Notes on Some Scottish Field Names

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A number of field names identified during the 1940s in surveys of the place names of southeast Scotland could not at that time convincingly be explained. Some, however, have doublets or close parallels in England, where major advances have been made in the understanding of minor toponyms during the last half century. As Field (1989, 31) comments, "the repertoire of names is remarkably similar across national frontiers;" this means that comparative evidence from south of the present Scottish/English border is likely to be relevant to interpreting some Scottish names. Here I reexamine a number of problematic field names from the Scottish counties of Midlothian and West Lothian in the light of recent work on English place names.

Introduction

The field names which I discuss below were identified in surveys of the place names of the adjoining counties of Midlothian and West Lothian in southeast Scotland produced more than half a century ago (Dixon 1947; Macdonald 1941).[1] This was a time when toponymic research on the mainland of Britain was at a very early stage, and a number of the field names concerned could not convincingly be explained. During the intervening years, however, increasingly detailed coverage of minor names in successive volumes of the English Place-Name Survey has made available comparative material which may throw light on the interpretation of Scottish field names of English rather than of Scots or Gaelic origin.[2] English field names have been the subject of extensive research in recent years, most especially by the late John Field, who produced the standard dictionary and reference book on the topic as well as numerous articles, conference papers, and pamphlets. His death on 2 July 2000 represented a sad loss to the scholarly community. I draw heavily on his work in this article, which I dedicate to his memory.

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Bigg Park

The second element of the lost field name *Bigg Park* in Uphall parish, West Lothian, is from Old English *pearroc*, meaning 'small enclosure, paddock', as in other West Lothian toponyms such as *Park Farm, Parkhead, Parkly,* and *Broompark* (Macdonald 1941, 135). Macdonald (1941, 156) takes the first element to refer to size, apparently contrasting with Little Park in the same parish.[3] It would be surprising, however, to find such a term in combination with a word denoting a small enclosure; and as Field (1975, 11) notes, *Big* is less common as an indicator of size in field names than *Great.* Here the spelling is more suggestive of a derivation from Old Norse *bygg* 'barley', the etymon of both *Bigg Lands* and *Bigham* in Westmorland, England, "land on which barley was grown" (Field 1972, 20). A Scandinavian stratum in Uphall toponyms is represented, for instance, in *Holygate* (Old Norse *gata* 'road, way') and *Holmes* (Old Norse *holmr* 'low-lying ground by a stream'), while references to crops in the same county include *Ryal* (*Ryall* 1696) 'rye hill' and *Hay Park* (Macdonald 1941, 70, 74, 75, 156). *Bigg Park* is readily explicable as 'barley enclosure'.

Butter Well, Butter Well Park

According to Dixon (1947, 115), the field name *Butter Well* in Borthwick parish, Midlothian, "signifies a well with water that makes good butter." Occurrences of the same name in the English counties of Gloucestershire and Westmorland, however, are interpreted as wells or springs "used for cooling butter" (Smith 1966-67, II, 57), while other references to butter in place names such as *Butterleigh, Butterley, Butterwhat* and *Butterthwaite* are generally taken to denote "rich meadow or pasture producing good butter" (Cameron 1996, 202; Nicolaisen 1976, 103). The latter interpretation is preferred by Macdonald (1941, 142) for *Butter Well Park* in Dalmeny parish, West Lothian, but a recent suggestion that some of these names may refer to the bittern (Middle English *bito(u)r, butur*) should also be borne in mind (Hough 1999, 263-65).

Clock Head (Field), Clock Side Park

Two field names in Bathgate parish, West Lothian, include the word *clock.* These are *Clock Side Park* and a lost *Clock Head* (*Field*). Macdonald (1941, 160) leaves both unexplained, noting simply that "the

