

‘HENCE THE NAME’: BERWICKSHIRE PARISHES ALONG THE ANGLO-SCOTTISH
BORDER AS DESCRIBED IN THE ORDNANCE SURVEY NAME BOOKS

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More than 1,800 of the Ordnance Survey’s Original Object Name Books exist for the whole of Scotland, albeit with some gaps.¹ These books date from 1845 to 1878 and detail notes made by surveyors – both personnel of the Royal Engineers and civilian assistants – as they recorded the orthography and descriptions of the place-names that were to feature on the Ordnance Survey Six Inch First Edition maps. The Name Books provide a rich source of information about nineteenth-century society and its perception and understanding of place-names. In recent years the value of this source has been increasingly recognised and has resulted in a large-scale crowdsourcing transcription project to mount transcriptions of all of the entries contained within the Name Books, along with images of the original pages, on the ScotlandsPlaces website.²

The system of Name Books was not unique to Scotland but had developed from previous Ordnance Survey work in England and Ireland.³ Evidence of embryonic forms of what would later become the method used in the Name Books has been cited for Lincolnshire and Hull, while the earliest surviving example of printed sheets (each with four columns), which were bound together to form a book, can be dated to c.1839 in Doncaster.⁴ This paper presents a study of the Ordnance Survey’s work in five Berwickshire parishes

¹ The Ordnance Survey has deposited the original manuscript volumes in the National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh (shelfmark OS1). References to the individual volumes quoted below are the reference numbers for these original volumes, which are also replicated on the digital volumes on the ScotlandsPlaces website (see note 2, below). In the quotations from the Ordnance Survey Name Books in this paper, pointed brackets are used to indicate presumed letters that cannot be seen owing to the book being bound too tightly. Square brackets are used for expansions. Underlining in the original is reproduced.

² <<http://www.scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books>> (accessed 30/11/2015). The images on ScotlandsPlaces require payment of a subscription (at the time of writing) but are free to view in the National Records of Scotland’s historical search room. The crowdsourced transcriptions are free to view on the ScotlandsPlaces website. For a brief summary of the Ordnance Survey’s work in Scotland in the nineteenth century, see Fleet, Wilkes and Withers 2011, 144–45.

³ For general histories and the work of the Ordnance Survey, see Owen and Pilbeam 1992; Seymour 1980; Hewitt 2010. For the Ordnance Survey in Ireland, see Andrews 2006; Ó Cadhla 2007; Doherty 2004. For a discussion of Name Books in the Hebrides and methods used in their compilation, see Withers 2000.

⁴ Seymour 1980, 105–07. See also Withers 2000, 552 note 20.

along the Anglo-Scottish Border: Coldstream, Eccles, Hutton, Ladykirk and Mordington. It aims not only to give some indication of the range of content to be found within the source for these five parishes, but also to explore how the source has been compiled, and how the records compare and contrast with those of other counties, such as Fife and Kinross-shire and Clackmannanshire.⁵

In working with the Name Books, the first thing to highlight is that the source is not a uniform one. There is variation between different counties and even within counties with regard to the structure of the forms that were being completed and the information recorded by the staff of the Ordnance Survey in their work to establish the orthography of the place-names for the First Edition maps. For example, in the Fife and Kinross-shire Name Books, compiled in 1853–55, there are six columns – the first two being ‘List of names to be corrected if necessary’ and ‘Orthography, as recommended to be used in the new Plans’. These are followed by columns for ‘Other modes of Spelling the same Name’, ‘Authority for those other modes of Spelling where known’ (which records the various people the surveyors asked and the written sources that were used), ‘Situation’ (in the case of Fife a measurement in chains with a direction from a given point) and finally ‘Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of interest’.⁶ Each Name Book for these counties usually consists of entries of place-names from more than one parish. By the time of the compilation of the Clackmannanshire Name Books in 1861–62 the format is simpler consisting of only five columns with the Situation column containing the number of the surveyor’s plan on which the name appears. Parishes or detached parts of parishes are allocated to separate volumes.

