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'Annat' in Scotland: A Provisional Review

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As a Gaelic term denoting an early church-site, 'Annat' seems to occur in Scotland more frequently than any other, apart from the classic element 'Kil-'. It is, of course, a very poor second, and in fact its precise connotation has never been satisfactorily demonstrated (Watson 1926:250–1). The subject has recently been briefly reconsidered by Thomas (1971:89, 137, 224), but the complete anonymity of almost all Annat sites (apart from other considerations noticed below) hardly supports his suggestion that Gaelic *annaid* is likely to be the equivalent of *merthyr, merther* in Wales and Cornwall.

My purpose here is to provide a list of all the certain, probable, or possible, occurrences of 'Annat' known to me at present; and to outline some observations and ideas which have occurred to me during the provisional study that I have so far made of the phenomenon. I have as yet examined no individual case in depth, either as a place-name or as an archaeological feature; and what I have to say here is based entirely upon general considerations and the apparent extent of the geographical distribution.

Early Irish *andóit, annóit* is usually held to denote the church in which the patron saint (presumably of a monastic confederacy, or *paruchia*) was educated, or in which his relics were kept (Macbain 1922:283–5; Watson 1926:250). Whatever the precise significance of this in terms of strict legal and ecclesiastical status and historical relationship to other churches, in practice it seems to refer, at least sometimes, to the mother church (*matrix ecclesia*) of a monastic *paruchia*. But I have not yet studied the early documentary occurrences[1] in detail. Its etymology[2] is in doubt, though the proposed derivation is from the late Latin *antitas*, apparently a contraction of *antiquitas*. It does not occur in a British context at all, but is specifically Gaelic (Greene 1968:82).

In modern Scots Gaelic the form is *annaid*. As a place-name, either by itself or in compounds, the word occurs widely in Scotland, now usually anglicised Annat, or Annet. The various forms in which it appears (or probably appears) are listed below, and the accompanying map (Fig. 1) shows the distribution of the listed sites. Outside Scotland, it may occur to the south of the Solway Firth: two possible instances are known to me at present in Cumberland, and one in Westmorland.[3] There seems to be no good reason why it should not appear in this area, as it does in Dumfries-shire and Galloway. It does not occur in the Isle of Man. I have no definite information to hand as to whether or not it occurs as a place-name in Ireland: if it does, it would seem to be rare. It is unattested as an initial element in townland names. (Flanagan 1972:385-6.)

Certain general observations may be made tentatively at this stage. It seems likely

