

Gaelic in the Landscape

The Rough Bounds of Lochaber

A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre

Garbh-Chrìochan Loch Abar

Dr Jacob King and Dr Heather Clyne



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland

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Introduction

Rathad nan Eilean, or the Road to the Isles, is the route from Fort William to Mallaig, along which people from the mainland would make their way to the Hebrides. This booklet focuses on places along this route with detours down Loch Shiel, up Glen Finnan and round Ru Arisaig. Rather than discussing better known names of larger localities, this booklet looks at names of smaller places. Many of them are now deserted or are not marked on modern maps.

Some are on maps but have different forms from those known locally.

The Road to the Isles begins in Fort William and leads west from there past Loch Eil. At the end of Loch Eil there flow two rivers, Fionn Lighe and Dubh Lighe, though these are called locally **Dubhailidh** and **Fionnailidh**. There is a watershed here and on the other side the rivers feed Loch Shiel.

Ro-ràdh

'S e Rathad nan Eilean a chanar ris an t-slighe eadar an Gearasdan agus Mallaig, agus sin an rathad a ghabhadh daoine air an slighe dha na h-Eileanan Siar. Tha an leabhran seo a' coimhead air àitichean air an t-slighe, agus cuideachd sìos Loch Seile, suas Gleann Fhionnainn agus timcheall Rubha Àrasaig. An àite a bhith a' bruidhinn air ainmean àitichean nas motha air a bheil sinn eòlach, tha an leabhran seo a' coimhead air ainmean cuid dhe na h-àitichean as lugha. Tha mòran dhiubh a-nis fàs, no chan eil iad a' nochdadh air mapaichean an-diugh. Tha cuid air mapaichean, ach le dreach eile dhe na h-ainmean seach na h-ainmean a tha aithnichte san sgìre.

Tha Rathad nan Eilean a' tòiseachadh sa Ghearasdan agus a' dol chun an iar seachad air Loch Iall. Aig ceann Loch Iall, tha an dà abhainn, Fionn Lighe agus Dubh Lighe, ged a chanar **Dubhailidh** agus **Fionnailidh** riutha san sgìre. Tha druim-uisge an seo, agus air an taobh eile, tha na h-aibhnichean a' dol a-steach a Loch Seile.

Loch nan Cilltean
(the loch of the churches)

A steam train on the Fort
William to Mallaig line
Trèana-smùide eadar an
Gearasdan agus Mallaig



Glen Finnan

It is at Glen Finnan or **Gleann Fhionnainn** that our journey starts properly. This glen runs south to the head of Loch Shiel. The River Finnan feeds the loch along with Abhainn Shlatach and Callop River. Starting some way up the glen, there is **Leum an t-Saighdeir**, 'the soldier's leap'. The story is a familiar one: A Jacobite soldier was captured by redcoats at the head of Loch Arkaig; he was escorted south

into Glen Finnan. When they were passing the point now called Leum an t-Saighdeir he broke away and leapt over the river. The other men were too afraid to follow. He disappeared over a hill to the east which was since named **Tom an t-Saighdeir**, 'the soldier's hill'. Similar stories occur a number of times around Scotland, and indeed the world, most famously of course at the Pass of Killiecrankie.



Leac na h-Uinneige
(the slab of the window)

Just south of Corryhully is **Leac na h-Uinneige** or 'the slab of the window', where over the millenia a hole has been worn into the stone by the water resembling a window. Coming down past **An Garbh-Buaile**, 'the rough fold' off to the east is **An t-Eas Smùid**, 'the smoky falls'. When it is windy and wet, (as it so very often is in Glen Finnan) this waterfall blows back up vertically, like a tower of smoke. **An Gabhal Mòr**, 'the big fork' is a holding park for sheep or cattle. It was possibly moved for the railway.

Looming over the visitor centre to the world famous Glenfinnan Monument is **Tòrr a' Choit**, 'the hill of the coracle, or small boat'. *Coit* can mean a hut or bothy, but only when feminine, and it is masculine here. There is another Tòrr a' Choit on Loch Shiel. The monument itself stands on **Dail an Tùir**, 'haugh of the tower' a name which must be more recent than the monument itself. On the other side of the monument there is also **Dail an Naoimh**, 'field of the saint' in the immediate vicinity. There is a very old interment site here. It was sometimes a staging post for shipment to St Finnan's Isle.



Dail an Tùir (the haugh of the tower)



Gleann Fhionnainn

'S ann an **Gleann Fhionnainn** a tha an turas againn a' tòiseachadh ceart. Tha an gleann seo a' ruith gu deas gu ceann Loch Seile. Tha Abhainn Fhionnainn a' dol dhan loch còmhla ri Abhainn Shlatach agus Abhainn Chalpa. A' tòiseachadh pìos suas an gleann, tha **Leum an t-Saighdeir**. Tha sinn eòlach air an sgeulachd: Chaidh saighdear Seumasach a ghlacadh leis na còtaichean-dearga aig ceann Loch Airceag, agus chaidh a thoirt gu deas a Ghleann Fhionnainn. Nuair a bha iad a' dol seachad air an àite ris an canar a-nis Leum an t-Saighdeir, fhuair e air falbh agus leum e thairis air an abhainn. Bha cus eagail air na fir eile airson a leantainn. Chaidh e à fianais a-null thar beinne chun an ear, agus on uair sin canar **Tom an t-Saighdeir** rithe. Gheibhear iomadh sgeulachd mar seo air feadh Alba, agus gu dearbh air feadh an t-saoghail. Tha an tè as ainmeile mu Bhealach Coille Chnagaidh.

Dìreach deas air Coire a' Chùilidh tha **Leac na h-Uinneige**, far a bheil uisge air toll coltach ri uinneag a dhèanamh sa chloich thar nam miltean bhliadhnaichean. A' tighinn a-nuas seachad air **an Garbh-Buaile**, tha **an t-Eas Smùid**, chun an ear. Nuair a bhios i fliuch, fiadhaich, (rud a bhios i glè thrìc ann an Gleann Fhionnainn) bidh an t-eas seo a' sruthadh air ais suas dìreach, coltach ri colbh toite. Bha **an Gabhal Mòr** na phàirc airson a bhith a' cumail chaorach no crodh. 'S dòcha gun deach a ghluasad airson an rèile.

Ag èirigh os cionn Ionad an Luchd-tadhail tha Carragh-cuimhne Ghleann Fhionnainn a tha cho ainmeil air feadh an t-saoghail, tha **Tòrr a' Choit**. B' e eathar beag a bh' ann an coit. Faodaidh coit a bhith

a' ciallachadh bothan nuair a tha am facal boireanta, ach tha e fireanta an seo. Tha àite eile air a bheil Tòrr a' Choit air Loch Seile. Tha an carragh-cuimhne fhèin air **Dail an Tùir**, ainm as cinnteach a tha nas ùire na an tùr fhèin. Air taobh eile a' charraigh-cuimhne tha **Dail an Naoimh**, gu math faisg. Tha làrach fìor sheann chlaidh an sin. Bha e aig aon uair na ionad-stad airson a bhith a' cur cuirp gu Eilean Naomh Fhionnainn.



An Gabhal Mòr
(the big fork or enclosure)

Dail an Naoimh
(the haugh of the saint)

Loch Shiel

We come now to **Loch Shiel**. There is an understanding that the name comes from a very old word meaning 'river, flowing one'. Whether this is correct or not, Loch Shiel is indeed very river-like; it is narrow, bordered by high mountains, and flows quite rapidly. Whilst on the loch one could be forgiven for thinking one was on a large river.

The name 'Shiel' is first on record in 732 AD in *The Life of St Columba*, a Latin text. The author mentions "other oak timbers were being towed by us from the mouth of the river Sale (*Flumen sale*) for the restoration of our monastery".¹ In the works of Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, the Jacobite bard of the '45 who was local to the area, the loch appears several times. In this poem called Fàilte na Mòr-thir, he mentions how Loch Shiel was used for fishing:

Abounding in nets, rods, tackle and trout
Is grey-green Shiel of the river-trout.²

In another poem 'the oak of Loch Shiel' is mentioned, a reference to the oak trees which grow on its banks.³

Today one might be forgiven for believing the area has never been much populated, but prior to the clearances in the 1840s there was much more industry and settlement than today. Early maps show

¹ Anderson & Anderson, p. 455.

² A. MacDonald, p. 36.

³ Ibid, p. 262.



Loch Seile

Tha sinn a-nis a' tighinn gu **Loch Seile**. Thathar a' tuigsinn gun tàinig an t-ainm bho fhior sheann fhacal a bha a' ciallachadh ni a tha a' sruthadh no abhainn. Co-dhiù tha sin ceart no nach eil, tha Abhainn Seile dha-riribh na h-abhainn chumhang le beanntan àrda mun cuairt oirre agus tha i a' sruthadh gu math luath. Nuair a tha thu air an loch, cha mhòr nach saoil thu gur ann air abhainn mhòr a tha thu.