meaning of *Clock* is uncertain." Taken in isolation, the names are indeed difficult to interpret. However, comparison with similar formations in England such as *Clock Close* in Berkshire and *Clock Croft* in Cheshire suggests that the reference may be to fields endowed for the upkeep of the church clock (Gelling 1973-76 II, 476; Hough 2001). These fall within a recurrent type of field name formation in which the first element denotes an item of church equipment to be paid for by the rent from the endowed land. Other examples cited by Field (1993, 202-03) include *The Chalace* in Gloucestershire and *Chalice Field* and *Chalice Pightle* (ME *pightel* 'small enclosure, croft') in Hampshire, which "probably provided funds for the purchase of sacramental wine," *Candle Patch* and *Candle Ground* in Gloucestershire, "land producing rent to provide candles," and *Lamplands* in Oxfordshire and *Lamp Plot* in Surrey, referring to "endowments to provide lamps in the respective parish churches." Closer at hand is a lost *Lampacre* in Corstorphine parish, Midlothian (*lie Lamp-aiker* 1642 [*lie*, variant of French *le* 'the'] *the Lamp-Aiker* 1839), identified by Dixon (1947, 155) as land endowed for the upkeep of a lamp in Corstorphine Church, and a lost *Lampland* (1627) in Crichton parish, Midlothian, of similar meaning (Dixon 1947, 172). Other references to religion in Bathgate toponyms include *Chapel Park, Kirkland,* and *Kirkton* (Macdonald 1941, 159, 81). *Clock Side Park* and *Clock Head* (*Field*) may represent further instances.

Dial Park

Macdonald (1941, 144) records a lost *Dial Park* in Abercorn parish, West Lothian, named "presumably because a sun-dial was there." The suggestion receives strong support from comparison with English field names of similar type such as *Dial Close, Dial Field, Dial Hill*, and the like. Nineteen are listed by Field (1972, 62), all referring to "land near or containing a sun-dial, or having a dial cut in the turf."

Egypt

The field name *Egypt,* in Livingston parish, West Lothian, is described as "obscure" by Macdonald (1941, 158), while a doublet of the name in the City parish of Edinburgh, Midlothian, is described by Dixon (1947, 123) as "presumably a late name of probably Biblical origin and comparable with the neighbouring Canaan and Jordan and with Joppa (Portobello)." More recently, Nicolaisen (1976, 65)

discusses the latter and other instances of the same name, suggesting that some "may refer to encampments of gypsies or 'Egyptians' or have to be interpreted in a Biblical context." So too Harris (1996, 257) notes in connection with the Edinburgh name that it

> derived from the medieval supposition that the Romany folk originated in Egypt.... Egypt was outwith [i.e., 'outside'] the Burgh Muir and thus immediately outwith the jurisdiction of the town; and it is therefore reasonable to assume that gypsies were apt to take refuge here whenever they were expelled from Edinburgh.

A similar interpretation of the Livingston name is supported by comparison with English field names, where Field (1993, 157) explains that "most examples of *Egypt* probably allude to land on which gypsies habitually encamp," citing examples from the counties of Hertfordshire, Berkshire, and Essex.

There is, however, an alternative possibility. Some names of this type are nicknames of remoteness; thus Field (1972, 69) accounts for the field name *Egypt* in Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire and for *Egypt Farm* in Essex as a "transferred name for a remote piece of land." This is suggestive in view of Harris's (1996) comments on the geographical location of the Edinburgh *Egypt*. It seems prudent to bear both interpretations in mind for this as well as for the Livingston field name.

Gentleman Side

The lost field name *Gentleman Side* (*Gentlman Side* 1687) in Torphichen parish, West Lothian, is described by Macdonald (1941, 102) as "obscure." So it must probably remain, but it is worth noting the existence of *Gentleman's Mead* in Berkshire, England, described by Field (1993, 173) as "another name which is vague in its application." A reference to some long-forgotten landowner seems most likely in both instances, and indeed Field (1993, 173-74) treats the Berkshire field name alongside others such as *The Squire's Meadow* and *Esquire's Meadow* in Shropshire, *The Squire's Field* in Essex, *The Squire's Piece* and *Landlords Ground* in Oxfordshire, and *Madams Mead* in Berkshire.

