

The walk from Falkland, with its famous royal palace and gardens to Strathmiglo, on the River Eden, cuts across a wide valley that lies between the Lomond and Ochil Hills. On the way you will encounter the names of settlements that range from former burghs to farms such as Chancerfield, Barrington and Easter and Wester Cash, where the ancestors of the American Country and Western singer Johnny Cash came from. Your attention will also be drawn to physical features such as the Arraty Craigs, Maspie Burn and the Miglo, a former name for this stretch of the River Eden. For part of the route you will follow the Cotton Road from Jenny Nettles' Grave to Strathmiglo where you will immediately encounter the intriguingly named California. How did all of these names come about? This leaflet will be your guide, helping you not only to explore the landscape but also discover the meaning of place-names in this fascinating north-western corner of Fife.

Falkland to Strathmiglo

Falkland to Strathmiglo A self-guided place-name walk



Re-connecting people
with the hills

Living Heritage



About the route

This self-guided walk, which spans the five parishes of Falkland and Strathmiglo, starts from the west of the village of Falkland. For the most part it follows a generally level and well maintained road. The names encountered on the trail are guides to the languages of the past, which for this part of Fife are chiefly Pictish, Gaelic and Scots, together spanning around 1,500 years, with the latest names in Gaelic coined just 800 years ago. If you are travelling by car there are parking places available as shown on the map. Local transport links can be found via www.travelinScotland.com

With thanks to

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Arts & Humanities
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This self-guided walk is one of a series in the area. To find out more go to www.livinglomonds.org.uk

Like this - want more?

While out enjoying the local countryside please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Please wear sturdy footwear, take suitable clothing and some water and be aware that the weather can quickly change.

Make your walk enjoyable

Find out more

The Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership is an association of organisations in Fife and Perth & Kinross.

Our aim is to re-connect people with the living legacy of the Lomond and Benarty Hills through a range of community based activities, volunteering opportunities and projects.

Visit the Living Lomonds website www.livinglomonds.org.uk to print more copies of this leaflet and other self-guided walks in the area and to access the links detailed below.

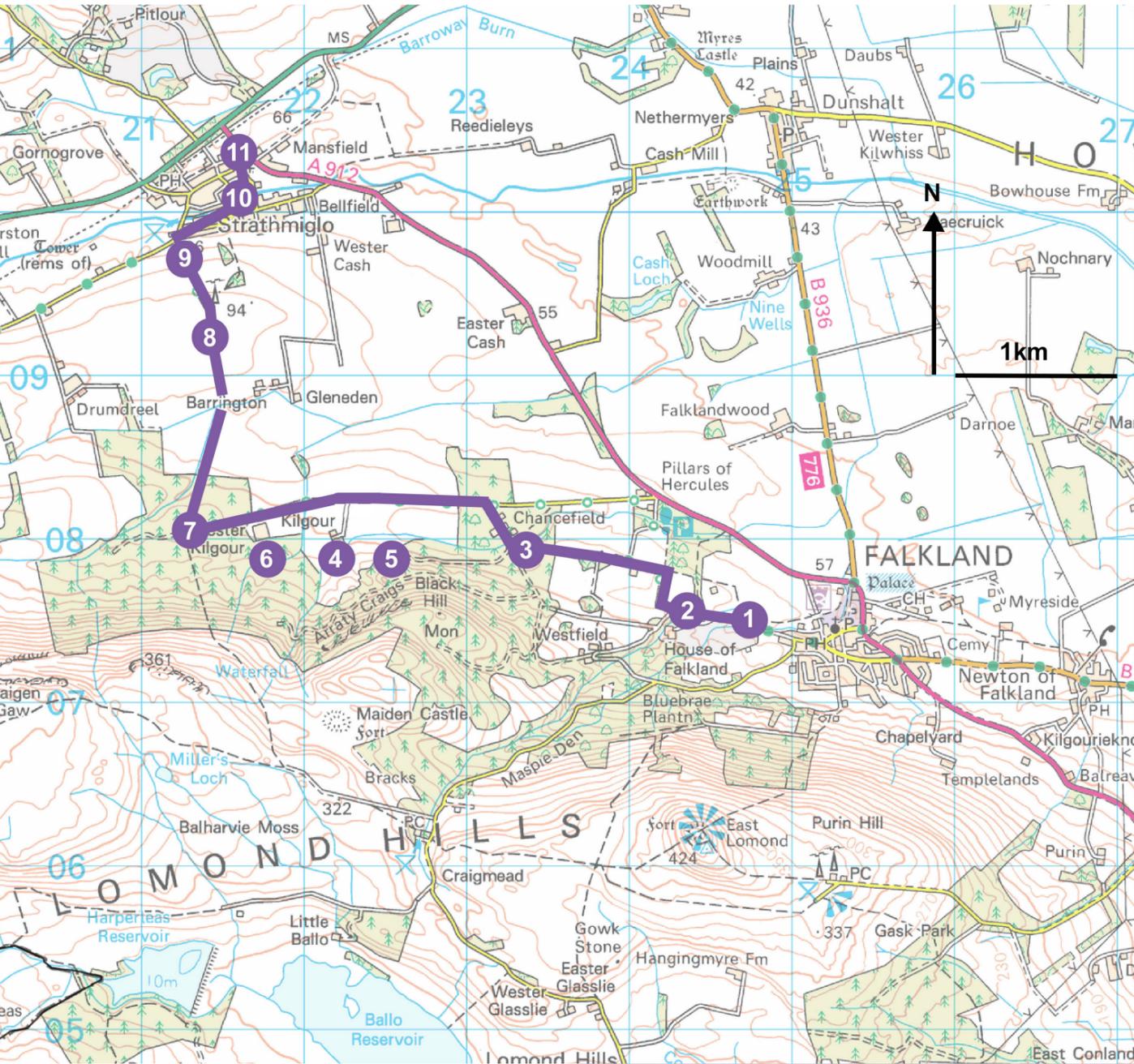
Further information

Scottish Place-Name Society www.spns.org.uk

The Place-Names of Fife Vol. 2, Vol.4 and Vol. 5 (Shaun Tyas: Donington 2008, 2010, 2012) by Simon Taylor with Gilbert Márkus