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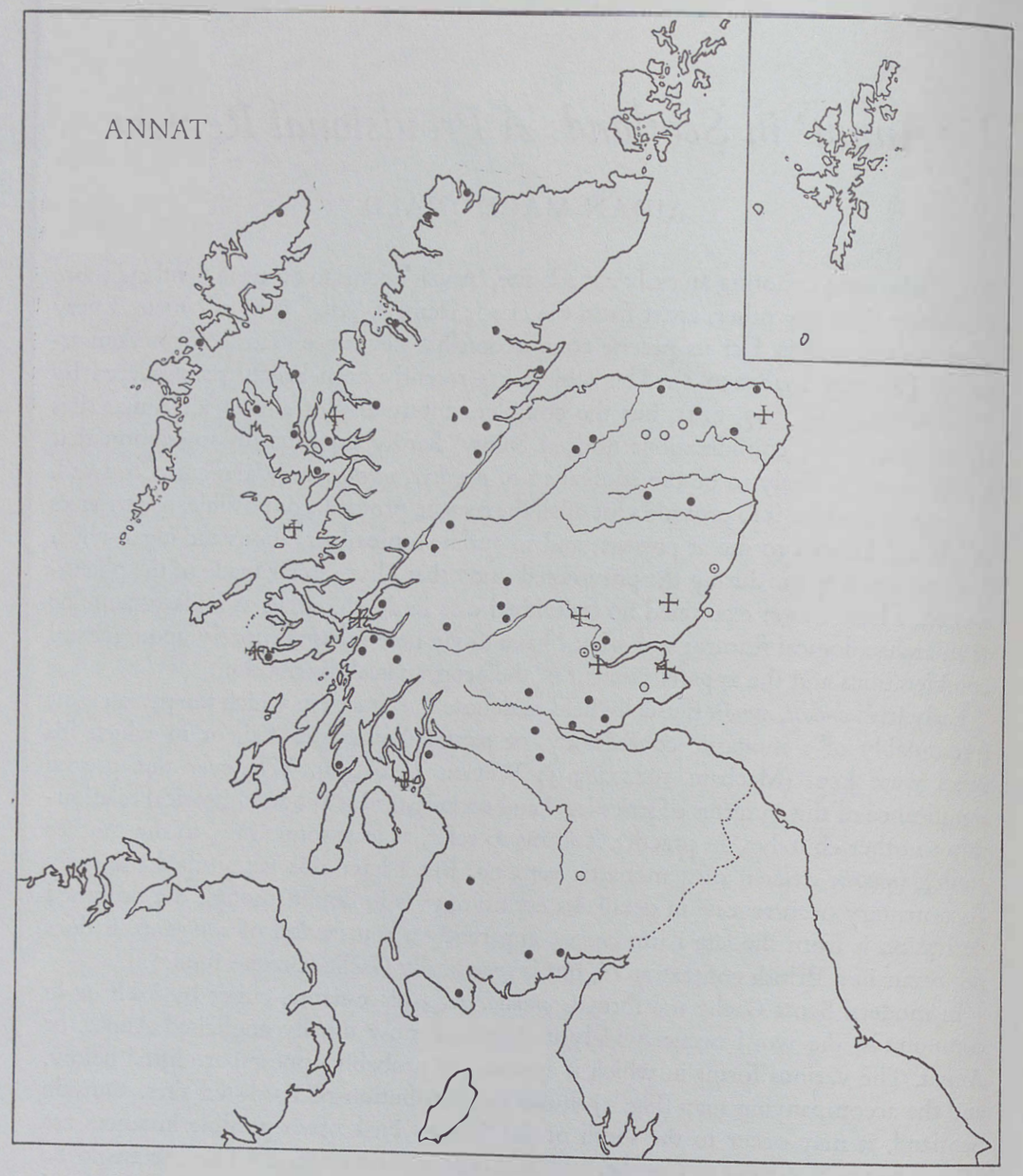


FIG. 1 Map showing the distribution of the place-name 'Annat' in Scotland.

- ● name of fairly certain derivation
- ○ name of uncertain derivation
- ⊙ name obsolete; place only approximately located
- ✝ major monasteries of Irish type (8th–10th century)

that the Scottish Annats are too numerous for the term to denote here anything like as important a church as *andóit* clearly does in early Irish sources. The number of *andóit* churches with such significance must always have been relatively small. Further, where the remains of an ecclesiastical site exist at all in close association with an Annat name (frequently there is nothing but the name, *pace* Watson), those remains do not suggest more than a small and probably comparatively unimportant settlement in origin, though such a judgment from surviving remains must be made with due caution. Usually a surviving site now seems to be a small and long-abandoned graveyard, more often than otherwise with no apparent trace of a building. Only three instances known to me were possibly, on surviving evidence, monasteries: Annait (no. 45 in list) in Skye, where the surface remains suggest a small eremitical monastery within an earlier promontory fort (R.C.A.M.S. 1928:149–50; Thomas 1971:46); Ennets (no. 19), in Aberdeenshire, with the nearby place-name Balmannocks, probably *Baile nam Manach*, 'monks' town'; and Ennot (no. 48), also in Aberdeenshire, with the associated place-name Burn of Badaglerack,—*Bad*, 'thicket', *nan Cléireach*, 'of the clerics' (Alexander 1952:271, 164). Even if earlier forms of the associated names can be produced, however, I would not press the last two, as such names may refer only to later monastic properties. As a place-name, or place-name element, Annat is not found in demonstrably direct association with any known major monastic site that could itself have been an *andóit* church. With very few possible exceptions (*e.g.* nos. 13 and 19, in list), the Annats are anonymous both as to dedication and any other associated traditions.