Gibraltar

Gibraltar in Dalkeith parish, Midlothian, "is unrecorded and obviously modern," according to Dixon (1947, 184). It need not, however, remain unexplained. The term is common in English field

names such as *Gibraltar, Gibraltar Mill* and *Gibraltar Pasture* in Cheshire, *Gibraltar Close* and *Gibraltar Wood* in Berkshire, and *Gibraltar Wood* in Lancashire, and is explained by Field (1972, 88) as "a transferred name alluding to land that was not only remote but possibly also rock-like." Subsequently discussing some of these names in greater detail, he describes how *Gibraltar Field* in Hertfordshire "is in a far corner of the parish of Flamstead," while *Gibraltar Plantation* in Nottinghamshire is in a remote part of the parish of Carburton, and *Gibraltar* in the same county is at a narrow point within the parish of Fledborough, "suggesting the Strait rather than the Rock" (Field 1993, 151). It seems reasonable to conclude that a similar metaphorical use applied to *Gibraltar* in Dalkeith.

Goshen

Regarding the lost name *Goshen* in Uphall parish, West Lothian, Macdonald (1941, 74) comments only: "Presumably it owes its name to the Old Testament; *cf.* Genesis xlvi and following." Nicolaisen (1976, 65-66) takes the matter further, describing *Goshen* as

> a common eighteenth- to nineteenth-century farm-name in several counties, standing as a kind of onomastic metaphor for 'land of plenty', 'land without plagues', after the Old Testament Goshen in Egypt where Joseph settled his father and brothers.

The same explanation is given by Dixon (1947, 210) for *Goshen* in Inveresk parish, Midlothian, and may well be correct. However, an alternative possibility is suggested by comparison with *Goshan* in Cheshire, "a transferred biblical name alluding to the remoteness of the field" (Field 1972, 91). As with the field name *Egypt* discussed above, neither a metaphorical use nor an application as a nickname of remoteness can be ruled out in individual instances.

Grub Dub Acre

Macdonald (1941, 160) takes the first element of the lost field name *Grub Dub Acre* in Bathgate parish, West Lothian, to be a dialectal use of the verb *grub* 'to soil or dirty', with the second element representing a substantive *dub* in either of its attested senses, 'a small pool of rain-water; a puddle; a small pond or pool of water' or 'mud, dirt'. Comparison with English field names such as *Dub Close, Dub Gils* and *Dub Side* in Westmorland, denoting "land beside, or containing, a pool"

from Old English **dubb* 'pool' (Field 1972, 67), supports the first of Macdonald's suggestions for the second element. As regards the first element, however, verbs are not common in place names, and a reference to soiling makes little sense in the toponymic context. A more plausible alternative is a derivation from Middle English *grubbed* 'land from which trees and shrubs have been cleared'. This term is well represented in English field names such as *The Grub, Grub Ground,* Grub *Hill, Grub Pightle, Grubbed Ground* and *Grubbed Hill* in Oxfordshire, *Grub Copse, Grub Ground* and *Grubbed Ground* in Berkshire and *Grubbed Close* in Hampshire (Field 1972, 93), while to the best of my knowledge a toponymic use of the verb *grub* 'to soil or dirty' would be unparalleled. I therefore suggest that *Grub Dub Acre* refers to cleared land by a pool.

Gutters

Rather than offering an interpretation for the lost field name *Gutters* in Whitburn parish, West Lothian, Macdonald (1941, 110) simply refers to the entry for *Gutter* in Wright (1898-1905), commenting that "any of the meanings given there would suit." Again, comparison with doublets of the name in England may be useful. Field (1972, 94) cites *Gutter Acre* in Hampshire, *Gutter Close* in Leicestershire, *Gutter Field* in Hertfordshire and *Gutter Leasow* (*leasow* < OE *læs* 'pasture, enclosed land') in Shropshire, all designating "land adjoining a drainage channel." This would therefore appear to be the most likely application of the term in the Whitburn field name.

