

# FINDING THE FIELD-NAMES OF BORGUE



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*



GALLOWAY AND  
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE  
BIOSPHERE



**HERITAGE**  
FUND



**INSPIRATION**

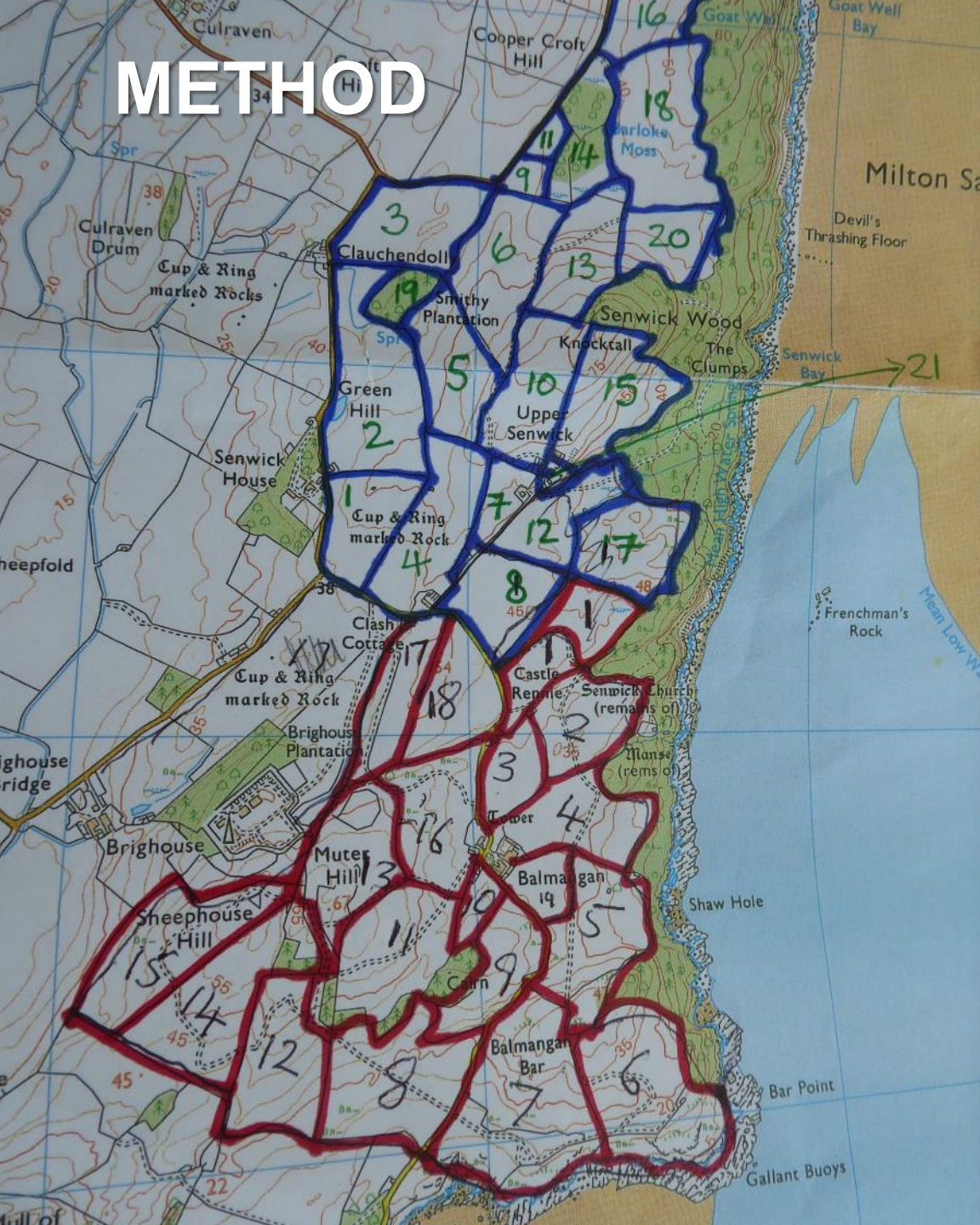
# CONTENTS.