For the five Berwickshire parishes examined in this study, the situation is different again – date-wise they fall in between the counties mentioned above, being surveyed in 1857–58 – but although they have five columns, unlike the other two counties the labels on the front cover of each of their volumes bear the title ‘Name Sheets’ rather than ‘Name Book’;⁷ as do all those of Berwickshire with the exception of the volume for the parish of Cockburnspath and the three volumes for Coldingham parish.⁸ However, for the purposes of this paper the term ‘Name Book’ will be used. In comparison to the Name Books of both Fife and Kinross-shire, and Clackmannanshire, the Berwickshire Name Books

⁵ The counties of Kinross-shire and Clackmannanshire have been surveyed as part of the AHRC-funded *Scottish Toponymy in Transition* project at the University of Glasgow.

⁶ OSNB Fife and Kinross-shire, OS1/13/1–135.

⁷ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/12 (Coldstream), OS1/5/17 (Eccles), OS1/5/25 (Hutton), OS1/5/26 (Ladykirk), OS1/5/34 (Mordington).

⁸ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/8 (Cockburnspath), OS1/5/9–11 (Coldingham).

contain more information about the individual surveyors, whose names often appear in the top right-hand corners of the sheets, at times with details of their rank within the Royal Engineers or their status as civilian assistants.

Where the same place-name occurs in more than one county or more than one parish, there can be striking differences. One example from the Name Books of Clackmannanshire and Fife is that of Foulbutts Bridge, also known as Lilly's Bridge. In the Name Book for Clackmannan parish the bridge is described as 'A stone bridge of one arch spanning Lambhill Burn, on the T. P. road between Dollar and Saline; property of the Road Trustees. it is in good repair.'⁹ In contrast, in the Name Book for Saline parish in Fife (compiled almost a decade earlier), the description is more enlightening: 'A stone Bridge of one arch over Foulbutts Burn, repaired by the County. It is well known by both names. it obtained the latter from the circumstances of a woman named Lilly Ramsay having hanged herself near it.'¹⁰ Conversely the entries for Wallace's Crook in Eccles and Coldstream parishes are virtually identical with the same three authorities being listed: Mr William Paterson, Mr Stevenson and John Hislop, described as 'Gardener'.¹¹ This bend of a small crook on the boundary of these parishes seemingly derived its name from William Wallace spending a night in hiding beside the stream.

As indicated earlier, the Name Books for the five Border parishes provide useful information about the individual surveyors. Their numbers differ in the five parishes: nine were at work in Eccles; seven in Coldstream; three in Ladykirk; seven in Hutton; and six in Mordington, with overlap in personnel between parishes.

John McDiarmid, a civilian assistant, was responsible for much of the work on the coastal areas of Berwickshire. In Mordington parish he explains that Tod Holes is the name 'applied by the fishermen of Burnmouth, to rocky knoll on the sea coast immediately south of Ross Point'.¹² He is one of the surveyors who fairly frequently uses the term 'hence the name', quoted in the title of this paper; for instance he records that Tods Loup is a 'precipitous cliff on the sea coast, over which a fox, being hard pressed by the hounds, leaped, and was killed, as well as some of the hounds which followed him; hence the name'.¹³

McDiarmid appears to have made an effort to try to find out the meanings of names but was not always able to provide an explanation; in the case of the rocky creek known as Meg's Dub, he states that the 'origin [*sic*] or meaning

⁹ OSNB Clackmannanshire, OS1/8/3/8.

¹⁰ OSNB Fife and Kinross-shire, OS1/13/3/18.

¹¹ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/12/41 (Coldstream), OS1/5/17/84 (Eccles).

¹² OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/34/9.

¹³ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/34/27.

of this name I could not ascertain'.¹⁴ McDiarmid recorded coastal features in Coldingham parish too and seems to have known some Gaelic noting in the case of Foul Carr – 'A large precipitous rock on the sea coast surrounded by the sea at high tides' that 'Carr, Carra & Carraig signifies in Gaelic a rock or pillar'.¹⁵