The Jib (Field)

Macdonald (1941, 153) notes that *The Jib* (*Field*) in Linlithgow parish, West Lothian, "is triangular in shape, so is probably so called from its resemblance to a jib-sail." Shape names are of course common in minor toponyms, but not often with reference to sailing. Here an alternative explanation is suggested by comparison with English field names such as *Gib Close* in Bedfordshire, where, as Schneider (1997, 17) notes, "the gibbet stood by the road here until 1803." Similar names include *Gibbet Copse* in Hampshire, *Gibbet Hill* in Hertfordshire and *Gibbets Field* in Staffordshire, all referring to land on which a gallows stood, although as Field (1972, 88) explains, "*gibbet* and *gallows* were not convertible terms at all periods, the former being used from the sixteenth century onwards for the single post with a jib from which the

dead bodies of certain criminals were hung in chains." Further instances listed in Field (1993, 239) are *Gibetclif* (1388) in the West Riding of Yorkshire, *Gibbet Heath* (1690) and *Gibbiting Field* in Cheshire, *Gibetflat* (1301) in the East Riding of Yorkshire, *Gibbet Hill* in Westmorland, *Gibbet Knoll* in Wiltshire and possibly *The Jebbet* or *Gallowes* in Cheshire (1580), although the latter may alternatively refer "to the structures rather than the fields in which they were located," as does *The Gibbet* (*the Jebytt* 1607) in Leicestershire (Cox 1998, 111). More recently identified are *Gibbet Gate* and *Gibbet Gorse* in Rutland (Cox 1994, 430), again both referring to land with a gibbet.

It therefore seems possible that The Jib (Field) should be grouped not with shape names but with other West Lothian toponyms referring to places of execution, such as *Gallow Law* 'gallows hill' in Dalmeny parish, *Gallowscrook* 'nook of land in which a gallows stood' and *Gallowsland* in Abercorn parish, *Gallowhill(s)*, *Gallowhills* and *Gallows Knowe* in Linlithgow parish, and *Gallowhill* in Whitburn parish (Macdonald 1941, 10, 21-22, 68, 116, 152, 110).

Lammas Board

Dixon (1947, 201) describes *Lammas Board* in Heriot parish, Midlothian, as "obscure," but offers the following quotation from Lubbock (1870):

> Our Lammas' lands were so-called because they were private property until Lammas Day (August 1) after which period they were subject to common rights of pasturage until the spring.

Such an interpretation of *Lammas Board* is strongly endorsed by comparison with English field names of the same type. Thirty examples of *The Lammas, Great Lammas, Lammas Croft, Lammas Field*, and so on are listed by Field (1972, 121), all designating "meadow lands used for grazing after 1 August," while Cox (1994, 429) identifies no less than eighteen instances within the county of Rutland alone. The second element of the Heriot field name remains unclear, but the overall meaning of the toponym is not in doubt.

Laughing Hill

As regards *Laughing Hill* in Bo'ness and Carriden parish, West Lothian, Macdonald (1941, 147) comments, "no reason can be given for

the name." More recently, however, two occurrences of *Laughing Croft* and one of *Laughing Stead* have come to light in Cheshire, together with a *Laughing Field* in Derbyshire, all of which have been identified as "complimentary names for productive land" (Field 1972, 123). There can be little doubt that *Laughing Hill* falls into the same category of field name formation.

London

The lost name *London* in Bathgate parish, West Lothian, is left unexplained by Macdonald (1941, 87-88). Occurrences of the same toponym in the English counties of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire represent "transferred names for remote pieces of land" (Field 1972, 128), so it seems likely that the same interpretation may apply here.

Makimrich

Makimrich in Fala and Soutra parish, Midlothian, is described by Dixon (1947, 192) as "apparently a name of popular origin applied, perhaps ironically, to land of very low feu-duty." It may be of interest to note the occurrence of an almost identical field name, *Make Me Rich,* in the West Riding of Yorkshire, explained by Field (1972, 132) as "a complimentary name for a productive field." Similar references to profitability in field names include *Pay My Cost* in Cornwall, *Paywell Field* in Shropshire, *Great Gains* in Berkshire and Essex, *Gold Finder* and *Turn Penny Field* in Cheshire and *Profitable Field* in Surrey (Field 1993, 112). Irony seems unlikely to be intended, and Field's comment on *Make Me Rich* in the West Riding may apply equally to *Makimrich* in Fala and Soutra parish: "whether regarded as statement, command, exhortation, or impetration, [it] has an unarguably commendatory ring" (1986, 7).