Chaidh an t-ainm 'Seil' a chlàradh an toiseach ann an 732 AC anns an teacsa Laideann *The Life of St Columba*. Tha an t-ùghdar a' bruidhinn air "fiodh daraich a bhith ga tharraing bho bheul abhainn Sale (*Flumen sale*) airson a' mhanachainn a leasachadh".¹ Ann am bàrdachd Alasdair MhicMhaighstir Alasdair, bàrd gaisgeil Bliadhna Theàrlaich ann an 1745, agus a bhuineadh dhan sgìre, tha an loch a' nochdadh corra thuras. San dàn Fàilte na Mòr-thir, tha e ag ainmeachadh mar a bha Loch Seile ga chleachdadh airson iasgach:

'S lionach, slatach, cuibhleach, breacach
Seile ghlas nan samhnan.²

Ann an dàn eile, tha 'de dharach Locha Seile' a' nochdadh air sgàth nan craobhan-daraich a tha a' fàs air na bruaichean.³

¹ Anderson & Anderson, td. 455.

² A. MacDonald, td.3.

³ Ibid, td. 262.

An Garbh-Buaile
(the rough fold)

more settlements where there are now none. The industry of charcoal burning has left subtle traces along the shores of Loch Shiel; walls and burning platforms can be seen among other ruins by the careful observer. The platforms were used to make charcoal for the furnace in Bonawe to the south.

By the loch itself at the mouth of Callop River is Sgeir nan Ròn, known locally as **Sgeir an Ròin**, 'skerry of the seal(s)'. No seals have been seen here recently but used to be seen in days gone by. Now we take a trip down the north-west side of Loch Shiel as seen from the loch itself.

Glenfinnan Lodge Hotel is clearly visible from the loch. Roy's map calls this *Taynaslatich*, i.e. **Taigh na Slataich**, but another house has this name in modern times. Its construction was funded by Ailean an Òir, 'Allan of the gold' a man who made his fortune in the Jamaican plantations. It was a seminary for some time before being used briefly as a hunting lodge at the start of the Twentieth Century. *Slatach* means abounding in rods or twigs, which is consistent with the shrubby growths in the area. Nonetheless it is interesting to note that Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, in his quote above, uses the word to denote fishing rods. Abhainn Shlatach may have given its name to the house and nearby Camas nan Slataiche.

At **Port a' Bhàta Mhòir**, 'port of the big boat', an eight-oared boat used to put sport fishers ashore to fish in Loch na Sleubhaich. Prior to this a smaller boat had been dragged up to the hill loch to use for fishing on the loch.

Above the loch the map notes two cairns here: **Càrn MhicLabhraich** and **Càrn MhicCuaraig**, MacLaren's Cairn and Kennedy's Cairn respectively. It is not clear who these people were and it is possible some confusion on the map has created

Loch Shiel
Loch Seile





An-diugh, dh'fhaodadh duine a bhith dhen bheachd nach robh mòran sluaigh riamh an seo, ach ro àm nam fuadaichean sna 1840an, bha barrachd gnìomhachais agus barrachd tuineachaidh ann na th' ann an-diugh. Tha a' chiad mhapaichean a' sealltainn thuineachaidhean far nach eil gin an-diugh. Dh'fhàg gnìomhachas losgadh a' ghuaill-fhiodha beagan chomharran ri cladach Loch Seile; ma bheir thu sùil gheur air, chì thu ballachan agus ùrlaran losgaidh am measg thobhtaichean eile. Bha iad sin air an cleachdadh airson gual-fhiodh a dhèanamh dhan fhùirneis ann am Bun Atha gu deas.

Ris an loch fhèin aig beul Abhainn Chalpa, tha **Sgeir nan Ròn**, no **Sgeir an Ròin**, mar a chanar san sgìre. Chan fhacar ròin an seo o chionn greis, ach chleachd iad a bhith ann sna làithean a dh'fhalbh. Tha sinn a-nis a' dol a ghabhail cuairt sìos taobh an iar-thuath Loch Seile mar a chithear e bhon loch fhèin.

Tha Taigh-Òsta Ghleann Fhionnainn furasta fhaicinn às an loch. Air map Roy, tha e ainmichte mar *Taynaslatich* i.e. **Taigh na Slataich** ach an-diugh tha taigh eile ann leis an aon ainm. Chaidh an togalach a mhaoineachadh le Ailean an Òir, fear a rinn fhortan ann am planntachadh lameuga. Bha e na sheimeanairidh aig aon àm, agus bha e air a chleachdadh greiseag mar loidse-seilg ron chiad chogadh. Tha *slatach* a' ciallachadh àite le slatan no failleanan gu leòr, agus tha sin freagarrach air sgàth nam preas a tha a' fàs san àite. Tha e inntinneach ge-tà gu bheil Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair sa phios gu h-àrd a' cleachdadh an fhacail airson slatan-iasgaich. 'S dòcha gun d' fhuair an taigh agus Camas na Slataiche an ainm bho Abhainn Shlatach.

Glenfinnan Lodge Hotel
Taigh-Òsta Ghleann Fhionnainn



two names where there was once one. **Creag Anna** is a big cliff above Càrn MhicCuarraig and fortunately she is known locally. Anna was a MacKellag who lived nearby, tilled land up there and walked back and fore to her kin on the loch-side below.

A rocky outcrop quite visible from the loch is called on maps **Sgùrr an Tuirce**, although it is also known as **Sgùrr Tuirce** locally, which means 'boar peak'. As with most Highland mountains named after pigs, there is an Ossianic story associated with it. Uniquely perhaps, this does not claim to be the place of the death of Diarmid but instead related to an otherwise untold chapter in the story. Diarmaid and his men were chasing the huge tusked boar across Scotland. The beast came to the spot behind the prominent peak and slumped down behind it exhausted. This made a deep impression which can still be seen. When the hunters caught up, the boar took off again.

Going here from the legendary to the prosaic, between this spot and the bank of Loch Shiel, just at the foot of Sgùrr an Iubhair is **Clach a' Phuist**, 'the post-stone'. There was a 'post box' here of sorts, the shepherds from the two estates would leave post under this stone for each other.

On opposite sides of the loch are **Rubha an Èireannaich** and **Camas an Èireannaich**, 'the promontory and bay of the Irishman'. In some cases in Scotland, names such as these have been re-analysed from *eibhreannach*, 'wether goat'. Though there is no tradition of the origin of this name, there is a story about a local man Hugh MacLeod when he was a young man. His father had been away at the market, and was walking back, so Hugh and his brother thought they would row the boat out to meet him and save him the trip. They saw a man in a dark coat on Rubha an Èireannaich, and presumed it was him. All of a sudden the man walked across the loch

Sgùrr Tuirce
(boar peak)

Aig **Port a' Bhàta Mhòir**, bha bàta le ochd ràimh air a cleachdadh airson iasgairan spòrs a chur air tìr airson a dhol a dh'iasgach ann an Loch na Sleubhaich. Gu ruige sin, bha eathar na bu lugha air a slaodadh suas chun na loch-beinne airson iasgach air an loch.

Os cionn an locha tha dà chàrn a' nochdadh air a' mhap; **Càrn MhicLabhraich** agus **Càrn MhicCuarraig**. Chan eil e soilleir cò bh' annta sin, agus dh'fhaodadh gun do chruthaich am map dà ainm far nach robh ach aon uaireigin. 'S e bearradh mòr os cionn Càrn MhicCuarraig a th' ann an **Creag Anna** agus tha daoine san sgìre eòlach oirre sin. Bha Anna NicCeallaig a' fuireach faisg agus ag àiteach an fhearainn shuas an sin. Bhiodh i a' coiseachd air ais is air adhart gu càrdean a bha ri taobh na locha gu h-ìosal.

Tha creagan a chithear gu follaiseach bhon loch a' nochdadh air mapaichean mar **Sgùrr an Tuirce**, ged a chanar **Sgùrr Tuirce** san sgìre. Cleas a' mhòrchuid de bheanntan air a' Ghàidhealtachd a th' air an ainmeachadh air mucan, tha sgeulachd Oiseanach co-cheangailte ris. 'S dòcha gur e seo an aon àite nach eil ag ràdh gur ann an sin a chaochail Diarmaid; an àite sin tha e a-mach air pàirt nach deach aithris dhen sgeulachd. Bha Diarmaid agus na fir aige an

tòir air torc le tuisg mhòra air feadh Alba. Thàinig am beathach chun an àite air cùl an sgorra agus laigh e agus e air a chlaoidh. Rinn sin lag dhomhainn a chithear fhathast. Nuair a thàinig an luchd-seilg faisg, rinn e às a-rithist.

A' dol bho sgeulachd gu seirbheis, eadar an àite seo agus bruach Loch Seile, dìreach an cois Sgùrr an Iubhair tha **Clach a' Phuist**. Bha seòrsa de 'bhogsa-puist' an seo, agus bhiodh na ciobairean bhon dà oighreachd a' fàgail litrichean fon chloich seo. Feumaidh gum biodh post gan togail uaireigin eile.