More interesting, I think, is the apparent fact that most Annat names are near, but not actually at, less anonymous church-sites, some of which, on the grounds of name or finds of early sculptured or incised stones or relics, are possibly themselves Early Christian in origin. This may be simply name-transference, but it is the rule, not the exception. Some of the uncompounded, therefore probably more narrowly located, names afford the best illustration of this. Thus Annat (no. 12) is $\frac{1}{3}$ mile from Rait old church across the Rait Burn; Andet (no. 18) is nearly a mile from the site of St. Ninian's Chapel; Annat (no. 26) is over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Kilmallie church; Annat (no. 37) is just under $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Kilchrenan church; Cladh na h-Annaide (no. 38) is just over a mile from Kilespikeral old church; Annet (no. 13) is just under 2 miles from Kilmadock old church and just over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of a chapel site, also on the Annet Burn, at NN 699048 (O.S. 6 in. sheet); Cladh na h-Annaide (no. 51) is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kilmaronag; Cairn Ennit (no. 55) is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the site of St Eunon's chapel. In each case, the second site or sites seem to be the nearest known to the Annat name. Some Annat names are not obviously near any (other) church site. It is possibly relevant to note here, too, some uncompounded instances of the term which are, now at any rate, attached to an apparently featureless piece of ground (*e.g.* nos. 30, 41 and 50).

Despite the superficially rather haphazard distribution, certain provisional observations may be made here too. Watson gives no instance in the south-east counties, south of the Forth; nor in Orkney, Shetland, Caithness and eastern and central Sutherland.

My own search of the manuscript *Original Name Books* of the Ordnance Survey for Berwickshire, East Lothian, and Caithness, confirms this negative aspect of distribution to some extent. The term occurs otherwise as frequently in eastern as in western Scotland (possibly more frequently, though the suggestion is premature). There are nine instances known to me in the northern Hebrides (including that on the island of Crowlin, off Applecross, no. 33), as opposed to one (no. 52) in the southern Hebrides. The present distribution generally in Argyll is odd: a concentration in Lorne, between Loch Etive and Loch Awe (nos. 37, 38, 39 and 51); only one in Knapdale (no. 50); one in Cowal (no. 53); and none in Kintyre and the large islands of Islay and Jura.

Where they are not on or readily accessible from the sea, the Annats are in major river valleys and/or what must have been, in most cases, well used through-routes (again, *pace* Watson). Thus there are six on or near the route through the Great Glen (nos. 36, 26, 25, 24, 23 and 22, reading from south-west to north-east); two in Strathconon (nos. 29 and 30), which links with Strathcarron and thence the west coast; one in Glenlyon (no. 15), which links, by a hill-pass on which is the outlying Argyll Annat (no. 40), with Glenorchy and thence Loch Awe; one on Loch Rannoch (no. 16), linking, by way of Rannoch Moor, with Glen Etive and Loch Etive; three in or accessible from Strathspey (nos. 20, 21 and 57); three on the Deveron (Banffshire and Aberdeenshire: nos. 56, 46 and 55); one on the Ythan (Aberdeenshire: no. 18); one on the Stinchar (Ayrshire: no. 4); one overlooking both the headwaters of the Clyde and upper Annandale (no. 59).