Noble's Lea

Macdonald (1941, 120) offers two alternative explanations for *Noble's Lea* in Linlithgow parish, West Lothian, commenting: "Evidence is not sufficient to state whether the first part of the name is a surname or a common noun; the former is more likely." Since the toponym is recorded from the early seventeenth century (*lie nobillis Lie* 1614, *lie Nobillis Ley* 1615), at which time the gold noble (a coin worth a third of one pound sterling) was still in circulation, a third possibility

is a reference to monetary value, presumably in relation to rent. This is the sense of the term in the field names *Noble Hey* in Cheshire "land rented at one noble per annum" (Field 1972, 150), *Three Nobles Hay, Seven Nobles Hay* and a lost *Five Nobles Hey* in the same county, and *Noble Cross* in Shropshire (Field 1993, 194). The same may apply in *Noble's Lea,* although both Macdonald's suggestions remain possible.

Pennylaws

Macdonald (1941, 149) describes *Pennylaws* in Kirkliston parish. West Lothian, as "probably a corruption of *Penninglaws*," referring to an enclosure for cattle. Since no early spellings are available, the etymology cannot be established beyond reasonable doubt. However, the present form is more consistent with a derivation from the word *penny,* which has a literal application in many field names. Field (1972, 163-64) gives a selection of more than thirty occurrences such as *Penny Bank, Penny Close, Penny Croft,* etc., all referring to land on which a penny rent was payable, while *Taipenny Knowe* in Fala and Soutra parish, Midlothian, appears to have been valued at twice the amount (Dixon 1947, 192). A similar interpretation may apply to *Pennylaws.*

The Plum

Discussing *The Plum* in Linlithgow parish, West Lothian, Macdonald (1941, 121) comments, "possibly it was so called because of a plum-tree which was a prominent landmark; but evidence insufficient." The suggestion may be supported by comparison with English field names. Field (1972, 170) cites nine instances of *Plum Close, Plum Field, Plum Furlong*, and the like referring to "land on which plum trees were grown." The case is not clear-cut, however, since other occurrences of the word *plum* in English toponyms refer to the coloration or the consistency of the soil, as in *Plum Cake* in Derbyshire, *Plum Cake Corner* in Hampshire and *Plum Pudding Meadow* in Derbyshire and Surrey (Field 1972, 170). These form part of a well-evidenced group of field name formations containing "fanciful references to sticky soil," further exemplified by names such as *Christmas Pie* in Surrey, *Glue Pot* in Cumberland, *Loblolly* in Essex and *Treacle Nook* in Derbyshire (Field 1993, 41).[4] In the absence of evidence for a literal explanation of *The Plum* in Linlithgow, a metaphorical interpretation should also be borne in mind.

Pound Field, Pound Park

Pound Park in Kirkliston parish, West Lothian, is attributed to the dialectal term *pound* 'pond' by Macdonald (1941, 148-49), who notes that "there was formerly a pond in the field." Since ponds are scarcely uncommon, this may be no more than coincidence; and indeed, Macdonald acknowledges that this use of the term is not otherwise attested in Scots, although he takes it to be evidenced in other West Lothian toponyms such as *Pound Field* in Bo'ness and Carriden parish (1941, 146).

A more usual meaning of *pound* is 'an enclosure for stray animals', and it is this sense that occurs in the English field names *Pound Acre* in Westmorland, *Pound Close* in Berkshire, Dorset, Middlesex, Oxfordshire and Westmorland, *Pound Field* in Essex, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey, *Pound Field Piece* in Essex, *Pound Piece* in Berkshire and Gloucestershire, *Pound Pightle* in Norfolk, *Pound Pleck* (ME *plek* 'small plot of ground') in Worcestershire and *Pound Wood* in Surrey (Field 1972, 173). I therefore suggest that 'land by an enclosure for stray animals' is the most likely interpretation of *Pound Park* and *Pound Field* in West Lothian.

Preencott

Macdonald (1941, 75) records an alternative name for *Wyndford* in Uphall parish, West Lothian, as *Preencott* or *Pin Cod* 'pincushion', repeating without enthusiasm an earlier suggestion that it may have been given "because it was said to have once been occupied by dressmakers." This has all the hallmarks of folk etymology. A better explanation is suggested by comparison with the English field names *Pincushen Hill* in Westmorland and *Pincushion* in Dorset, both of which are shape names referring to convex pieces of land (Field 1972, 167).

