Wilson, who has accompanied me on numerous research expeditions.

Others who have given valuable help include David Anderson, Graham Barnes, Alec Dale, Elisabeth Davenport, Joy Dodd, the late William Dodd, Pete

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Apologies if anyone has been forgotten! All errors are the author's responsibility.

### **Preface to the second edition**

The main change from the first edition is a new interpretation of the name Bass Rock, contributed by Arne Kruse. There are also some minor changes to the text and new photographs of the following: the Aberlady cross, Bolton Parish Church, Lennoxlove House, Newhailes House and the house sign Endrigg, which marks the end of the book.

### **Preface to the third edition**

The third edition contains minor changes to the text and some new images: the seal of Dunbar Collegiate Church, probably depicting St Bay; a Chapel Farm sign; a contemporary portrait of John Mair of Gleghornie; and a mural in Glasgow depicting St Kentigern by Sam Bates aka Smug.

## Selected East Lothian place-names

**Note:** Each entry starts with one or more historical forms, usually including the earliest recorded form, and ends with the National Grid Reference and the 1950s parish. References for the historical forms and for quotations within the entry are listed at the end of the book. Places can be easily located via [maps.nls.uk](http://maps.nls.uk) Georeferenced Maps. Names and words marked with a star \* are hypothetical: their existence has been deduced though no written records have been found.

### Aberlady

*abberlefsic* or *abberlefdic* c. 1164, *aberleuedi* 1214 x 1229

Possibly 'mouth of the smooth-gliding stream', from Brittonic *aber* 'confluence, river-mouth' and *\*lēbeticon*, 'stream gliding smoothly through flat, low-lying land'. Alan James notes that over time *\*lēbeticon* would have become *\*levedig*, which 'would have sounded to speakers of late Northumbrian Old English or proto-Scots very similar to *levedi*, the descendant of earlier Old English *hlāfdige* "loaf-kneader", our modern word "lady", and it is not surprising that the modern name has emerged as Aberlady.'

Aberlady remained the settlement name, while the stream's name changed to Peffer. This is another Brittonic river name, from *\*pebrā* 'bright, radiant'. This was already the name of a stream to the east, now known as the East Peffer Burn. The western stream may have been renamed Peffer because the two streams were thought to share a source, and thus to be one stream with two mouths.

NT465799. Aberlady parish.



Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve

## **Alderston**

*Aldenstoun* 1165 x 1185

Probably 'Aldwine's farm' or 'Alden's farm' from a personal name and Scots *toun* 'farm'. Northwest of Haddington, Alderston includes an 18th-century mansion, owned at the time of writing by East Lothian Council, and a farm, Alderston Mains.

Ealdwine was a fairly common Old English personal name. A person named Aldwyne or Aldewyn dating to c. 1200 is mentioned in Scottish records in connection with his descendants, who were active in Midlothian and Roxburghshire. Addinston in Berwickshire has similar historical forms and is associated with a person called Alden. There is an Alderston in Lanarkshire and an Alderstone in Midlothian. NT499747. Haddington parish.



Cattle at Alderston

## **Archerfield**

*Archerfeild* 1607

'Field used for archery practice'. Sir John Lauder visited Archerfield in the 1670s and noted in his journal that it was 'so called because of the excellent links their (sic) for shooting at Rovers'. *Links* is a Scots word for sandy ground near the coast, while *rovers* (an English word) were arbitrarily selected marks used for archery practice.

Local historian John Martine thought the name Archerfield probably came from either seventh-century Pictish archers, or archers of the de Vaux family, who built the castle, or those of Edward I, whose forces laid siege to nearby Dirleton Castle in 1298.

NT505841. Dirleton parish.



### **Athelstaneford**

*Elstanesford* 1153 x 1178, *Alstanesford* 1213, *Athelstanford* c. 1440.

'Alstan's ford', from Scots *ford* and the personal name Alstan or Elstan (a development of Old English *Æðelstān*). Locals pronounce it Elshanford, while others say Athelstan-ford, with the stress on 'ford'. The ford was over the Cogtail Burn west of today's Cogtail Bridge. Medieval historians attributed the name to an English king called Athelstan, who they claimed had died here in battle with the Picts. The night before the battle, the Pictish king saw a vision of St Andrew, who promised him success, and when the battle began, a cross shaped like an X appeared in the air. Hence Athelstaneford's claim to be the birthplace of Scotland's flag, the Saltire. There is no historical evidence for any of this. Today the village hosts a Flag Heritage Centre in a 16th-century doocot behind the church.

NT533773. Athelstaneford parish.



Athelstaneford Parish Church

## Auldhame

*Aldham* 854

'Old settlement', from Old English *ald* 'old' and *hām* 'house and landholding'. Today's Auldhame House and steading lie on the main road between North Berwick and Whitekirk. The earlier settlement lay on the coast, on a promontory southeast of Tantallon Castle. Excavations in 2005 and 2008 revealed an Anglian monastic site occupied from c. AD 650 to c. AD 1000. The term *hām* is often used for monastic sites. Auldhame was under the authority of the Northumbrian bishopric of Lindisfarne. The site was later used as a parish church and graveyard. Auldhame continued as a parish till 1619, when it was joined with Tynninghame. In the mid-19th-century, the new farmhouse on the main road was named Auldhame, while the remains of the earlier settlement became Old Auldhame. Today only a ruined 16th-century laird's house survives there.

Auldhame was one of three churches said to hold the remains of St Balthere or Baldred (d. AD 756), the others being Prestonkirk and Tynninghame. The laird's house was known as St Baldred's House, while St Baldred's Cave is below the headland. A rock by the Great Car reef is known as St Baldred's Boat, well positioned to take the saint to the Bass Rock, where he is said to have had a retreat. St Baldred's Well at Auldhame is now covered over.

NT595849. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.



Auldhame Farm

### **Balgone and Ballencrieff**

**Balgone:** *Balnegon* 1337, *Ballingoune* 1425–26.

Probably 'farm of the smith or smiths' from Gaelic *baile a' ghobhainn* or *baile nan gobhann*.

**Ballencrieff:** *Balnecryfe* 1296, *Balincref* 1296.

'Farm of the tree or trees', from Gaelic *baile na craoibhe* or *baile nan craobh*.

*Baile* is the standard Gaelic word for 'farm, estate'. These two estates may have been created or named in the 12th century, when the Gaelic-speaking earls of Fife held land in East Lothian. Balgone is pronounced Balgon (as 'upon'). The smith had high status in early societies.

Balgone NT566823. North Berwick parish.

Ballencrieff NT484780. Aberlady parish.



### **Barns Ness**

*Barness* 1752–55

From Scots *ness* 'headland' with the settlement name Barns, from nearby East Barns. Barns Ness is about two miles east of Dunbar, marked by a fine lighthouse built by the Stevensons which is no longer operational. East Barns no longer exists, unlike its twin, West Barns, which is a flourishing village west of Dunbar. East Barns' misfortune was to be sited on limestone, quarried for multiple uses.

The two parcels of arable land named Barns date back to medieval times, when they belonged to the earldom of Dunbar. In 1435 they became Crown lands when the earl forfeited his estates. The 'barns' in question were storage facilities where the tenants deposited their rents, paid in kind. The rents from West and East Barns supplied the garrison at Dunbar Castle.

Over time the tenants gained control of their lands. East Barns became a large farm and associated settlement. The inhabitants departed after the land was sold in 1960 to the cement company known as Blue Circle, which built a cement works and opened limestone quarries. The settlement was quarried away.

The word *barns* is a common place-name element in lowland Scotland, and indeed in East Lothian in the mid-19th century there were seven farms whose name included the word Barns, or in one case Barney.

Barns Ness NT723772. Dunbar parish.

East Barns NT717762. Dunbar parish.



Barns Ness lighthouse



Barns Ness (top right) and East Barns (bottom centre)  
*OS Six-inch 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Haddingtonshire VII.SE 1893–95,*  
*Reproduced with the permission of the National*  
*Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk>*

## The Bass Rock

*basse* c. 1370

*Bas* c. 1400

Usually known simply as The Bass, this massive volcanic plug stands off the southern shore of the entrance to the Firth of Forth. Scandinavian place-names expert Arne Kruse suggests that although its name could be older, it is possibly from Old Norse *bassi*, meaning 'bear' or 'big animal'. In modern Norwegian *basse* means the same, or 'big guy'. Peder Gammeltoft of the University of Bergen observes that *basse* in Danish likewise carries the meaning 'big guy' and 'can be applied also to animals of a bigger size than expected.'

Other possibilities are Older Scots *bos* meaning 'a rounded prominence, a boss', and English *boss* 'a knoll or mass of rock'. Norse *bassi* 'bear' or 'big animal' seems more likely, as all the early forms of the name are spelt with an 'a', and other islands in the Firth have names of certain or probable Norse origin. Also, many Norse coastal names refer to animals. The rock with its great bulk would have been an important landmark, easily identified as 'the bear' or 'the big one' by passing Scandinavian sailors.

NT602874. North Berwick parish.



The Bass Rock

## Bay's Well

*Sanct-Bais-wall* 1603

A holy well dedicated to St Bay, in the cliff below Dunbar's swimming pool. It was described by the Ordnance Survey Name Book as 'a spring of the purest water'. It has a rock-cut basin to catch the water. The cave should only be entered with great care as it is slippery and gets cut off by the tide. The well gave its name to Bayswell Park, a row of villas built in the 1880s, and to Bayswell Road, which was previously called Westgate End.

St Bay, also spelt Bae or Baye, was the patron saint of Dunbar's Collegiate Church, founded in 1342 by Patrick V, earl of March, as part of the parish church. Who was St Bay? There are two saints with similar names, who may have been the same person. St Begha, whose feast day is 31 October, was said to have fled from Vikings in Ireland to St Bees in Cumbria. Here a church was dedicated to her, followed by a wealthy priory. It seems likely that the earls of Dunbar, who had close links with Cumbria, brought her cult to Dunbar. There is also St Baya, whose feast day is 3 November, who had a chapel dedicated to her on Little Cumbrae, an island off Scotland's west coast. The *Aberdeen Breviary*, published in 1510, identified Baya as the Dunbar saint and explained why her relics had remained on Little Cumbrae:

'Now just as she led a solitary life in that island while she was living, so also in death she does not allow her body to be taken away from it. For when a parson of the parish church of Dunbar, which is dedicated in her honour... wished to translate the holy virgin's relics there, he got ships ready and came to the island with a favourable wind; but when he put her bones in a wooden coffin in his ship, such a storm of wind and sea repeatedly arose that they would have been drowned; but as soon as they laid down her remains, they returned again on their desired course.'

NT677791. Dunbar parish.



Seal of Dunbar Collegiate Church, 1453, probably depicting St Bay.  
NRS GD55/554. *Reproduced by permission of the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry.*

### **Belhaven**

portum meum de *Bele* 1140 x 1159, copied end 12th century; portum apud *le Bellehaven*, porto de *Balhaven*, 1369–70

'Harbour on the Biel Water', from Scots *haven* 'harbour' and the river-name *Bele*. *Bele* may be from Brittonic *bel-* 'shining', which occurs in the names of several Celtic deities and was probably part of *Belisáma*, Ptolemy's name for the River Ribble in Yorkshire.

NT664786. Dunbar parish.



The Biel Water



Belhaven Bay

### **Binning Wood**

*Binning-wood* 1761

This wood was originally planted by the sixth earl of Haddington, a forestry enthusiast, in 1707, and was evidently named after his eldest son, who held the courtesy title Lord Binning. This title had been granted to Sir Thomas Hamilton, later first earl of Haddington, in 1613, along with the barony of Binning in Linlithgowshire. Recorded as *Bynyn* in the 13th century, the name was from Scots Gaelic *binnean* 'a little peak'. The sixth earl wrote that the 10-year-old Lord Binning had himself laid down 'some serpentine walks, and some figures' in Binning Wood. During World War II, much of the wood was felled to make frames for aircraft: it was subsequently replanted. In 2003 part of it was sold, becoming a green burial ground. NT600802. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.



Entrance to Binning Wood

## Blindwells

*Blind Walls* 1799

'Hidden springs' from Scots *blind* 'covered, hidden' and *well* or *wall* 'source of water, spring, pool or stream fed by a spring'. Springs welling up in random places are a feature of the local geology, formed when water flowing underground hits impermeable volcanic rock and is forced upwards. *Blind Walls* – later *Blindwells* – was the name of a small farmstead on the St Germain's estate. Then in 1977 an opencast mine was opened up before building the Tranent bypass. Called *Blindwells Opencast*, the mine took the surface off a swathe of countryside between Tranent and Longniddry, swallowing the Blindwells farmstead. It supplied coal to Cockenzie Power Station and to Leith docks for onward shipment.

The mine closed in the year 2000, and in 2019 plans were announced for a new town of 1,600 homes on the site. East Lothian Council began a search for a name for the new town, causing a stir in the *East Lothian Courier*. Councillors wanted to replace the name Blindwells because of its association with the opencast mine, and invited school pupils to nominate alternative names. The Battle of Prestonpans was fought on the site in 1745, so the Battle Trust petitioned the Council for the name Charlestoun, in honour of the victor, Bonnie Prince Charlie. The Council put the question to an online poll. Following local pressure, Blindwells was included in the shortlist of names: it won more than 70 per cent of the vote, becoming the new town's name. The name Blindwells is also found in Angus, Fife and Perthshire, and a section of the road between Gifford and Garvald is called Blindwell Brae. NT418734. Tranent parish.



Preston Lodge School students at the Blindwells site  
© Gordon Bell/*East Lothian Courier* 12.09.19

## **Blinkbonny**

*Blinkbonnie* 1773, *Blink bonny* and *Blink Bonny* 1799

Suggestions as to how to interpret this name include 'beautiful or bonny view' and the advice to 'glance with pleasure'. It comes from Scots *blink* 'view' (noun) or 'look' (verb) and *bonny* 'beautiful'. Starting life in the 18th century, by the mid-19th century there were places named Blinkbonny throughout southern and eastern Scotland, mostly farmhouses and cottages built as part of the rural 'improvements' of the time. Most were humble dwellings with beautiful views. In rural East Lothian, houses named Blinkbonny included two occupied by labourers and one by a joiner, plus a ruined shepherd's cottage and a small farmhouse. There was also a servant's house in Dunbar, probably in Dawell Brae (now Victoria Street). The farmhouse, now much more luxurious and called Blinkbonny House, is the only one that survives.

The houses were not owned by their tenants and were probably named by their proprietors. The Ordnance Survey Name Book recorded how the two labourers' dwellings on the farm of Ruchlaw got their name: 'These houses are better know [sic] by the inhabitants under the Name of Spitemuir, but Mr Sydserf, the proprietor, is about erecting a stone in front of them with the word Blinkbonnie inscribed on it.' He was perhaps taking the name from a nearby dwelling called Blink Bonny recorded on Forrest's map of 1799. Echoes of lost Blinkbonny dwellings remain today in the names Blinkbonny Burn, Blinkbonny Wood and Blinkbonnie Plantation.

Labourers' cottages (gone) NT611735. Whittingehame parish.

Joiner's cottage (now a carwash) NT410745. Prestonpans parish.

Shepherd's cottage (ruin) NT534636. Yester parish.

Blinkbonny House NT471722. Haddington parish.

Blinkbonny Burn NT528630. Yester parish.

Blinkbonnie Plantation NT607727. Whittingehame parish.

Blinkbonny Wood NT538641. Yester parish.



Blinkbonny, shepherd's cottage, Longyester



Easter Blinkbonny, by Haddington

## **Bolton**

*boldun* 1167, *Botheltune* 1172 x 1178

A common Old English place-name from *\*bōðl-tūn*, perhaps meaning a settlement with a special building – *bōðl* being 'dwelling'. It may be similar to Old Swedish *bólbyr*, meaning 'the village proper' as distinct from its outlying land.

NT507700. Bolton parish.



Bolton Parish Church

**Bothans:** see **Gifford** and **Bothans**

### **Broomhouse (Wester and Easter)**

*Bromehous* 1499–1500

'Broom house', from Scots *brome* 'broom' and *hous* 'house'. This might have referred to a house with broom growing round it or possibly a building where broom was stored or worked. The word *broom* appears frequently in place-names in southern Scotland, as the plant was an important resource. With its 'long, whippy, thornless stems', as naturalist Richard Mabey puts it, broom was 'one of the most effective and comfortable' shrubs to use for sweeping – hence the term *broom* for a brush. It was also used for thatching. The Broomhouse lands near Spott were divided into two large farms, Wester and Easter Broomhouse, in the year 1500 or before.

NT672762, NT680768. Spott parish.

### **Carfrae**

*Carffra* 1458, *Caerfre* 1590s

Probably 'fort-hill' or 'hill with a fort on it', from Brittonic *caer* 'fort' and *bre* 'hill'. *Bre* is softened (lenited) to *vre*. Carfrae is a farm southwest of Garvald. The fort is no longer visible, but in the 18th century it was reportedly nearly the same size as the one at Garvald, which was circular and about 1,500 feet in circumference. The stones were then dug up to enclose the farm. Aerial photographs of cropmarks reveal an impressive series of ramparts. The hill has a panoramic view across the Forth to Fife, taking in Traprain Law.

NT579692. Garvald and Bara parish.

There is another Carfrae, also a fort site, some nine miles away in Lauderdale, overlooking the main north-south route, now the A68.

NT497546. Channelkirk parish, Berwickshire.



Carfrae, East Lothian

## Chapel Point

*st dynnies* 1682, *Chapel Point* 1853–54

Chapel Point is a spit of sandy land which encloses Skateraw Harbour opposite Torness Power Station. The chapel, which stood on the point of the headland, no longer exists. It was in ruins in the 18th century and was washed away in the 19th, along with the part of the headland where it stood.

There is a cross on Chapel Point today but this does not relate to the chapel. It carries a memorial plaque to six boys of the Canongate Boys' Club who used to camp here and died in World War II. There is another plaque to the clergyman who used to accompany them, with the touching words, 'Goodnight sir see you in the morning'.

The chapel was dedicated to St Denis. He had several dedications in Scotland and is the patron saint of France. Also known as Dionysius, Denis was beheaded by the Romans in the 3rd century AD. After his execution, he is said to have picked up his head and walked several miles while preaching: this makes him a cephalophore – a saint depicted carrying their own severed head. The word comes from the Greek for 'head-carrier'. One other Scottish chapel was dedicated to Denis, at Ayton in Berwickshire, some 16 miles southeast of Chapel Point. This was bestowed by King Edgar (1097–1107) on the priory of Coldingham.

NT739757. Innerwick parish.

NT927608. Ayton parish, Berwickshire.