I have no reason at present for thinking that *annaid* does not have the same meaning wherever it occurs. Direct association, by ownership (for example), with an attested monastic church, itself an *andóit* church in the early technical sense, and name transference by colloquial usage in this way (particularly, perhaps, in the case of names such as Balnahannet, Achnahannet, Cladh na h-Annaide), would probably be impossible to prove or disprove, because of the anonymity of most Annats. Conversely, it would be equally undemonstrable—and highly unlikely, in any case—that a large number of early *andóit* churches, strictly so called, had vanished practically without trace. The fact that a number of Annats are near known or probable monastic sites, *e.g.* those near Applecross (nos. 33 and 31), and that on the road from Bunessan to the Iona Ferry in Mull (no. 52), is as likely to be due coincidentally to their numbers as to any other cause. It is possible that the place-names were originally used, again colloquially—and without regard to their actual status within the hierarchical framework—to denote the church or churches of a particular district traditionally and locally regarded as senior, either in age or status or both; or because an Annat contained some locally important corporeal relic: *andóit* seems to have had all these connotations. But the consistent anonymity of most Annat sites, and their frequent total disappearance in the physical sense, has then to be satisfactorily accounted for.

My present working hypothesis, however, is that *annaid* in place-names means something more straightforward. I think that *andóit*, whatever its etymology, and whatever

the niceties of its precise technical meaning, or meanings, had often, at least in practice, the connotation 'old church', simply because the most important churches—especially the mother churches and, if not the same, those containing the relics of the relevant founder saint—would usually be older than dependent churches: the original foundations, in fact. Even where such was not the case historically (as with Iona), the 'old church' idea may have extended, in colloquial usage, as an integral part of the meaning of *andóit*. I think that it is with this meaning alone that the term came into use as a place-name, divorced from its original, narrower context and stripped of its other legal and technical qualifications. In other words, this aspect of the meaning of *andóit* percolated from ecclesiastical circles to the secular population, where it was adopted and extended in application. Place-names are usually simple, straightforward and descriptive, and specialist technicalities would tend to be forgotten, if ever properly appreciated, by a non-specialist population—especially if the organisation which had formulated those technicalities were itself breaking down (see below, where the possible date-range of Annat names is considered). The Annat names denote, I suggest, churches of any kind which were abandoned and subsequently replaced, but not, for probably a variety of reasons, at the same site. In the case of fairly close replacements (possibly in other cases also) dedication and other traditions simply shifted to the new sites—hence the anonymity of most Annats. *An annaid* means, therefore, 'the old church (-site)'.[4]

The abandonment, on any scale, of ritual sites should indicate either a major break in religious belief and ritual or a serious, if temporary, dislocation of existing population patterns and therefore of social institutions. Medieval churches were sometimes abandoned after the sixteenth-century reformation, but a break of this nature and magnitude at an earlier date is highly improbable. I think that the second cause is relevant here. The ninth century saw not only the settlement of the Scandinavians on a large scale, but also the eastward movement, after *c.* 843, of the Scots into Pictland. Very considerable disturbance may therefore have occurred from this time on, particularly along and near the sea-ways and major land-routes. Further, Norse settlement was apparently heavier in the northern Hebrides than in the southern; *cf.* the present distribution of Annats in the Hebrides. That the term, as an effective place-name-forming element, was obsolete by the end of the tenth century, is suggested by its apparent absence south of the Forth, whither the Gaelic-speaking Scots were probably penetrating in considerable numbers from the late tenth or early eleventh century (Watson 1926:133). The disruption of the existing ecclesiastical structure and the extinction of many minor foundations is a well-attested phenomenon in Ireland during this immediate 'post-Viking' period.

Annaid is therefore a ninth- to tenth-century term (although perhaps not the only one) for a church-site of any kind abandoned during that period, and not subsequently reused as the site of a focal church. The fact that several Annats at least apparently survived as burial-grounds of some kind, or became the sites of farms and crofts is relevant to the long survival of the place-names. Those burial-grounds still

or recently called *Cladh na h-Annaide* are examples, of which no. 29 was said in 1875 to have been used for unbaptised children (O.N.B., Ross, no. 44:13).