Rack (Field)

With regard to *Rack (Field)* in Abercorn parish, West Lothian, Macdonald (1941, 145) comments, "presumably *rack* here is couch-grass." This cannot be disproved, but alternatively the term may refer to the cloth-making industry. Field (1972, 178) identifies fifteen instances of *Rack Close, Rack Field, Rack Ground, Rackhay, Rack Hill, Racknap, Rack Piece* and *Racks* in England, all apparently designating "land containing frames used in finishing cloth;" and a more extended

discussion outlining the processes involved in the manufacture of cloth and their representation in field names appears in Field (1993, 226). Other references to the textile industry in West Lothian include *Madder Yard* in Linlithgow parish, an "enclosure where madder was grown" (Macdonald 1941, 118-19)[5] and *Waulkmill* in Torphichen parish, a "fulling mill" (Macdonald 1941, 162); while the occurrence of *Drysters Acre* in Abercorn itself makes it possible to locate the fulling process within the same parish as *Rack (Field)* (Macdonald 1941, 146).[6] The balance of evidence therefore seems to favor an interpretation of the latter toponym as land with a drying frame.

Sanctuary Crofts

Macdonald (1941, 121) has difficulty in explaining the lost name *Sanctuary Crofts* in Linlithgow parish, West Lothian (*les Sanctuary-croftis* 1451), designating lands given by James II to his wife, Mary of Gueldres. Quoting an earlier suggestion by Mackinlay, Macdonald takes the term *sanctuary* to refer in general to the church's role as a refuge for fugitives, an interpretation not literally applicable here:

> In mediaeval times every church and churchyard formed a sanctuary, and sometimes the *girth* extended beyond the limits of the latter. In this case, however, the sanctuary was probably connected not with any religious foundation, but with Linlithgow Palace as a royal residence, and corresponded with what is known as the *peel* or *park*.

There is, however, another meaning of *sanctuary* in field names, which does not depend on physical proximity to a church. The term is also used for a section of the chancel (the most sacred area of the church and containing the altar), and toponymic occurrences refer, like the names discussed under *Clock Head (Field)* and *Clock Side Park* above, to lands endowed for the upkeep of this part of the church. English parallels include *Sanctuary* in Rutland (Cox 1994, 428) and *Seyntuary Close* in Oxfordshire and *The Seyntury Land* in Berkshire (Field 1993, 203), while endowments relating to the maintenance of other parts of the chancel are referred to in *The Quire* and *Le Quere* in Oxfordshire, and possibly *Chauncell Close* in the same county (Field 1993, 203).[7] It is logical to conclude that *Sanctuary Crofts* in Linlithgow may at one time similarly have been endowed for the maintenance of this part of the church building.

The Scud Hintie

Macdonald's discussion (1941, 146) of *The Scud Hintie* in Abercorn parish, West Lothian, reads as follows (EDD = Wright 1898-1905):

> A difficult name; either *Scud,* a blow (EDD), *Hintie* from *Hint,* behind–the field lies on a slope and would necessitate belabouring the horses; or for *Scuddy Hint* (*Scuddy*, naked); the name would thus fall into the 'Hungry Hill' class.

The first alternative is to the best of my knowledge unparalleled in either Scottish or English toponyms. The second, however, would be directly analogous to the English field name *Bare Arse.* The latter is a recurrent name, represented in the counties of Cheshire, Hampshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, and with two instances each in Shropshire, Lancashire, and Leicestershire (Field 1972, 13; Field 1993, 108). A similar name, *Bare Breeks* (*Field*) (*breeks* 'breeches ~ britches'), occurs in Bo'ness and Carriden parish, West Lothian (Macdonald 1941, 146). As a derogatory name for unproductive land, it belongs to the "Hungry Hill" type of formation, and this would therefore seem to represent the more likely interpretation of *The Scud Hintie.*