Another surveyor, John Callanan, a lance corporal in the Royal Engineers, was responsible for recording all the names of the salmon pools along the Tweed. In Eccles parish there are twenty-two names of salmon casts recorded by Callanan, a figure which represents approximately 14% of all of the names in the Name Book for Eccles. Only two have derivations of their names: Ship End is described as 'A portion of the south side of the Tweed used as a Salmon Cast. The Name is derived from a breakwater faced with wood, and said to resemble the stern of a ship. Proprietors Lord Home, and John Hodgson Esqr.',¹⁶ while Kirk End is described as 'A considerable portion of the S. East side of the Tweed used as a Salmon Cast. The Name is derived from a church being adjacent on the English side of the River,' with the same named proprietors.¹⁷

In the case of Coldstream parish there are twenty-five salmon casts named, a figure representing about 16% of the names in the Name Book. Similarly there are few derivations for the names of these salmon casts in Coldstream parish. Examples include *Rough Stones* 'A Salmon Cast on the south side of Tweed, deriving the Name from a few boulders that are visible [*sic*] when the water is low'; *Colour Heugh* described as 'adjacent to a Rocky Precipice (on the English side) called Colour Heugh, from which it derives the Name'; and *Dreeping Heugh* 'A rocky precipice, and Salmon Cast, situated on the west side of Tweed. The rocks are perpendicular from which water is oozing, hence the Name'.¹⁸

Against the entry for *Grot Heugh* is the annotation "'Heugh" is to be adopted in Berwickshire. "Heuch" in Selkirkshire – O. M. O Remarks'.¹⁹ The three authorities for the name 'Grot Heugh' are listed in the original entry as 'D[avid] Milnehome Esqr', James Scott and John Moore. The authority for the spelling 'Heuch' is given as 'Jamiesons Scottish Dictionary' in the hand of the annotator. As Victor Watts has noted in his work on Northumbrian fishery names: 'The Scots word *heuch* "a crag or precipice, a cliff or steep bank,

¹⁴ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/34/23.

¹⁵ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/9/57.

¹⁶ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/110.

¹⁷ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/111.

¹⁸ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/12/54 (*Rough Stones*), OS1/5/12/35 (*Colour Heugh*), OS1/5/12/35 (*Dreeping Heugh*, with 'oozing' corrected in different ink and hand from 'ouseing').

¹⁹ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/12/20.

especially one overhanging a river or sea” from OE *hōh* “a heel of land, a hill-spur” occurs in a number of fishery names ...²⁰

Names of features associated with salmon fishing – whether they be fisheries, salmon casts, pools, shiels (buildings to house fishermen) – are worth examining much further. A number of the names do still exist on modern fishing maps but they also indicate that there have been changes of varying degree over time. Comparisons between the names on the English and Scottish banks of the Tweed deserve detailed study. Furthermore, names associated with fishing elsewhere in Scotland can be compared, for example in Kinross parish an 1840 plan ‘a Sketch of Loch Leven Fishings’ records eighteen named setts, a sett being a local term for a netting station.²¹

It is not surprising that the Name Books for the parishes along the Border include references to the battle of Flodden and other conflicts. The examples include *Bloody Headrig* in Ladykirk parish described as ‘The slopes & a small portion of flat land on each side of Bow Burn, whi<ch> formed a headrig when the adj[acen]t land <was?> ploughed. Tradition says that the <Battle?> of Flodden Field ended here, and so ter<rible> was the conflict that the Burn ra<n> with blood for two days’.²²

A couple of interesting entries for Eccles parish relate to the name Laprig. On page 50 there is an entry for which no name has been inserted in the first column. The surveyor is Thomas Wighton. The authorities – James Purvis, Alexander Purvis and Robert Robison – all give the spelling as ‘Lapric’ and the description is:²³

A small stream which takes its rise near Hume and falls into Lambden Burn near Mersington. Its name originated thus:– The day on which the battle of Hardacres Hill was fought it rained heavily, causing some of the blood on the battle field to be washed into this stream, which runs close to the scene of the battle. For two days after this event particles of clotted blood were observed floating down the stream, and from that date it has been generally known as Lapric Syke, from the Scotch word ‘lapper’ to congeal.

Beneath the entry, though, are the later annotations: ‘This description and name may probably be altered [*sic*] at a subsequent time NB’ (in pencil) and ‘See Page 61 for the correct orthography’ (in ink).²⁴

²⁰ Watts 1997, 97.

²¹ For discussion of this plan, see Munro 1994, 160–61.

²² OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/26/36.

²³ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/50.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

On page 61 is an entry for Laprig Burn, the name written in the first column and also in the second column with the alternative Lipprick Burn. The surveyor in this case is H. Sharban and the authorities are M. D. Hunter Esqr Antonshill, James Dickson Esqr Bughtrig, and Mr Stevenson, Schoolmaster Eccles for the first name *Laprig*, and John Hood Esqr Stoneridge for the alternative name *Lipprick*. A derivation is provided for each of the two versions of the name:²⁵

It is said that the slaughter at the battle of Hardacres, was so great that this stream ran for twenty four hours with blood, and from its being in a congealed or lapperd state it was afterwards called Lapperd Burn which has in course of time become changed to Laprig Burn. Another version for the origin of this name is, that a man with the name of Lipprick had been drowned in the stream and in consequence of this it has received its name.

Beneath this is the annotation in pencil, ‘Will you be good enough to alter the traces already forwarded to correspond with this orthography NB’. This provides some indication of the way that the process was being conducted and how decisions about naming practices were made.

In contrast to a situation such as this where there were a number of authorities and different versions, often a surveyor was left with little explanation. For example, in the case of *Bite-about* in Eccles, the surveyor, John McCabe, could get information from only one authority, Mr John Hood of Kames. Hood told him that ‘this is one of the old “Border Peels,” and he [i.e. Hood] was told that the name originated from the following circumstance viz. It was attacked by a small party of the English, the besieged ran short of provisions, and to divide what little they had equally they took bite about: there are only a small portion of the walls standing, they appear to have been substantial and well built, but it appears to be too oblong for one of the “Peels” as they were Generally square buildings – besides there is no mention made of it in any of the Statistical Accounts, nor in any of the Border Histories that I have seen.’²⁶

Of course, less of a problem to define were names for more modern structures such as Union Chain Bridge stretching over the Border from Hutton parish, built in 1819–20 by Captain Samuel Brown of the Royal Navy.²⁷ The

²⁵ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/61.

²⁶ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/19.

²⁷ Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett 2006, 67, 739. For further information about Union Chain Bridge and bibliographical references to it, see its entry in the RCAHMS Canmore database at <<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html>> Canmore ID: 60103, Site Number: NT95SW 2 (accessed 27/11/2015).

description of its length, weight, cost etc in the Name Book for Hutton parish comes straight from the New Statistical Account of the parish.²⁸

Aside from the New Statistical Account, the written sources that are cited as evidence in the five Border parishes include county and estate maps; reference works such as Fullarton's *Gazetteer*,²⁹ Chalmers' *Caledonia*,³⁰ Ridpath's *Border History*³¹ and Jamieson's *Scottish Dictionary*;³² valuation and cess rolls; title deeds; dedicatory names; inn sign boards (e.g. Plough Inn, Black Horse Inn, Black Bull Inn);³³ and general usage. Probably the most unusual is one of the sources cited for Spital House whose proprietor was Reverend W. Compton Lundie: 'Painted on Mr Lundie's carts'.³⁴

While it is obviously useful and interesting to know what sources have been used, it is equally worth looking at what other contemporary sources do not feature. In the Name Book for Eccles, Kennetsideheads is described as 'An extensive farm, situated on an elevation in the S.W. part of the parish and near the County boundary the attached dwellinghouse and offices are in very good repair. It has been tenant<ed> for a number of years by Mr Johnston and is the property of Sir Hugh Campbel<l> Bart. Marchmont.'³⁵ Nothing is said then about derivation of the name or even pronunciation.

Two years before the survey of Eccles parish in 1858, a book entitled *The Popular Rhymes, Sayings and Proverbs of the County of Berwick* was published in Newcastle.³⁶ Its compiler was George Henderson a doctor from Chirside

²⁸ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/25/47; cf. Rev. John Edgar's account of the 'Parish of Hutton', in *NSA*, Vol. 2, 150–65, at 161–62. The Hutton parish account is also available online at <<http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Berwick/Hutton/>>.

²⁹ This could be either *The Topographical, Statistical, and Historical Gazetteer of Scotland*, published in 1842 by A. Fullarton & Co, with later reissues in 1844 and 1848, or Wilson [1854–57]), also published by Fullarton.