OBJECTIVE		ARABLE			MEADOW			PASTURE			TOTAL			
		ACRES	ROODS	FALLS	ACRES	ROODS	FALLS	ACRES	ROODS	FALLS	ACRES	ROODS	FALLS	
1	West Whitehill	13	1	26	"	"	"	0	3	20	14	1	6	
2	Mid Whitehill	15	1	0	"	"	"	"	"	"	15	1	0	
3	North Whitehill	12	2	"	"	"	"	0	1	3	12	3	3	
4	South Whitehill	12	3	"	"	"	"	0	1	0	13	"	"	
5	Little Yard	18	"	"	"	"	"	13	NX/60281/47649			8.47		
6	High Croft	10	3	16	"	"	"	14	NX/60295/48332			1.06		
7	East Doonyard	10	2	"	"	"	"	15	NX/60314/47354			4.14		
8	West Doonyard	11	"	"	"	"	"	16	NX/60322/47393			0.15		
9	North Whasney	15	0	4	"	"	"	17	NX/60372/48161			8.42		
10	South Whasney	15	2	20	"	"	"	18	NX/60413/47388			2.59		
11	Broad Meadow	2	"	"	12	"	"	19	NX/60425/48338			1.06		
12	Calfward, including Houses and Yards	6	3	0	"	"	"	20	NX/60469/47950			10.19		
13	Low Croft	14	"	"	"	"	"	21	NX/60502/47563			5.21		
14	Barr	19	1	22	"	"	"	22	NX/60642/47854			5.95		
	Houses, Steads, and Yards							23	NX/60683/48505			5.09		
								24	NX/60700/48207			6.23		
								25	NX/60731/47470			9.51		
		177	0	8	12			26	NX/60739/48989			4.77		
15	Wood 5, 2, 20 Calfward Do. 0, 3, 0							27	NX/60794/48441			1.59		
	Moss covered with Water													
	Toll Road											2	0	0
	Total											235	3	31

# VOLUNTEERS



# METHOD



## Balmangan Farm field names

- 1 Castle Rennie
- 2 Graveyard Field
- 3 The Meadow (cut grass)
- 4 Paradise
- 5 Shaw Hole (includes 19 The Campsite)
- 6 Back Bar
- 7 Front Bar

## Balmangan Farm Field Names

### *Balmangan*

This is surely \**baile [nam] mangan*\*, 'farm of (the) young deer'. *Mangan* are specifically yearling fawns, 'brockets'. Maybe this was a deer-park? There is another Balmangan, near Dundrennan.

### *1 Castle Rennie*

As well as a field-name, this is the name of a small house on current OS maps, apparently corresponding to Glebe Cottage on the 1<sup>st</sup> ed. OS map and 1851 Census. It stands with a tower garden where a track crossed from Graveyard Field (2, see below). The dwelling was *Castle Rainy* in the 1881 Census.

'Castle', and Gaelic *caiseal*, are found quite often in names for locations where there is no castle: in some cases, there may be a castle-like rock formation, or some pre- or early historic enclosure and/or remains of buildings, in others it may even be ironic, a name for a very modest dwelling, which may be the case here.

It may have been named after a man bearing the surname Rennie, fairly common in Galloway; unfortunately the 'Ag. Lab.' living in the cottage in 1881 is un-named. From Ó Ráighne, the surname is spelt Rainey, Reaney, etc., but Rennie is the usual form in our region.

However, if the name is much older, it might have originally been Gaelic \**Caiseal [na] raithnich* 'castle of (the) bracken'; the field appears from the maps to be a rough one, with stony outcrops, many pits and diggings, and a scrubby patch at the upper end. Drumranny and Kilranny near Girvan are likely to have this element, though Kilrenny in Fife is more



BALMANGAN FARM  
FIELD NAMES



## PARADISE

A name for fields of good grass or crops. Some early recorded examples refer to gardens (e.g. at Pontefract W Yorks in 1424).