Memorial at Chapel Point to members of the Canongate Boys' Club

## The Chesters, Drem

*Chesters* 1799

'Hillfort' from Scots *chester(s)*. The Chesters is described by archaeologists as 'one of the best preserved Iron Age hillforts in Scotland'. A series of ramparts encloses an area containing traces of a large number of stone buildings. The fort is unusual in that it sits below a ridge from which it could easily have been attacked. The term *chester(s)* derives from Old English *ceaster*, which in turn comes from Latin *castrum* 'camp'. *Chester(s)* was widely used in place-names in southern Scotland and Northumberland to refer to prehistoric fortifications, and antiquarians adopted the term *chester* to describe such forts. Elsewhere in Britain *chester* often referred to Roman towns and cities. There are eight places in East Lothian with names containing *chester* or *chesters*, most of which are associated with early forts.

NT507782. Aberlady parish.

## Clerkington

*Clerchetune* c.1140

'Farm of the clerics' from Old English *clerc* and *tūn* 'substantial farm'. David I granted the farm to St Mary's Church, Haddington, c. 1140. Its Old English name suggests that its relationship with the church was already long-established.

NT503727. Haddington parish.



Clerkington stables

## Cockenzie

*Cokeny* 1565, *Cockensie* 1752–55

Probably from Gaelic *Cùil Choinnich*, 'the neuk of Coinneach' or 'Kenneth's nook', referring to the small seashell-shaped bay now called the Boatshore. This is a rare natural landing-place for small boats along this rocky stretch of coastline. Early

spellings reflect the pronunciation 'cockenny' which is still in use locally. The modern 'zie' ending results from a misinterpretation of the Early Scots letter yogh, ȝ, which sounds like a 'y' but looks like a 'z'. The same process has occurred with the name Mackenzie, which is from *Mac Choinnich*, 'son of Kenneth'. Kenneth could be a saint, but this is doubtful.

NT399757. Prestonpans parish.



Cockenzie, the Boatshore, before demolition  
of the power station

### **Colstoun**

*Cumbircolstoun* 1272, *Colstoun* 1574, *Coalston* 1853–54

Probably 'Cola's or Kolr's farm' from Scots *toun* 'farm' with the Old English personal name Cola or the Old Norse name Kolr. The earliest historical forms are prefixed *Cumbir* or *Comber*. Bill Patterson (pers. comm.) suggests that this prefix comes from the name of a 12th-century owner, William de Bellencumber (*Yester Writs* no. 8). In turn, William's name comes from Bellencombe in Normandy, near Dieppe, whence the family of Ada de Warenne also came. Countess Ada (c. 1120–78) held extensive lands in East Lothian, given to her by her father-in-law, David I, and founded the Cistercian nunnery near Haddington. Old Norse Kolr probably appears in Car Colston and Colston Bassett in Nottinghamshire.

NT515709. Haddington parish.

## Congalton

*Congilton* 1224, copied 16th cent.

A farm between North Berwick and Athelstaneford, this is probably 'Congal's farm' from the Gaelic personal name Congal and Scots *toun* 'farm'. Landholders at Congalton are recorded in charters from 1224 onwards: by now the estate was in the hands of an Anglo-Norman knight. The charters reveal that in 1224 Congalton had an *aula*, or hall – indicating a high-status residence – and a chapel. At that time, Walter, knight of Congalton, lived on the estate with his wife and followers. Two charters concern his dispute with the rector of the church at Gullane, which was the mother church of the chapel. (*Dryburgh Liber*, nos. 42, 102) No trace of hall or chapel remains. The chapel was probably sited at the place now called Chapel, northwest of Congalton Mains. Other farm names in East Lothian combining Gaelic personal names with Scots *toun* are Gilchriston, from Gaelic *Gille Crìosd* 'servant of Christ'; and Gilmerton, from Gaelic *Gille Moire* 'servant of (the Virgin) Mary'. These Gaelic personal names are a legacy of the period between the 10th and 12th centuries, when Gaelic-speaking Scots moved into Lothian. Gaelic personal names continued in use by Scots speakers after Gaelic had died out in the area.

Congalton NT543808. North Berwick parish.

Chapel NT531814. Dirleton parish.

Gilchriston NT480652. Saltoun parish.

Gilmerton NT549777. Athelstaneford parish.



## Crystal Rig

*Kist Hill* 1799; *Crystal Well*, *Crystal Rig*, *Crystal Knowe* 1853–54.

Crystal Rig is a hill in the Lammermuirs, previously called *Kist Hill*. *Kist* means 'chest or coffin' in Scots, and probably referred to the prehistoric cairn on the hill, known today as the Witches' Cairn. The cairn was much larger in the past, before stones were taken for building. *Kist Hill* was later reinterpreted as the similar-sounding *Crystal*, with Scots *rig* 'ridge, hill' added for clarification. A well on the hill, known as *Kisthill Well* in 1791, became *Crystal Well*. Now filled in, it was believed to cure scurvy. Clear water has long been likened to crystal, so perhaps the presence of the well influenced the change of name. Today the hill is the site of the Crystal Rig Wind Farm, one of the largest wind farms in the UK.

NT664672. Innerwick parish.



## Danskine

*Dansken* 1667

Danskine is a settlement two miles east of Gifford, on the road through the Lammermuirs connecting East Lothian and Berwickshire. Its name is a witty reference to the Baltic city of Danzig (Gdańsk in Polish), which was a major trading port from the middle ages onwards, frequented by Scottish merchants. The port's name was spelt Danskine or similar in Older Scots. The farmhouse at Danskine was formerly an inn, popular with travellers and with smugglers of gin and brandy. Local

historian John Martine wrote that 'dealers in such goods knew Danskine well, and a supply could be got.'

NT569672. Garvald and Bara parish.



### **Dirleton**

*Driltoune, Driltoun* 1165 x 1214, copied 16th cent.

Pronounced dir-il-ton with the stress on dir, this is possibly 'farm in the gap' from Old English *pyrel* 'gap, hole' and *tūn* 'substantial farm'. This could refer to the gap between the rock on which Dirleton Castle now stands and Chapelhill.

The name has attracted rather more colourful interpretations. A Scots word related to *pyrel* is *dirl*, and the *Old Statistical Account* of 1790–91 suggested: 'The village of Dirleton is near in the middle of the parish, standing on a rocky ground, rising towards the west. The rocks sound and shake, as carriages pass along, which circumstance, probably gave rise to the name; the Scottish word *Dirl* signifying trembling.' The local historian John Martine, writing a century later, noted that the etymology of Dirleton was 'doubtful and various'. He stated that while some derived it from '*dirl*', others derived it from Derilie, a king of the Picts and reputed friend of Baldred, the East Lothian saint. Der-Ilei is now known to have been a woman, the mother of the famous Pictish king Nechtan.

NT515840. Dirleton parish.



Dirleton Castle

### **Dunbar**

*dyunbaer, dynbaer*, 8th cent., copied 11th or early 12th cent.

'Fort on the point or headland', from Brittonic *dūn* or *dīn* 'fort' and *barr* 'point, top'.

The first record of Dunbar is in *The Life of Bishop Wilfrid*, a text written in Latin soon after Wilfrid's death in 709, though the two surviving copies are later. The author describes how Wilfrid was imprisoned by the Northumbrian king Ecgfrith in his *urbs* or royal centre of Dunbar.

The name Dunbar refers to a fort built by Britons some 2,000 years ago on the headland where the swimming pool now stands. Excavations prior to the building of the pool revealed that ditches were dug across the headland to create a promontory fort. This encompassed the stack where the medieval blockhouse now sits: the ditch between them was cut when the blockhouse was constructed. The Northumbrian stronghold was on the same site. Later excavations on Dunbar High Street uncovered the grave of an Iron Age warrior, equipped with an iron spearhead and an iron sword.



Site of Dunbar's Iron Age fort

The spellings *dyunbaer* and *dynbaer* in the two manuscripts could both imply an 8th-century pronunciation with a vowel similar to Scots *muin* ('moon'), or perhaps French *tu*. Gaelic-speaking Scots, arriving in the area from the 10th century onwards, would have understood the name and pronounced it similarly. The stress in both languages would have been on the second syllable.

The 16th-century historian Hector Boece (pronounced Boyce), who is not famed for his accuracy, interpreted the name as Gaelic and spun a highly coloured tale from it, flattering the monarchy and aristocracy. Writing in Latin, later translated into Scots by John Bellenden and English by Raphael Holinshed, Boece described how a valiant warrior called Bar played a prominent role in Kenneth mac Alpin's mythical victory over the Picts, and was rewarded with the strongest castle in the land. He wrote that Kenneth inflicted genocidal slaughter on the Picts, then seized their lands, dividing them among his nobles. Holinshed translates: 'He added newe names also unto every quarter and region... that the memory of the Pictishe names might ende together with the inhabitants.' Then: 'The strongest castle of the whole countrey Kenneth bestowed upon that valiant Captaine named Bar... That fortresse ever sithence (after his name) hath bene called Dunbar, that is to say, the Castell of Bar.' Boece then praised the 'noble house' of Dunbar, descended from Bar, who included the Earls of March.



Hector Boece (1465?–1536)  
*Contemporary portrait, artist unknown*  
*Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

The story surfaced in the work of Boece's translators and in George Buchanan's *History of Scotland* (1582). A challenge came in the early 1800s when the historian George Chalmers noted that 'the town obtained its designation, from the fortlet on the rock, which, at this place, projects into the sea.' He explained, '*Dun-bar*, in the British, and *Dun-bar*, in the Gaelic, signify the fort, on the height, top, or extremity'. But Bar was not dead – he reappeared in James Miller's influential *History of Dunbar*, published in 1830: Miller retold Boece's version, while adding Chalmers' observations as a footnote.

NT679789. Dunbar parish.



Spire of Dunbar Town House

## Dunglass

*Dunglas* 1450

Probably 'grey-green fort' from Brittonic *dīn* 'fort' and *glās* 'grey-green', referring to a prehistoric fort. The fort in question may have been sited on the plateau overlooking Dunglass, which bears the remains of an English fort built during the occupation of Haddington in 1548–49. This fort is misleadingly known as the 'French camp'.

Alternatively the name could refer to one of the two prehistoric coastal promontory forts nearby, both now called Castle Dykes.

Dunglass NT763717. Oldhamstocks parish.

Castle Dykes NT766726; NT772723. Both in Oldhamstocks parish.

## East Linton

*Lintun* 1127

'Farm by the torrent' from Old English *tūn* 'substantial farm' and *hlynn* 'torrent', referring to the waterfall which tumbles over what are now called the Linn Rocks. By about 1840 the village had become known as East Linton, to distinguish it from Linton in Peeblesshire, now known as West Linton. The church at Linton was dedicated to St Baldred, whose well stands nearby, and it was believed to be one of the three churches where Baldred was buried, the others being Tynninghame and Auldham. Linton was the parish name until the 16th century, when other names began to replace it: Hauch, Preston, Prestonhaugh and finally Prestonkirk (see entry for Preston near East Linton).

NT591771. Prestonkirk parish.



The *hlynn* at East Linton

## Elphinstone

*Elfinistun* c.1230 x c.1239

A former mining village near Tranent, Elphinstone's name is from an earlier era. It probably means 'Ælfwine's farm' combining Old English *tūn* 'substantial farm' or Scots *toun* 'farm' with the popular Old English name Ælfwine. A local story, however, explains the name as 'elf in stone', telling how an elf was trapped in a stone by his mistress, a witch called Meg. The large stone in question is prominently displayed in the village. The stone is known as Meg's Chuck: the witch is said to have changed it into a horse in order to ride it to where she played chucks with her fellow witches, turning it back into a stone for the game.

NT396703. Tranent parish.



Meg's Chuck

## Fidra

*Futheray* 1449

Fidra is an island off Yellowcraig in the Firth of Forth. Its name comes from Old Norse *Fuðarey* (pronounced footh-ar-ay – footh as in smooth) and refers to the hole running through the island. *Ey* means 'island', while *fuð* means a part of the female anatomy. It is hard to come up with an appropriate translation. One suggestion is Scots *fud* (pronounced as mud), which is probably a borrowing from Scandinavian. See the Scottish National Dictionary online, point 3, for a translation.



Fidra

We need to look at the island from the point of view not of tourists admiring picturesque scenery, but of rough, tough Scandinavian sailors, spending many weeks at sea. They are unromantic, and pick a name that will instantly identify the island. Body parts are a simple common currency, frequently used in place-names worldwide. Scandinavian place-names expert Arne Kruse notes that body parts from head to toe, including *fuð*, are commonly used to name islands in Norway. He writes, 'I find the name Fidra perfectly motivated. It fulfils the criterion that a name should be, if possible, descriptive. To my mind, it would be almost strange if such a characteristic and highly unusual feature as a clearly visible hole would not be reflected in the name of the island.'

NT512869. Dirleton parish.



Replica of Viking warship for crew of 60

*Photographer: Werner Karrasch*

*© The Viking Ship Museum, Denmark*

### **Fisherrow**

*Fischeraw* 1592

'Row of houses occupied by fishermen', from Scots *fischer* 'fisherman' and *raw* 'line of houses'. Previously a separate community, today Fisherrow forms part of Musselburgh, west of the River Esk. According to a local historian, James Paterson, Fisherrow 'seems to have originated in an irregular line of fishermen's houses along the shore near the harbour.' The *New Statistical Account* for Inveresk parish reported in 1839 that 'Fisherrow has long been distinguished for its race of hardy and industrious fishermen.' Fishing ended in the 1950s, and today the harbour hosts mainly leisure craft.

NT338729. Inveresk parish.

### **Fluke Dub**

*Fluke Dub* 1853–54

'Flounder pool' from Scots *fluke* 'flounder' and *dub* 'pool'. Fluke Dub is a tidal pool on the coast south of Dunbar next to the East Links golf course, whose Hole 17 is named after it. The Ordnance Survey Name Book for 1853–54 explained: 'A Small Spot between High & Low Water Mark and N [North] of Broxmouth It has a Sandy bed and retains water until after the tide has ebbed A quantity of Flukes left here by the tide fall an easy prey to the fisherman and birds. (hence the name)'.

The website British Sea Fishing notes: 'Flounder is a common flatfish species found around most of the UK. Due to their wide distribution, willingness to take most baits and the fact that they can come into very shallow water they are a common catch for many UK anglers.'

NT694782. Dunbar parish.

There is another Fluke Dub in Fife, on the coast north of Balconie. The OS Name Book records it as 'a small rocky creek'.

Fife NO627106. Crail parish.



Fluke Dub, Dunbar

### **Gamelshiel**

*Gamelshelles* 1296

'Gamel's shieling', from Scots *schele* 'summer pasturage', and the personal name Gamel. Originally the Scandinavian name Gamall meaning 'old', Gamel was 'a well-known and popular personal name in Northumbria and Lothian down to the twelfth century,' as Geoffrey Barrow wrote. The predecessor of the Norman Giffard family as lord of Yester was named Gamel. Gamelshiel is the site of a ruined medieval tower house, a short walk from the Whiteadder reservoir.

NT649648. Stenton parish.



Gamelshiel Castle

### **Garvald and Papana Water**

*Ecclesia de Garvald* c. 1250

Probably 'rough height', from Brittonic *\*garv-alt*. This was perhaps the name of the hill-fort at Garvald Mains: early maps show the main Garvald settlement beside the farm, as distinct from Garvald Kirk, where the village developed. Garvald is often interpreted as 'rough stream', from Gaelic *garbh allt*, and this is true of other places called Garvald, where it is clearly a stream-name. But the stream running through

Garvald, East Lothian, is called the Papana Water, which possibly means 'stream in the valley bottom', from Brittonic *\*pol-i-pant*.

Garvald NT588708. Garvald and Bara parish.

Garvald Mains hill-fort NT583697. Garvald and Bara parish.



Papana Water

### **Gifford and Bothans**

*Giffarthal* 1682

*Ecclesia de Bothan* c. 1250

The village of Gifford developed in the late 17th century on land already called Gifford. The name acknowledges the Giffard family from Normandy, who were given

the Yester estate by Malcolm IV and his mother Ada de Warenne in the 12th century and held it for nearly 200 years. Historian Geoffrey Barrow wrote that the Giffards probably originated in Longueville-la-Gifart in the arrondissement of Dieppe. Norman French *giffarde* meant a kitchen servant, literally a fat-cheeked person.

The parish church of Yester was built in Gifford in 1708–10, after the parish had been extended. The parish was earlier called the parish of Bothan. The parish church was listed by St Andrews Cathedral c. 1250 as *Ecclesia de Bothan*. It stood on the lands of Bothans (recorded as *le Bothanis* in 1447) near today's Yester House, with a settlement close by. In 1421 it was made a collegiate church. After the new church was built in Gifford, the old church was converted into a mausoleum for the landowning family, next to the newly built Yester House. The estate workers who lived close by moved into Gifford.

The name *Bothan* or *Bothans* appears to be of Gaelic origin, and two explanations have been offered. It could be from St Baithéne, St Columba's successor as abbot of Iona and namesake of Abbey St Bathans, though this seems unlikely as in 1241 Bishop de Bernham dedicated the Yester church to St Cuthbert, and there is no record of a dedication before that date. More likely, it could be Gaelic *bothan* 'cottage, hut'. Either way, the name suggests the early presence of Gaelic speakers in the area, possibly connected to monks moving between Iona and Lindisfarne. The name Bothans is no longer in use.

See also entry for Yester.

Gifford NT535681. Yester parish.

Former Bothans Collegiate Church NT544671. Yester parish.



Main Street, Gifford

## Gladsmuir

*Gleddismore* 1233 x 1241

'Kite's moor', from Scots *gled* 'kite' and *more* 'moorland'. *Gled* was also used for other birds of prey, including the buzzard and the hen harrier.

NT459732. Gladsmuir parish.

## Gleghornie

*Glegorn(ensis)* 1493, *Gleghorn* 1590s, *Gleghorny* 1736

Gleghornie is a farm a mile north of Whitekirk, surrounded by extensively drained arable fields. It is in the parish of North Berwick. The medieval village was on higher, rocky ground to the south of today's farm. Locally the name is pronounced '*glegernie*', stressed on the first syllable. Its etymology is uncertain. Suggestions for the first element include Scots *clag* 'clay, mud, mire', or Scots *cleg* or *gleg* 'horse-fly', while Scots *horn* 'something horn-shaped, a corner' is a possibility for the second.

The first person to put the name on record was Gleghornie's famous son, John Mair (or Major) (c. 1467–1550). Born into a humble farming family, Mair went from school in Haddington to university in Cambridge and then Paris, becoming a renowned historian, philosopher and theologian. He mentioned his native village affectionately in his writings, Latinising it to *Glegornum*. He styled himself *Glegornensis*, meaning 'originating in *Glegorn*'. The landlord at this time was from Fife.

NT592830. North Berwick parish.