³⁰ Chalmers 1807–24.

³¹ Ridpath 1776, with later editions (e.g. in 1810, 1816 and 1848).

³² Jamieson 1808. A two-volume supplement was published in 1825. See also Rennie 2012.

³³ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/31 (Plough Inn, Black Horse Inn); OS1/5/12/87 (Black Bull Inn).

³⁴ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/25/31. Interestingly this entry is a duplicate entry by the civilian assistant W. Goodacre, with a cross-reference to an entry four pages later at OS1/5/25/35, written by John McDiarmid, civilian assistant. While Goodacre describes the house as 'A large rectangular mansion situated about two miles to the east of the village of Hutton attached to it are suitable outbuildings with thrashing mill in good repair, with a small arable farm', according to McDiarmid the name refers to 'A handsome villa of modern construction pleasantly situated and surrounded by park well stocked with trees. There are offices, a garden, and a large arable farm attached.' In both cases the proprietor is named as the Reverend W. Compton Lundie.

³⁵ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/66.

³⁶ Henderson 1856.

whose work later appeared throughout another collection of proverbs – *Proverbs, Proverbial Expressions, and Popular Rhymes of Scotland* – compiled by Andrew Cheviot and published forty years later in 1896.³⁷ By Cheviot's time, Henderson's book was described as being 'long out of print',³⁸ but it was current at the time of the Ordnance Survey work and does contain rhymes concerning place-names and local legends/tradition. For example, in the case of Kennetsideheads, there is the following rhyme:³⁹

*Ye're like the folk o' KENNETSIDE-HEAD,
Ye hae it a' afore ye, in ae screed.* ['screed' in this context is a strip of ground]

This rhyme is described by Henderson as a saying 'frequently used by the labourers in the time of harvest, in a sort of ironical way, to indicate that they need not work too hard because *they have it all before them*. Or it is applied as a warning to those who are too confident in their own powers, and who are rather lax in their exertions ...'⁴⁰

While it is true that no sense of the meaning of the name is gained from a source like this, it is also the case that there is potential information about pronunciation and orthography. It is clear from the above rhyme, for example, that 'head' should be pronounced 'heid'. In the following rhyme, also included in Henderson's collection, but of which he 'never heard any explanation', the Ordnance Survey form *Eccles Tofts* is rendered as *Eccles-tafts*:⁴¹

*Wylie Cleugh and Castle Law,
Haud the devil by the paw!
Eccles-tafts and Harpertoun,
Haud the devil weel doun!*

There is variety among the informants who range from prominent landowners, ministers and schoolteachers to tenants, fishermen, gamekeepers and even a stud groom, Mr Belton in Ladykirk.⁴² What is quite striking is how many separate individuals there are compared to the Name Books for parishes in Clackmannanshire where the same informants can appear in combination

³⁷ Cheviot 1896.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, x.

³⁹ Henderson 1856, 41. See also Cheviot 1896, 422, where the place-name is not hyphenated and there is no comma in the second line.

⁴⁰ Henderson 1856, 41.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 123. See also Cheviot 1896, 313, where there are commas after the place-names in lines 1 and 3 and 'tafts' is capitalised; i.e. 'Eccles-Tafts'.

⁴² OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/26/40 (under entry for 'Stables – Riding House').

several times. Similarly for Barvas parish in the Hebridean island of Lewis, Withers notes that three informants 'together provided 58 per cent of the parish's names with a further 11 men each providing only a small proportion of names'.⁴³

An examination of the entry for the place-name *the Kaims* in Eccles parish provides a good indication of the ways in which the Ordnance Survey was working in Scotland and the types of people who were being consulted. The name appears twice on the Ordnance Survey Six Inch First Edition map – at NT7340 beside Hassington Mains and at NT7442 beside Hardacres to the north-east. The description in the Name Book reads:⁴⁴

This name, the Scottish term for "the Combs" applies to a long ridge consisting chiefly of waterworn stones, raised several feet above the surface, and passing through the S W part of the parish in a NNW direction. It is evidently of no artificial construction for it varies continually in its elevation and breadth and sometimes disappears underground for several hundred yards. It is supposed that an aqueous current, setting in from the north has at one time connected the German Ocean with the Irish sea, and deposited in its course, the coarse gravel consisting of Graywacke and sometimes a very fine sand forming excellent sandpits as is found in the field south of Hardacres.