Air gach taobh dhen loch tha **Rubha an Èireannaich** agus **Camas an Èireannaich**. Aig aon uair ann an Alba, chaidh ainmean mar seo ath-mhìneachadh bho *eibhreannach*, a tha a' ciallachadh gobhar air a spoth. Ged nach eil dad air aithris mu eachdraidh an ainm seo, tha sgeulachd ann mu fhear Ùisdean MacLeòid nuair a bha e òg. Bha athair air a bhith air falbh aig a' mhargaid agus bha e a' coiseachd air ais. Smaoinich Ùisdean agus a bhràthair gun deigheadh iad na choinneamh leis an eathar gus nach biodh aige ri coiseachd. Chunnaic iad fear le còta dorcha aig Rubha an Èireannaich, agus bha dùil aca gur e an athair a bh' ann. Gu h-obann, choisich an duine thairis air an loch agus

and disappeared onto the other side! They were so scared they turned the boat round and rowed back home leaving the father to walk back. They guessed it must have been the Irishman or *Éireannach* referred to in the name.

Rubha na Càraid, 'promontory of the couple' has a story that two lovers drowned by this spot, but whether by accident or on purpose is not known.

At the foot of Glen Aladale, on the north side of the river is the other **Tòrr a' Choit**. On Roy's map a name is marked here *Saloues* which may represent the small settlement known as Glenaladale. The meaning is unknown however. On the other side of the river mouth Roy's map shows a settlement called *Dalroyd*, which is known today as **Dail Ròid**. *Roid* means bog-myrtle which grows here, thus 'bog-myrtle haugh'.

Near *Dalroyd*, and likewise unmarked on modern maps is **Dail nam Maigneach**, 'haugh of the hares'. The land here was good for keeping cattle.



Glen Aladale
Gleann Alladail

Glen Aladale or **Gleann Alladail** is a Norse name in origin. There is another Alladale in Easter Ross and they possibly both derive from *Ali*, a Norse personal name, thus meaning 'Ali's valley'. This has nothing to do with anyone called Alasdair! Further up this glen is Màm na Luirg on maps, known locally as **Màm Lorgan**. This was the shortest and easiest way up to the west-side shielings for the glen folk. There was no definite path but a multiplicity of tracks and flat and step-like pieces of ground.

Finally we turn around at Gaskan or **An Gasgan** a narrow strip of land meaning 'the fish's tail' from its shape. Coming up the south-east side of the loch we first come to Gorstanvorrán or **Goirtean (a') Mhoirein**. This is the enclosure of MacMhoirein or just Moirean, known in English as Murray. Indeed an old map from 1733 gives the name as *Gorten Murry*⁴. Roy's map gives the name as *Loinavoren*, probably Lòn (a') Mhoirein, 'Murray's meadow'. Dòmhnall Dubh Làidir MacMharais or Donald MacVarish, a native of Moidart, lived there with his brother. Dòmhnall had been working away from the place for months. On his return he decided to play a trick on his brother. He banged on the door, but when his brother came to try to open the door from the inside there was no way he could pull the door open, no matter how he tried because Donald was holding it shut. He cried out "That can be only be one man; that must be my brother!"

Scamodale or **Sgamadal** is the other Norse name and sits opposite Glen Alladale. There are a number of places with this name, one nearby by Loch Morar, two on Skye, one in Lorn and one in Shetland. It may derive from Old Norse *skam*, 'short', thus meaning 'short valley'. Next we come to **Rubha na Coille Duibhe**, 'the promontory of the black

⁴ Bruce, 1733.

Scots pine clad islands,
Gaskan, Loch Shiel
Eileanan còmhdachta le giuthas,
An Gasgan, Loch Seile





chaidh e à fianais air an taobh eile! Ghabh iad uiread de dh'eagal 's gun do thionndaidh iad an t-eathar agus dh'fhàg iad an athair gus coiseachd dhachaigh. Bha iad dhen bheachd gum feumadh gur e an t-Èireannach bhon tàinig an t-ainm a bh' ann.

Tha sgeulachd mu dhithis leannan a chaidh a bhàthadh an seo co-cheangailte ri **Rubha na Càraid**, (Rubha nan Càraid air a' mhap) ach chan eil fios an e tubaist a bh' ann no nach b' e.

Aig bonn Gleann Alladail, air an taobh tuath dhen abhainn, tha **Tòrr a' Choit** eile. Air map Roy tha an t-ainm *Saloues* a' nochdadh an seo agus 's dòcha gu bheil e a' riochdachadh an tuineachaidh bhig ris an canar Gleann Alladail. Chan eil ciall an ainm aithnichte ge-tà. Air an taobh eile de bheul na h-aibhne air map Roy tha tuineachadh air a bheil *Dalroyd*, rudeigin coltach ri Dail Ròid 's dòcha. Tha lus ann air a bheil *roid* agus tha sin a' fàs an seo.

Faisg air Dail Ròid, agus cuideachd gun ainmeachadh air mapaichean ùra, tha **Dail nam Maigheach**. Bha an talamh an sin math airson crodh a chumail.

Tha an t-ainm **Gleann Alladail** bho thùs Lochlannach. Tha Alladal eile air taobh sear Rois, agus tha iad le chèile a' tighinn bho *Ali*, ainm pearsanta, Lochlannach. Mar sin tha e a' ciallachadh gleann Ali. Ach chan eil gnothach aige ri duine air an robh Alasdair! Nas fhaide shuas an gleann seo tha Màm na Luirg air na mapaichean, ach canar **Màm Lorgan** san sgìre. B' e seo an t-slighe a bu ghiorra agus a b' fhasa do mhuinntir a' ghlinne a ghabhail gu na h-àirighean air an taobh siar. Cha robh aon shlighe chomharraichte ann, ach grunn cheuman agus piosan de thalamh a bha coltach ri steapaichean.

Mu dheireadh, tha sinn a' tionndadh aig àite ris an canar an **Gasgan**, stiall tana de thalamh a tha a' ciallachadh earball èisg air sgàth a' chrutha a th' air.

A' tighinn suas air an taobh an ear-dheas dhen loch, thig sinn gu **Goirtean (a') Mhoirein** (*Gorstanvorrán*). Seo a' chuid ris an canar MacMhoirein no dìreach Moirein, agus a tha aithnichte sa Bheurla mar Murray. Gu dearbh 's e *Gorten Murry* a th' air seann mhap bho 1733.⁴ 'S e *Loinavoren*, 's dòcha Lòn (a') Mhoirein a tha air map Roy. Bha Dòmhnall Dubh Làidir MacMharais no Donald MacVarish, a bhuineadh do Mhùideart, a' fuireach an sin còmhla ri bhràthair. Bha Dòmhnall air a bhith ag obair air falbh fad mhiosan. Nuair a thill e, smaoinich e gun toireadh e a char à bhràthair. Bhuail e air an doras, ach nuair a thàinig a bhràthair a dh'fhosgladh an dorais bhon taobh a-staigh, cha b' urrainn dha an doras fhosgladh oir bha Dòmhnall ga chumail dùinte. Dh'èigh e, "Chan urrainn a bhith an sin ach aon duine; feumaidh gur e mo bhràthair a th' ann."

'S e **Sgamadal** an t-ainm Lochlannach eile agus tha e mu choinneamh Gleann Alladail. Tha grunn àitichean ann leis an ainm seo: tha fear dhiubh faisg air Loch Mhòrair, a dhà san Eilean Sgitheanach, fear ann an Latharna agus fear ann an Sealtainn. Dh'fhaodadh gun tàinig e bhon t-seann Lochlannais *skam*, 'goirid', agus mar sin bhiodh e a' ciallachadh 'gleann goirid'. Tha sinn an uair sin a' tighinn gu **Rubha na Coille Duibhe**, agus an dèidh sin tha **a' Chlais Fheàrna**, tro bheil **an t-Allt Feàrna** a' sruthadh.

Canar **Tòrr a' Phrionnsa** ris a' chnoc tuath air Rubha Allt na Brachd. A rèir aithris b' ann an sin a stad am Prionnsa Teàrlach greiseag nuair a bha e a' dol a Ghleann Fhionnainn.

A' tilleadh gu Gleann Fhionnainn, tha sinn a' dol suas Abhainn Shlatach, agus a' dol thairis air druim-uisge eile, tha sinn a' dol thairis air Loch Eilt agus a' tighinn gu **Inbhir Ailleart** no **Ceann a' Chreagain**.

⁴ Bruce, 1733.

wood'. Then there is **A' Chlais Fheàrna**, 'the alder grove', through which flows **An t-Allt Feàrna**, 'the alder burn'.

The prominence north of Rubha Allt na Brachd is called **Tòrr a' Phrionnsa**, 'hill of the prince'. This is the place where it is said Bonnie Prince Charlie stopped for a short while on his way to Glen Finnan.