Portrait of John Mair from the title-page of his book *In Petri Hispani Summulas Commentaria* (1505) Image courtesy of University of Glasgow Archives & Special Collections, Sp Coll Veitch Eg6-b.2

## Glenkinchie Distillery

*Kinchie Distillery (Disused) 1853–54*

Glenkinchie Distillery is a whisky distillery south of Pencaitland. The name is a concoction, combining the name of the local burn, the Kinchie (probably from Scots *kinchie* 'merry, cheerful') with *glen*, the Scots word (from Gaelic *gleann*) for a steep mountain valley. Established in 1825 as the Milton Distillery, the distillery is on the Kinchie Burn and was renamed the Kinchie Distillery in 1837. In the 1850s it fell into disuse, re-opening in new hands in the 1880s, with the Glenkinchie Distillery Company launched in 1890. Today the Kinchie Burn supplies water for the cooling process, while water for the whisky comes from the Lammermuirs. At the time of writing, Glenkinchie Distillery is owned by Diageo and has a fine visitor centre. Jacob King, in *The A to Z of whisky place-names*, writes that 'very few of the Scotches called "glen something" actually derive from a *bonafide* place-name'. Instead, *glen* is included in the name in order to make the whisky sound authentically Scottish. NT443667. Pencaitland parish.



Kinchie Burn

**Goblin Ha'**: see **Yester** and the **Goblin Ha'**

## Gullane

*Golyn* c. 1250, *Goulane* c. 1580, *Gulan* 1590s, *Goolan* 1799, *Gullane* 1853–54

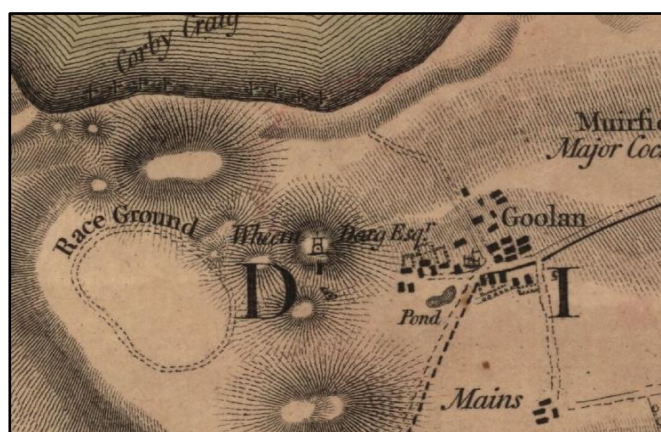
Two etymologies have been offered for Gullane, one Brittonic and one Gaelic. Both are supported by early spellings but reflect different landscape features.

The historian George Chalmers wrote in the early 19th century, 'The ancient name of Dirlton parish was *Golyn*... *Golyn* derives its name from the British *Go-lyn*, signifying a little lake; and in fact, there is still a pond here within the village of Gullane.' The lake was subsequently drained: the indentation can still be seen on the golf course near the old churchyard.

The eminent Celtic scholar W. J. Watson, however, thought Gullane probably came from Gaelic *gualainn*, 'at-shoulder'. *Gualann* is a common Gaelic hill-name in the Scottish mountains: here it would refer to Gullane Hill, which is distinctly shoulder-shaped. Gaelic-speakers were certainly present in the area: a 13th-century charter mentions someone called 'Adam the Scot'. It is possible that Gaelic-speakers reinterpreted the Brittonic name *Golyn*.

Locals differ on how Gullane should be pronounced. Local author Nigel Tranter (1909–2000) wrote that 'it is recorded that there are three distinct occupation layers in Gullane, and each gives the village a different name. Those on the Hill – that is those whose houses occupy the higher and more desirable sites – plus those who would like to be taken as living there, refer to it as Gillan; those further down, along the main street and near the shops, call it Gullan; while the small and diminishing residue of the original indigenous population, tucked away in odd corners, still pronounce it by the ancient name of Goolan.'

NT481827. Dirlton parish.



*Goolan, Forrest 1799*

*Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk>*



Gullane Old Church

### **Haddington**

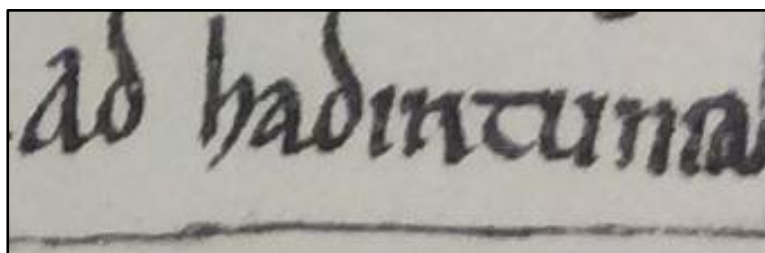
*hadintunia* 1136 x 1137

*hadintune* 1140

'Farm called after a man named Hada', from Old English *tūn* 'substantial farm', *-ing* 'called after', and the personal name Hada. The name Haddington dates from the seventh century onwards, when Angles from Northumbria moved northwards into territory held by Britons. Hada was either a settler or one of their descendants.

Haddington went on to become one of the most important towns in medieval Scotland. Today it is East Lothian's county town, with a prosperous agricultural hinterland. Local lore says its name means 'hidden town', because 'you can't see it until you arrive'.

NT515738. Haddington parish.



*ad hadintunia* 1136 x 1137  
Chrs. David I no. 53, 'at Haddington'



### **Hailes Castle and Newhailes**

*Hale* 1179 x 1189, copied 14th or 15th cent.

'Land on a bend in a river', from Old English *halh* 'nook, corner of land' often by a river. Hailes Castle stands on the medieval lands of *Hale*, which extended across a bend in the River Tyne. The name is also preserved in Overhailes to the north and Old Hailes Burn to the south, as well as Hailes Mill on the river. The district was recorded as *Hale* when land there was granted to Newbattle Abbey. It was recorded as *Hales* or *Halys* from about 1220. *Hailes* in Midlothian was similarly positioned, on a bend in the Water of Leith: this was the original name of the parish of Colinton, and survives in Wester Hailes.

Hailes Castle was built from the 13th century onward, and was demolished by Cromwell in 1650. It was later sold to Sir David Dalrymple (c. 1665–1721), who was made first Baronet of Hailes in 1700. In 1709 he bought the estate of Broughton near Musselburgh and renamed it New Hailes. Broughton had itself been named in 1702 by John, 2nd Lord Bellenden of Broughton, when he and his wife bought part of the estate of Whitehill. The other part remained Whitehill. The Bellendens began building the Palladian mansion today known as Newhailes House: the work was continued by the Dalrymples. In 1997 the house and estate were given to the National Trust for Scotland. They are open to the public.

Hailes Castle NT573757. Prestonkirk parish.

Newhailes NT326725. Edinburgh parish.



Hailes Castle



Newhailes House

## **Hedderwick**

*Hatheruich* 1093 x 1094

'Heather farm' from Old English \**hæddre* 'heather' and *wīc* 'specialised farm'. The name Hedderwick today covers two farms west of Dunbar, Hedderwick south of the A199 and Hedderwick Hill north of it. The Hedderwick lands were previously larger, encompassing Tynefield and probably Linkfield. In 1094 Hedderwick was one of the lands given by Duncan II to the monks of St Cuthbert at Durham, along with Tynningame, Auldhame, Scoughall, Knowes and Broxmouth. Later, land in Hedderwick was held by the Knights Templar, the Collegiate Church at Dunbar and secular landlords. In 1614 James VI granted the Templar land in Hedderwick to the future earl of Haddington, along with all former Templar lands in Scotland. In the 19th century, Hedderwick Hill House was built north of the main road: it was demolished in 1961, leaving only its stable block and dairy pavilion standing. The name Hedderwick or Heatherwick has also been found in Berwickshire, northeast Scotland and Northumberland. The name clearly points to extensive heathland, and may also reflect the fact that in the past heather was a valued resource, used for many

purposes from thatch and fodder to brooms and ale. A stretch of heath remains where the Tyne estuary meets the Hedderwick Burn (known locally as the Skittery Burn), next to a field known in 1806 as Moor Park. Another field was then called Lady's Park: this was probably associated with Our Lady's Altar in the Collegiate Church. There was a golf course at Hedderwick Hill from 1897 to the 1930s.  
NT633772. Dunbar parish.

### **Herdmanston**

*Hirdmanestun* 1162 x 1190

Herdmanston is a farm some four miles southwest of Haddington. It means 'farm of a retainer in a household of some importance', from Old English *hīred-mann* 'retainer' and *tūn* 'substantial farm'. Another possible meaning is 'farm belonging to someone called Herdman', although the first interpretation seems likely as the Herdmanston lands were clearly prosperous: in medieval times they boasted a tower house, mill and chapel. The name Hermiston in Currie parish, Midlothian, has the same origin.

Herdmanston NT473700. Pencaitland parish.

Hermiston NT174701. Currie parish, Midlothian.

### **Humbie**

*Kethundeby* c. 1250, *Humby* 1590s

'Hundi's farm' or 'dog farm' or 'kennels' from Old Norse *hundi* and *bý* 'farm'. Humbie is one of a group of four settlements close together in the southwest of East Lothian in the foothills of the Lammermuirs with names ending in *bý*. The others are Blegbie, perhaps 'Bleici's farm'; *Laysynbi* 'freed man's farm' or 'Leising's farm', now called Leaston; and Pogbie, 'Poca's farm'. Five miles to the north is Begbie, 'Baggi's farm'. Simon Taylor points out that in the medieval period these places were all royal lands; he suggests that the names are evidence of settlement by Norse-speakers, encouraged by the Scottish kings of Alba to strengthen their southern frontier. There are many names ending -bie in England and a scattering in Scotland, including at least three other places called Humbie. Humbie in East Lothian formed part of the older district of Keith (from Brittonic *ceid* – pronounced 'cade' – meaning 'woodland', also found in Pencaitland). When the Keith lands were divided in the 12th century, the south-eastern part was called Keith-Hundeby. The modern village of Humbie was called Upper Keith until the 1940s.

Humbie NT459627. Humbie parish.

Begbie NT491708. Haddington parish.

Blegbie NT480616. Humbie parish.

Leaston (*Laysynbi*) NT485634. Humbie parish.

Pogbie NT465606. Humbie parish.



### **Innerwick**

*Innerwic* 1161 x 1162, copied c. 1600

*Innirwic* c. 1163 x 1165, copied earlier part of 16th century

*Inuerwic* 1166 x 1182, original charter

*Innerwyc*, *yinnerwic* 1204 x 1225, original charter.

The name *Innerwick* has been discussed since the early 19th century. Two theories have been put forward, both problematic. One view is that the name is Gaelic: this is based on the first element, *inner*, interpreted as Gaelic *inbhir* 'confluence'. This would require a confluence with an incoming stream named *muc* 'pig' or *boc* 'buck or he-goat', giving *inbhir mhuic* or *inbhir bhuic* (both pronounced 'inver-wick'), as with Innerwick and Inverwick in the Highlands. There is, however, no striking confluence close to Innerwick, nor any evidence that the local burns were previously called by those names. The second theory is that the name is Old English. This is based on the

second element, *wick*, which is a common Old English term for a substantial farm. In this view, the name means 'inner farm' from Old English *innera* 'inner' and *wīc* 'farm'. This would have contrasted with an 'outer farm', probably the lands of Thornton, which stand between Innerwick and the coast. The difficulty here is that *innera* does not feature as an element in any other Old English place-names.

The Innerwick estate was given by King David I to his steward, Walter son of Alan, and may have included the Thornton lands. Walter in turn gave Innerwick church and an income from Innerwick mill to the priory that became Paisley Abbey. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the two estates had castles on opposite sides of the Thornton burn.

NT720739. Innerwick parish.



Innerwick Castle

### **Inveresk**

*Infresc* c. 1128, copied 13th cent.

*inuresc* 1152 x 1159

*Inviresc minorem* and *Inviresc maiorem* 1127 x 1131, copied 13th cent.

*Esce muthe* 11th cent., copied 12th cent.

'Mouth of the River Esk', from Gaelic *inbhir* 'river mouth, confluence' and the river-name Esk. The name Esk is common in Britain: it may be early Celtic, meaning 'swiftly moving', 'rich in fish' or simply 'water'. In the early 12th century, the name Inveresk also covered Musselburgh: the two were distinguished as *Inviresc minor* and *Inviresc maior*. In Old English the place was called *Esce muthe* 'mouth of the Esk'

from Esk with Old English *mūða* 'mouth of a river'. The house now called **Inveresk Lodge** dates from the 17th century or earlier, but with many later alterations. It is owned by the National Trust, and its garden is open to the public.

NT346720. Inveresk parish.



The mouth of the Esk

## **Jerusalem**

*Jerusalem* 1752–55

Jerusalem is a farm three miles southwest of Haddington. A Haddington Burgh charter dated 1430 reveals that this farm once belonged to the Knights Templar, whose headquarters was at Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The charter states that between the lands of Samuelston and Nesbit lay 'the temple lands which belong to the Masters of the Temple' (*terras templarias que sunt Magistrorum Templi*). The Knights Templar order was founded in the early 1100s and lasted for 200 years. Their role was to protect pilgrims to Jerusalem, and many landholders donated land, mostly in small units, to support them. After the Templars were suppressed in 1312, their properties passed to the Knights Hospitaller.

NT470707. Pencaitland parish.



## **Keith Marischal**

*Ecclesia de Kethmarchal* c. 1250

Keith Marischal is a mile north of Humbie. It is a privately owned house mainly dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries but with a 16th-century core. The house stands in the ancient district of Keith, which is from Brittonic *ceid* – pronounced 'cade' – meaning 'woodland'. In the mid-12th century, a man named Hervey was granted the north-western part of the lands of Keith, and took as his surname 'de Keith'. Hervey held the post of marischal in the households of King Malcolm IV and William the Lion: his lands became known as Keith Hervey and then Keith Marischal or Nether Keith. The south-eastern part of the Keith lands was granted to one Simon Fraser: these lands became known as Keith Simon and then Keith Hundebay (see entry for Humbie) or Over Keith. Keith church was on Fraser's land, so Hervey built himself a chapel. This later became a parish church, so that there were now two parishes, Keith Marischal and Keith Hundebay. In 1618 the two were united as the United Parishes of Keith and Humbie. Hervey's chapel then fell into ruins, which still stand in the grounds of Keith Marischal House.

The post of marischal remained in the Keith family for 500 years. At first a fairly modest position in the royal household, it became very prestigious and the marischals became Earls Marischal. They also became very rich, with lands and palaces the length of Scotland's east coast. Keith Marischal remained important to them: they built a renaissance palace there with a splendid great hall which has not survived. In the 17th century, the Keiths' fortunes declined and the house was sold, to be remodelled by later proprietors.

NT449644. Humbie parish.



Keith Old Parish Church

### **Knockenhair**

*Knockinghare* 1773

*Knocking Hair* 1799

'Watch hill' from Gaelic *cnoc na h-aire*. Knockenhair is a small conical hill set back from the cliff-top west of Dunbar Castle. Today the name is preserved in Knockenhair Road. The hill is 38m above sea level, 20m above the height of the cliffs. It has a panoramic view across the Forth and along the western approach to Dunbar, making an ideal look-out point. As W. J. Watson suggested, it was probably named by Gaelic-speaking occupants of the fort. On its summit are the remains of an old windmill, probably 17th century, and a large house, built in 1907–10 in the Arts and Crafts style for General Sir Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of Sudan, now divided into flats.

*Cnoc* (pronounced krochk) is a common Gaelic hill-term, usually applied to rounded hillocks. Local lore says that the name is in fact 'Knocking Hair', and this is indeed how it appears on Forrest's map of 1799. The story is that this is where sailors' wives used to go to watch out for their menfolk coming home. When the boats didn't arrive, the women would bang their heads against a wall in despair – hence 'knocking hair'.

The name is found elsewhere in Scotland. *Knockinhair* is recorded in 1525 as a place near Banff where white fish were landed: this is almost certainly the coastal hill later called The Knock, from which Knock Head takes its name. NJ658657. In Dumfriesshire, Knockenhair (*Knokinaharre* 1530) is a hill 405m high with a farm named after it. In the 19th century, the Ordnance Survey Name Book noted that this hill was 'sometimes called the Watch Hill, from its having been used in the time of the persecution for the Purpose' – the 'persecution' refers to the persecution of

Covenanters following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. The *OSNB* failed to identify the Gaelic origin of Knockenhair, instead saying that it derived its name from a former owner called Hair.

Knockenhair, Dunbar, NT669789. Dunbar parish.

Knock Head, Banffshire, NJ658659. Boyndie parish.

Knockenhair, Dumfriesshire, NS791133. Sanquhar parish.



Knockenhair, Dunbar

### **Lamer Island**

*Lammarhevin* 1555

*Lamercraig* 1618

*the Lammerisland* 1788

Arne Kruse, who specialises in Scandinavian place-names, suggests that *Lamer* is 'loading rock' from Old Norse *hlaðhamarr* (*hlað* 'to load' and *hamarr* 'hammer; hammer-shaped crag, steep rock'). This was a place where boats could load and unload cargo.

Lamer Island is at the northeastern corner of Dunbar's Victoria Harbour and is linked to the shore by a causeway and lifting bridge. A defensive battery was built on the island in 1781. The town's first harbour was at Belhaven Bay: this was replaced in the 16th century by *Lamerhaven*, an inlet beside Lamer Island, which in turn was superseded by the building of Broad Haven and the Old Harbour. The Victoria Harbour was constructed in 1842. Lamer Street is the street leading to the harbour from the south.

*Lamercraig* (Scots 'Lamer rock') is a name found in historical records but whose location is unknown. It could describe the *hlaðhamarr* or 'loading rock'. So where might this have been? Local historian David Anderson points to the rocky

shore south of Lamer Island now occupied by Custom House Square. The clue is in the name of the house and yard previously on this site: Lousilaw. *Lousing* is Scots for 'the unloading of a ship; a ship's discharging of cargo,' while *law* here is probably Scots *laich*, 'a stretch of low-lying ground'.

If Lamer is indeed from *hlaðhamarr*, it suggests trading links with Scandinavia or with Scandinavian coastal settlements in the ninth to eleventh centuries. Evidence of the presence of Scandinavians or Anglo-Scandinavians includes Norse island-names in the Firth of Forth; a hogback tombstone at Kirklandhill, Tynninghame; two hogbacks at Old Cambus; a Scandinavian warrior-grave at Auldhame monastery; and an account of the sacking of Tynninghame monastery in the year 941 by Olaf Guthfrithson, king of York and Dublin.

The term *hlaðhamarr* must have been in common use, as it was borrowed into Gaelic as *laimhrig* 'natural landing place, quay, or pier', while in Shetland dialect it was *laamar*.

NT681793. Dunbar parish.



Broad Haven, Dunbar:  
probable site of the 'loading rock'

### **Lammermuir Hills**

*Lombormore* c. 950 x 1050

*Lambremore* 1165 x 1170

*Lammermure* 1538

*Lamer-moor* 1792

Probably 'lambs' moor' from Northumbrian Old English *lombor* 'of lambs' (Old English *lambra*) and *mōr* 'moor'. *Mōr* was replaced by Scots *muir* 'moorland often used for grazing', while Scottish Standard English 'hills' was added later to describe the range.

It is also possible that Northumbrian settlers reinterpreted an earlier Brittonic name, *\*lumm-ar*, 'a bare place', adding *mōr* 'moor' to explain the nature of the feature. Or they may have reinterpreted Gaelic *lompair* 'bare plain': Gaelic-speaking monks probably passed this way en route between Iona and Lindisfarne in the seventh century.