Possibly there was a garden by the Tower of Balmangan in the 16th Century, though it may have been much smaller than this field.

**COLLABORATION**

	A	B	C	D
59	Back Sheephouse Hill	Sheephouse	Balmangan	Older Scots scheip hous is rec
60	Back Stackyard	Back Stackyard	Southpark	
61	<b>BALMANGAN FARM</b>		<b>BALMANGAN</b>	This is surely *baile [nam] ma
62	Balmangan Field (cut grass)	Balmangan Field	Balmangan	This meadow is cut off by a st
63	Bank		Cally Mains	
64	Bar / Barr		Barlocco	The name in the list from Jimr
65	Bar Flats		Borness	See Back Bar
66	Bar Hill Wood		Cally Park	
67	Bar Shore		Barlocco	The name in the list from Jimr
68	<b>BARBEY FARM</b>		<b>BARBEY / MUIRHEAD</b>	
69	<b>BARHARROW FARM</b>		<b>BARHARROW</b>	
70	Barharrow Field	Barharrow Field	Conchieton	
71	<i>Barlocco</i>		<i>Barlocco</i>	<i>Barlocco, with Barlocco Isle, in</i>
72	<b>BARLOCCO FARM</b>		<b>BARLOCCO</b>	Barlocco, with Barlocco Isle, w
73	Barlocco Shore		Barlocco	Old English pearroc was origin
74	Barmagachan (+34)		Ingleston	A small and a larger field adja
75	Barmagachan (+38)		Ingleston	A small and a larger field adja
76	<b>BARMAGACHAN FARM</b>		<b>BARMAGACHAN</b>	Barmagachan in Kirkandrews
77	Barn Field	Barnfield	Rattra	The three fields to the north c
78	Barn Heugh Whitehill	Barn Heugh	Ingleston	Barn Heugh is the name of the
79	Barney	Barney Field	Barmagachan / Tonguecroft	
80	Barnfield	Barnfield	Barharrow	
81	Barnfield - there is a chief's grave, with stone circle and headstone	Barnfield	Conchieton	
82	Bay Field	Bay Field	Ross Farm	A club-shaped field with curvi
83	Beeches		Clauchan of Girthon, now Barharrow	
84	Behind cottage		STANDINGSTONE	

# FIELD NAMES IN BORGUE PARISH

by

*Adam Gray (1999)*

## OTHER RESOURCES

BALMANGAN. 286 acres.

Sannak Grange	1458	ER vi
Grange of Sannak	1480	ER ix
Balmangane	1498	ADC
Balmangan	1499-1500	ADC

These lands are identified as Grange of Senwick (Inquis. ad Capell. 1606). The Gaelic name appears to derive from *baile-mangain*, homestead of the innkeeper, possibility catering for ships putting in at Balmangan Bay. (Brooke).

'The name appears to be from the Gaelic *baile-mangan*, the suffix being a corruption of *ma-ghamhuinn*, a bear; in the nominative plural, *ma-ghamhnan*. foe bears. We have thus the resort of the wild boar, with which animals Galloway was overrun at one time. (McKerlie, (1877); vol.3; p.203)

Grange of Senwick/ Balmangan was in the former parish of Senwick.

- 34 Balmangan Bar
- 35 Langlanas
- 38 Back Muutehill
- 48 Sheephouse Hill
- 48A Sheephouse
- 49 Mutehill
- 50 The Cairn
- 52 The Paddock
- 56 Barnit Wood
- 57 Shawhole
- 59a Stackyard
- 59 Paradise
- 60 Meadow
- 61 Orchardfield
- 77 The Clash
- 80 Balmangan Field
- 83 Castlerainy
- 84 Kirkyard