Returning back to Glen Finnan we travel up Abhainn Shlatach, and crossing another watershed, we traverse Loch Eilt and come to Inverailort known in Gaelic as **Inbhir Ailleart** or **Ceann a' Chreagain**.

Just past here are **Coire Dhùghaill** and **Allt Dhùghaill** which have a tradition associated with them. Dùghall or Dougall was the sixth Chief of Clan Ranald; he was assassinated in 1520 in Lochailort by a man who has been given various names: Ailean nan Corc, Ailean a' Choirce or Aonghas nan Corc. Dougall was chased up Loch Ailort, and got out of the boat down at the shore at Polish and took to the hill above to An Camas Driseach. Up by where Allt Dhùghaill runs down through Coire Dhùghaill he was caught and killed. In one version⁵ the killing was done with an arrow and it was not Aonghas nan Corc that did the deed, but he ordered one of his men to do it. In another version⁶ he was also shot with an arrow, but Ailean nan Corc finished him off with his dirk.

The gamekeeper's house was up above the bay on Loch Nan Uamh and was called **Bàgh a' Gheamair**. When the railway was built through the area in the 1900s, the track was put right through the walls of the house. There is still part of the house remaining with the railway running right through it.

⁵ H. C. Dieckhoff., unpublished papers.

⁶ C. MacDonald, pp. 30-35.





Dìreach seachad air an seo tha **Coire Dhùghail** agus **Allt Dhùghail** agus tha sgeulachd co-cheangailte riutha. B' e Dùghall, no Dougall, 6mh Ceann-cinnidh Chlann Raghnaill, agus chaidh a mhurt ann an Inbhir Ailleart ann an 1520 le fear dhan tugadh iomadh ainm: Ailean nan Corc, Ailean a' Choirce no Aonghas nan Corc. Chaidh Dùghall a ruagadh suas Inbhir Ailleart, agus thàinig e a-mach às a' bhàta air a' chladach aig Poll Nis, agus thug e a' bheinn air suas os cionn an àite ris an canar An Camas Driseach. Shuas far a bheil Allt Dhùghail a' sruthadh sìos tro Choire Dhùghail, chaidh a ghlacadh agus a mharbhadh. A rèir aon aithris⁵ chaidh a mharbhadh le saighead agus cha b' e Aonghas nan Corc idir a rinn e, ach thug e òrdan dha na fir aige a dhèanamh. A rèir aithris eile,⁶ chaidh saighead ann, ach chrìochnaich Ailean nan Corc a' chùis le biodag.

Bha taigh a' gheamair shuas os cionn a' bhàigh aig Loch nan Uamh agus chante **Bàgh a' Gheamair** ris an àite. Nuair a chaidh an rèile a thogail san sgìre sna 1900an, chuireadh an rèile tro bhallachan an taighe. Tha pàirt dhen taigh fhathast ann agus an rèile a' dol troimhe.

⁵ Pàipearan neo-fhoillsichte H. C. Dieckhoff.

⁶ Rev. C. MacDonald, Moidart, td. 30-35.

Allt Dhùghail (Dougall's burn) and Coire Dhùghail (Dougall's corrie)

Ru Arisaig

The Road to the Isles leads now to Arisaig, and it is here we take a detour around Rhu or Ru Arisaig or **Rubha Àrasaig**, 'the promontory of Arisaig'. The name has come to name the whole peninsula in the same way Ardnamurchan originally only denoted the area round Ardnamurchan lighthouse. The road here is coastal and the loch on the right hand side is called Loch nan Ceall, 'loch of the churches or cells' though it is referred to as **Loch nan Cilltean** locally, meaning the same thing but with a different form.

There are many deserted settlements here. **Acherault** or **Achadh a' Gharbh-Uillt** 'field of the

rough burn' is a little township adjoining Tòrr a' Bheithe (mentioned below) and was cleared of three tenants in 1843. There is a ruined house with an outhouse, on its own, to the left of the upper field. It stands near a burn called **An Garbh-Allt**, 'the rough burn'. **Am Baile Ùr**, 'the new village' is the little settlement above the road near Acherault and above **Saideal Tòrr a' Bheithe**, 'the small bay of Tòrr a' Bheithe'. Here are eight ruins which were possibly cleared in 1843. The name Am Baile Ùr suggests that it was a later settlement.

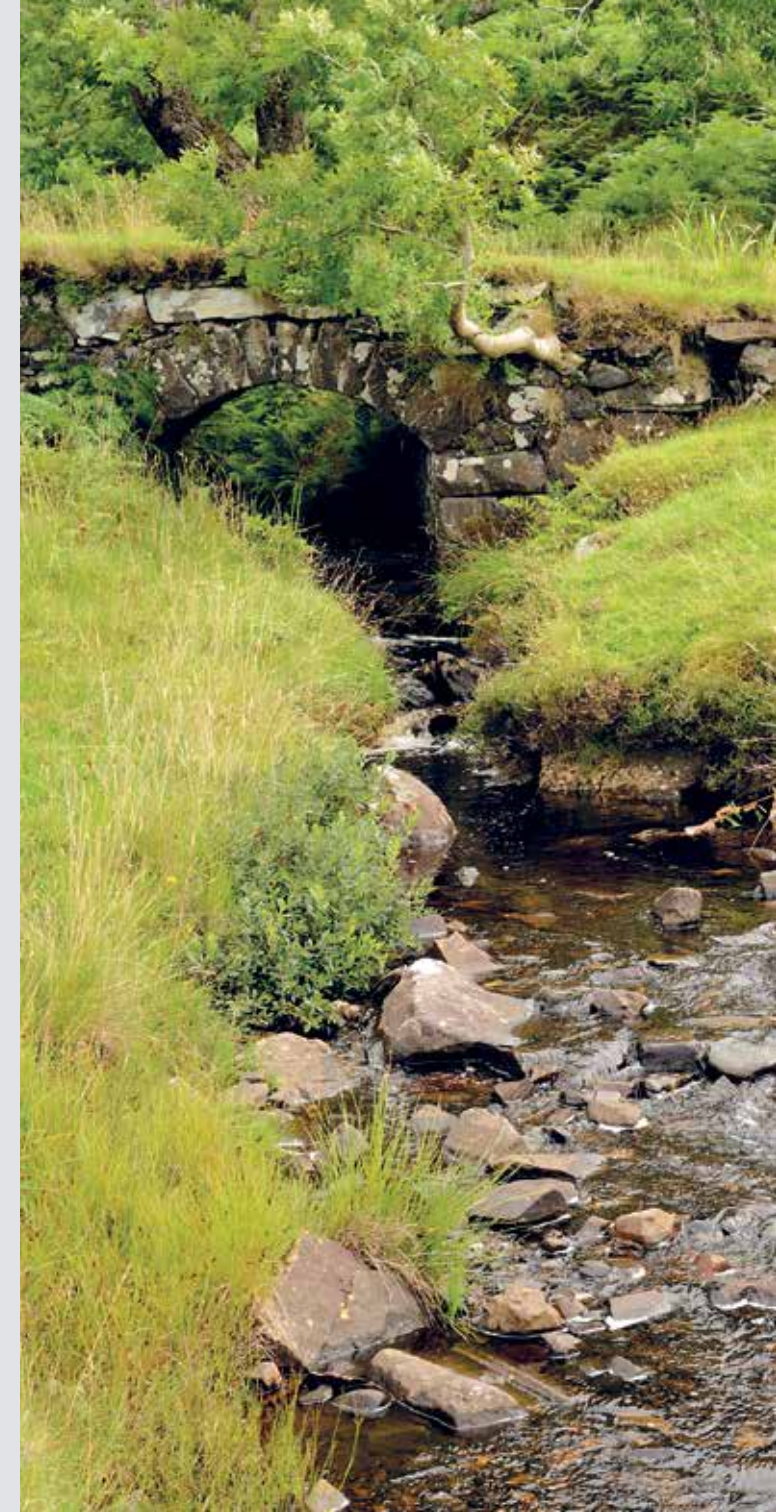
Rubha Àrasaig

Tha Rathad nan Eilean a-nis a' dol gu Àrasaig, agus 's ann an sin a ghabhas sinn cuairt timcheall an Rubha no **Rubha Àrasaig**. Tha an t-ainm sin air tighinn gu bhith a' gabhail a-steach an rubha gu lèir dìreach mar a thachair le Àrd nam Murchan, nach robh a' comharrachadh bho thùs ach an sgìre timcheall air taigh-solais Àrd nam Murchan. Tha an rathad an seo ris a' chladach, agus canar **Loch nan Ceall** ris an loch air an làimh dheis ged a chanar Loch nan Cilltean rithe san sgìre. Tha e a' ciallachadh an aon rud, ach le cruth eadar-dhealaichte air.