The Lammermuir Hills dominate the southern horizon of East Lothian. The *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland* of the 1890s described them thus: 'In themselves, the Lammermuirs are an extensive curvature of, for the most part, wild and cheerless heights – nowhere bold and imposing in aspect, and often subsiding into low rolling table-lands of bleak moor.'

'Lambs' moor' sounds an unlikely name for such an exposed area, which is unsuitable for pasturing lambs; rather, it seems likely that the term *lombormore* or *lambremore* originally referred to just part of the area, one more suited to sheep-rearing. That sheep were reared in the hills in Anglian times was shown by excavations at Kersons Cleugh southwest of Kilpallet, which revealed evidence of wool-processing in the seventh to ninth centuries. Twelfth-century charters list shielings (summer pastures) granted to abbeys: all the identifiable places described as being 'in Lammermuir' are in the eastern part of the hill range. Timothy Pont's map of the 1590s, published by Hondius in 1633, shows *Lamyrmooore* at the confluence of the Whiteadder and Bothwell Waters, encompassing the shielings of Mayshiel, Gamelshiel, Penshiel and Bothwell, while the hill range is called *The Edge hilles*, becoming *Glengelt Felles* to the west.

*Lammermuir* in this location also makes sense as 10th-century *Lombormore*, recorded as one end of the area under the authority of Tynninghame monastery, which ran 'from *Lombormore* to *Escemuthe* (the mouth of the Esk)'.

Over time, the name seems to have extended its reach: in the late 18th century *Lamer-moor* was used to describe the entire hill range from Soutra Hill to the coast, some 30 miles to the east. In 1853–54 the Ordnance Survey recorded the range as the *Lammermuir Hills*, fixing this name on the maps.

Spartleton NT652654. Various parishes.



The Lammermuirs

### **Lennoxlove**

*Lafditune* 1166 x 1171

*Lefditona* and *Lefditun'* 1202 x 1207

*Lenox Love* 1702

The Lennoxlove estate lies south of Haddington and boasts a fine mansion with a tower dating back to the 15th century. Its previous name was Lethington, recorded as *Lafditune* in 1166 x 1171. This was probably 'lady's farm' from Old English *hlāfdige* (later *levedi*) meaning 'lady', and *tūn* 'substantial farm'. The name *Lennoxlove* is a confection dating from 1702. The story concerns Frances Teresa Stuart, the duchess of Lennox and Richmond (1647–1702), a famous society beauty pursued by Charles II and model for Britannia on the coinage. In her will, made just before her death, the duchess left most of her estate in trust, to be spent on

a purchase of lands... in the Kingdome of Scotland which estate when purchased shall be called... Lenox Love and to be settled upon my said deare and neare kinsman the said Walter Stuart and his heires forever...

Walter Stuart (1683–1713) was the oldest son of Frances's cousin Alexander Stuart, the fifth Lord Blantyre (d. 1704), a Scottish peer and one of the trustees. Walter was about 19 years old when Frances died, and she had stated that

my will and desire is that he be educated according to his quality and be sent to travel for two or three yeares at the least for his better improvement...

The estate of Lethington was duly bought and re-named. Walter became Lord Blantyre in 1704 but died aged 30 of fever, whereupon his title and the estate passed to his brother Robert. The name *Lethingtoun* or *Ledingtoun* survived in legal documents, and in 1890 local historian John Martine wrote that, 'Old people in Haddington town and country still call it Leddington.'

NT515720. Haddington parish.



Lennoxlove House

### **Levenhall Links**

*Liven Hall* 1812

*Leven Hall* 1852–53

*Levenhall* 1957

*Levenhall Links Leisure Park* 2006

Levenhall Links (pronounced *Lee-venhall*) is a large (134 hectare) area of grassland and lagoons between Musselburgh's old golf course and the coast, managed by East Lothian Council's Ranger Service for wildlife and recreation. It occupies what was previously an inter-tidal area known as Musselburgh Sands, which was reclaimed from the sea by the deposition of ash from Cockenzie Power Station. Planning consent to create the Levenhall Links was given in 1962. It was named after the settlement of Levenhall at the east end of the golf course, which appears on maps from 1812. The name may contain the surname Leven, although the identity of the person in question is not known. The Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1852–53 described *Leven Hall* as: 'A number of dwelling houses occupied by labourers,' adding, 'the name also applies to a brick and tile work situated at the east end of

Musselburgh Links'. *Links* is a word commonly used on Scotland's east coast to describe sandy ground near the sea-shore covered in rough grass and gorse; it can also mean 'golf course', as indeed in Musselburgh Links, the town's old golf course, in use since the 17th century.

NT357733. Inveresk parish.



### Longniddry

*Nodrif* 1207 x 1210

*Langnodryf* 1315 x 1321

Originally 'new farm' from Brittonic *newydd* 'new' and *tref* 'substantial farm'. Scots *lang* 'long' was added later, at a time when the settlement had become a village with houses strung out along its main street. This addition would also have distinguished the village from two other settlements in Lothian with the same name, Niddrie in Midlothian and Niddry in West Lothian.

The adjoining coastal area is called Longniddry Bents. *Bents* is a Scots and English term for a place where bent grass – a coarse grass – grows.

NT441760. Gladsmuir parish.



Sign at Longniddry Bents

## Lothian

*in Lodoneo 1098*

Lothian is an ancient territory, which probably extended to the River Tweed. Today it comprises the three counties of West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian plus the City of Edinburgh. The name Lothian has been much discussed. The 12th-century *Fragment of the Life of St Kentigern* attributed the name to Kentigern's maternal grandfather, 'a certain King Leudonus, a man half Pagan, from whom the province over which he ruled obtained the name of Leudonia in Northern Britannia'.

Leudonus was identified by medieval historians with King Loth, a mythical figure who features in Arthurian legend and has a standing stone near Traprain Law named after him. Set on the southern shore of the Forth, the *Kentigern Fragment* tells how Leudonus had his daughter cast from a mountain and then into the sea after she became pregnant: she washed up in Culross in Fife and gave birth there to Kentigern.

Geoffrey Barrow wrote that Lothian was a name 'of great antiquity', predating the Anglian settlement, and suggested it 'might have been originally the district around the stream called Lothian', now called Lothian Burn for part of its length.

John T. Koch, commenting on the Welsh poem *The Gododdin*, suggested that Lothian derives from an ancient Celtic place-name, *\*Lugu-dūniāna*, meaning 'the Country of Lugu-dūnon', the country of the fort of the Celtic god Lugus. This fort could have been the hillfort at Edinburgh. There are place-names on the continent with the same origin, including Lyon.

Various parishes.



A modern image of St Kentigern aka Mungo  
by Sam Bates aka Smug, Glasgow  
*Photo © Gilbert Márkus*

## Macmerry

*Make Merry* 1745–49

A village east of Tranent, its name is probably 'make merry' from Scots *mak merry*. Bill Patterson observes that it could have been 'inspired by the adjacent Merryfield which was very likely a "mirey field" in an area of heavy soils and little gradient.' (pers. comm.) In turn, the name has prompted a splendid folk etymology. The village is near the site of the Jacobite victory over the English army at Prestonpans in 1745, and the story goes that after the battle, the Jacobite troops made camp here, celebrating and 'making merry'. Macmerry has another claim on the popular imagination: it features alongside Aberlady five miles away in a well known joke which asks, 'What made Mac merry?' Answer: 'A bare lady.'

NT431723. Gladsmuir parish.



Macmerry

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Forrest 1799

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## Markle

*Merkehulle* 1311–12

*Merkil* c. 1318

Probably 'hill of the boundary mark' from Scots *merk* 'conspicuous object serving to mark a boundary or position' and *hill* or *hull*, 'hill'. Markle is a tiny settlement beside the railway line just west of East Linton. It consists largely of a converted farm steading. Nearby to the east is the old settlement of Markle, with a ruined 14th-century castle which was the heart of a medieval estate. The 'boundary mark' featured in the name Markle may be the prehistoric standing stone in a field north of the A199, where the road runs up Pencraig Brae and forms the boundary between the lands of Markle and Hailes.

There was a flurry of excitement in Markle in May 2018 when Prince Harry married his American bride, Meghan Markle. The sign at the entrance to the village was colourfully decorated and there was a party with strawberries and cream. It is however unlikely that Meghan's surname came from here. While Black's *Surnames of Scotland* lists Markle as originating in Markle, East Lothian, there are other possible sources, including Much Marcle or Little Marcle in Herefordshire, and the German name Markel. Indeed internet sources state that the family emigrated to Pennsylvania from Alsace-Lorraine bearing the name Merckel.

Markle NT574778. Prestonkirk parish.

Markle Castle NT579775. Prestonkirk parish.

Standing stone, Pencraig Brae, NT581768. Prestonkirk parish.



Markle sign decorated for the royal wedding

## Mayshiel

*Mayschelis* c. 1200 x 1226

*Mayscheles* c. 1200 x 1226

'Shielings associated with the priory of the Isle of May', from Scots *schele* 'shieling, summer pasturage' and the place-name May. The lands in question were given to the monks of the Isle of May by John son of Michael in the early 13th century. These lands were previously part of Penshiel: John gave most of the remainder of Penshiel to Melrose Abbey. At the time of writing, Mayshiel is run as a grouse-shooting estate. NT623641. Whittingehame parish.



## Morham

*Ecclesia de Morham* c. 1250

'Settlement by the marsh', from Old English *mōr* 'marsh, barren upland, moor' and *hām* 'settlement'. Morham parish is now largely arable, but charters to Newbattle Abbey confirm that in the 13th century there was an extensive marsh at Morham. This was at one time called *Rauenildestrother*, from Scots *strother* 'marsh' with the Scandinavian personal name Ragnhild, suggesting that the marsh belonged to a woman of Scandinavian descent. The presence of an Anglo-Saxon church at Morham is signalled by a very fine Anglo-Saxon cross shaft, dating from the late 8th or 9th century, which was reused in the south wall of the 18th-century parish church and is now displayed in the National Museums of Scotland. A medieval castle was built nearby, no longer visible above ground.

NT556725. Morham parish.



Morham Parish Church

### **Mungoswells**

*Sanctmongois-Wellis* 1497

*Mungoiswellis* 1524

From Scots 'wells or springs dedicated to St Mungo'. Mungoswells is a 550-acre arable farm north of Haddington currently specialising in producing flour. The online resource *Saints in Scottish Place-Names* notes that the existence of a well or wells 'is implied by the settlement-name... There is no evidence of the well on the ground now.'

Mungo was the pet name of St Kentigern, the patron saint of Glasgow. He was a very popular saint, with a dozen or more wells dedicated to him from Aberdeenshire to the Borders. These include a second well in East Lothian: this is a small spring in the Lammermuirs north of Penshiel Grange, which was a farm of Melrose Abbey.

See also entry for Lothian.

Mungoswells NT496787. Haddington parish.

St Mungo's Well, Penshiel Grange, NT641635. Whittingehame parish.

### **Musselburgh**

*Muxelburg* 1165 x 1214 copied c. 14th cent.

*Muscleb[urg]* 1182 x 1195 copied 13th cent.

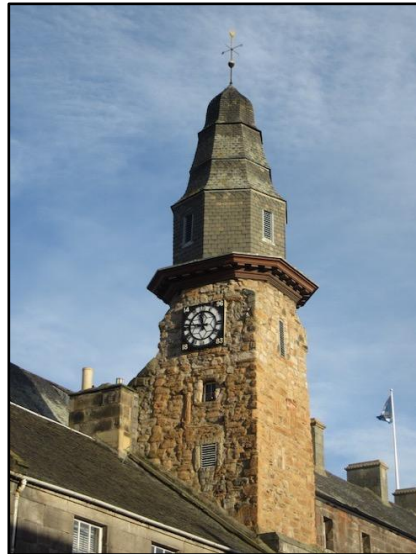
*Muskilburk* c. 1250

*Inviresc maior* 1127 x 1131

Musselburgh means 'mussel town', from Old English *muscle* 'mussel' and *burh* 'fortified place, town', or Scots *muscle* 'mussel' and *burgh* 'borough, town'. The name

refers to the extensive mussel beds offshore: these were an important resource, supplying food and bait for fishing. In the early 12th century Musselburgh was known as *Inviresc maior* 'greater Inveresk'. Both *Inviresc maior* and *Inviresc minor* were among extensive grants made by David I and his parents and brothers to Dunfermline Abbey.

NT344727. Inveresk parish.



Musselburgh Tolbooth

### **Ninewar**

*Naneware* 1573 x 1574

Probably 'none worse' from Scots *nane war*, referring to undesirable land. Ninewar is a farm on the A199 west of Dunbar. It is on a north-north-east facing slope, where the cold would linger in winter weather. There is another Ninewar in Berwickshire, clearly with the same derivation, recorded as *Nanewar* in 1585 x 1587. This too is on a north-east facing hill.

NT624773. Dunbar parish.

NT801557. Duns parish, Berwickshire.

### **North Berwick**

*Nordberewic* pre-1199

Berwick is 'barley farm' from Old English *bere-wīc*, and refers to a specialised farm. 'North' was added to distinguish it from the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed 40 miles to the south. Berwick-upon-Tweed was made a royal burgh by David I of Scotland in the

early 12th century and remained mostly under Scottish control until 1296, after which it changed hands repeatedly, until England finally captured it in 1482. Berwick-upon-Tweed's nunnery was referred to in charters as 'of South Berwick', distinguishing it from the nunnery in North Berwick.

NT553854. North Berwick parish.



North Berwick

## **Nungate**

*Nungait* 1586

The Nungate is a district of Haddington east of the River Tyne. From Scots *nun* and *gait* meaning 'nuns' road', the name originally referred to the road which led from the town to the Cistercian convent which lay on the river about a mile to the east.

Founded by Countess Ada de Warenne, daughter-in-law of David I, in the 12th century, the convent was a wealthy institution, with extensive landholdings including the grange or farm estate of Nunraw (*Nunraw* 1547, from Scots meaning 'nuns' row of houses'). The Scottish Parliament met in the convent in July 1548 during the siege of Haddington and agreed to the marriage of the five-year-old Queen Mary to the Dauphin of France, in return for France's promise of assistance against England. The convent was technically a priory but was widely referred to as an abbey, hence the names Abbey Bridge and Abbey Mill close to its site.

NT522738. Haddington parish.



Nungate Bridge, Haddington

### **Oldhamstocks**

*Aldehamstoc* 1127

*Aldhamstokkis* 1450

Today pronounced *Oldhamstocks*, the name probably means 'outlying farm of the old settlement', from Old English *ald* 'old', *hām* 'house and landholding', and *stoc* 'place, outlying farm'. *Aldham* probably did not refer to the Aldhame monastic site near North Berwick, as that was 12 miles away (NT596843).

NT740705. Oldhamstocks parish.



Oldhamstocks Parish Church

### **Ormiston**

Waltero de *Ormistun* 1211 x 1215

'Orm's farm', from Old English *tūn* 'substantial farm' and the Anglo-Scandinavian personal name Orm. There are places of the same name in Fife and Roxburghshire. NT414692. Ormiston parish.



Ormiston Cross

### **Packman's Grave**

The stone setting in the fork between the road to Priestlaw and the road to Gifford was traditionally said to be the grave of a travelling packman or pedlar who had been murdered by an innkeeper at Danskine. Single stones or groups of stones said to commemorate packmen or chapmen, often said to be victims of violent deaths, are widely found in southern and northeastern Scotland.

NT641643. Whittingehame parish.

### **Papana Water: see Garvald and Papana Water**

### **Papple**

*Popple* c. 1198 x 1206

*Popil* 1318

'Place of temporary shelters', from Brittonic *pebil*, 'tents, camp', probably a place where people gathered seasonally for activities relating to livestock, such as trading. Nineteenth-century sources placed the remains of a convent at Papple, but neither archaeology nor early records provide evidence for this. The belief may stem from the fact that the convents of both Haddington and St Bathans held land at Papple. The town of Peebles has the same derivation. Brittonic *pebil* is borrowed from Latin *papilio* 'a butterfly', Roman soldiers' slang for a tent.

NT590724. Whittingehame parish.



Papple

### **Pencaitland**

*Pencathlan* 1165 x 1195, copied 14th cent.

*Penchatland* 1175 x 1203

This is a Brittonic name with three elements. Brittonic *ceid* (pronounced 'cade'), meaning 'woodland', is at its heart. *Ceid* is also the origin of the nearby Barony of Keith, which is probably an ancient territorial name. *Pen* is 'head or end', while *lann* is 'open land', and *ceidlann* is 'open land in a wood, a glade', so *pen-ceidlann* would be the 'head or end of a glade'. However the elements could have been combined in different ways, such as *penceid* + *lann*, meaning 'wood-head of open land'.

NT443690. Pencaitland parish.



### **Pencraig**

*Penkraick* 1590s

'Head of the crag', from Brittonic *pen* 'head or end' and *cre:g* (pronounced 'craig') meaning 'crag, prominent rock'. The hill stands 109m above sea level, north of Traprain Law. At its summit, a layby and picnic spot off the A199 affords fine views north and south.

NT572765. Prestonkirk parish.



View from Pencraig to Traprain Law

### **Penshiel**

*Panneschelys* 1211 x 1231

'Summer pasturage in the pan(-shaped) valley', from Old English *panne* 'pan, rounded valley', and *scēla* 'summer pasturage'. Viewed on a satellite map and on LIDAR, the grassy area around Penshiel Grange indeed looks rounded. It is enclosed by hills on three sides.

NT641631. Whittingehame parish.



### **Phantassie**

*Fantassie* 1690s

Phantassie is usually interpreted as Gaelic *fàn taise* 'damp slope', following W.J. Watson. But it could be a whimsical Scots or Scottish Standard English name, *Fantasy*, applied to new farms and cottages from the late 17th century in the age of agricultural improvements. There are no known instances before the 1690s, and the earliest spellings are all *Fantassie* or *Fantasy*.

There are two places called Phantassie in East Lothian today. Phantassie near East Linton is an estate well known for its organic produce and also renowned as the birthplace of the agriculturalist George Rennie (1749–1828) and his brother, the civil engineer John Rennie (1761–1821). There is also Phantassie Hill, a small hill on the south side of the Garleton Hills. This hill was probably called after a cottage at its west end which no longer exists.

The farm name first appears as *Fantasie* in the 1690s, when tenants were named for 'the lands of Houston and Fantasie'. William and Joy Dodd noted: 'This is the earliest mention we have found of the name "Fantassie" [sic] on these lands of Houston, and it may be at a time when a new name was needed for a consolidated farm holding, the essential precursor of "improvement".' The approximate date of the new name is confirmed by John Adair's map of East Lothian: the name *Fantasy* appears on the 1736 edition, published after his death, but does not appear on his manuscript of 1682, suggesting the name was coined between the two dates. Both farm and cottage appear on Roy's map of 1747–55 as *Fantasy*: the big house was built the following century. The farm is first spelt *Phantassie* on the Armstrongs' map of 1773, while the Horse Tax Rolls show the spelling changing from *Fantasy* to *Phantassie* between 1785 and 1794. Forrest's map of 1799 spells it *Fantacie*. Both farm and cottage are fixed as *Phantassie* by the Ordnance Survey of 1853–54, which also records *Phantassie Hill*.