I must emphasise that all of this is at best provisional, and much of it speculative. Factors may well emerge which will alter much of the picture here presented. For instance, even if my main thesis holds good, I would not exclude the possibility of an eighth-century date for some Annat sites, both in the east and in the west. The expulsion of the Columban clergy from Pictland in 717 and the Pictish attacks on Dalriata in the 730s and 740s, together with the apparent internal chaos of Dalriata in the eighth century, may eventually be seen as an equally feasible background for some sites. Border warfare and raiding in either the eighth or the ninth century must also be taken into consideration. But *andóit* in the original technical sense would have been in full use in the eighth century. And Pictish-Scottish relations would not, of course, account for the Annats of the south-west, which arise presumably from the Norse-Irish settlement of the Solway Firth area from the early tenth century on. On balance so far, I favour a ninth- to tenth-century date.

All possible Annat names in Scotland known to me at July 1973, are listed below in two series. Numbers 1–46 are taken from Watson (1926), and appear in the order given by him. Additional instances, numbers 47–65, are noted with their sources in the second list, arranged by counties alphabetically, as in the Ordnance Survey Name-books. The form of the name given is that of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch sheet, where it is shown; explanation of a name follows, where necessary.

A. Annat names noted by W. J. Watson, 1926

WIGTOWNSHIRE

1 Annat Hill (NX 385465). A hill.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT (STEWARTRY of)

2 Annatland (NX 966659). O.S. 25 in. 1965 (not on 6 in., 1971). A house. Near Sweetheart Abbey.

3 Ernanity (NX 773667). Ernanity Cottage, 1st edn. O.S. 6 in. Kirkcudbright sheet 32 (not on O.S. 6 in. 1957). A house. 'Ardnannaty' (Pont, *c.* 1600), interpreted as *Earrann* (or *Ard*) *na h-Annaide*, 'share (or height) of the Annat' (Watson 1926:170).

AYRSHIRE

4 Pinannot (NX 295958). A farm. 'Pinhannet' (Watson 1926:190), interpreted as *Peighinn na h-Annaide*, 'Pennyland of the Annat'.

5 Annatyard (NS 195671). O.S. 1 in., sheet 59. Unnamed on O.S. 6 in., 1969 edn. (house demolished), but: Annetyard Road, Drive. A farm.

LANARKSHIRE

6 Annathill (NS 726704). A village.

STIRLINGSHIRE

7 Craigannet Hill (NS 714849). Also Craigannet Craig, Craigannet and Easter Craigannet. The two latter are farms.

FIFE

8 Longannet Point (NS 946854). Possibly *Lann na h-Annaide* (Watson 1926:251).

KINROSS

9 Gouderannet (NO 119004). Meaning of first element unknown toWatson (1926:251). A farm.

PERTHSHIRE

10 Annaty Burn (NO 118252). (Map reference here given for junction of burn with R. Tay, as presumed Annat is unlocated). 'For *Allt* (or *Glais*) *na h-Annaide*' (Watson 1926: 251). Near Scone Abbey.

11 Annatland—obsolete? (near NO 052233?). 'Annatland with the acres of Tibbermure in the barony of Ruthven,' later of Huntingtower, 1602. (Map reference here given for Tibbermore church.)

12 Annat Cottage (NO 223264). O.S. 1 in. sheet 55. Now roofless, not named on 6 in. 1970.

13 Annet (NN 696054). A farm. Also Annet Burn. Loch Mahaick (Gael. *Loch Mo-Thathóig*), east of Annet Burn, may recall a dedication to St Mo-Thatha (Watson 1926:298); though the church at the junction of Annet Burn with the river Teith is Kilmadock.