PAPLES



# BORELAND

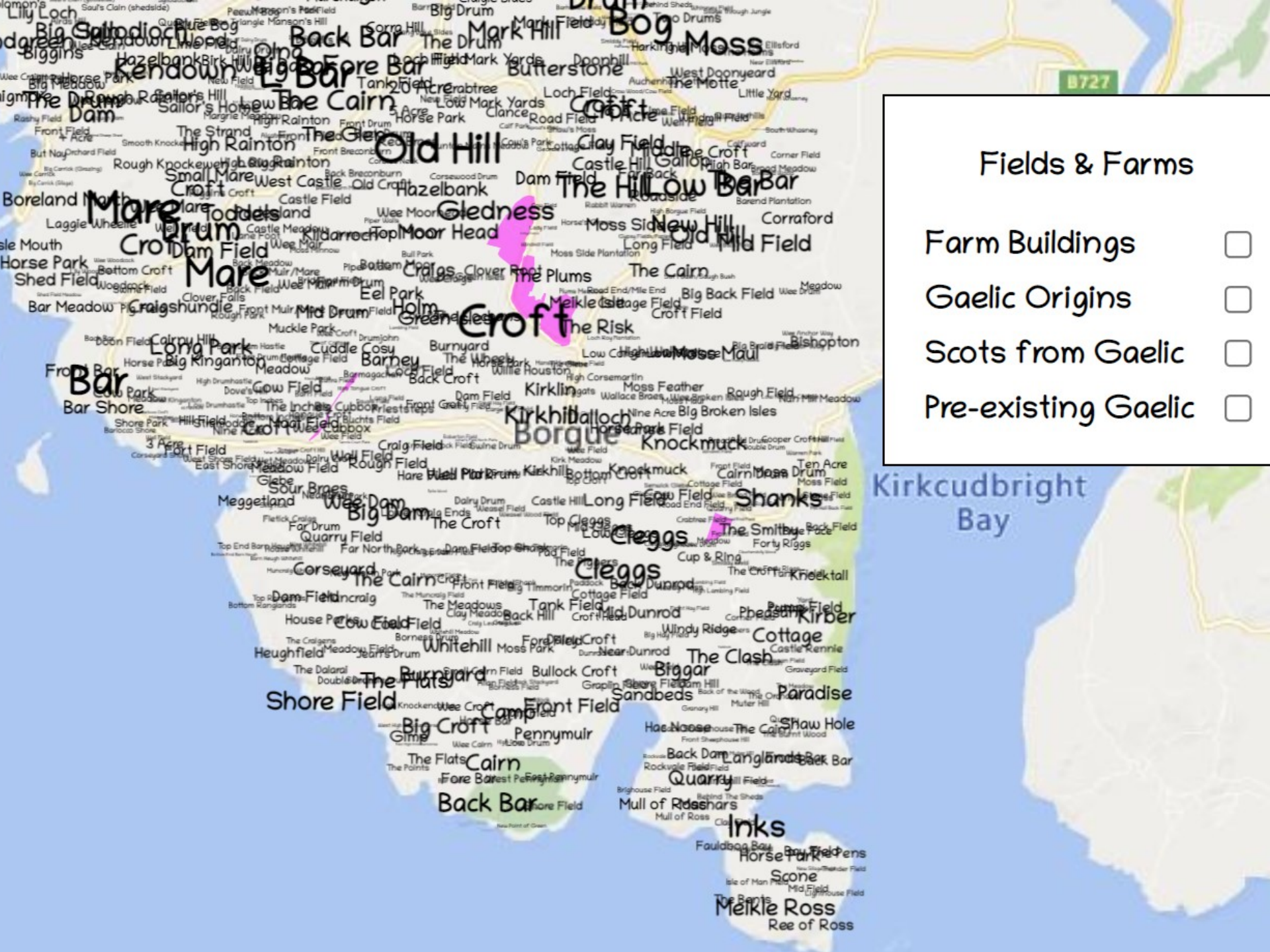


CONTENTS.