There is also a *Fantasy* in Midlothian, recorded by Roy as a small rural holding. It again appears on maps to the mid-19th century as *Fantasy*, then disappears. There is another Phantassie in Fife. In 1853–55 the Ordnance Survey Name Book recorded this as *Fantasy*, describing it as 'A cottage built by Admiral Wemyss, and occupied by his forester.' The OS map of 1893 recorded it as *Phantassie*.

There is yet another Phantassie, this time a modern house in the West Lothian village of Harburn. John Garth Wilkinson explains: 'A branch of the Rennie family of Phantassie near East Linton has long farmed in the Calders, Midlothian (now West Lothian). When farmer Robert and wife Anne, a teacher, retired in the 1990s they named their new build after the ancestral home in East Lothian. They were proud of their association with George and John Rennie.'

The name is most unlikely to be Gaelic. Jacob King explains: '*Fàn* and *tàise* are fairly rare elements so the chance of them combining in this way numerous times

is fairly small, unless it was some sort of technical term, which is unlikely. In fact, the usage of *fàn* as a generic element seems to be otherwise unknown.' Further, the stress today falls on the first syllable, whereas in Gaelic it would fall on the second.

Why did the spelling change from *Fantasy* to *Phantassie*? The word comes from Greek φαντασία (*fantasia*), becoming *phantasia* in Latin and then *fantaisie* in French. In Scots and English the ph- and f- spellings were both in use, with *fantasy* enshrined in Samuel Johnson's mid-18th-century *Dictionary*. It could be that the change to ph- in the place-name was felt to echo the Greek and Latin spellings, hence making the name more 'classical' and perhaps higher status.

Definitions of *fantasy* mostly relate to the imagination and it is hard to know what the name was intended to convey.

Phantassie estate NT598772. Prestonkirk parish.

Phantassie cottage NT504758. Haddington parish.

Phantassie Hill NT507758. Haddington parish.

Phantassie, Fife NT308962. Wemyss parish.

Phantassie, Midlothian NT280669. Edinburgh parish.

Phantassie, West Lothian, NT045606. West Calder parish.



Phantassie doocot, East Linton

### Pin Cod

*Pin Cod* 1853–54

A dramatic rock just offshore at Dunbar, it is called 'pin cushion' from Scots *pin* 'pin' and *cod* 'pillow, cushion'. The Ordnance Survey Name Book described this as 'A Small rock, a little to the N.W. of Dunbar Castle, it is a bold precipitous rock, about 50 feet in height'. Hole 3 of nearby Winterfield golf course is named after it. NT673794. Dunbar parish.

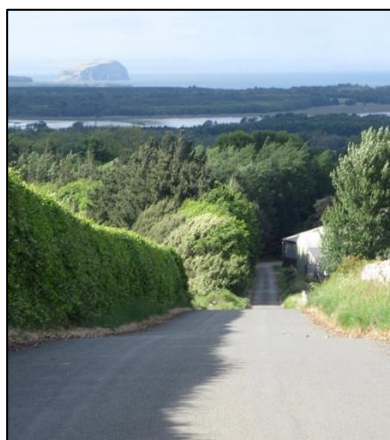


Pin Cod

### Pitcox

Gamello de *Pethcox* 1166 x 1179

Probably 'hills or hillocks associated with a steep track', from Old English *peth* 'steep track' and *cocc* 'hill or hillock'. An estate in medieval times, Pitcox lies in the foothills of the Lammermuirs. Today's settlement centres on a five-way road junction, from which the southbound road leads steeply uphill to link with crossings over the Lammermuirs. It is probably a very old route. NT642752. Stenton parish.



The 'steep track' from Pitcox

## **Poldrate**

*poldrate* 1425

Probably 'stream channel' or 'channelled burn' from Scots *pol* 'stream' and *draucht* 'channel'. Poldrate is a short road in Haddington leading from Sidegate to Waterloo Bridge and passing Poldrate Mill, home to a large community complex. The road crosses the mill-lade which runs off the River Tyne further upstream and which fed this and another mill when they were working mills. It is likely that the name *pol draucht* originally referred to the mill-lade.

NT517734. Haddington parish.



Poldrate Mill

## **Preston (near Tranent), Prestongrange and Prestonpans**

*Prestun* 1170 x 1171

*Grangia de Prestone* 1179 x 1189

*Prestoun-grange* 1526

*Prestoun pans* 1590s/1654

'Farm of the priest or priests', probably from Old English *prēost* 'priest' and *tūn* 'substantial farm', or possibly from the post-1100 Scots equivalents *priest* and *toun*. Preston is a common name in areas where Old English was spoken. There were two villages called Preston in East Lothian. One was near Tranent, while the other adjoins East Linton.

The lands of *Prestun* near Tranent were recorded in the 12th century first as *Prestun* and then as *Grangia de Prestone*, when it was granted to Newbattle Abbey: a grange was a monastic farm. It became *Prestoun-grange* by the 16th century. After

the Reformation, the grange passed out of the abbey's hands. Today Prestongrange encompasses Prestongrange Museum, on the site of the former Prestongrange Colliery, and the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. The latter's clubhouse occupies Prestongrange House, which dates from the 16th century and was greatly extended in the 19th.

By the early 13th century, the monks of Newbattle were running salt-works on the coast close to Preston. Nearby coal-mines, also under the abbey's control, supplied fuel. Over succeeding centuries, a major salt-producing centre developed: Pont's map of the 1590s shows the buildings of *Prestoun pans* stretching along the coast, with the settlement of *Prestoun* inland by the main road, and *Grange* to the west. The inland settlement was also known as *Salt-Prestoun*, a name which went out of use in the 18th century. The road through Wallyford linking Prestonpans with Newbattle Abbey is still known as Salters Road.

East of Prestongrange, *Preston* or *Salt-Preston* was centred on a medieval tower house, Preston Tower, and a fine mercat cross, Preston Cross. Today Preston forms the eastern part of Prestonpans, while the area near the cross is Preston Market.

One mystery remains. The *New Statistical Account* for 1839 notes that 'the most ancient name' for Preston 'appears to have been Aldhammer or Alhammer'. Althammer is today embedded in local tradition as a Viking warrior, founder of the village which became Prestonpans.

Preston NT389740. Prestonpans parish.

Prestongrange NT378737. Prestonpans parish.

Prestonpans NT387745. Prestonpans parish.



Preston Tower



Preston Cross

**Preston** (near East Linton)

*Preston* 1521

'Farm of the priest or priests', probably from Old English *prēost* 'priest' and *tūn* 'substantial farm', or possibly from the post-1100 Scots equivalents *priest* and *toun*. This farm doubtless supported the priest or priests of the adjoining parish church of Lintun (Linton), first recorded in 1127 (see entry for East Linton).

The church stands on a mound beside the River Tyne opposite a *haugh*, which is Scots for 'meadow beside a river'. In the 16th century the parish of Linton gained the alternative names Hauch and Preston. In the 17th century it became Prestonhaugh and in the 18th century Prestonkirk, as it remains today. In 1999 the parish of Prestonkirk was united with the parishes of Stenton and Whittingehame to form the parish of Traprain. The parishes of Athelstaneford and Whitekirk were added in 2021.

Preston gave its name to Preston Mill, a watermill now owned by the National Trust. Its buildings date to the 17th century, but there was probably an earlier mill on the site. Nearby is Preston Mains, a farm which may occupy much the same area as the original 'farm of the priests'. *Mains* is Scots for 'home farm', from Old French *demeine* and English *demesne*.

NT592778. Prestonkirk parish.



Preston Mill



Preston Mill millwheel

### **Priestlaw**

*Priestlaw* 1682

'Hill of the priest' from Scots *law* 'hill' and *priest* 'priest'. The hill may have been part of the Penshiel lands held by Melrose Abbey. Priestlaw became the name of the farm, and the hill became known as Priestlaw Hill. A nearby promontory with a prehistoric fort on it overlooking the Whiteadder Water is known as Friars' Nose (sic).

Priestlaw Hill NT648633. Whittingehame parish.

Friars' Nose NT664631. Whittingehame parish.



### Prora

*Por hoy* 1153 x 1159, copied 14th–15th cent.

Prora is a farm on the Peffer Burn by Drem. *Por* is probably Brittonic *por*, which has a range of meanings implying fertile soil, including 'meadow'. *Hoy* may be Scots *hauch*, 'meadow-land by a river'. Prora was given to Newbattle Abbey by Countess Ada de Warenne. It was described as 'a ploughgate of land on the Peffer Burn': ploughgates varied in size, but were notionally 100 Scots acres. NT525798. Athelstaneford parish.



### Saltcoats

*Saltcoittis* 1548

'Salt-houses', from Scots *saltcots*. A *cot* is a small house or cottage. *Saltcots* housed the pans in which brine was boiled to make salt. The settlement of Saltcoats, with a ruined 16th-century castle and a farm steading, lies just south of Gullane. It once adjoined a salt marsh, now drained. One method of making salt, perhaps used here, was 'sleeching', which involved using sea-water to rinse salt from inter-tidal silts, then boiling the resulting brine. The name Saltcoats was common in Scotland: a notable survivor is the town of Saltcoats, Ayrshire.

Saltcoats, East Lothian, NT484823. Dirleton parish.

Saltcoats, Ayrshire, NS246412. Ardrossan parish.



### **Saltoun, East and West**

*Sawiltun* c. 1250

Pronounced *saul*-ton. Probably 'farm where sallow trees grow', from Old English *salh* 'sallow, willow' and *tūn* 'substantial farm'. A similar name is Salton, N Yorks, *Saletun* 1086. Sallow, also called goat willow or pussy willow, is one of the commonest willows in Britain. The villages of East Saltoun and West Saltoun were once called Kirkton and Milton, hosting as they did the kirk and the mill. Spellings ending *-ton* and *-toun* were both in use from the 1590s, with *-ton* predominating till the early 20th century, when *Saltoun* became the norm.

An alternative interpretation of the name was offered back in 1705 by the antiquary Sir James Dalrymple. He linked Saltoun to the de Soulis family from Soules in Normandy, writing: 'The Barony of *Saltoun* in the Shire of *Haddingtoun* is call'd from their Sirname; for I have seen an old Charter... designing it *Soulistoun*'. This etymology was echoed over the next 100 years in influential publications, including Walter Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, Lord Hailes' *Annals of Scotland* and the first *Statistical Account*. The historian George Chalmers, however, who had thoroughly researched the charters relating to Saltoun, firmly rejected the de Soulis link, writing:

'Sir James Dalrymple says, this manor obtained its name from the family of *Soulis*; as he had seen an old charter designing it *Soulis-toun*. ... Sir James wrote this account of Saltoun from memory, which deceived him; For, various documents, in succession, show that, during the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries, the family of Soulis never possessed Salton, which was never called Soulistown.'

Local historian John Martine wrote likewise: 'It is extremely doubtful if Soulis ever possessed any land in Saltoun'.

Today Saltoun is a peaceful backwater, but in the 17th century it achieved fame as the home of Andrew Fletcher (1655–1716), known as 'the patriot', who had a tumultuous political career and then became a leading agricultural improver, putting Saltoun in the forefront of rural industrial development.

West Saltoun NT461674. Saltoun parish.

East Saltoun NT475678. Saltoun parish.



## Scoughall

*Scuhale* 1093–94

*Scugg-hall* 1590s

'Demon nook' or 'haunted corner of land' from Old English *scucca* 'evil spirit, demon' and *halh* 'nook or corner of land'. Today pronounced 'skol' with 'o' as in 'door', Scoughall is a farm between Auldhame and Tynninghame. These were once both Anglian monasteries, probably linked. Alex Woolf has suggested that the place-name Scoughall, referring to a demon or a devil, could be taken together with place-names referring to St Baldred or Balthere, marking out an area where people could encounter 'the very landscape the saint had inhabited', and 'reflect upon famous instances in his life and spiritual struggles.'

NT615832. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.



## Seton

*Setune* 1177 x 1185

'Farm by the sea' from Old English *sæ* 'sea' and *tūn* 'substantial farm' or Scots *sey* 'sea' and *toun* 'farm settlement'. Seton is on the south side of the Firth of Forth, some 10 miles east of Edinburgh. It was recorded in the 12th century as land belonging to Philip de Setune, and previously to his father. The parish church stood here, listed by St Andrews Cathedral as *Ecclesia de Setun*. A castle was built, and was transformed in the 16th century into a splendid renaissance palace. Seat of the powerful Seton family, it was often visited by Mary Queen of Scots. Meanwhile the Seton estate was granted free burgh status, and a sizeable settlement grew up there. The church became a collegiate church, with priests dedicated to praying for the Seton family's souls. In the 17th century George Seton, fourth Earl of Winton, built a small harbour at the east end of Cockenzie: this was called Port-Seton to distinguish it from the harbour at the west end. Seton Palace fell into ruins after George Seton, fifth earl of Winton, forfeited his estates following the 1715 Jacobite rising. In 1790 the new owner, Lt Col Alexander Mackenzie, razed the palace and built a grand mansion, Seton House, which still stands. Mackenzie also forced the tenants of the neighbouring settlement – who numbered 86 in 1792 – to leave. To the east of Port Seton is a beach named Seton Sands, from which the adjacent holiday park takes its name.

In the 16th century, the first chronicler of the Seton family, Sir Richard Maitland, correctly described the name's origins:

they landis ar callit Seytoun for ane grit ['great'] caus, becaus thay ly hard upon the Sey cost, and the Toun thairof is neir to the sey, and at that tyme was neirest to the sey of any toun ane grit space thairabout.

Maitland's history was extended in the 17th century by another family member, Alexander Viscount of Kingston. He wrote that while Maitland thought the name came from 'two old Saxon words Sey and Ton', others thought it was from 'Set on', from the family motto 'Hazard yet forward'. Kingston himself, however, thought it came from a Germanic people called the Sitones, described by the Roman historian Tacitus. He speculated that the Sitones had settled on the Forth, though Tacitus did not suggest this. Tacitus wrote that the Sitones were ruled by a woman and hence were lower than slaves, prompting Kingston to ride to their defence with a list of great queens.

The historian George Chalmers further clouded the issue, contending that the Seton family was descended from a Norman called Seiher de Say, who had obtained lands from David I in East Lothian which were called Say-tun after him. As Sir Archibald Lawrie pointed out, there is no evidence for this.

NT413749. Prestonpans parish.



Seton Collegiate Church

### **Skateraw**

*Skaitraw* 1545–46

'Skate row' from Scots *skait*, *sket*, 'skate', the large flat fish, and *raw* 'row of houses'.

Skateraw was recorded as a fishing community in 1592, and 18th-century maps showed rows of houses along the main road. The *Old Statistical Account* for the parish of Oldhamstocks in 1791 listed skate as one of the fish caught along this coast. Once abundant, the species had virtually disappeared from the North Sea by 2002 due to over-fishing, and fishing for them was banned in 2009.

NT733751. Innerwick parish.



Skateraw beach

### Skedsbush

*Sketbuss* 1590s

Skedsbush is a farm in the foothills of the Lammermuirs, southwest of Gifford. Its name may be 'boundary bush' from Scots *\*skeith* 'boundary' and *buss* 'bush' or 'clump of bushes'. Alternatively, it may have begun as Old Norse *skeið* 'race course' or 'boundary', with Scots *buss* added later. Skedsbush is near a cluster of places of probable Scandinavian settlement, indicated by names such as Humbie which end in Norse *bý* 'farm'.

NT511656. Yester parish.

### Smeaton

There are two places called Smeaton in East Lothian. It means 'farm of the smiths', from Old English *smið* 'smith' (genitive plural *smiðra*) and *tūn* 'substantial farm'.

Smeaton near East Linton is an estate first recorded as *Smethetun* in 1165 x 1214.

Smeaton near Dalkeith is a farm first recorded as *Smithetun* in 1150 x 1152, when David I confirmed its possession by Dunfermline Abbey. It was subsequently recorded in the Scandinavianised form *Smithebi*, where *-bi* derives from Old Norse *bý* 'farm'. The presence of the powerful local landlord, Thor son of Swain, lord of Tranent (fl. 1139 x 1153), testifies to the Scandinavian influence in the area: both Thor and his father have Scandinavian names, which suggests that Thor was of Scandinavian descent.

Smeaton near East Linton, NT590775. Prestonkirk parish.

Smeaton near Dalkeith, NT350694. Inveresk parish.



Smeaton Nursery, East Linton

### **Spartleton**

*Sperteldun* 1182

Possibly 'basket(-shaped) hill' from OE *sperte* 'wicker-basket' and *hyll* 'hill', with Scots *doun* 'hill' added later. At 468m, this is the most prominent of the Lammermuir hills east of the Whiteadder Water. A prehistoric cairn stands on the top. Spartleton could be seen as resembling an upturned basket. Containers and other utensils often appear in place-names to illustrate shapes. Chirnside (in Berwickshire) and Penshiel are other examples, referring to a churn and a pan.

NT652655. Stenton parish.

### **Spott**

*Spot* 1153 x 1159

From Scots *spot* 'a small area of land'.

NT673754. Spott parish.



Spott Parish Church

## St Baldred

Baldred – originally known by his Old English name Balthere – was an Early Christian saint who died at his monastery in Tynninghame in AD 756. He has given his name to various places nearby. His monastery was probably on the site of the ruined St Baldred's Church in the gardens of Tynninghame House. It was under the authority of the monastery at Lindisfarne, the ecclesiastical centre of the Northumbrian kingdom, and itself held sway over lands extending from the Lammermuirs to Inveresk.

The *Aberdeen Breviary*, a collection of saints' lives and prayers published in 1510, gathered legends about Baldred, whose feast day was 6 March. He was said to have spent a long time on the Bass Rock, fasting, weeping and praying. In the late 15th century, a chapel dedicated to him was built on the traditional site of his cell – its ruins survive today.

The Bass Rock legend may have been circulating within decades of his death, when the scholar Alcuin of York, translated from Latin by Peter Godman, wrote:

There is a place completely encircled by the ocean waves,  
hemmed by terrible crags and steep cliffs, where  
Balthere, the mighty warrior, during his life on this earth  
vanquished time and again the hosts of the air,  
that waged war upon him in countless shapes.

The *Aberdeen Breviary* also tells the story of St Baldred's Boat, a rock east of the South Carr reef near Seacliff. The name is often mistakenly applied to the tip of the South Carr, which has a cross-shaped beacon on it to warn shipping. The rock, said the *Breviary*, was originally a huge rock between the Bass and the mainland which obstructed shipping. 'St Baldred caused himself to be placed upon this rock; having done this, by his will the rock is immediately raised up and, like a ship driven by a fair wind, it came to the hither shore'. In the mid-19th century, the Ordnance Survey Name Book noted the tradition that Baldred used the rock as a boat, 'for conveying him to and from the Bass Rock.'