14 Balnahanaid (NN 669380). A farm.

15 Balnahanaid (NN 623472). A farm.

16 Annet (NN 635594). A farm. Also depopulated village; also Annet Burn.

KINCARDINESHIRE

17 Pethannot (obsolete) *c.* 1195. 'In the south of the county, near the sea-shore; it means "portion of (the) Annat" and . . . goes with Pethergus . . . possibly St Fergus' (Watson 1926:252).

ABERDEENSHIRE

18 Andet (NJ 842352). Also South Andet. Farms. 'Had a chapel dedicated to St Ninian, . . . plainly a secondary dedication' (Watson 1926:252). For possible earlier associations *op. cit.* 318–20.

19 Ennets (NJ 613061). A farm. Also Burnside, Mill, Milton of E. Perhaps originally a township.

MORAY

20 Auchnahannet (NJ 059334). A farm.

INVERNESS-SHIRE (mainland)

21 Auchnahannet (NH 973273). Houses, perhaps originally a township. Also Auchnahannet Burn.

22 Annat (NH 506438). O.S. 6 in. 1959 (not so named on 6 in. 1971). Also Groam of Annat: *grom*, 'bog' (Watson 1926:379–81). Houses, probably a farm.

23 Achnahannet (NH 512262). Small group of buildings, probably a farm.

24 Annat (NN 352920). Small group of buildings, probably a farm.

25 Auchnahanate (NN 201811). Small group of buildings, probably a farm. Site of township. A chapel 'called Achnahannat' was recalled (17th cent.) as an ancient 'sanctuarie', with a fair: *cf.* O.S. Unachan (*Aonachán*), 'market place' (Watson 1926:252), the adjoining township.

26 Annat (NN 081771). A house, probably a farm. Also site of township. Also Annat Point, Mill; Blàr na h-Annait.

ROSS AND CROMARTY (mainland)

27 An Annaid, Loch na h-Annaide, Nigg parish. Not on O.S. 6 in. The unnamed loch centred at NH 825709 is probably the 'Loch Annat' which appears on a map of the Hill of Nigg, dated 1763. An Annaid (Annot, 1611) was a holding on the farm of Castlecraig (W. J. Watson 1904:52–3). Not yet followed up.

28 Achnahanat, Wester and Easter (NH 512982, 518985). Groups of cottages, originally a township. Also Achnahanat Burn.

29 Clach na h-Annaid (NH 339547). Also Carn na h-Annaite, Mór and Beag; Allt na h-Annaite. Old burial-ground at NH 340548.

30 An Annaid (NH 291532?). Not on O.S. 6 in. 'Opposite Innermany [Glenmeanie], . . . and west of Baile na Creige [Balnacraig], . . . is *An Annaid*, . . . a triangular piece of ground' (Watson 1904:154). Not located by O.S. in 1966. Map reference suggested here is for a triangular enclosure immediately west of Balnacraig.

31 Annat (NG 895544). A group of crofts.

32 Annat (NH 019972). A house, part of depopulated township of Achmore. Also Talladh na h-Annait, a small, rocky point; Annat Bay.

33 Camas na h-Annait. Probable site of chapel, above and a little to SW of bay, is at NG 696347.

SUTHERLAND

34 Ach' na h-Anaite (NC 385656). Cnoc Ach' na h-Anaite, a tract of rough pasture land (O.N.B.).

35 An Annait (NC 208509). Described as a rock in O.N.B., but 6 in. 1962 shows a group of buildings, probably a farm, at the name. Also Bàgh an Annaite.

ARGYLL

36 Annat in Appin, 1595 (?near NM 943461). Not on O.S., but perhaps still locally known. 'Annat in Appin appears to have been near the site of the present parish church' (Watson 1926: 253). *Cf.* O.P.S. 1851–5:2(1).167–8. The 'rivulet of Annat' named in 1595 may be the unnamed stream flowing out of Coire na h-Anaid (O.S. 6 in.).