Similar and very distinct ridges have also been observed towards the north in the parish of Greenlaw and others, and a continuation of it is also traceable towards the South in the adjoining County of Roxburgh. The whole feature offers a very interesting investigation for a Geologist.

Beneath the four individual named authorities in the hand of the surveyor, H. Sharban, are three further authorities written in a different colour of ink and hand: Chalmers' *Caledonia*, David Milne Home and the New Statistical Account. The entries in the first and third columns (i.e. for the columns headed 'List of Names as written on the Plan' and 'Situation') are also written in this hand, as well as an annotation written at the end of the entry in the fifth column (for 'Descriptive Remarks'): 'See the Name Sheets of Greenlaw Parish for some interesting correspondence relating to the [derivation of this?].'⁴⁵

When the Greenlaw Name Book is examined, an understanding emerges as to why these additional three sources have been added to the entry in the Eccles Name Book. Several pages in the Greenlaw Name Book are taken up with a

⁴³ Withers 2000, 543.

⁴⁴ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/17/65.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

description of the Kaims using quotations from the New Statistical Account and Chalmers' *Caledonia*.⁴⁶ Furthermore, the correspondence referred to in the annotation in the Eccles Name Book is attached to the Greenlaw Name Book.⁴⁷ It is a copy by W. Beatty⁴⁸ of a letter from David Milne Home of Milne Graden to Captain Burnaby who is the officer who signs off the Name Books for the five Berwickshire parishes examined for this case study. Beatty prefaces his transcription of the letter with this heading: 'The following is an answer from David Milne Home, Milne Graden, Esq[ui]re to a letter addressed him by Captain Burnaby R. E. respecting the "Kaims".'⁴⁹ The main body of the letter, dated 27 November 1857, reads as follows:⁵⁰

Absence in East Lothian has prevented me replying to your note of the 21st Inst[ant] asking my opinion of the nature and construction of the Kaims in Greenlaw Parish.

Being much puzzled how to account for them, I took the late Dr Buckland and the present Professor Sedgwick to see them, the one Professor of Geology at Oxford, the other from Cambridge.

The former expressed to me his belief that they are the terminal moraines of a Glacier which descended from the hills to the North, – the latter, after spending several hours with me on the spot, confessed that he could form no opinion.

Professor Forbes of Edinburgh, who has studied Glacier Phenomena in Switzerland & Norway, and who is an excellent physical observer [*sic*], also confesses himself unable to solve the problem.

It may seem therefore presumptuous in me to offer any explanation, I may however, in compliance with your request, mention that two theories have occurred to me.

1st These Kaims are composed of diluvial debris, viz. rounded stones, gravel, clay and sand; which deposits also cover the adjoining districts. In most part of the Kaims, there are small rivulets, on each side of them, which may have scooped and washed away the debris, so as to leave the ridge between these rivulets.

⁴⁶ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/23/27–30.

⁴⁷ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/23/31a–d.

⁴⁸ W. Beatty is described as 'CA', i.e. 'civilian assistant' in the OSNB for Bowden parish in Roxburghshire, surveyed in 1858–60. See, for example, OS1/29/4/1.

⁴⁹ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/23/31a.

⁵⁰ OSNB Berwickshire, OS1/5/23/31a–d.

This was my earliest impression – though I have little reliance on it now.

2nd There are off the East and South coasts of England, sub-marine ridges or banks of sand & gravel very much resembling the Kaims in length and height. off Garmouth & off Portland, there are many such – being formed by a peculiar action of the tides & currents & breakers.

To a similar cause, when the greater part of our Island was under the sea, the formation of the Kaims may be owing.

This is the theory which appears to me most probable, and which I believe is more fully explained by me in my Geological account of Roxburghshire.

It would be desirable to perforate the Kaims at different places, so as to ascertain their structure more exactly, and which I presume your people could easily accomplish.