Shillinghill, Shilling Hill

Macdonald's interpretation (1941, 145) of *Shillinghill* and the lost *Shilling Hill* in Abercorn parish, West Lothian, as "a hill or eminence used for 'shilling' or winnowing grain (O[ld] E[nglish] *scylian*)" is plausible and may be correct. As mentioned above under Noble's Lea and Pennylaws, however, references to the monetary value of land or to the rent payable are very common in minor toponyms, and occurrences of the word *shilling* in English field names have this application. Unambiguous examples include *Forty Shilling Close* in Warwickshire, *Seven Shilling Worth, Seven Shillings,* and *Twenty Shilling Field* in Cheshire and *Twenty Shillings Pasture* in Durham (Field 1972, 81, 197, 240), as well as *the Five Shillings peece* and *the Forty Shillings Close* in Rutland (Cox 1994, 427). Taken in conjunction with *Twenty Shilling* and *Shillingland* in the modern county of Dumfries and Galloway in southwest Scotland, identified by Waugh (1998, 49) as references to "size and economic potential of a farm" alongside others such as *Ferdingdrumbane, Ferdingilroy* ('farthingland', both referring to land on which a farthing tax was payable), *Pennyland* and *Merkland* (land for which rent of one mark was payable), these would appear to support a similar interpretation for *Shillinghill* and *Shilling Hill.*

The Tays Park

Macdonald (1941, 165) describes *The Tays Park* in Whitburn parish, West Lothian, as "obscure," but notes cautiously that "the field is T-shaped." That this is more than coincidence is confirmed by comparison with similar shape names in England, many of them incorporating letters of the alphabet. Examples cited by Field (1972, 226) include *Tea Close* in Leicestershire, *Tea Tining* in Somerset, *T Acres* in Durham, *Tee* in Derbyshire, *The Tee Bank* in Worcestershire, *Tee Field* in Cheshire, *Tee Ground* in Oxfordshire, and *Tea Piece* in Derbyshire, all referring to a "T-shaped piece of land." Field (1993, 136-37) adds *Tea Field, T Meadow* and *Roman T* in Shropshire, describing the latter as "a narrow field with two extensions at the boundary with the road." Taken together, these offer a strong endorsement of Macdonald's tentative interpretation of *The Tays Park.*

Tippet Knowes

For *Tippet Knowes* in Kirkliston parish, West Lothian, Macdonald (1941, 149) hazards "'crested' knolls," following the interpretation with a question mark to indicate uncertainty. The second element undoubtedly represents the reflex of Old English *cnoll* 'knoll, hillock', a term also found in other West Lothian toponyms (Macdonald 1941, 126), such as *Knowehead, Knowes, Knows, Broomyknowes* and *Bughtknowes* ('hillocks with sheep folds', < Middle Scots *bucht* 'sheep fold'). The first, however, should be reconsidered, since it is now known that terms for clothing occur in a number of field names, usually with reference to shape. In a section of his *History of English Field-Names* headed "References to Apparel," Field (1993, 138-39) notes that "The Tippet, in Branston and Mere (Linc[oln]s[hire]), recorded in the middle of the eighteenth century, may refer to a narrow piece of land by comparison with the scarf-like garment," and goes on to explain:

> Other examples, in Lincolnshire and in the West Riding of Yorkshire, confirm names of this type as garment analogies: *Hode and Tippit* 1601, in Thornton Curtis (Linc[oln]s[hire]), *Tippit* 1727 (*The Tippett* 1684), in Arncliffe, and an entry, 'Parcels of Ground called the Tippet & Hoode', in the 1764 Glebe Terrier for Kettlewell (Y[orkshire] W[est Riding]), where the 1663 Terrier had the form *Tippitte and Hoode.*

A further example has more recently come to light in the lost field name *The Tippets* in Leicestershire, recorded as early as 1550 as *Typpet,*

and again "named from its shape, that of a tippet, a long narrow hanging part of a hood or sleeve" (Cox 1998, 194). It seems most likely that *Tippet Knowes* represents a similar formation referring to a narrow piece of ground.