Tha iomadh tuineachadh fàs an seo. Tha coimhearsnachd bheag **Achadh a' Gharbh-Uillt** (*Acherault*) an cois Tòrr a' Bheithe (iomradh gu h-ìosal) agus chaidh trì ùir neach-màil fhuadach às ann an 1843. Tha tobhta taighe ann le taigh beag, leis fhèin, chun na làimh chli dhen achadh uachdrach. Tha e faisg air allt ris an canar **an Garbh-Allt**. 'S e **am Baile Ùr** an tuineachadh beag os cionn an rathaid faisg air Achadh a' Gharbh-Uillt agus os cionn **Saideal Tòrr a' Bheithe**. An seo tha ochd tobhtaichean a chaidh fhuadach, 's dòcha ann an 1843. Tha coltas bhon ainm, Am Baile Ùr, gun robh tuineachadh eile ann roimhe.

Saideal Tòrr a' Bheithe
(the saddle or small bay
of Tòrr a' Bheithe)

Achadh a' Gharbh-Uillt
(the field of the rough burn)



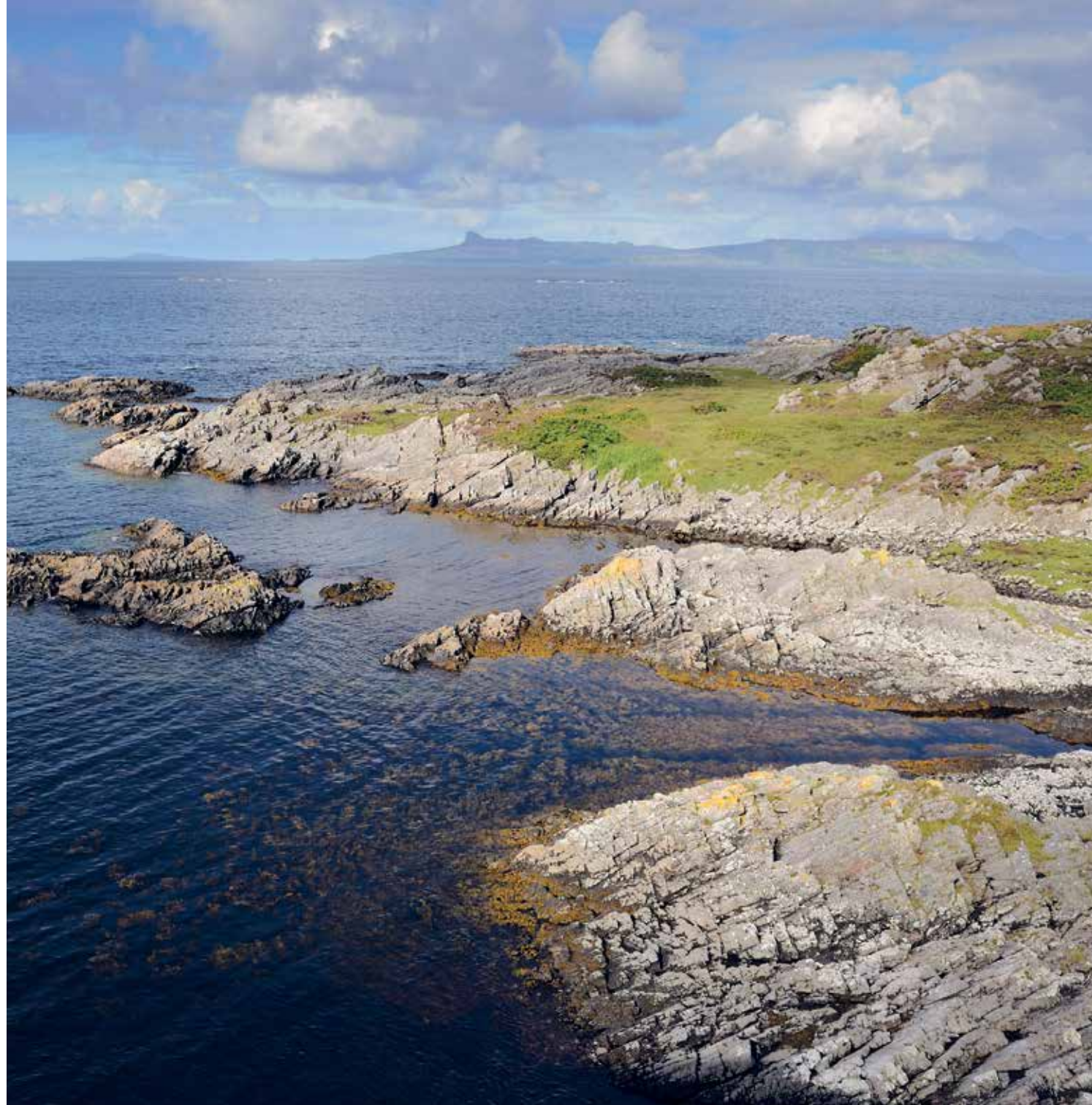
Allt a' Mhuilinn or, Millburn was, as the name suggests, the site of the mill. From the nineteenth century however it was occupied by the estate gamekeepers. The mill was probably situated at the present Port a' Mhuilinn.

Rumach or **An Rumach** is another neighbouring farm of Rhu, comprising the area of Rumach Hill or **Cnoc an Rumaich**, Rhu Breac or **An Rubha Breac** and **An Tòrr Mòr**. This district bordered both sides of the road which runs parallel with Loch nan Ceall. The substantial steading, in good condition, which remains today at Rhumach, was built by Archie MacDonald, (1756 -1829) although it may have been renovated at a later date. In the clearance of 1843, twenty families were evicted from here.

Taigh a' Phortair, or the Porter's House was built in 1887 and the Porter, Donald MacKinnon and his family took up residence there. Donald was married to Mary MacVarish, a sister of Dòmhnall Dubh Làidir. Donald served in this capacity for over 40 years and when he retired the position was taken over by his son John or, 'Iain a' Phortair'. With the opening of the railway in 1901, Iain's services were no longer required as at Rhu. Rejecting the offer of a similar post at MacBrayne's Glasgow depot, he elected to remain at home, running the family croft and bringing up his young family. He died at Rhu in 1938 at the age of 85 years. Nowadays this is at the end of the public part of the coastal road.

Next we come to **Rubha** or Rhu Point which takes in quite a panorama from the entrance of Loch nan Uamh, round to Ceann an Tràigh, the South Minch and north to Skye and Knoydart. There are a number of small inlets here. The first is not known on Ordnance Survey maps but which was known locally

Eigg and Rum from Ru Arisaig
Eige agus Rùm à Rubha Àrasaig



Mar a tha an t-ainm **Allt a' Mhuilinn** ag innse dhuinn, bidh e coltach gun robh muileann air an làraich seo. Bhon naoidheamh linn deug ge-tà bha geamairean na h-òighreachd a' fuireach ann. 'S iongantach mura robh am muileann faisg air an àite ris an canar Port a' Mhuilinn.

'S e **an Rumach** tuathanas eile ann an nàbacht an Rubha agus tha e a' gabhail a-steach **Cnoc an Rumaich, an Rubha Breac** agus **an Tòrr Mòr**. Bha an sgìre seo a' gabhail a-steach dà thaobh an rathaid a tha co-shìnte ri Loch nan Ceall. Chaidh an taigh-tuathanais, a tha fhathast ann an deagh staid, agus a tha fhathast aig Rumach, a thogail le Eàirdsidh Dòmhnallach, (1756 -1829) ged a dh'fhaodadh gun deach a leasachadh nas fhaide air adhart. Ann am fuadach 1843, chaidh fichead teaghlach fhuadach às an seo.

Chaidh **Taigh a' Phortair** a thogail ann an 1887, agus bha am Portair, Dòmhnall MacFhionghain, a' fuireach ann. Bha Dòmhnall pòsta aig Màiri NicMharais, piuthar do Dhòmhnall Dubh Làidir, a bhuineadh do Mhùideart. Bha Dòmhnall san dreuchd sin airson còrr is 40 bliadhna. Nuair a leig e dheth a dhreuchd, ghabh a mhac, Iain, no 'Iain a' Phortair', thairis an obair. Nuair a dh'fhosgail an rèile ann an 1901, cha robh feum air seirbheis Iain tuilleadh aig an Rubha. Dhiùlt e an aon seòrsa obrach ann an ionad-stòraidh Mhic a' Bhriuthainn ann an Glaschu. Roghnaich e fuireach aig an dachaigh agus obrachadh air croit a theaghlach agus a theaghlach a thogail an sin. Chaochail e san Rubha ann an 1938 nuair a bha e 85. An-diugh, seo ceann a' phàirt phoblaich de rathad a' chladaich.

Tha sinn an uair sin a' tighinn chun an **Rubha**. Tha an sealladh mòr-thimcheall an Rubha a' gabhail a-steach na slighe gu Loch nan Uamh, timcheall gu Ceann an Tràigh, an Cuan Canach agus tuath chun an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Cnòideart. Tha iomadh

as **Dubh-Chamas nan Ùbhlan**, 'black bay of the apples', originally called just **An Dubh-Chamas**.