Place-Names, Protein and Power: The Meaning of the Falkland Trenches (Falkland Centre for Stewardship 2010) by Gilbert Márkus

Falkland Estate: An Unfolding History (Falkland Centre for Stewardship 2009) by Kenny Taylor



Description

A tranquil walk through the Estate of Falkland, woods and farmland with views across the Strath of the Eden and to the Lomond Hills.

Terrain

A wide, tarmac path with some long moderate slopes and one uneven section which can be muddy after rain. Includes gates and a bridge.



easy

4¼ miles/6.8 km
Allow 2½ hours (one way)

1 Falkland

As you approach The Stables car park on Falkland Estate look out for the sign indicating the 'Hidden Place'. This is a possible meaning of the name Falkland, styled *Falecklen* (c.1160) and *Falkeland* (1233), from the Gaelic elements *falach*, meaning 'hidden', and *lann*, an 'enclosure'. An alternative origin of the first element of the name is Gaelic *falc*, 'heavy rain'.



Entrance to Falkland Estate

2 Maspie Burn

West of The Stables the road crosses the Maspie Burn which is recorded in Latin as *acqua de Mospy* (1595) and as the *water of Mospie* (1654). This name is derived from the Scots *moss peth* meaning 'the steep path leading to the moss or muir'.

3 Chancefield

The four farms of Chancefield, Westfield, Annfield and Summerfield were created in the 1820s. Approached along a farm track, Chancefield is the 'happy or fortunate field'. The track passes a remarkable feature called The Trenches, probably connected with the capturing and management of deer to supply the royal hunting park.

4 Kilgour

After joining a straight farm road created in the 1820s, you will see to your left the old farmstead of Kilgour, the old name for the parish of Falkland and the site of the parish kirk till the early 17th century, now marked by a small, overgrown graveyard. Styled *Kilgouerin* (1224) and *Kilgoure* (1417), the name Kilgour is derived from the Gaelic *cill*, meaning 'church' and a saint's name *Gobhran* or a burn-name containing the Gaelic word *gobhar*, 'goat'.

5 Arraty Craigs

Above are the Arraty Craigs, from which flows the Arraty Burn through the Arraty Den (*Arraty Den* 1602), a name possibly containing Old Gaelic *arrachta*, meaning 'strong, vigorous or bold', apt for the Arraty Burn as it tumbles down the steep north side of the Lomonds.

6 Barrington Muir Plantation

The road continues westwards into Strathmiglo parish and the Barrington Muir Plantation, formerly the muir or rough grazing attached to the farm of Barrington, which was styled *Barnton* in 1818 and *Barrington* in 1828, a name meaning 'barn-farm'.

7 Jenny Nettles' Grave

At or near the sharp right turn in the plantation towards Strathmiglo was Jenny Nettles' Grave. Buried in an unmarked grave at this crossroads, Jennie Nettles is said to have committed suicide after being deserted by her lover in the early 18th century.

8 Cotton Road

The road leading northwards from here into Strathmiglo is known as the Cotton Road, because it passed the Cottoun of Cash (*Cash Cottown* 1775) at the Strathmiglo end of the track, the cottoun being 'the farm or settlement of cottars or small-holders' on Wester Cash.

9 California

Reaching Strathmiglo and the Dryside Road, which heads westwards into Kinross-shire, you pass the end of Skene Street, named after a local laird who established a linen mill there in the 19th century. At the west end of Skene

Street is California, styled *West Wynd* in 1832, probably a humorous name bestowed in the 19th century because it lay at the western edge of the village, when California became synonymous with the far west. The name, which first appears as California Well on a map of 1856, was later reduced to the Cali Well, now sadly infilled.



West Lomond from Strathmiglo

10 Cash

Follow Skene Street to the Cash Feus. The lands of Easter and Wester Cash (*Esterchasse* 1294, *Westercasse* 1294) probably derive their names from a Gaelic word *cas* meaning 'steep'.

11 Strathmiglo

From Cash Feus, cross the River Eden and the Green to the parish Church. The village of Strathmiglo, written *Strathmigloc* c.1175 and *Stramyglo* in 1409, is a name derived from the Gaelic word *strath*, signifying the 'broad valley' of the river Miglo. The Miglo, or *Water of Miglo* (1722) contains the the Pictish word **mig-* which is related to the Welsh *mign* meaning 'bog or marsh'. This name refers to its boggy course between Gateside and Dunshelt, where it flowed into the Eden. It is now known as the River Eden. A former alternative name of the village was Ecclesmartin (*Eglismarten* c.1248 and *Eglismartene* in 1605), a name derived from the Pictish **eglēs* plus the name *Martin*, meaning 'church of St Martin'.