Baldred had three parish churches, at Auldham, Tynninghame and Preston, where he performed healing miracles. The *Breviary* told how on his death all three parishes wanted to bury him. They left the body unburied overnight, and in the

morning found 'three identical bodies laid out with the same funereal dignity', so that each church could claim one.

Other Baldred sites are not named in the *Breviary*. There are holy wells at Prestonkirk and Auldham – the latter is now covered over. A pool or eddy in the River Tyne near Prestonkirk was called St Baldred's Whirl. St Baldred's Cradle was described by the OS Name Book as 'a remarkable chasm in the rock at Whitberry Point' near Tynninghame. A ruin at Seacliff – an estate formerly known as Auldham – was believed to have been the saint's residence and hence was known as St Baldred's House: in fact it is a ruined 16th-century laird's house. Nearby is a cave known as St Baldred's Cave, which was discovered in 1831 by the owner of Seacliff House, George Sligo, who thought it had been 'a place of sacrifice and pagan worship'. It contained pottery, later dated to the Iron Age, along with the remains of two babies and animal bones.

St Baldred's Boat, Seacliff, NT612850. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.

St Baldred's Cave, Seacliff, NT604844. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.

St Baldred's Chapel, Bass Rock, NT601873. North Berwick parish.

St Baldred's Cradle, Tynninghame, NT637812. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.

St Baldred's House, Seacliff, NT602846. Whitekirk and Tynninghame (sic) parish.

St Baldred's Well, by Prestonkirk, NT593778. Prestonkirk parish.

St Baldred's Well, Auldham, NT591845. North Berwick parish.

St Baldred's Whirl, by Prestonkirk, NT593777. Prestonkirk parish.

See also entry for Tynninghame.



St Baldred's Cradle

## St Clement's Wells

*St. Clements Wells Distillery 1799*

St Clement's Wells is the name of a farm south of Wallyford, and also (without the apostrophe) of a new housing estate southwest of the settlement. In the late 18th century the farm was the site of 'the most considerable distillery now in Scotland', as described by the *Old Statistical Account*. Clement was a Christian in first-century Rome. He was said to have been martyred at sea with an anchor round his neck, and was therefore regarded as the patron saint of sailors. The cult of Clement spread to Scandinavia in about the 11th century, and thence to Britain. St Clement's Wells were probably named by Scandinavians living in the Tranent area. We know they were here because of the presence of a powerful landholder of likely Scandinavian descent, Thor of Tranent, son of Swain, who is mentioned in many 12th-century charters. He held extensive lands in the area and granted the church of Tranent to Holyrood Abbey. NT375713. Tranent parish.



*The Martyrdom of St Clement*  
Bernadino Fungai (1460–1516)

*Image courtesy of York Museums Trust*  
<https://yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/>, public domain

## St Germain's

*de sancto Germano 1207 x 1213*

The house called St Germain's stands on or near the site of the medieval Hospital of St Germain's, a poor-house run by the Order of the Star of Bethlehem. It is in the parish of Tranent, overlooking the Firth of Forth and surrounded by prime farmland. The Bethlehemites were probably granted the land by Robert de Quincy in about 1170.

De Quincy was an Anglo-Scottish knight of Norman descent, who had gained extensive estates in Scotland through marriage to an heiress. His connection to the Bethlehemites was doubtless the crusades. He fought in the Third Crusade with King Richard I, while the Bethlehemites were a crusader order of Augustinian canons with their bishop based in Bethlehem.

The Order's main base in Europe was a hospital at Clamecy in central France; this was in the diocese of Auxerre, whose patron saint was St Germain or Germanus. Alan Macquarrie wrote that it is likely 'that the hospital in Tranent was colonised first by canons of Bethlehem from Clamecy, who dedicated it to the patron saint of the cathedral of their diocese.' The Order subsequently founded a hospital in London, which became the mental hospital known as Bedlam.

The hospital at Tranent declined in the 15th century, then the rents of its lands were annexed by Aberdeen University. This arrangement came to an end with the Reformation, and in 1599 King James VI granted 'the lands of St Germans with house, meadows, rabbit warrens, doocot, coal mines' (terras de Sanct-Germans, cum mansione, pratis, cuniculariis, columbario, carbonibus) to Robert Lord Seton.

The estate later had a succession of owners. Today's house was largely built in the 18th century. During World War II it was requisitioned as an convalescent home for the RAF, and was subsequently divided into flats.

NT426747. Tranent parish.

### **St Laurence House Burn**

*hospitalis Sancti Laurencii* 1312

*Saint Laurencehouse* 1562

Just under a mile west of Haddington's West Port and running under the main road to Edinburgh, this burn is a last echo of St Laurence's Hospital that once stood here.

Dedicated to one of the most popular early Christian martyrs, St Laurence's was founded in the 12th or 13th century probably to care for the poor. The master received an annual grant of 20 shillings from the burgh of Haddington.

Unlike modern hospitals, medieval hospitals cared for the poor or the sick or wayfarers, or a combination of these. Many leper hospitals were founded in Scotland from the 12th century onwards, and St Laurence's had a house specially for lepers. This appeared in the records in about 1470 when the hospital was reorganised. At that date, the master was instructed to give 'the lepers of Haddington dwelling in the leper

house' an annual grant from the hospital's resources of a chalder (16 bolls or 4–6 imperial bushels) of oatmeal, barley or wheat, plus a garden for kale and herbs, and turf and fuel. In 1532, by which time the hospital was probably no longer caring for the poor or lepers, its properties and lands, which included 82 arable acres, were taken over by the nunnery of St Catherine of Siena near Edinburgh (the nunnery of Sciennes), passing into private hands in the 1580s.

St Laurence or Lawrence – known as Laurent in France and Lorenzo in Italy and Spain – was widely honoured: in Scotland, at least 15 churches and chapels, and seven wells, were dedicated to him. In Britain, he was one of several saints associated with lepers.

A small village known as St Laurence House remained beside the site of the former hospital in Haddington. In the 18th and 19th centuries, two successive turnpikes or toll bars were positioned here, to collect tolls to pay for road maintenance. Two toll-keepers' cottages were erected, both of which are still occupied. A building traditionally identified with the hospital was demolished in 1906.

NT500737. Haddington parish.

### **Standingstone**

*Standingstone* 1855

Standingstone is a farm south of Traprain Law. It is named after the fine prehistoric standing stone, 9ft 2ins high, that stands in the orchard close to the farmhouse. This is likely to be the standing stone mentioned in the 12th-century *Fragment of the Life of St Kentigern* as the 'great royal stone' put up as a monument to the murdered King Leudonus, also known as Loth, grandfather of Kentigern. The stone is 0.75 miles south of Traprain Law, and is described in the *Life* as 'about a mile to the south of Mount Dumpelder' (the Law's earlier name). Confusingly, another standing stone, which is much closer to the Law, is known locally as the Loth Stone and is said to mark Loth's grave. This stone, 8ft high, was moved some 150ft from its original position after 1913 to facilitate ploughing: excavations at the time revealed nothing.

NT576736. Morham parish.



Standing stone at Standingstone Farm



The Loth Stone

### **Stenton**

*Steintun* 1153 x 1159

'Stone farm', from Old English *stān* 'stone' and *tūn* 'substantial farm'. In early spellings, *stān* was replaced by the Old Norse equivalent, *steinn*. 'Stone' in place-names frequently refers to the character of the ground: the *Old Statistical Account* noted in 1790–91, 'Round the village of Stenton, and in some adjacent fields, the ground is very stoney; the small stones on the surface lie so thick, that in some spots, when harrowed, scarce any soil is to be seen, and yet in these very spots, the crop is generally good, and sometimes luxuriant. The ground in this neighbourhood is almost all inclosed, chiefly with stone walls, from excellent free stone quarries, which are to be found almost in every field.'

NT621742. Stenton parish.



Stenton churchyard

### **Tantallon**

*dentalonne* 1335 x 1366

Possibly 'fort on the brow or headland' from Brittonic *dīn* 'fort' and *\*tāl-an* 'brow place'. Tantallon today is a massive ruined medieval castle straddling a promontory where the Firth of Forth meets the North Sea. It is likely that the castle was built on top of a prehistoric promontory fort similar to that at Dunbar, which would explain the name. 'Brow' well describes the cliffs on which it stood. No remains of such a fort have been found here, but the building of the castle probably obliterated it.

NT595850. North Berwick parish.



Tantallon Castle

## Tranent

*Treuernent* 1141 x 1147

*Trauernant* 1153 x 1159

'Farm of the ravine' or 'farm of the stream in a ravine', from Brittonic *tref* 'substantial farm', *yr* 'of the' and *nant* 'ravine' or 'stream in a ravine'. The old part of Tranent sits along a deep cleft named the Heugh, the Scots term for a steep-sided glen or ravine. This was the route of the old railway carrying coal down to the coast. There are traces of a stream here, much of it now underground.

NT404729. Tranent parish.



Sign to the Heugh, Tranent

## Traprain

*Trepprane, Trepprene* 1329–71

'Tree-farm' from Brittonic *tref* 'substantial farm' and probably *prenn* 'tree'. This may have referred to a significant tree, marking a boundary or a meeting-place. Traprain Farm was linked in a medieval charter with the hill beside it, which was then known as Dumpeldar and later as Traprain Law. *Law* is a common Scots word for 'hill', often describing isolated and distinctively shaped hills.

Traprain Law is the most prominent prehistoric site in East Lothian. Its great bulk rises from the plain some four miles east of Haddington. Its eastern end has been drastically reshaped by quarrying. Archaeological investigations have shown that humans have visited the hill since the Neolithic period, and it was densely settled in the Bronze Age, again thriving in the Roman Iron Age. Successive sets of ramparts were built, and palisades along these may explain the hill's early name. This was recorded in the 12th century as *Dumpelder* and *Dunpelder*, probably from Brittonic *dīn \*peleidīr*, which W.J. Watson interpreted as 'fort of spear-shafts'.

In the 17th century the hill was called *Dunpender Law*, a name which lives on in Dunpender Community Council.

NT580746. Prestonkirk parish.



Ponies on Traprain Law

### **Tyne, River**

*Tyne fl.* 1590s

The earliest names are often river names. The River Tyne may have the oldest name in East Lothian, shared with other rivers in Britain. Scholars recognise that it is derived from the element *\*ti* (pronounced tee), which according to *BLITON* is probably 'an ancient river-naming term... of obscure meaning.' Formed a mile east of Pencaitland at the confluence of the Tyne Water and the Birns Water, the River Tyne runs northeast through East Lothian, joining the North Sea at Tynninghame, which is named after it.

NT455687 – NT643808. Various parishes.

### **Tynninghame**

*Tinningaham*, 11th cent., copied 12th cent.

'The settlement of the community known as *Tingas* (dwellers on the Tyne)' from Old English *hām* 'settlement' and the river name *Tyne* with *-inga*, genitive plural of *ingas* 'people'. This settlement was the monastery of St Balthere, or Baldred, who died there in 756. Part of a free-standing carved cross of probable ninth-century date was found in the masonry of St Baldred's Church, built in the 12th century, whose picturesque remains stand in the grounds of Tynninghame House. The presence of the cross suggests that Baldred's own church stood here or nearby. Baldred's monastery was under the authority of Lindisfarne, ecclesiastical centre of the kingdom of

Northumbria, and held sway over lands from the Lammermuirs to Inveresk. In 941 the Norse king of York and Dublin, Olaf Guthfrithson, plundered Baldred's church and burned Tynningame.

NT619797. Whitekirk and Tynningame (sic) parish.

See also entry for St Baldred.



Remains of St Baldred's Church, Tynningame

### **Ugston**

*Ugstoun* 1478

*Hugstoun* 1579

A farm northwest of Haddington, probably 'Hugh's farm', from the personal name Hugh or Hugo with Scots *toun* 'farm'. Hugh was a very popular Norman name, which was also used to translate the Gaelic name *Áed*.

NT493747. Haddington parish.

### **Wallyford**

*Walford* 12th cent., copied 13th cent.

*Wallyfurd* 1561.

'Ford associated with a spring', possibly where there was a source of drinking water for the traveller. Alternatively it may be 'ford over a small stream'. Scots *wall* is both 'source of water, spring' and 'pool or stream fed by a spring'. The first element, *wall*, later seems to have become the diminutive *wallie*, 'a small spring'. The name probably refers to a ford on Salters Road over a water course which is now culverted. Today

the water course runs underground along the line of the old railway coming from the colliery, going under the road and eventually spilling into the Ravenshaugh Burn.

Wallyford NT367720. Inveresk parish.

Culvert NT368723. Inveresk parish.

Medieval settlement NT370722. Inveresk parish.



Culvert on Salters Road

### **Whiteadder Water**

*fluvis Edre* c. 950 x 1050

Pronounced 'whit-adder', this river rises on the slopes of Clints Dod in the Lammermuirs and flows south through the Scottish Borders, joining the River Tweed near Berwick-upon-Tweed. It is joined at Allanton by the Blackadder Water. Both Adder rivers are thought to have been named from the pre-Celtic root *\*adu* or *\*adro* 'watercourse'. Like other ancient river-names in Britain, Adder has direct parallels on continental Europe, including the Oder. To distinguish the two rivers, the Anglians or their descendants added Old English *hwīt* or Scots *white* in one case, and Old English *blæc* or Scots *black* in the other. Then Scottish Standard English *water* 'river, stream' was added to both.

NT626684 – NT971517. Various parishes.



The Whiteadder reservoir

## Whitecraig

*Quhytecraig* 1628

*Whitecraig* 1908

From Scots 'white rock or crag'. The present village of Whitecraig was originally built between 1924 and 1935 as housing for miners working in the Smeaton and Dalkeith collieries. The name Whitecraig dates back to the 17th century. The village was built on the site of an earlier group of miners' houses called *Deantown*, erected in the 19th century, and this name remained in use until the 1950s.

*Quhytecraig* was recorded in a charter of 1628 as marking a boundary of the haugh (riverside meadow) of Inveresk. In 1852–53 the Ordnance Survey Name Book recorded a farm called *White Craigs*: 'A small farm house with offices and a farm attached. The property of Sir John Hope of Pinkie'. The 1908 OS Six-inch map showed the farm as *Whitecraig*. The OS One-inch map of 1960 showed *Whitecraig* village, while the farm, though shown, was not named. It seems likely that the 'white rock or crag' was between the farm and Cowpits to the north on a site that became a freestone quarry. Recorded in the mid-19th century, the quarry produced sandstone whose colour was light grey to buff.

The name *Whitecraig* may have its origins in the 13th century, when *le Wyteside* was among the lands of Carberry held by Dunfermline Abbey. *Le Wyteside* 'the white hill-side' is from Old English *hwīt sīde* or Scots *wyte side*. NT353701. Inveresk parish.



### **Whittingehame**

*Whittingham* c. 1250.

Probably 'the settlement named after Hwīta', from Old English *hām* 'settlement', with *ing* 'named after' and the personal name Hwīta.

NT603737. Whittingehame parish.



Whittingehame Tower

### **Winton**

*Wintune* 1177 x 1185

Probably 'pasture farm', from Old English *\*winn* or *\*wynn* 'pasture' and *tūn* 'substantial farm'.

NT438695. Pencaitland parish.



Winton House

### **Wolfstar**

*Ulstruthir* 1434

*Wolstruther* 1438

*Foulstruther* 1627

*Wolfstar* 1853–54

'Ulf's or Wulf's marsh', from Scots *struther* 'bog, marsh' and the Anglo-Scandinavian personal name Ulf or Wulf, both meaning 'wolf'.

Wolfstar is a large farm south of Ormiston. It was recorded as *Wolstruther* in the 15th century, then from about 1600 it was known as *Foulstruther*. It may be that *Wolstruther* continued in use, resurfacing as the fanciful name *Wolfstar* by the mid-19th-century. By then, local people called the farm *Wolfstar*, though the adjacent turnpike was still called *Foulstruther*. The name *Foulstruther* combined Scots *foul* (pronounced 'fool') meaning 'foul, filthy, muddy' with *struther* to make 'foul marsh', so it seems likely that *Wolfstar* was seen as a more attractive name for the farm.

The farm has given its name to Wolfstar Archers, a field archery club which was founded at the farm but is now in Pencraig Woods.

NT417687. Pencaitland parish.



## Yadlee

*Zadlee* 1853–55

'Sheltered hillside of the broken-down mare', from Scots *yaud* or *yad*, 'broken-down mare or horse' and *lee* 'sheltered hillside'. The 'z' in the early form represents the Scots letter yogh, which sounds like a 'y'. In the 1850s, the Ordnance Survey Name Book recorded that *Zadlee* was 'a small cottage in good repair... occupied by a Shepherd.' The cottage is now a ruin. Local historian John Martine, writing in the late 19th century, explained that 'a small spot formerly part of Dunbar Common... is said to have got the name of Yadlee, from the Dunbar folk sending young horses and old mares, commonly called "Yads," to graze during the summer months on a well sheltered haugh on the banks of a hill burn.' Nearby to the south lies a stone circle known as Yadlee Stone Circle, which may be aligned with other features in the landscape on the spring equinox (Witches Cairn and Rook Law Cairn) and winter solstice (Spartleton Cairn). The stone circle is tiny and barely visible.

Cottage NT653676. Stenton parish.

Stone circle NT654673. Spott parish.



Yadlee

## Yellowcraig

*Yellow Craig* 1682

'Yellow rock' from Scottish Standard English *yellow* and *craig* 'a crag or rock'.

Yellowcraig is a countryside site managed by East Lothian Council for wildlife and recreation. Beside the Firth of Forth and facing the island of Fidra, it comprises a long sandy beach, sand-dunes, grassland and a planted wood. The site takes its name from

a knoll in the wood called Yellow Craig. Like other local landmarks including Fidra and the Bass Rock, Yellow Craig is a volcanic plug made up of basalt. This is grey rock, now covered in green vegetation. So why 'yellow'? The likely answer is that before the wood was planted in the 18th century, the knoll was covered in whin (gorse). Whin grows well on basalt, which, like other hard dark rocks, is known as whinstone. A steep hillside six miles away on the south side of the Garleton Hills is similarly called Yellow Craigs: John Martine wrote in the 19th century that these craigs 'take their name from being covered with whins, which in the flowering season have a most beautiful show.' As indeed they still do today!

Yellow Craig NT518857. Dirleton parish.

Yellow Craigs. NT512758. Haddington parish.



Top of Yellow Craig



Yellow Craigs by Haddington

### **Yester and the Goblin Ha'**

*Jhestrith* 1166 x 1171

The name Yester survives as the name of the parish centred on the village of Gifford and of the neighbouring estate. It possibly means 'ford of the frothy or sparkling stream', from Brittonic *\*jesā-* 'boiling' or *\*jesīn* 'sparkling, radiant', and *riđ* 'ford'.