South of this is **Port na Mùraich** 'port of the sand hill' just south of Rhu Point. It is a beautiful little bay, facing Ardnamurchan Point, there is an unconfirmed story that Port na Mùraich may have been an ancient graveyard.

The next inlet, is **Port nam Bàthach**, 'port of the byres', written on maps as Port a' Bhàtaich. To the north of, and beside the track here, there are the remains of the old byres. The byre was built by Archie MacDonald, Rhu. He demolished it, rebuilding a new steading about 200 yards nearer Loch nan Uamh. This is the explanation of the name Port nam Bàthach; the building is now a house.

Just along the road we come to **Port na h-Eathair**, 'port of the small fishing boat' on Loch nan Ceall. This was the ancient landing place before the later jetty was built near Taigh a' Phortair. Prior to the coming of the railway in 1901, Rhu was the major landing place for a wide area and a busy spot. The old landing place at Port na h-Eathair was frequented by Russian and Latvian boats amongst others, coming to buy cured herring and other goods. Passengers, also, embarked and disembarked from here. Later, MacBrayne's

steamers delivered and collected passengers and goods to the area. The ruins of the ferry store can still be seen. The landing place was merely a flat rock and the goods landed there had to be carried up the foreshore to the track.

Pressing on, we come to **Camas Drollaman** on the east side where there is only one ruin to be seen leaning against a rockface. There are however lazybeds clearly visible on the hillside. Camas Drollaman means 'the bay of Drollaman' but it is not clear what *drollaman* means. It is probably Norse in origin, although the Ordnance Survey name books (the notebooks used by the first Ordnance Survey sappers) describe this as 'the bay of the sluggard'. On the hillside between Doire na Drise (see below) and **Tòrr a' Bheithe**, there are several ruins which would have been part of one, or the other, of the little farms. Tòrr a' Bheithe, 'birch mound' is the area of another little farm. Standing here and looking south, the view is to Loch nan Uamh with Ardnish, Roshven and an Stac in the background. As the eye travels further along the coast we see Glenuig, Smirisary and outwards to Ardnamurchan Point. Turning to the north, we see Saideal Tòrr a' Bheithe, Loch nan Ceall and Arisaig in the distance. Beyond that, towering over Arisaig, is **A' Chreag Mhòr**.

Port na Mùraich
(the port of the sand hill)





camas an seo. Chan eil a' chiad fhear a' nochdadh air mapaichean an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais, ach tha e aithnichte san sgìre mar **Dubh-Chamas nan Ùbhlán**, no bho thùs **an Dubh-Chamas**.

Deas air an seo tha **Port na Mùraich** dìreach deas air an Rubha. 'S e bàgh beag, brèagha a tha an seo a tha a' coimhead a-null gu Àrd nam Murchan. Tha seann sgeulachd, nach eil dearbhte, ag ràdh gur dòcha gur e seann chladh a bh' ann am Port na Mùraich.

Canar **Port nam Bàthach** ris an ath bhàgh, agus tha e air mapaichean mar Port a' Bhàtaich. Gu tuath air an seo, agus ri taobh na slighe, tha tobhtaichean nan seann bhàtaichean. Chaidh a' bhàthach a thogail le Eàirdsidh Dòmhnallach, An Rubha. Leag e an seann togalach, agus thog e togalach ùr mu 200 slat nas fhaisge air Loch nan Uamh. 'S e sin mineachadh an ainm 'Port nam Bàthach'; tha an togalach a-nis na thaigh.

Dìreach sìos an rathad thig sinn gu **Port na h-Eathair**, aig Loch nan Ceall. B' e seo an seann laimrig mus deach an cidhe a thogail faisg air taigh a' Phortair. Mus tàinig an rèile ann an 1901, b'e an Rubha am prìomh laimrig airson sgìre mhòr agus àite trang. Bha an seann laimrig aig Port na h-Eathair agus bhiodh bàtaichean Ruiseanach, Latbhianach agus eile a' tadhal air nuair a bhiodh iad a' tighinn a cheannach sgadan saillte agus bathar eile. Bhiodh luchd-siubhail cuideachd a' dol air bòrd,

agus a' tighinn air tìr, an seo. An dèidh seo, bhiodh stiomairean Mhic a' Bhriuthainn a' togail, agus a' cur air tìr, bathar agus luchd-siubhail a bha a' tighinn dhan sgìre. Chithear fhathast tobhta stòr na h-aiseig. Cha robh san laimrig ach creag chòmhnard agus dh'fheumadh am bathar a chuirte air tìr a ghiùlain suas an cladach chun an rathaid.

A' leantainn oirnn tha sinn a' tighinn gu **Camas Drollaman** air an taobh an ear far nach faicear ach aon tobhta ri aghaidh na creige. Chithear feannagan gu math follaiseach ge-tà air cliathaich na beinne. Chan eil e idir soilleir dè tha *drollaman* a' ciallachadh san ainm Camas Drollaman. 'S iongantach mura th' ann bho thùs Lochlannach a tha e ged a tha leabhraichean ainmean an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais (leabhraichean notaichean a bh' aig a' chiad chlàraichean aig an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais) ag ràdh gur e 'bàgh an leisgeadair' a bha an seo. Air taobh na beinne eadar Doire na Drise (faic gu h-iseal) agus **Tòrr a' Bheithe**, tha corra thobhta a bhiodh uaireigin nam pàirt de fhear dhe na tuathanasan beaga. 'S e làrach tuathanas beag cuideachd a bh' ann an Tòrr a' Bheithe. Le seasamh an seo agus a' coimhead gu deas, tha sealladh ann gu Loch nan Uamh le Àird Nis, Roisbheinn agus an Stac ris a' chùl. A' coimhead sìos an cladach chithear Gleann Ùige, Smiorasairigh agus a-mach gu Rubha Àrd nam Murchan. A' tionndadh gu tuath chì sinn Saideal Tòrr a' Bheithe, Loch nan Ceall agus Àrasaig air fàire. Seachad air an sin agus os cionn Àrasaig tha **a' Chreag Mhòr**.

Ruined croft houses at
Doire na Drise, Ru Arisaig
Seann taighean croitearachd aig
Doire na Drise, Rubha Àrasaig

These inlets on the coast of the peninsula are all overlooked by a hill called **Cruach Doire an Dòbhrain** known on Ordnance Survey maps as Cruach Doire'n Dobhrain, probably meaning 'the hill of the thicket of the otter'. It is the tallest hill on the Rhu peninsula, and this is where the local people went to watch the emigrant ships carrying friends and family sail for the New World, never to return. Standing on this summit one can see for miles in every direction. Directly below are the ruins of the scattered township of **Doire na Drise**, another of the little farms of Rhu. It is recorded that there was at least one clearance from Doire na Drise in 1843, as part of that large clearance from the Rhu area by Lord Cranstoun, when five tenants were removed.

We now cross to Sandaig or **Sanndaig** on the Loch nan Uamh coast. Now the only sign of this on maps is the burn Allt Sanntaig. This was where Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair died in 1770. He lies in the graveyard of St. Maol Ruadh in Arisaig. It is not possible to identify the last home of Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair as his house, which was made of turf, collapsed after his death.

In folklore, the promontory, **Car an Daimh**, 'bend of the deer' just off the shore of Sandaig, is said to be the birthplace of Ossian. There are five or six ruins at Sandaig, one of them the tacksman's house which is possibly where Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair spent his last years.

Tha beinn, ris an canar **Cruach Doire an Dòbhrain**, Cruach Doire'n Dobhrain air mapaichean an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais , ag èirigh suas os cionn nan camas air an rubha. Seo a' bheinn as àirde air an Rubha, agus b' ann an sin a bhiodh muinntir an àite a' coimhead soithichean nan eilthreach a bha a' giùlain an càirdean, nach tilleadh tuilleadh, chun an t-Saoghail Ùir. Chithear fad mhiltean mun cuairt bhon mhullach seo. Direach gu h-ìosal tha tobhtaichean **Doire na Drise**, tuathanas beag eile air an Rubha a chaidh fhàsachadh. Tha e air a chlàradh gun robh fuadach ann an Doire na Drise, co-dhiù aon turas, ann an 1843. Bha sin mar phàirt de dh'fhuadach mòr a rinn Lord Cranstoun à sgìre an Rubha nuair a chaidh còignear dhen luchd-màil fuadach.

Tha sinn a-nis a' tighinn gu **Sanndaig** air cladach Loch nan Uamh. Chan eil sgeul air an àite seo an-diugh ach gu bheil Allt Sanntaig air mapaichean. B' ann an seo a chaochail Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair ann an 1770. Chan eil e air chomas an dachaigh mu dheireadh aig Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair a chomharrachadh oir thuit an taigh, a bha de thughadh, an dèidh a bhàis.

A rèir aithris, b' ann air an rubha ris an canar **Car an Daimh**, dìreach far cladach Shanndaig, a rugadh Oisean. Tha còig no sia de thobhtaichean ann an Sanndaig. 'S e fear dhiubh sin taigh an fhir-taca, agus 's dòcha gur ann an sin a chuir Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair seachad na bliadhnaichean mu dheireadh.