David Milne Home (1805–1890) was an advocate, landowner, geologist and meteorologist. He succeeded to the estate of Milne Graden in 1845.⁵¹ In his career as an advocate he was involved in the notorious Burke and Hare case in 1828, as junior counsel for Burke.⁵² His geological survey of Berwickshire was published in 1837 by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland,⁵³ a society of which he became a prominent member, in particular encouraging its support for the advancement of the Ordnance Survey's mapping of Scotland.⁵⁴ He later held prominent positions in other learned societies; for example, he was chairman of the Council of the Scottish Meteorological Society from 1858 until 1883, becoming vice-president from 1884, and from 1874 until 1889 he was president of the Edinburgh Geological Society. He was a proponent of the diluvial theory whereby glacial deposits were attributed to Noah's Flood and his letter alludes to the debates of the day in this respect.⁵⁵ He had a long acquaintance with Adam Sedgwick and William Buckland, exchanging correspondence with them as well as with members of the Geological Society of London, to the membership of which Milne Home had himself been invited in 1834.⁵⁶

⁵¹ For a biographical sketch of Milne Home, see Roy and Land 2000. See also Roy 2004.

⁵² Roy and Land 2000, 3.

⁵³ Milne 1837.

⁵⁴ Boud 1992, 9. Milne Home met Col. Thomas Colby, Director of the Ordnance Survey in July 1638: *ibid.*

⁵⁵ Roy and Land 2000, 3, 5, 6.

⁵⁶ Boud 1992, 4, 8.

Adam Sedgwick (1785–1873) was Woodwardian professor of Geology at Cambridge University from 1818 until his death in 1873, and was responsible for proposing the Devonian and Cambrian periods of geology.⁵⁷ In 1831 he was a founding member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and ‘reported to the statistical section of the association about the work of the Ordnance Survey’.⁵⁸ William Buckland (1784–1856) was appointed reader in Mineralogy at Oxford University in 1813 and then reader in Geology in 1818. He died the year before Milne Home wrote his letter to Burnaby. Buckland had been a supporter of the diluvial theory but like Sedgwick had abandoned it in favour of the glacial theory, following discussions in Switzerland with the Swiss geologist, Louis Agassiz (1807–1873), in 1838.⁵⁹ Also referred to in Milne Home’s letter was Professor Forbes of Edinburgh. This was James David Forbes (1809–1868), who held the chair of Natural Philosophy at Edinburgh University from 1832 until 1860.⁶⁰ Milne Home in the course of his investigations on earthquakes, which were published in the early 1840s, had collaborated with Forbes.⁶¹ In 1831 Forbes had met Sedgwick during a visit to Cambridge and in 1840 he met Agassiz, who that year visited Scotland to attend and address the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting held in Glasgow.⁶² Forbes visited Aar glacier with Agassiz and later published numerous works on glaciers, including *Norway and its Glaciers* in 1853. From 1859 until 1868 Forbes was principal of the United College of St Salvator and St Leonard at St Andrews University.⁶³

Thus in the 1850s a prominent Berwickshire landowner, David Milne Home, was engaging in current geological debates and was personally known to many of the influential geologists of the time. The Ordnance Survey in Scotland was able to draw on his knowledge in the course of its work and the Berwickshire Name Books provide evidence of this. Analysis of annotations to entries and examination of the surviving correspondence reveal that far more can be gained from the Name Books than solely nineteenth-century definitions and understanding of the names themselves, important though these may be. Much can also be learned about the authorities, surveyors and indeed the wider context of the Survey. This study has focused on a mere five Berwickshire parishes and has revealed that there is not only variety between parishes but also between counties. With the greater availability of

⁵⁷ Secord 2004.

⁵⁸ Doherty 2004, 23 and note 47.

⁵⁹ Haile 2004.

⁶⁰ Smart 2004.

⁶¹ Boud 1992, 8.

⁶² Smart 2004. Agassiz also published his *Études sur les glaciers* in 1840. Agassiz Rock at Blackford Glen (NT2570), a Site of Special Scientific Interest owing to its evidence of glacial abrasion, is named for him.

⁶³ Smart 2004.

images of the Name Books via the ScotlandsPlaces website, as well as in the National Records of Scotland's historical search room, along with transcriptions, it is to be hoped that more comparative work will now be possible.

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