

Further information

Scottish Place-Name Society www.spns.org.uk
Simon Taylor with Peter McNiven and Eila Williamson
Place-Names of Kinross-shire
(Shaun Tyas: Donington 2016)

Simon Taylor, with Gilbert Márkus *Place-Names of Fife Vol. 1* (Shaun Tyas: Donington 2006). For the place-name data in this and the other Fife volumes, visit:
<http://fife-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/>

David Munro *Loch Leven: The Great Meeting-Place and Sanctuary, A Guide to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail* (2015)

A fuller version of this leaflet and other place-name walk leaflets can be found at
<http://onomastics.co.uk/resources/>



St Serf's Island

With thanks to

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Vane Hill and Benarty



Vane Hill and Benarty

A self-guided place-name walk



Re-connecting people
with the hills

Living Heritage



Living Heritage

THE SLEEPING GIANT PATH

The greater part of this walk traverses the upland trails and cycle path on the RSPB Loch Leven Nature Reserve in Kinross-shire before crossing into farm land in the county of Fife that connects through woodland with Lochore Meadows Country Park. The ascent of Vane Hill to its viewpoint offers magnificent views northwards over Loch Leven to the Ochils and Lomond Hills, eastwards along the course of the River Leven and westwards down the plain of Kinross-shire. Vane Hill itself is an outlier of the larger Benarty Hill which forms a prominent ridge on the boundary between Fife and Kinross.

This self-guided walk allows you to find out more about place-names in the landscape to the south of Loch Leven and on Benarty Hill. The names encountered on the trail are guides also to the languages of the past, which for Kinross-shire are chiefly Gaelic and Scots with some Pictish, together spanning around 1,500 years, with Gaelic being spoken extensively around Loch Leven into the 14th century.

ABOUT THE ROUTE

Begin this place-name walk at the RSPB Loch Leven Visitor Centre at Vane Farm where there is a car park accessed from the south side of the B 9097 road. The places described in this leaflet can be seen by following the Woodland and Viewpoint loops created on Vane Hill by the RSPB before connecting with The Sleeping Giant Path laid down in 2016 by The Rural Access Committee of Kinross-shire (TRACKS) in association with the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. This trail climbs over Vane Hill onto privately owned farm land from where there are fine views eastwards to Dunmore, Navitie Hill and beyond. On reaching the entrance to a plantation above the village of Ballingry you can either return to

the RSPB Loch Leven Visitor Centre back down the Sleeping Giant Path or head on southwards towards Lochore Meadows Country Park. This walk can be accessed from the Loch Leven Heritage Trail.

Local transport links can be found via www.travelinescotland.com

MAKE YOUR WALK ENJOYABLE

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

SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

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

LIKE THIS – WANT MORE?

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

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.



RSPB reserve wetlands from Benarty

1 Vane Farm

Known locally as The Vane, Vane Farm in the Kinross-shire Parish of Portmoak has been an RSPB nature reserve since 1967. First mentioned as *Wayne* in 1592, it is named *Waine of Findatie* in 1625, showing that it was a division of the neighbouring farm of Findatie. Styled *Vain* in 1642, it probably derives from the Gaelic *A Bheinn* 'the hill' or 'the ben', with reference to the larger Benarty.

2 Benarty

Successively referred to as *cabennartye* c.1400, *Vynartye* c.1420 and *Bannartie* in 1618, this name contains the Gaelic *beinn* which combines with a second element that is perhaps Gaelic *ard* 'high'. The profile of this long ridge has given rise to its local descriptor, 'The Sleeping Giant'.

3a/b East and West Brackley

Looking westwards from the upper part of Vane Hill or the cycle path, you can see the farms of East and West Brackley lying at the foot of Benarty. Styled *Bracoly* in 1546 and *Brakaly* in 1642, the name Brackley is probably derived from the Gaelic *breac-coille* 'speckled or variegated woodland'. This aptly describes the steep wooded north-facing slope of Benarty.

4 Castle Craig

Towering above East Brackley, the rocky outcrop of Castle Craig takes its name from a prehistoric fortification that once existed on top of Benarty Hill.



5 Carden Point

A point of rough pasture land that sticks out into Loch Leven from the south shore of the loch at Vane Farm, the first element of this name may be the rare surname Carden, a variant of Carding. More pronounced prior to the lowering of Loch Leven in the 1830s, the point has been variously named *Carden point* (1753), *Cardins Point* (1796) *Cardens Point* (1828) and finally *Carden Point* (1854).

6 Kirk Hills

Described in the 1850s as “a few arable eminences on the farm of East Brackley”, the low-lying glacial mounds known as the Kirk Hills to the north of the wetlands probably take their name from the ruined church on nearby St Serf’s Island.

7 Waterbutts and Wilderness Plantations

On the wetlands to the north of East Brackley once stood the Waterbutts Plantation which took its name from the ‘butts’ or strips of ploughed land, which were there before. Another vanished name is the Wilderness Plantation which lay to the north-east.

8 St Serf’s Island

From the top of Vane Hill you can get a bird’s eye view of St Serf’s Island, also known as The Inch. The largest of the seven islands of Loch Leven, where the abbey, later the priory, of Loch Leven was sited. This was one of the most important religious houses in Scotland before it was taken over by St Andrews Priory in the mid-12th century. Dedicated to St Serf, who probably lived in this area c. 700 A.D., it is referred to as ‘Loch Leven island’ (*insulam Lochleuine*) c.700, later as ‘the island of St Serf’ (*insulam Sancti Seruani*) 1268, *Sanct Serfis Ynche* (which contains the Scots *inch* ‘island’) 1568, and finally St Serf’s Island (1828).

9 Skailzie Burn

Both the cycle path and the woodland track that joins it, cross a stream whose name appears in a document of 1643 that described the boundary between Vane Farm and Findatie. Deriving its name from the Older Scots *Skailzie* ‘slate’, the z being pronounced as y in yet, this burn rises as short headstreams near a slate quarry that is exposed beside the cycle path.

10 Dunmore

Near the head of the Sleeping Giant Path there is a good view eastwards to the craggy outcrop of Dunmore on top of which once stood a prehistoric hill-fort with a commanding view over the strategically important ‘Leven Gap’. This small volcanic outcrop derives its name from Gaelic *dùn* and *mòr* to give ‘big fort’ or ‘fortified hill’.

11 Navitie Hill

Variously referred to in the past as *Nevathy* (c.1400), *Nevody* (1477), *Navety* (1531) and *Navitie* (1616), Navitie Hill drops down from Dunmore at the eastern end of the Benarty massif. Situated in the Fife parish of Ballyngry, its name is derived from the Gaelic and Old Irish for ‘Place of the church land’ or ‘sacred or noble place’. This may have been a sacred place of pre-Christian assembly associated with the adjacent fort at Dunmore.

12 Egg Plantation

At its head, the Sleeping Giant Path enters a plantation that is now much enlarged from the small egg-shaped plantation that existed in the 19th century.



Climb to the top of Vane Hill and learn the story behind the place names you can see around the shores of Loch Leven and Benarty.

Terrain: Well made paths with some moderate slopes and some steep sections. Two self-closing gates on the route.

Distance: 1 mile, 1.5 Km

Distance: 40 mins (each way)



Dunmore



Sleeping Giant Path