Turnymoor (Field)

Turnymoor (Field) in Kirkliston parish, West Lothian, is described as "obscure" by Macdonald (1941, 149). Again, possible explanations are suggested by comparison with English field names. *Turnabout* and *Turning Holme* in Derbyshire, *Turnabout Ley* and *Turning Leasow* in Shropshire (*leasow* < OE *læs* 'pasture, enclosed land') and *Turning But Flat* in Cheshire all refer to "land on which a plough may be turned" (Field 1972, 239). A similar interpretation may apply to the West Lothian name. Alternatively, there may be a connection with Old English **trun* 'circular piece of land', as in *The Turn, Turn Croft* and *Turn Meadow* in Derbyshire, *Turn Croft* in Cheshire and *Turn Wood* in Westmorland (Field 1972, 239). Metathesis of this kind is not uncommon, especially where folk etymology may have played a part in converting an obsolete term into one more familiar. An adjectival form **trunig* 'circular' might most plausibly account for *Turnymoor (Field)*.

Vineyard (Field)

According to Macdonald (1941, 154), *Vineyard (Field)* in Linlithgow parish, West Lothian, was named "presumably because of its fertility." Surprisingly, however, a number of English field names of this type refer literally to the growing of grapes. Field (1972, 245) cites five examples of *The Vine(s), Vine Farm,* and the like, and no less than twenty of *(The) Vineyard(s), Vineyard Field,* and so on. Drawing attention to occurrences in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire as well as in southern English counties, he notes that "The extent of the field names alluding to the vine, especially (The) Vineyard, is wider than either climatic or economic conditions might suggest" (1987, 169). The Linlithgow field name may indicate that it extends even as far north as the West Lothian of Scotland.

Conclusion

The small sample of field names considered here illustrates the close links between minor toponyms in northern and southern Britain. In some instances, identical forms occur on both sides of the Scottish/English

border; in others, recurrent types of formations provide a context for the understanding of problematic names which are difficult to interpret in isolation. All place name research depends heavily on comparative evidence, and the growing corpus of field names being made available through the English Place-Name Survey will facilitate further work on their Scottish counterparts. Indeed, the debt may not always be one-sided. Although the Scottish Place-Name Survey is less advanced than its English counterpart, an archive of material has been assembled at the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh and will form the nucleus of a computerized database of Scottish place names currently being developed by Dr. Simon Taylor of the University of St. Andrews. Moreover, a Scottish Place-Name Society was inaugurated in 1996 in order to expedite the database as well as to facilitate the collection of further material. The time may not be too far off when English toponymists will look to the Scottish corpus as eagerly as we in Scotland delve through the publications of the English Place-Name Society. One thing, however, is certain: both groups of scholars will continue to draw extensively on the work of John Field, who almost single-handedly transformed the study of field names in England from a Cinderella subject into a major and absorbing discipline. The world of name studies owes him a great and lasting debt.

Notes

1. Unless otherwise stated, all references are to the county boundaries preceding the United Kingdom local government reorganization of the 1970s. Lost place names are those no longer in use whether or not the original location is known.

2. The evolving treatment of field names in early volumes of the English Place-Name Survey is charted by Field (1986, 1-4) in his usual lucid and humorous style.

3. Macdonald does not give a meaning for the field name, but the interpretation is implicit in his classification system as *Bigg Park* appears within category 5, "those with names giving information about size, shape, or other peculiarities, other than geographical" (1941,142).

4. At first sight, *Haggis Knowe* in the City parish of Edinburgh, Midlothian, might appear to represent a similar formation despite Dixon's derivation from the dialectal term *haggy* 'boggy' with Old English *cnoll* 'hillock' (1947, 139). However, an allusion to "*haggs* or broken ground" is confirmed by Harris (1996, 317-18), who draws attention to "well-marked cultivation terraces, dating from the Dark Ages or earlier, on its north-easterly slope." It seems likely that folk etymology has affected both this name and the analogous *Haggis Wood* in Uphall parish, West Lothian (Macdonald 1941, 157).

5. Macdonald (1941, 119) observes, "Presumably the madder was used for dyeing purposes; there was a strong Guild of Dyers in Linlithgow."

6. Macdonald (1941, 146) notes, "Presumably a drying-green," without committing himself as to the type of drying in question. However, Fransson (1935, 102) associates the occupational surname *Dreyster* with the bleaching or fulling of cloth.

7. Gelling (1953-54 II, 435) takes the lost field name *Chauncell close* to refer to the chancel, but Field (1993, 203) prefers to derive it from *cangle* 'an enclosure'.

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