NO.	ACRES	SQUARE	PERCHES	TOTAL
1. The Bar	0.4	10	0	10
2. The Wood	0.4	10	0	10
3. Broad Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
4. Little Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
5. Doon Yard	0.4	10	0	10
6. The Trilium	0.4	10	0	10
7. Whinout	0.4	10	0	10
8. New Yard	0.4	10	0	10
9. Merry Yard	0.4	10	0	10
10. Lime Field	0.4	10	0	10
11. High Borgue Cottage	0.4	10	0	10
12. Boreland Mote	0.4	10	0	10
13. Motte Doon	0.4	10	0	10
14. West Doonyard	0.4	10	0	10
15. Doon of Boreland Quarterhills	0.4	10	0	10
16. The Motte	0.4	10	0	10
17. The Bar	0.4	10	0	10
18. The Wood	0.4	10	0	10
19. Broad Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
20. Little Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
21. Doon Yard	0.4	10	0	10
22. The Trilium	0.4	10	0	10
23. Whinout	0.4	10	0	10
24. New Yard	0.4	10	0	10
25. Merry Yard	0.4	10	0	10
26. Lime Field	0.4	10	0	10
27. High Borgue Cottage	0.4	10	0	10
28. Boreland Mote	0.4	10	0	10
29. Motte Doon	0.4	10	0	10
30. West Doonyard	0.4	10	0	10
31. Doon of Boreland Quarterhills	0.4	10	0	10
32. The Motte	0.4	10	0	10
33. The Bar	0.4	10	0	10
34. The Wood	0.4	10	0	10
35. Broad Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
36. Little Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
37. Doon Yard	0.4	10	0	10
38. The Trilium	0.4	10	0	10
39. Whinout	0.4	10	0	10
40. New Yard	0.4	10	0	10
41. Merry Yard	0.4	10	0	10
42. Lime Field	0.4	10	0	10
43. High Borgue Cottage	0.4	10	0	10
44. Boreland Mote	0.4	10	0	10
45. Motte Doon	0.4	10	0	10
46. West Doonyard	0.4	10	0	10
47. Doon of Boreland Quarterhills	0.4	10	0	10
48. The Motte	0.4	10	0	10
49. The Bar	0.4	10	0	10
50. The Wood	0.4	10	0	10
51. Broad Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
52. Little Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
53. Doon Yard	0.4	10	0	10
54. The Trilium	0.4	10	0	10
55. Whinout	0.4	10	0	10
56. New Yard	0.4	10	0	10
57. Merry Yard	0.4	10	0	10
58. Lime Field	0.4	10	0	10
59. High Borgue Cottage	0.4	10	0	10
60. Boreland Mote	0.4	10	0	10
61. Motte Doon	0.4	10	0	10
62. West Doonyard	0.4	10	0	10
63. Doon of Boreland Quarterhills	0.4	10	0	10
64. The Motte	0.4	10	0	10
65. The Bar	0.4	10	0	10
66. The Wood	0.4	10	0	10
67. Broad Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
68. Little Meadow	0.4	10	0	10
69. Doon Yard	0.4	10	0	10
70. The Trilium	0.4	10	0	10
71. Whinout	0.4	10	0	10
72. New Yard	0.4	10	0	10
73. Merry Yard	0.4	10	0	10
74. Lime Field	0.4	10	0	10
75. High Borgue Cottage	0.4	10	0	10
76. Boreland Mote	0.4	10	0	10
77. Motte Doon	0.4	10	0	10
78. West Doonyard	0.4	10	0	10
79. Doon of Boreland Quarterhills	0.4	10	0	10
80. The Motte	0.4	10	0	10

# DOON YEARD





### Fields & Farms

- Farm Buildings
- Gaelic Origins
- Scots from Gaelic
- Pre-existing Gaelic



Fields & Farms

Farm Buildings

Gaelic Origins

Scots from Gaelic

Pre-existing Gaelic



Close Buildings

Origins

from Gaelic

from Gaelic

## The Bents

**Description:** On the 1st ed. OS map, the land on the lower slopes of Meikle Ross running down to the sea-cliff from 'Fallbogue' round to the Ree of Ross shows no divisions into fields.