37 Annat (NN 033221). A group of houses.

38 Cladh na h-Annait (NN 001291). Also Achadh na h-Annait (NM 999293), a croft.

39 Cladh na h-Annaide (NM 909282?). Not on O.S. 6 in. But O.S. records suggest that 'Cleigh na h-Annait' is the remains of a chapel (?) and burial-ground at NM 909282.

40 Allt na h-Annait. Burial-ground beside burn is at NN 346380. Also Coire na h-Annait.

THE ISLES

41 Na h-Annaidean, Lewis. Not on O.S. 6 in. Name (meaning 'The Annats') given to 'a stretch of green pasture extending inland about 200 yards from the shore, about ½ mile NE of Teampull Pheadair. . . . Near the top is Tobar Aindreas ("St Andrew's Well") now filled up,' but quite defined in the 1890s (R.C.A.M.S. 1928:10). Tobar Aindreas is at NB 381552, but not on O.S.

42 Àiridhean na h-Annaid, Shiant Isles (NG 411982).

43 Teampull na h-Annaide, Isle of Killegray. Not on O.S. 6 in., but see R.C.A.M.S. (1928: 37). Probable site is Burial Ground (Disused) at NF 975846. Also Tobar na h-Annaide (also not on O.S.). Antiquarian tampering with the name seems likely, since both elements mean, basically, 'church'. The Royal Commission's authority was an eighteenth-century minister of Harris, who describes it as 'the temple of Annat, a goddess mentioned by mythologists' (O.S.A. 1794:10.375), clearly influenced by Pennant and Boswell. *Annaid*, either by itself or in some compound, must have pre-existed here.

44 Tobar na h-Annait, Skye (NG 589202). Also Clach na h-Annait. This is the only instance that I know of an apparent coincidence between an *annat* name and a named church-site (Kilbride). Clach na h-Annait and the siting-symbol for St Bridget's Chapel are practically alongside each other on the O.S. 6 in. But the exact site of St Bridget's church is unknown; and the suggestion as to its position may have been influenced to some extent by the position of Clach na h-Annait. Tobar na h-Annait is apparently over 100 yards S of this; and Kilbride House about the same distance to the WNW. Information from O.S. records: *cf.* R.C.A.M.S. 1928:214).

45 Annait, Skye (NG 272527).

46 Watson also suggests Annetswell, in Aberdeenshire, NJ 556423, as an example of *annat*, but later qualifies the suggestion (Watson 1926:324, 519). A farm.

B. Names additional to Watson (1926)

ABERDEENSHIRE

47 Hill of Hannet (NJ 967643). O.N.B. Possibly for *Cnoc na h-Annaide*, with H-retained from gen. sg. of Gaelic definite article. A hill.

48 Ennet Hillocks (NJ 383085). O.N.B., which has Ennot Hillock; also Ennot Mill.

ANGUS

49 Annat Bank (NO 728571). O.N.B. Not on O.S. 6 in. 1970, but map reference deduced from Admiralty Chart. This is a sandbank on the N side of the mouth of the R. South Esk, possibly due to coastal erosion. Perhaps a doubtful instance of 'Annat'.

ARGYLL

50 Annaid (NR 710629). O.N.B. Name collected accidentally, and therefore not shown on O.S. 6 in. Part of a field.

51 Cladh na h-Anaid (NM 958329). O.N.B.

52 Tórr na h-Annaid (NM 365217). O.N.B.

53 Tobar na h-Annait (Anon. 1904:18–19), upper Glendaruel. Not on O.S. 6 in. Apparently near Kilbridemore, which is at NS 030908. The name is unlikely to have been invented. I am indebted to Mrs Rona Barr, Colintraive, Argyll, for drawing my attention to this site.

AYRSHIRE

54 Knockannot (NS 423085). O.N.B. A small hill.

BANFFSHIRE

55 Cairn Ennit (NJ 678504). O.N.B. Apparently a Bronze Age tumulus.

56 Auchenhandock (NJ 425368). O.N.B. A farm. Now in Aberdeenshire. *Cf.* no. 57. There is a chapel-site nearby. But *cf.* Alexander 1952:153: the second element is perhaps *ceannachd*, 'buying', 'marketing'.