'Sparkling' seems an apt description of the Gifford Water, a shallow, fast-flowing stream which skips along its stony bed. Evidently Yester was an earlier name for the stream: a Yester charter of 1250 x 1267 (no. 16) refers to 'the ford of the burn called Yester' (vado rivoli qui vocatur Jestrith).

Yester Castle is a ruin with towering walls hidden in the woods by the Hopes Water, which feeds the Gifford Water. Beneath the remains of the northern tower is an undercroft, or underground chamber, popularly known as the Goblin Ha', or Goblin Hall. According to the 14th-century historian John of Fordun, this was constructed by Hugh Giffard de Yester using demonic skills, a story resonantly retold by Sir Walter Scott in his poem *Marmion*:

Of lofty roof, and ample size,  
 Beneath the castle deep it lies:  
 To hew the living rock profound,  
 The floor to pave, the arch to round,  
 There never toiled a mortal arm,  
 It was all wrought by word and charm;  
 And I have heard my grandsire say,  
 That the wild clamour and affray  
 Of those dread artizans of hell,  
 Who laboured under Hugo's spell,  
 Sounded as loud as ocean's war  
 Among the caverns of Dunbar.

Yester Castle NT556666. Yester parish.

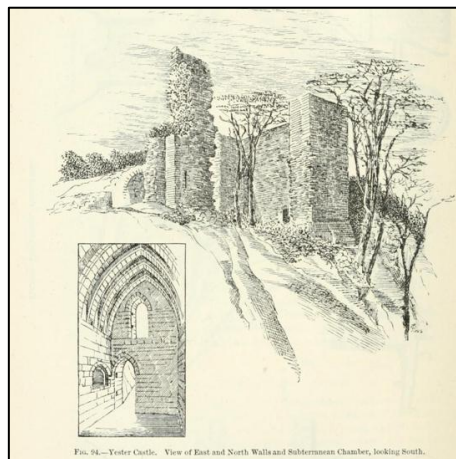


FIG. 94.—Yester Castle. View of East and North Walls and Subterranean Chamber, looking South.

Yester Castle and the Goblin Ha', *MacGibbon and Ross* vol. i, 118

**List of featured place-names**

Aberlady  
Alderston  
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Belhaven  
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Blegbie, see Humbie  
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Chapel, see Congalton  
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## References

**Note:** This list includes references for historical forms and for quotations. For the full references, see the bibliography. Many of these references are available online: those that are not will mostly be found in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. Much information about East Lothian's history is available at the John Gray Centre in Haddington and on their website, <https://www.johngraycentre.org>.

### Introduction

*in Lodoneo* 1098 Lawrie *ESC* p. 16.

Koch, 1997, 131.

W.F.H. Nicolaisen, 1970, 17.

### Aberlady

*abberlefsic* c. 1164, BL Cott. MSS Titus A. xix. f. 76–80 [*?abberlefdic*].

*aberleuedi* 1214 x 1229 *St Andrews Liber* p. 297.

Alan James, 2010, 75.

*BLITON* under \*l̥e:β, \*l̥e:μ, \*l̥īn, a2), accessed 13.02.25.

Jacob King, 2014.

### Alderston

*Aldenstoun* 1165 x 1185, prob. c. 1170, NRS GD241/254.

### Archerfield

*Archerfeild* 1607 *RMS* vi no. 1875.

Sir John Lauder, Lord Fountainhall, 1900, 210.

Martine, *Reminiscences*, 41.

### Athelstaneford

*Elstanesford* 1153 x 1178. Original charter. Laing Collection, University of Edinburgh; printed *East Lothian Deeds* no. 1 (Countess Ada confirms Athelstaneford to Alexander of St Martin).

*Alstanesford* 1213. Original charter. *RRS* ii no. 517.

*Athelstanford* c.1440, *Chron. Bower*, 306, 309, book iv, ch.13, line 50.

### Auldhame

*Aldham* 854 *Historia Regum Anglorum* Durham 1868, 69.

### Balgone

De terris de *Balnegon* et Wester Crag 1336–37, *Cal. Docs. Scot.* iii p. 384. This is the form cited by Watson, *CPNS*, 140: he thinks it is 'hounds' stead'. The same volume of *Cal. Docs. Scot.* iii p. 336, has De terra de *Balmegon* [Balgone?] et Wester Crag', dated 1335–36.

Terras de *Ballingoune* 1425–26 *RMS* ii no. 29.

### Ballencrieff

William Tornal warden of the hospital of St Cuthbert of *Balnecryfe* 28 Aug 1296 *Cal. Docs. Scot.* ii no. 823 (*Ragman Roll*) p. 214.

The late Robert of Pinkeny held the tenement of *Balincref* 1296 *Cal. Docs. Scot.* ii no. 857 p. 227.

### **Barns Ness**

*Barness* 1752–55 *Roy Lowlands*.

### **Bass Rock, The**

*basse* c. 1370 Gough map <http://www.goughmap.org/map/>

*Bas* c. 1400 'He gert be rowyt to the Bas', 'In to the Castell of the Bas', *Chron. Wyntoun*, iii, chap. XXV, p. 95, lines 2619, 2643.

Arne Kruse, pers. comm.; Peder Gammeltoft, pers. comm.

### **Bayswell Road**

*Sanct-Bais-wall* 1603 *RMS* vi no. 1418, p.506, col. 2, 12 lines from bottom.

*Aberdeen Breviary*, 263.

### **Belhaven**

*Bele* (unum plenarium toftum iuxta portum meum de Bele), 1140 x 1159, copied end 12th century, A.A.M. Duncan, 1957, 74.

*Bellehaven* (liberum portum apud le Bellehaven), 1369–70 *RMS* i no. 340. Note:

*DOST* under *havin* n.<sup>1</sup> has *Bellehauen*, but *RMS* i has *Bellehaven*.

*Balhaven* (in dicto porto de Balhaven), 1369–70 *RMS* i no. 340.

### **Binning Wood**

*Binning-wood* 1761. Thomas Hamilton, Earl of Haddington, 1761, 7. Quotation *ibid.*, 9.

### **Blindwells**

*Blind Walls* 1799 Forrest.

### **Blinkbonny**

*Blinkbonie* 1773 Armstrong.

*Blink bonny* and *Blink Bonny* 1799 Forrest.

Liz Curtis, 2018, 41–56.

### **Bolton**

Ambrosio de *boldun* 1167 Raine, *North Durham*, no. 642. Original charter. Date from POMS.

Ecclesiam de *Botheltune*, 1172 x 1178, SEA no. 173. Original charter. Printed *Holyrood Liber* no. 32.

### **Broomhouse**

*Bromehous* 1499–1500 *RMS* ii no. 2512. King James IV confirmed to George Hume of Spott and his wife Isobelle Blakedir 'half of the lands of Broomhouse in the constabulary of Haddington, sheriffdom of Edinburgh' (dimedietatem terrarum de *Bromehous*, in constabularia de Hadingtoun, vic. Edinburgh), i.e. the Broomhouse lands were divided at this time or before.

Richard Mabey, 1996, 228–29.

**Carfrae**

*Carffra* 1458 in constab. Haddington, *RMS* ii no. 610 p. 136 line 2.  
*Caerfre* 1590s Blaeu 1654.

**Chapel Point**

*st dynnies* 1682 Adair.  
*Chapel Point* 1853–54 OS Six-inch 1st edn. Haddingtonshire Sheet 12.  
 See Wikipedia 'cephalophore'.

**The Chesters, Drem**

*Chesters* 1799 Forrest.  
 Canmore ID 56280 canmore.org.uk, Project (September 2012).

**Clerkington**

*Clerchetune* c.1140 *Chrs. David I* nos. 86, 87. Original of no. 86 reproduced as Plate VIII.

**Cockenzie**

*Cokeny* 1565, *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, i, 381.  
*Cockensie* 1752–55 Roy Lowlands.  
*Saints in Scottish Place-Names*.

**Colstoun**

in territorio de *Cumbircolstoun* 1272 *RRS* iv part I *Acts of Alexander III* no. 79.  
*Colstoun* 1574 *RMS* iv no. 2287.  
*Coalston* 1853–54 *OSNB* East Lothian OS1/15/43/22.

**Congalton**

*Congilton* 1224 *Dryburgh Liber* no. 42, copied 16th cent. 'Walter knight of Congalton' (Walterus miles de *Congilton*); 'chapel of Congalton' (capellam de *Congilton*). Date from POMS. The charter was made in 1224 but the surviving copy was written in the 16th century.

**Crystal Rig**

*Kist Hill* 1799 Forrest.  
*Crystal Well, Crystal Rig, Crystal Knowe* 1853–54 *OSNB* East Lothian OS1/15/2/21, OS1/15/2/41, OS1/15/4/60; OS Six-inch 1st edn. Haddingtonshire Sheet 16, surveyed 1853, pub. 1855.

**Danskine**

*Dansken* 1667 *RMS* ix no. 1086.  
 Martine, *Reminiscences*, new edn., 83–84.

**Dirleton**

*Driltoune, Driltoun* 1165 x 1214, prob. c. 1180, copied 16th cent., *Dryburgh Liber* no. 104 p. 74. Date from POMS. Charter from William de Vaux to Dryburgh Abbey.

**Dunbar**

*dynbaer, dynbaer*, 8th cent., copied 11th or early 12th cent., *Life of Bishop Wilfrid*, ch. xxxviii, 76, 76 n.

For archaeology see Perry, 2000.

Raphael Holinshed, *The Historie of Scotlande*, 177.

Chalmers, *Caledonia*, 2nd edn., vol. 4, 1889, 538.

**Dunglass**

*Dunglas* 1450 RMS ii no. 387 (ecclesie collegiate de *Dunglas*).

**East Linton**

Blahanus presbyter de *Lintun* 1127 *Liber Vitae Ecclesiae Dunelmensis*, 68.

**Elphinstone**

homines de *Elfinistun* c. 1230 x c.1239 *Dunf. Reg.* no. 197 p. 112.

**Fidra**

*Futheray* 1449 ER v p. 347 'of the rock of Fidra' (rupis de *Futheray*).

Arne Kruse, pers. comm.

**Fisherrow**

The siemen of *Fischeraw* 1592 APS iii 614/1, cited in DOST under Scat(e, Scait, n. *NSA*, Parish of Inveresk, 1839, pub. 1845, 289.

**Fluke Dub**

*Fluke Dub* 1853–54 OSNB East Lothian OS1/15/35/5, OS1/15/35/44.

*Fluke Dub* 1853–55 OSNB Fife and Kinross-shire OS1/13/84/95.

British Sea Fishing, accessed 13/10/22.

**Gamelshiel**

William Brun de *Gamelsheles* 1296 IP 161, lines 19–20.

Barrow 1960, 42.

**Garvald and Papana Water**

*Ecclesia de Garvald* c. 1250 St Andrews Liber p. 30.

*Papana Water* OSNB East Lothian 1853–54 OS1/15/1/4.

**Gifford and Bothans**

*Giffarthal* 1682 Adair.

*Ecclesia de Bothan* c. 1250 St Andrews Liber p. 30.

G. W. S. Barrow, 1960, 39–45. This includes a facsimile of King William the Lion's confirmation of the grant of Yester and other lands from his mother Ada and brother Malcolm IV to Hugh Giffard. This charter is also in *RRS* ii, no. 48.

G. W. S. Barrow, 1973, 328.

**Gladsmuir**

*Gleddismore* 1233 x 1241 *East Lothian Deeds* no. 3 'with common pasture and other easements in the moor of Gladsmuir' (cum communi pastura et aliis asiamentis in mora de Gleddismore).

**Gleghornie**

*Johannes Mair Glegornensis* 'John Mair from Glegorn' 1493, Register of Matriculation in the University of Paris, quoted in John Major, 1892, xxxvii.

*Gleghorn* 1590s Pont/Hondius.

*Gleghorn* 1736 Adair, printed version, spelt *Gleghorn* on the 1682 MS version.

**Glenkinchie Distillery**

*Kinchie Distillery (Disused)* 1853–54, *OSNB* East Lothian OS1/15/54/5; OS Six-inch 1st edn. Haddingtonshire Sheet 14, surveyed 1853, pub. 1855.

Jacob King, 2022, 68.

**Gullane**

*Golyn* c. 1250 *St Andrews Liber* p. 30.

*Goulane* c. 1580 *Dryburgh Liber* p. 362.

*Gulan* 1590s Pont/Hondius.

*Goolan* 1799 Forrest.

*Gullane* 1853–54 OS 1st edn. Six-inch Haddingtonshire Sheet 4.

George Chalmers, 1889, iv, 518.

Nigel Tranter, 1992, 97.

W. J. Watson, *CPNS*, 142.

**Haddington**

*hadintunia* or *hadintuniam* 1136 x 1137 *Chrs. David I* no. 53, facsimile of original in *Nat. MSS. Scot.* i, no. 21, 'At Haddington' (Ad hadintunia or hadintuniam).

*hadintune* 1140 *Chrs. David I* no. 86, original reproduced as Plate VIII, 'St Mary's Church, Haddington' (ecclesie sancte Marie de *hadintune*).

**Hailes Castle and Newhailes**

*Hale* 1179 x 1189, copied 14th or 15th cent. *Newb. Reg.* no. 73 'one ploughgate of land of the district of Hailes; *villa* of Hailes' (una carucata terre de tellure de *Hale*; villa de *Hale*).

Joe Rock, 2018.

**Hedderwick**

*Hatheruuich* 1093 x 1094, William Angus, 1925–26.

Plan of part of the Estate of Ninewar, c. 1806.

**Herdmanston**

*Hirdmanestun* 1162 x 1190 *APS* i 94 (red page no.), 84 (black page no.), (Carta Henrici de Sancto Claro de *Hirdmanestun*). Note: *APS* i has two sets of page numbers.

**Humbie**

*Kethundeby* c. 1250 *St Andrews Liber* p. 30; *Dunf. Reg.* p. 205. *Kethundeby* is the parish-name Keith-Humbie.

*Humby* 1590s Pont/Hondius.

*PNF* 5, 94–95.

Simon Taylor, 2004, 125–45.

**Innerwick**

*Innerwic* 1161 or 1162, probably 1161, *RRS* i no. 184. Copied c. 1600.

*Innirwic* c. 1163 x 1165, copied earlier part of 16th century, *RRS* i no. 254, *Pais. Reg.* pp. 5–7 (ecclesiam de *Innirwic*; de molendino de *Innirwic*).

*Inuerwic* 1166 x 1182 *Melrose Liber* i no. 76 (pastura de *Inuerwic*). Original charter, facsimile.

*Innerwyc, ynnerwic* 1204 x 1225 prob. 1211 *Melrose Liber* i no. 60. Original charter. Date from POMS. Note: Abbreviation mark over second 'n' of first syllable indicates -er-.

### **Inveresk**

*Infresc* c. 1128, copied 13th cent., *Chrs. David I* no. 21, *Dunf. Reg.* no. 30.

*inuressc* 1152 x 1159, *SEA* no. 120. Original charter.

*Inviresc minorem* and *Inviresc maiorem* 1127 x 1131, probably 1128, copied 13th cent., *Chrs. David I* no. 33, *Dunf. Reg.* no. 1.

*Esce muthe* 11th cent., copied 12th cent., *HSC*, p. 46.

### **Jerusalem**

*Jerusalem* 1752–55 Roy Lowlands.

Original Haddington Burgh charter HAD.4.6.10 (1430), printed in J.G. Wallace-James, 1895, 15.

### **Keith Marischal**

*Ecclesia de Kethmarchal* c. 1250 *St Andrews Liber* p. 30.

### **Knockenhair**

*Knockinghare* 1773 Armstrong.

*Knocking Hair* 1799 Forrest.

Banffshire:

*Knokinhair* 1525 *Arbroath Liber* ii no. 613.

Dumfriesshire:

*lands of Knokinaharre* 1530, *Yester Writs* no. 464, line 12.

*OSNB* Dumfriesshire 1848–58 OS1/10/44/62.

W.J. Watson, *CPNS*, 135, 368.

### **Lamer Island**

*Lammarhevin* 1555 *RMS* iv no. 999.

*Lamercraig* 1618 *RMS* vii no. 1921.

*the Lammerisland* 1788 No. 2 Instrument of Sasine in favor of Robert Fall Esq, 27 Oct 1788.

Arne Kruse, pers. comm.

### **Lammermuir Hills**

*Lombormore* c. 950 x 1050 *HSC* 46–47 'all the land that pertains to the monastery of St Balthere, which is called Tynninghame, from Lammermuir as far as the mouth of the Esk' (tota terra quae pertinet ad monasterium Sancti Balthere, quod uocatur

*Tinningaham*, a Lombormore usque ad Esce muthe.) Note: This translation is slightly different from that in *HSC*, which has 'Tynningham' and 'the Lammermuir Hills'.

in *Lambremore* 1165 x 1170 *Kelso Liber* ii no. 321.

dominio de *Lammermure* 1538 *RMS* iii no. 1868 (terras de Horshopecleuch, in dominio de *Lammermure*, vic. Beruik).

OSA Parish of Whittingham (sic) 1792, new edn. vol. 2, 642–45, *Lamer-moor*: dimensions of the area and sheep economy.

OSNB Lammermuir Hills. See for example OS Six-inch 1st edn. 1853–54, Haddingtonshire Sheets 16 and 19.

### Lennoxlove

*Lafditune* 1166 x 1171 RRS ii no. 48 (illam partem de *Lafditune* quam Edolf filius perambulata fuit).

*Lefditona* 1202 x 1207 RRS ii no. 459 (Et totam *Lefditonam* plenarie per rectas diuisas suas).

*Lefditun'* 1202 x 1207 RRS ii no. 459 (et per diuisas supradicte *Lefditun'*).

*Lenox Love* 1702, will of Frances Teresa, duchess of Lennox and Richmond.

John Martine, *Reminiscences*, new edn., 112.

### Levenhall Links

*Liven Hall* 1812 Knox.

*Leven Hall* 1852–53 OSNB Midlothian OS1/11/8/9.

*Levenhall* 1957 OS One-inch Sheet 62 – Edinburgh – A/Edition, revised 1953–54.

*Levenhall Links Leisure Park* 2006, OS Explorer Map 351.

*East Lothian Fourth Statistical Account*, ii, 46, n.1 (for planning permission date).

OSNB Midlothian 1852–53 OS1/11/8/9.

### Longniddry

*Nodrif* 1207 x 1210 RRS ii no. 479, original MS; *Holyrood Liber* no. 38.

*Langnodryf* 1315 x 1321 RMS i 'in the estate and holding of *Langnodryf*' (in villa et tenemento de *Langnodryf*).

### Lothian

in *Lodoneo* 1098 Lawrie *ESC* p. 16. Grant of Coldingham by King Edgar to the monks of Durham.

*Fragment of the Life of St Kentigern*, 125

G.W.S. Barrow, 1985, 145.

John T. Koch, 1997, 131.

### Macmerry

*Make Merry* 1745–49 Roy *Lowlands*.

Bill Patterson, pers. comm.

### Markle

Alani de *Merkehulle* 1311–12 *Cal. Docs. Scot.* iii p. 411.