**Analysis:** This roughly triangular field on the west side is actually named on current OS maps, implying that The Bents is a location name above the rank of field-name. The Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue tells us that bent in Scotland is 'A strong, coarse, or wiry variety of grass (esp. the sea reed-grass), growing upon moorlands or links; formerly used for strewing on the floors of houses or other buildings. The word, from Old English *baenet*, occurs pretty commonly throughout



RASHY





MEIKLE ROSS 1780s





# PAINTING


# EXHIBITION

**FIELD NAME: FORT**  
FIELD NAME CLASSIFICATION: HISTORICAL HERITAGE

The remains of Castle Haven Dun sit on a rocky point on the south side of Fort Field. The hill is named after this fortified homestead occupied from about 2,000 years ago.

It is known locally as 'The Borg', a place name derived from an Old Norse word for fort. The structure you see today was excavated and partly reconstructed in 1983 by James Brown, the owner of Knockbrex Estate and antiquarian. The excavations revealed the layout of the structure and the restoration faithfully followed the plan and incorporated the unexcavated walls which stood up to 1.4 metres high. What you see today is the product of an enthusiastic antiquarian combined with the skills of local drystone dykers.

James Brown was also responsible for the tower on the skyline, a model dairy which has recently been converted into holiday accommodation and is locally known as Coo Palace.



**FIELD NAME: WOOD**  
FIELD NAME CLASSIFICATION: NATURAL HERITAGE

The wood is a remnant of the original woodland that once covered the area. It is a mix of native and introduced species, and is a good example of a semi-natural woodland.

The wood is a mix of native and introduced species, and is a good example of a semi-natural woodland.



**FIELD NAME: WATER**  
FIELD NAME CLASSIFICATION: NATURAL HERITAGE

The water is a remnant of the original watercourse that once flowed through the area. It is a good example of a semi-natural watercourse.



# Out of the world and into Borgue – field by field!

**DURING** the last two years, a small team of local volunteers have been working on the Borgue Field-name Project – and a recent review of their work has shown that 1000 field-names have been gathered and analysed, 800 mapped and more than 70 people interviewed so far.

Now, this dedication by volunteers is available for all to see at a fascinating exhibition hosted by the Mill on the Fleet, at Gatehouse-of-

Fleet.

Names given to places can provide fascinating clues about people and location, past and present, and individual field names are part of the culture of a working countryside.

Often passed on by word of mouth from generation to generation, many are named in a very practical way.

A field called 'Twenty-one Acre', for example is simply a reference to size, while names such as 'Cushie Wood' put a spotlight on changes

in the landscape that occur over tens or even hundreds of years. In this case, the field name identifies a long-felled woodland that appears to have been the haunt of the 'cushat' or 'cushie-doo' – the Scots words for a wood pigeon.

Other field names are inspired by the vegetation: a field called 'Rashie' refers to a wet field of rushes that has since been drained to provide good pasture.

Some names such as 'Stackyard' appear on many



**THE CUDDLECOSY** field – handy for the odd courting couple!

farms, while others are unique and part of very local traditions. A perfect example of this is 'Cuddlecosy', a name given both to the field and the adjacent lane located on a circular route from Borgue village.

With numerous gorse knolls and a convenient distance from the village, it is a place where courting couples could rest awhile away from prying eyes!

The volunteers behind the Biosphere Borgue Field-Name Project are aiming to

discover, analyse and map all the field names in the peninsula and would like to extend their studies by hearing from anyone who can shed some light on those that are currently missing.

As sometimes happens in modern times, when ownership changes fields become known by numbers instead.

Anyone who would like to get involved can get in touch with PLACE's project officer, Nic Coombey (nic@gsabiosphere.org.uk).

More information about the PLACE in the Biosphere Project is available at [www.gsabiosphere.org.uk](http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk) and the Field-Names Exhibition is running at The Mill on the Fleet until the end of July.

■ The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere was the first in Scotland and is part of a family of more than 700 such biospheres worldwide.

For more info  
contact Maree



**WEBSITE:**

**<https://www.borgue.org/>**

**CUSHIE WOOD**