The rocky shore at Sanndaig
on Loch nan Uamh
An cladach aig Sanndaig,
Loch nan Uamh



Car an Daimh
(the bend of the deer)

Blàr na Caillich' Buidhe

Having doubled back to the Road to the Isles, we are led back through Arisaig and through the isthmus between the coast and Loch Morar. On the banks of Loch Morar is a bog called **Blàr na Caillich' Buidhe**. This has a tradition associated with it. There is the story recorded¹ of 'The Last Raid that Took Place in Morar'. Included within the text of the tale there is the story of two women who were murdered and pushed into a peat bank close to a hillock by two men who were in a party of sixty hiding in the woods on a' Chreag Mhòr at Sunisletter. This took place on **Mòinteach Mhòr**, 'the big moor' (between Arisaig and Loch Morar). This story involves Aonghas nan Corc, and therefore took place sometime after 1520.

¹ H.C. Dieckhoff, Gairm.

Blàr na Caillich' Buidhe
(the field of the yellow old
woman) and Loch Morar



In the tale, the place where the women were put into the bog is “still to this day called *Na Cailleachan Buidhe*” ‘the yellow women’. This is probably connected with the place name Blàr na Caillich’ Buidhe ‘the field of the yellow woman’, to be found on the Morar side of Mòinteach Mhòr. In the Ordnance Survey name books the meaning of the place name Blàr na Caillich Buidhe is given as ‘yellow meadow of the old woman’. The structure of the name is more suggestive of ‘meadow of

the yellow old woman’ with the colour element associated with the woman rather than the meadow.

From there the journey continues to Mallaig and here our journey ends, but boats travelled and continue to travel to Skye, Canna, Eigg, Muck, Rum as well as to mainland ports. We hope the small selection of names given here will encourage the reader to attempt to learn more about the place-names of the Highlands and in doing so gain a greater understanding of the landscape.



Blàr na Caillich’ Buidhe

A’ tilleadh gu Rathad nan Eilean, tha sinn a’ tighinn tro Àrasaig agus tron bhàgh eadar an cladach agus Loch Mhòr. Air bruaichean Loch Mhòr tha boglach ris an canar **Blàr na Caillich’ Buidhe**. Tha sgeulachd co-cheangailte ris. Tha sgeulachd’ ann air a bheil ‘The Last Raid that Took Place in Morar’. Anns an teacsa cuideachd tha an sgeulachd “MacCeallaig am Beoraid” sgeulachd mu dhithis bhoireannach a chaidh a mhurt agus a phutadh a-steach a pholl-mòna faisg air cnocan le dithis fhear à buidheann de sheasgad a bha am falach sa choille air a’ Chreag Mhòr aig Suanas-leitir. Thachair seo air a’ **Mhòinteach Mhòr** (eadar Àrasaig agus Loch Mòr). Tha an sgeulachd a’ toirt a-steach Aonghas nan Corc, agus mar sin feumaidh gun do thachair e uaireigin an dèidh 1520.

1 H. C. Dieckhoff, Gairm.

The blanket bog at Blàr na Caillich’ Buidhe and Loch Morar
Boglach aig Blàr na Caillich’ Buidhe agus Loch Mòr

Red deer
Fèidh Ruadha





San sgeulachd, tha an t-àite san deach na boireannaich a chur dhan pholl-mhòna aithnichte chun an latha an-diugh mar *Na Cailleachan Buidhe*. 'S iongantach mura bheil ceangal eadar seo agus an t-ainm Blàr na Caillich' Buidhe a tha air taobh Mhòrair dhen a' Mhòintich Mhòir.

Ann an leabhraichean an t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais, tha an t-ainm Blàr na Caillich' Buidhe ga mhineachadh mar 'achadh buidhe na cailliche' ach chan ann mar sin a tha an dath ag obrachadh sa Ghàidhlig. Tha an dath a' dol leis a' chaillich seach leis an achadh.

Bhon sin tha an turas a' cumail air a Mhalaig, agus 's ann an sin a tha an turas againn a' crìochnachadh, ach bhiodh bàtaichean a' dol dhan Eilean Sgitheanach, Canaigh, Eige, Eilean nam Muc agus a Rùm a bharrachd air puirt air tìr-mòr, mar a tha iad fhathast. Tha sinn an dòchas gum broснаich an taghadh beag seo de dh'ainmean an leughadair gu bhith ag ionnsachadh barrachd mu ainmean-àite na Gàidhealtachd, agus le sin, gum bi barrachd tuigse aca air cruth na tìre.

Eigg and Rum from Ru Arisaig
Eige agus Rùm à Rubha Àrasaig

Place-name gazetteer / Clàr ainmean-àite

Many of the names mentioned in the text are small features not recorded on maps. The pronunciation is meant as a rough guide only. CH represents 'ch' as in Scots 'loch', TCH represents 'ch' as in English 'church'. The letter in brackets after the meaning denotes the language of origin. Where none is stated, the name is Gaelic. (N = Norse, ? = uncertain meaning)

'S e comharraidhean-tìre beaga a tha sa mhòr chuid de na h-ainmean san teacs nach deach a chlàradh air mapaichean. 'S e tuairmse a th' anns an stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh. Tha an litir ann an camagan an dèidh ciall an ainm a' sealltainn cànan an ainm bho thùs. Far nach eil litir ann 's e ainm Gàidhlig a th' ann.

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh
Achadh a' Gharbh-Uillt	Acherault	the field of the rough burn	ach a gharu ooltch	NM655850
Allt a' Mhuilinn	Millburn	the mill burn	olta vulin	NM646850
Allt Dhùghaill	same	Dougall's burn	olt ghoi -el	NM758825
An t-Allt Feàrna	Allt Fearnna	the alder burn	n toul't fyarna	NM864767
Bàgh a' Gheamair	not on maps	the gamer's bay	bay a yaimer	NM728843
Am Baile Ùr	not on maps	the new town	m bal oor	NM6584
Blàr na Caillich' Buidhe	same	the field of the yellow old woman	blar na caillyich booye	NM683903
Camas an Èireannaich	same	the bay of the irishman	camas an yerrenich	NM852756
Camas Drollaman	same	the bay of Drollaman (N?)	camas drolaman	NM636835

Car an Daimh	same	the bend of the deer	car n dive	NM652833
Càrn MhicCuaraig	not on maps	Kennedy's cairn	carn vic coorik	NM877787
Càrn MhicLabhraich	same	MacLaren's cairn	carn vic laurich	NM876792
Ceann a' Chreagain	Inverailort	the end of the little crag	ceun a chrekin	NM764815
Clach a' Phuist	not on maps	the stone of the post	clach a fooshtch	NM860780
A' Chlais Fheàrna	not on maps	the alder grove	a chlash yarna	NM8676
Cnoc an Rumaich	Ruemach Hill	the hill of Rumach	crohck a rumaich	NM635845
Coire Dhùghaill	same	Dougall's corrie	corrie ghoi -el	NM759829
Creag Anna	same	Anna's crag	crek ana	NM874790
A' Chreag Mhòr	Creag Mhor	the big crag	a chrek vor	NM681886
Cruach Doire an Dòbhraich	Cruach Doire'n Dobhraich	the peak of the grove of the otter	crooach duru n dorin	NM629840
Dail an Naoimh	not on maps	the haugh of the saint	dal noiv	NM907804
Dail an Tùir	not on maps	the haugh of the tower (i.e. monument)	dal n tooir	NM906805
Dail nam Maigheach	not on maps	the haugh of the hares	dal na ma -och	NM818760
Dail Ròid	not on maps	bog-myrtle field	dal rodge	NM820739

Doire na Drise	same	the grove of the thorn	duru n dreesha	NM627836
Dubhailidh	Dubh Lighe	black + ?	doo ali	NM9482
Dubh-Chamas nan Ùbhlan	not on maps	the black bay of the apples	doo chamas nan oolan	NM613840
An t-Eas Smùid	same	the smoky falls	n tes smoodge	NM916809
Fionnailidh	Fionn Lighe	white + ?	fyoon ali	NM9681
An Gabhal Mòr	An Gabhal Mor	the big fork or enclosure	n gawil mor	NM905810
An Garbh-Allt	same	the rough burn	n garav ault	NM654848
An Garbh-Buaile	Garbh Buaile	the rough fold	n garav bualye	NM910812
An Gasgan	Gaskan	the tail (shaped portion of land)	n gaskan	NM800725
Gleann Alladail	Glen Aladale	the glen of Aladale (N)	glaun alatil	NM824741
Gleann Fhionnainn	Glenfinnan / Glen Finnan	St Finnan's glen	glaun fyonin	NM9183
Goirtean a' Mhoirein	Gorstanvorrán	Murray's enclosure	gorshchen a vorin	NM805716
Inbhir Ailleart	Inverailort	the inlet of the Ailleart (N)	inyir I-lert	NM764815
Leac na h-Uinneige	not on maps	the slab of the window	lyehk na hoon -yike	NM912843
Leum an t-Saighdeir	Leum an t-Saighdeir	the soldier's leap	lame an tie -dger	NM911831