*Merkil* c. 1318 NRS GD86/4 Charter by Hugh de Gourley, lord of *Merkil*, to Robert de Lawedir.

### Mayshiel

*Mayschelis* c. 1200 x 1226, *St Andrews Liber* p. 380; *May Recs.* no. 23. Date from POMS.

terra de *Mayscheles* probably c. 1200 x 1226, *St Andrews Liber* p. 381; *May Recs.* no. 24. Date from POMS.

**Morham**

Ecclesia de *Morham* c. 1250 *St Andrews Liber* p. 30.  
*Newbattle Reg.* no. 86 'the marsh of *Morham* which is called *Rauenildestrother*' (per maresium de *Morham* quod vocatur *Rauenildestrother*). Probably 1220s or 1230s: date from POMS.  
 Translation by Bill Patterson, pers. comm.

**Mungoswells**

terras de... *Sanctmongois-wellis* 1497 *RMS* ii no. 2376.  
 terras dominicales de ... *Mungois-wellis* 1524 *RMS* iii no. 265.  
*Saints in Scottish Place-Names*, accessed 26.02.25.

**Musselburgh**

una mansura in *Muxelburg* 1165 x 1214, copied c. 14th cent., *Newbattle Reg.* no. 156. 'A tract of land in *Musselburgh*'.  
 Alano p[re]sbiteo de *Muscleb*\* 1182 x 1195, copied 1243 x 1246, *Holyrood Liber* no. 66(1). Dates from POMS. 'Alan priest of *Musselburgh*'.  
 Ecclesia de *Muskilburk* c. 1250 *St Andrews Liber*.  
*Inviresc maiorem* (and *Inviresc minorem*) 1127 x 1131 probably 1128, *Chrs. David I* no. 33, pp. 71, 70.

**Ninewar**

*Naneware* 1573 x 1574 *RMS* iv no. 2188.

**North Berwick**

*ecclesie Sce* (circumflex on 'c') *Marie de Nordberewic* pre-1199 *NB Chrs* no. 2.  
 Original charter.

**Nungate**

*Nungait* 1586 *RMS* v no. 1026 (in territorio de *Nungait*).

**Oldhamstocks**

Aldulfo presbitero de *Aldehamstoc* 1127 *SEA*, i, no. 116, p. 136. 'Aldulfus priest of *Oldhamstocks*'. Original charter.  
*Aldhamstokkis*, *Auldhamstokkis*, 1450 *RMS* ii no. 387.

**Ormiston**

Waltero de *Ormestun* 1211 x 1215 *Dunf. Reg.* no. 189; date from POMS.

**Packman's Grave**

*Canmore* ID 57532, *Packman's Grave*.  
 Peter Drummond, 2021, 7–8.

**Papple**

*Popple* c. 1198 x 1206 *Melrose Liber* no. 63 'Aldred of *Popple*' (Aldredo de *Popple*, witness). For dating, see POMS and *Melrose Liber* preface vi–vii, table of contents vi. *Popil* 1318 'two oxgates of land in the territory of *Popil*' (duas bovatas terre in territorio de *Popil*), *East Lothian Deeds*, no. 6; *Laing Chrs.* La.V/69. Charter by Alexander, son and heir of John of *Popil*, to Gilbert of *Chockeburn* (*Cockburn*).  
[https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival\\_objects/11621](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/11621).

**Pencaitland**

Euerardus de *Pencathlan* 1165 x 1195, copied 1306 x 1329, *Kelso Liber* no. 370. First date from POMS. Everard's charter to Kelso Abbey.

ecclesie de *Penchatland* 1175 x 1203 *Newbattle Reg.* appendix, original charter no. 13, p. 297. (magister Robertus de kydlau doctor decreto et rectorum ecclesie de *Penchatland*). This is presumably Robert, priest of Pencaitland, who is dated by POMS as 1175 x 1203.

**Pencraig**

*Penkraick* 1590s Pont, pub. in Blaeu 1654. Note that Watson *CPNS*, 354, spells this incorrectly as *Pencraick*.

**Penshiel**

*Panneschelys* 1211 x 1231 *Melrose Liber* no. 210 (totam terram meam de *Panneschelys*). Original charter, date from POMS.

**Phantassie**

*the lands of Houston and Fantasie* 1690s NRS GD110/875 'Rentall of the hail Barroney of Waughton and Pople'.

W. J. Watson, *CPNS*, 142.

William and Joy Dodd, 2013.

John Garth Wilkinson, pers. comm.

Jacob King, pers. comm.

**Pin Cod**

*Pin Cod* 1853–54 OS Six-inch Haddingtonshire Sheet 6.

*OSNB* East Lothian 1853–54 OS1/15/34/127; OS1/15/34/20.

**Pitcox**

1166 x 20 August 1179 Gamello de *Pethcox* (witness) *Melrose Liber* no. 76. Original charter; date from POMS; image of charter in *Melrose Liber*, facing page 67.

**Poldrate**

*poldrate* 20 Feb 1425 *Court and Council Records of the Burgh of Haddington*. A court case contains references to 'ane uthyr land lyand in the strete callyt *poldrate*' and 'the tother land lyand in *poldrate*'.

Liz Curtis, 2018.

Liz Curtis, 2019.

**Preston (near Tranent), Prestonpans and Prestongrange**

*Prestun* 1170 x 1171 (totam terram quam habet in *Prestuna*; iacent terre de *Prestun*) charter from Robert de Quinci to the monks of Newbattle, granting them all the land he has in Preston and some land in Tranent. Original document. G.W.S. Barrow, 1951. Date from POMS. Note: Barrow spells Quinci, POMS spells Quincy.

*Grangia de Prestone* 1179 x 1189 *Newbattle Registrum* no. 64, date from POMS.

*Prestoun-grange* 1526 *RMS* iii no. 351, date 1526.

*Prestoun pans* 1590s/1654 Pont/Blaeu

Liz Curtis, 2021.

'Prestonpans, County of Haddington', *NSA* ii 1845, 304.

Preston Market, OS Explorer map no. 351, revised edn. 2001.

**Preston** (near East Linton)

*Preston* 1521 John Mair (or Major), *Historia Maioris Britanniae*, Book 2, Ch. 7, fo. 30, line 16.

**Priestlaw**

*Priestlaw* 1682 Adair (settlement name).

**Prora**

*Por hoy* 1153 x 1159, copied 14th–15th cent., *Newbattle Reg.* no. 69, p. 55.

'ploughgate of land on the Peffer Burn called Prora' (et una carucata terre super pofre que dicitur *Por hoy*). Charter from Countess Ada to Newbattle Abbey of Bearford and Prora. Date from POMS.

**Saltcoats**

*Saltcoittis* 1548 *NB Chrs.* no. 18 (Johanni Levingstoun de *Saltcoittis*).

Richard Oram, 'The sea-salt industry in medieval Scotland', expanded version of a paper presented at the Medieval Academy of America conference, Yale, March 2010. <http://hdl.handle.net/1893/3147>.

**Saltoun, West and East**

Ecclesia de *Sawiltun* c. 1250 *St. Andrews Liber* p. 30.

Sir James Dalrymple, 1705, 395.

Walter Scott, 1806 edn., *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, iii, part III; in a contribution by Scott's collaborator John Leyden about a wicked Lord Soulis who was an anti-hero of folk tradition, boiled alive on the Nine-Stane Rig.

Lord Hailes, 1776, 274.

Parish of Saltoun, *OSA* x 1794, 251; 1975 edn., 599.

George Chalmers, *Caledonia*, 1st edn. vol. 2, 1810, 529 n. (c). Also (with different punctuation) in *Caledonia*, new edn., vol. 4, 1889, 529.

John Martine, 1894, Parish of Saltoun in *Reminiscences and Notices of Ten Parishes of the County of Haddington*, 17; new edn. 185 n.

Charters from 1093–1371 referring to Saltoun can be traced through the POMS database.

Margaret Wyllie, 1986.

**Scoughall**

*Scuhale* 1093–94, charter of King Duncan to the monks of Durham, William Angus, 1925–26 (includes facsimile).

*Scugg-hall* 1590s Pont/Hondius.

Alex Woolf, in Anne Crone et al., 2016, ch. 7.4, 168.

**Seton**

*Setune* 1177 x 1185 *RRS* ii no. 200. William I confirms to Philip of Seton the land which belonged to his father, namely Seton, Winton and Winchburgh (Hac Carta mea Confirmasse Philippo de *Setune* terram que fuit patris sui . scilicet *Setune*. / Wintune. / Wincelburh.)

Sir Richard Maitland, 1829, 15–16, 49–51, 75, 89.

George Chalmers, *Caledonia*, 1st edn., vol. 1, 517. Also in 2nd edn., vol. 2, 517.

Lawrie *ESC*, 424.

### **Skateraw**

*Skaitraw* 1545–46 *RMS* iii no. 3199 n.1 (Alex. Litsair in *Skaitraw*).

*Sketraw* 1682 Adair manuscript map *East Lothian*, showing a settlement symbol and also the harbour and St Dynnies (St Denis) chapel on the point.

*Sketraw* and *Skeatraw* 1752–55 *Roy Lowlands*.

*Skitraw* 1736 Adair *East Lothian* (printed version).

*OSA* Parish of Oldhamstocks vii 1793, 407; new edn., 535.

### **Skedsbush**

*Sketbuss* 1590s Pont/Hondius 1633.

*PNF* 5, 499, \**skeith*.

Diana Whaley, 2017.

### **Smeaton**

Near East Linton: *Smethetun* 1165 x 1214 *East Lothian Deeds* no. 2, 'half of the estate of Smeaton' (meditatem ville de *Smethetun*).

Near Dalkeith: *Smithetun* 1150 x 1152 (probably 1150), *Chrs. David I* no. 172, p. 176, last line. *Dunf. Reg.* no. 2.

### **Spartleton**

*Sperteld(u)n* 1182 SRO CH7/3, 'shielings namely Sperteldun' (scalingas scilicet Sperteld(u)n). Original charter. Confirmation from Pope Lucius III to Kelso Abbey. Original MS A; 'u' supplied from MS B, a copy of A. Printed in *Scotia Pontificia* no. 114; *Sperteld(u)n* mistranscribed as *Sperceld(u)n*.

### **Spott**

*Spot* 1153 x 1159, *Melrose Liber* i no. 6. Original charter. Confirmation by Earl Gospatric III to Melrose Abbey of lands granted to them by his father. For translation and dates see Hamilton, 2010, 61.

### **St Baldred**

*Aberdeen Breviary*, 70–73, 325.

Peter Godman, 1982, 105.

*OSNB* East Lothian 1853–54 St Baldred's Boat OS1/15/26/20.

*OSNB* East Lothian 1853–54 St Baldred's Cradle OS1/15/34/4.

St Baldred's Cave: George Sligo, 1857, 354.

### **St Clement's Wells**

*St Clements Wells Distillery* 1799 Forrest.

*OSA*, Parish of Tranent x 1794, 87; new edn., 622.

### **St Germain's**

*de sancto Germano* 1207 x 1213

*Dunf. Reg.* no. 155, p. 90, 'Ralph prior of St Germain's' (Radulph priore de *sancto Germano*). Date from Macquarrie 1982, 2. Quotation *ibid*.

James VI 1599 charter, *RMS* vi no. 986.

**St Laurence House Burn**

*hospitalis Sancti Laurencii* 1312, 'to the master of the hospital of St Laurence at Haddington, twenty shillings from the charitable grant of this kind' (Magistro *hospitalis Sancti Laurencii* de Haddington de huiusmodi elemosina per annum, xx s.) 1312 *Cal. Docs. Scot.* iii 405.

*Saint Laurencehouse* 1562, 'our lands commonly known as St Laurence House' (terre nostre de *Saint Laurencehous* vulgo nuncupate) *Liber Conventus S. Katherine Senensis* no. IX, 52.  
D.E. Easson, 1955.

**Standingstone**

*Standingstone* 1853–55 OS Six-inch 1st edn. Haddingtonshire Sheet 10.

'Fragment of the Life of S. Kentigern', in Alexander Penrose Forbes, ed., 1874.  
Alan Macquarrie, 1997, 120.

*Canmore* ID 56405 Standingstone Farm; *Canmore* ID 56410 The Loth Stone.

**Stenton**

*Steintun* 1153 x 1159, *Melrose Liber* no. 6. Original charter. Confirmation by Earl Gospatric III to Melrose Abbey of lands granted to them by his father (Gospatric II, d. c. 1138). 'Hartside and Spott: by the rightful boundaries between them and Stenton, which they had in the time of King David and my father' (hertesheued et spot per suas rectas diuisas inter se et inter *Steintun*). Translation and dates from Elsa Hamilton 2010, 61.

*OSA* for the parish of Stenton, 1st edn. vol. 3, 231–32; 1975 edn. vol. 2, p. 616.

**Tantallon**

*dentalonne* c. 1370s Gough Map.

**Tranent**

*Treuernent* 1141 x 1147 Thor' de *Treuernent*, *Chrs. David I*. Original charter.

*Trauernant* 1153 x 1159 ecclesiam de *Trauernant* *RRS* i, no. 127. Original charter.

**Traprain**

*Trepprane*, *Trepprene* 1329–71 (totum tenementum nostrum de *Trepprane*, etc., unacum monte de *Dumpeldar*, etc.) (pro dicto tenemento de *Trepprene* unacum dicto monte de *Dumpeldar* et aysiamentis communie nostre de Lambermore.), *RMS* i App. 1 no. 117.

Watson *CPNS*, 345.

**Tyne**

*Tyne fl.* 1590s Pont/Hondius. *Fl.* is Latin *fluvius* 'stream, river'.

*BLITON* under \**ti-*.

**Tynninghame**

*Tinningaham*, 11th cent., copied later 12th cent., *HSC*, p. 46, 'and all the land which pertains to the monastery of Saint Balthere, which is called *Tinningaham*, from Lombormore to Esce muthe' (et tota terra quae pertinet ad monasterium Sancti Balthere, quod uocatur *Tinningaham*, a Lombormore usque ad Esce muthe.) Dates from *HSC*, 35,19; text and translation from *HSC*, 46–47.

**Ugston**

*Ugstoun* 1478 *Yester Writs* no. 186.

*Hugstoun* 1579 *RMS* iv no. 2877 (terras de Alderstoun inter *Hugstoun* et Burheid).

POMS lists 473 people called Hugh between 1093 and 1371.

**Wallyford**

*Walford* 12th cent, copied 13th cent, *Dunf. Reg.* no. 301, p. 191, line 10 'the boundary of Tranent beside Wallyford' (diuisam de *Trauernenth* iuxta *Walford*).

*Wallyfurd* 1561 *Dunf. Reg.* p. 446, *Rentale de Dunfermelyn* (Item the colpoitt of Wallyfurd to put ane man y<sup>t</sup>till for wtaking of ye thrid).

**Whitecraig**

*Quhytecraig* 1628 *Quhytecraig*, apud Inveresk, *RMS* viii no. 1339 (cum gramine et pastura in *lie hauch* de Inveresk [inter finum *venelle* et *lie Quhytecraig*]). Latin *gramine* 'grass, pasturage'; ME *venelle* 'lane, alley'.

*Whitecraig* 1908, OS 6-inch Edinburghshire IV.15, revised 1906, pub. 1908.

*Le Wyteside* c. 1235 *Dunf. Reg.* no. 186, p. 105, '60 acres in *the Whiteside*' (lx acras en *le Wyteside*). See also Dixon 1998–2011, 252.

*OSNB* Midlothian OS1/11/19/16, White Craigs.

**Whittingehame**

capella de *Whittingham* c. 1250 *St Andrew's Liber*.

**Winton**

*Wintune* 1177 x 1185 *RRS* ii no. 200; *Fraser Facsimiles* no. 10.

**Wolfstar**

*Ulstruthir* 1434 *Exchequer Rolls* iv 598 (de firmis duarum parcium ville de Elfyntoun et *Ulstruthir*, in warda ut supra.).

*Wolstruther* 1438 *Exchequer Rolls* v 62 (de firmis tenandie de Elfyntoun et *Wolstruther*).

*Foulstruther* 1627, *Reports on the state of certain parishes in Scotland*, 126. Also 1629, 1630, 1662, 1691, 1799, 1802.

*Wolfstar* and *Foulstruther* (farmhouse) 1853–54 *OSNB* East Lothian OS1/15/52/35, OS1/15/52/61. OS Six-inch 1st edn. Haddingtonshire Sheet 14.

*Wolfstar* late 19th cent. John Martine, *Reminiscences*, 1999 edn., 162, 'Wolfstar (formerly called Foulstruther)'.

**Yadlee**

*Zadlee* 1853–55 OS Six-inch Haddingtonshire Sheet 16.

*OSNB* East Lothian 1853–54 OS1/15/4/21.

Martine, *Reminiscences*, 1999 edn., 220.

**Yellowcraig**

*Yellow Craig* 1682 Adair.

Martine, *Reminiscences*, 1999 edn., 103.

**Yester and the Goblin Ha'**

*Jhestrith* 1166 x 1171, probably 1166, *RRS* ii no. 48. Original charter. Confirmation by William I to Hugh Giffard. Printed *Yester Writs* no. 1.

*Jestrith* 1250 x 1257, *Yester Writs* no. 16, 'the ford of the burn called Yester' (vado rivoli qui vocatur Jestrith).  
 Sir Walter Scott, *Marmion*, 1809, 152; notes to Canto III, lvi–lvii, for John of Fordun extract.  
 MacGibbon and Ross vol. 1, 118.

## Abbreviations and bibliography

*Aberdeen Breviary* Alan Macquarrie, Rachel Butter, Simon Taylor, Gilbert Márkus, *Legends of Scottish saints: readings, hymns and prayers for the commemorations of Scottish saints in the Aberdeen Breviary*, Dublin 2012.

Adair 1682 *East Lothian / authore John Adair*, manuscript map, maps.nls.uk.

Adair 1736 *A map of East Lothian / survey'd by J. Adair*, printed map, maps.nls.uk.

William Angus, 1925–26, 'Two Early East Lothian Charters', *Trans. ELAFNS* 1, part 2, 5–11.

*APS Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*.

Armstrong 1773 Andrew Armstrong and Mostyn Armstrong, *Map of the three Lothians*, maps.nls.uk.

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OS Ordnance Survey

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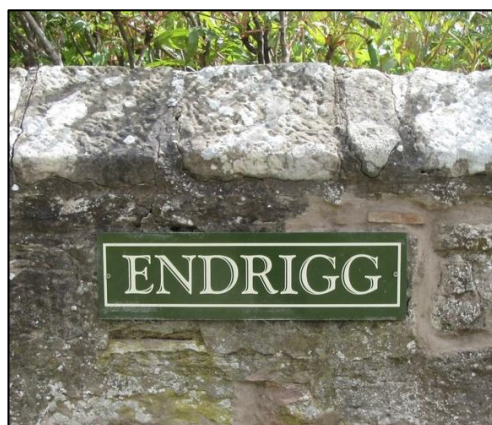
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Endrigg, Scots 'strip of land at the end'