57 Auchenhandock (NJ 333379). O.N.B. A farm. Perhaps the place named 'Auchnannat' in 1546 (Aberdeen Reg. 1845:1.432; *cf.* 424, 444). There is a chapel-site nearby. I am indebted to Mrs M. O. Anderson for this reference.

58 Fordannet Bridge (NJ 547649). O.N.B. On the Burn of Rannes. Possibly a part-translation of Gaelic *Àth na h-Annaide*, with Gaelic word order retained.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

59 Annant Hill (NS 994043). O.N.B. Original local authorities gave Annats Hill, altered to fit preconceived antiquarian etymology in O.N.B. Also Annant Scar Cleuch: original local authorities gave Annat Scar Cleuch, similarly altered in O.N.B.

FIFE AND KINROSS

60 Annets Hill (NO 343043). O.N.B. 'A small hill in a plantation.'

61 Craiganet (NT 155865). O.N.B. A plantation of mixed wood. Also Craiganet Burn.

INVERNESS-SHIRE

62 Annaid, Staffin Island (centred at NG 493692). Not on O.S. 6 in. Name reported to be known there (R.C.A.M.S. 1928:xlvi).

63 Achnahannait, Skye (NG 509376). O.N.B. O.S. 1 in., sheet 25. 'A small district of arable and rough pasture with a . . . cottage or two . . .' (O.N.B.).

64 Camas na h-Annait, Skye (NG 131473). Shown me by O.S. Archaeology Division, Edinburgh.

65 Annat Burn. Flows into Loch Shiel at NM 792719. The farm of 'Annat', marked beside this stream on the Roy Map (12.5) of *c.* 1750, was defined as 'the half penny Land of Annat' (Clanranald Rental 1748:102). Mr B. R. S. Megaw drew my attention to these references.

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Individual acknowledgements have been made where relevant.

NOTES

1 Early meanings of the term *andóit*, *annóit*, are noticed in R.I.A. Contributions (1967:334–5); *Ancient Laws of Ireland* (1873:74 [*cf.* Hughes (1966:160–1)]; also 298); *cf. Ancient Laws of Ireland* (1873:65, *n.* 3).

2 The etymology of *andóit*, *annóit*, is discussed in Stokes (1887:2.640), and Stokes (1891–4:42); and Greene (1966:82), referring to Vendryes (1959:*s.v.* '*andóit*'); *cf.* also MacBain (1922:283–5), and note 1, *above*.

3 Possible instances of Annat in Northern England include: *In Cumberland*: Annottewell (1540), Annattwell (1686), *etc.*, now Annetwell (Street), in Carlisle, referring to a well there (Armstrong, *etc.* 1950–2: 1.46).

Annattwalles, *etc.* (1631), in Alston parish, now Annat Walls (*op. cit.*:1.176).

In Westmorland: Annet-well (*c.* 1690), a 'sike' in Kirkbythore parish: mentioned, *op. cit.* (1.46), but not apparently in the Westmorland volumes of the English Place-Name Society.

These names have, however, been tentatively explained (*op. cit.*) as possibly containing the diminutive of the female name Ann (hence perhaps '(St) Ann's well'). *Cf.* Watson's afterthought concerning the Aberdeenshire Anatswell (no. 46, in list above).

4 The word used of the old, original monasteries in a supposedly ninth-century Irish treatise is *senchill* (Gwynn and Purton 1911:177), apparently the church of the patron saint, *cf. andóit*. The latter word, as Mrs M. O. Anderson informs me, is used in the Prose Rule of the Céli Dé, attributed to the ninth century (Kenny 1968:472), and disapproval by the reforming Céli Dé of the old 'establishment' foundations might have contributed to an apparent change in terminology about this time.

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