Loch Ailleart	Loch Ailort	the loch of Ailleart (N)	loch I-lert	NM767823
Loch nan Cilltean	Loch nan Ceall	the loch of the churches	loch nan kiltchen	NM6486
Loch Seile	Loch Shiel	the loch of the Shiel	loch shayle	NM87
Màm Lorgan	Màm na Luirg	the hill path	maam lorogan	NM8176
A' Mhòinteach Mhòr	Mointeach Mhòr	the big moor	a vontchech voor	NM663890
Port a' Bhàta Mhòir	not on maps	the port of the big boat	porsht a vata voir	NM890794
Port na h-Eathair	not on maps	the port of the boat	porsht na hey -ir	NM638853
Port na Mùraich	Port nam Mùrach	the port of the sand hill	porsht na moorich	NM613836
Port nam Bàthach	Port a' Bhathaich	the port of the byre	porsht na vaa -och	NM619835
Rubha	Ru, Rhue	promontory	rooa	NM620840
Rubha an Èireannaich	same	the promontory of the Irishman	rooa an yerrenich	NM843756
Rubha Àrasaig	Rue Arisaig	the promontory of Arisaig (N)	rooa aarisik	NM611847
Rubha na Càraid	Rubha nan Caraid	the lovers' promontory	rooa na caritch	NM847762
An Rubha Breac	Rhu Breac	the speckled promontory	n rooa brehk	NM626857
Rubha na Coille Duibhe	same	the promontory of the black wood	rooa na cullye dooye	NM873773

An Rumach	Rumach / Rhumach	the marsh	n roomoch	NM635852
Saideal Tòrr a' Bheithe	Saideal Tòrr Beithe	the saddle or small bay of Tòrr a' Bheithe	sadjel torra vey	NM649848
Sanndaig	Sanntaig	sandy bay (N)	saundik	NM653835
Sgamadal	Scamodale	short valley? (N)	skamatal	NM839734
Sgeir an Ròin	Sgeir nan Ròn	the skerry of the seal	skair a ron	NM907804
Sgùrr Tuirce	Sgùrr an Tuirc	boar peak	skoor toorca	NM851779
Taigh a' Phortair	Porter's House	the porter's house	tie a forshtir	NM629852
Taigh na Slataich	Slatach House	the house of the rod-place	tie an slatich	NM898802
Tom an t-Saighdeir	same	the soldier's hill	toum an tie-djer	NM919833
Tòrr a' Bheithe	Torr a' Bheithe	the hill of the birch	torra vey	NM642840
Tòrr a' Choit (G. Fhionnainn)	same	the hill of the small boat	torra chotch	NM910807
Tòrr a' Choit (G. Alladail)	same	the hill of the small boat	torra chotch	NM828744
Tòrr a' Phrionnsa	not on maps	the hill of the prince	torra froonsa	NM865776
An Tòrr Mòr	Torr Mor	the big hill	n torra mor	NM632857

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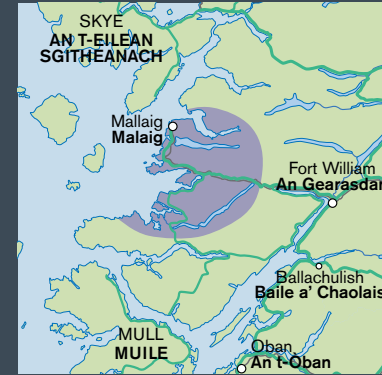
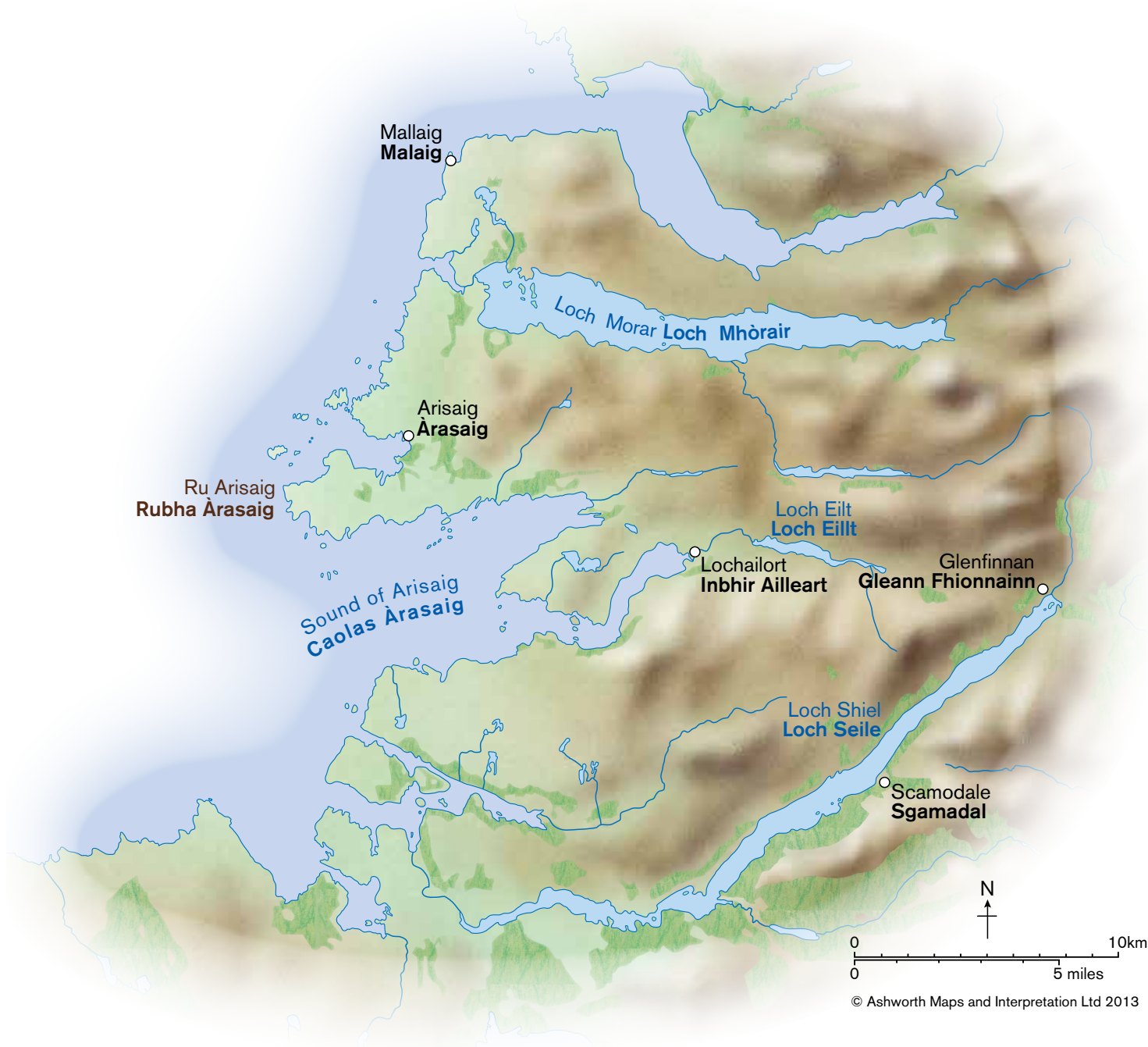
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From the earliest mention of names in Lochaber in the time of St Columba, place-names reflect the flora, fauna and people who have inspired and been inspired by this region: from Ossianic legends, the work of Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, the Clearances, right up to nineteenth century local characters.

Following on from the success of *Place-names in Islay and Jura*, Scottish Natural Heritage and Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba have once again collaborated to produce a work on the landscape and place-names of Arisaig and Loch Shiel, using in depth local knowledge and historical research. Many of these names have never appeared in print before.

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 **SOILLSE**
 Bliadhna an Nàdair na h-Alba 2013 

Bhon chiad iomradh air ainmean ann an Loch Abar ann an linn Chalum Cille, tha ainmean-àite a' nochdadh nan lusan, nan ainmhidhean agus nan daoine a thug brosnachadh dhan sgìre seo, agus a fhuair brosnachadh aiste: bho uirsgeulan Oisein, obair Alasdair Mhic Mhaighstir Alasdair, na Fuadaichean agus suas gu muinntir an àite san naoidheamh linn deug.

A' leantainn air soirbheachadh *Ainmean-àite ann an Ìle agus Dìura*, tha Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba agus Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba a-rithist air obrachadh còmhla agus obair a dhèanamh air cruth-tìre agus ainmean-àite Arisaig agus Loch Seile, a' cleachdadh fiosrachadh farsaing às an sgìre agus rannsachadh eachdraidheil. Tha mòran dhe na h-ainmean seo nach do nochd ann an clò riamh roimhe.