

# pinwherry

The castle and the village both take their name from pinwherry hill, (168 mtrs), which rises immediately south west of the meeting of the Rivers Stinchar and Duisk on the other side of the railway line behind the cottages on Main Street.

Pinwherry is probably derived from an ancient Brythonic dialect "peinn" (pr.paenn) a hill or mountain. "choire" (pr.whoer-e) a circular hollow surrounded by hills. Literally: the hill of the hollow surrounded by hills where the meeting waters form a circular bend.

An extremely accurate description so vital to the very early Celtic migrants who would likely travel in coracles.

The bridge over the Duisk was built in about 1835, when tolls would be paid at a thatched cottage which stood on the cleared site at the entrance to the Muck Road.



Above: An impression of Pinwherry Castle in about 1600. The authors thank Mr James Brown, FSA Scot, of Ayr, for his architectural advice.

Behind the cottages on Barrhill Road stands the ruins of "Pinquharrie" castle. Built by Johnne Kennedie of Banquharrie in 1596, it was a typical L shaped Scottish tower house of the fourth period. It stood 4 stories high and was eventually abandoned in 1800.

The ruins are privately owned and permission must be obtained to visit.

The Muck Road leads to the Water of Muck which it then follows up a delightful glen. Eventually the tarmac runs out, but the road continues through the forest until it meets the Straiton-Bargrennan Road just south of the Nick o' the Balloch.



The hill rising to the north east of here is curiously unnamed on Ordnance Survey maps. It covers an extensive area to a height of 236 meters. It is bounded by the River Stinchar near Pinclanty and Asselfoot, then south to Pinwherry and the Muck valley to beyond Bellamore. Many scholars of antiquity believe this extensive hill to be the true pinmore.

About 1/4 miles east of Little Pinmore farm and about a mile from Docherneil farm, high upon Pinmore, is the Glake Stone, a well preserved prehistoric monolith with ancient carved cup depressions. It is best approached from Docherneil farm, where permission must be obtained to visit.



Above: An impression of the old tollhouse in the early 20th century. The new primary school, built in 1898 by Macquaker of Spence, is in the background.

Below: Sketch map showing the location of pinmore (or peinn moe, the extensive hill, in Brythonic) possibly so named by early Celtic settlers almost 3000 years ago.



Writers and drawn by Keith and Dorey Dowdy from their poetry. The authors are indebted to the work of the late Mr Narvan MacDowell for some whose book, Gairloch Galloway, is an inspiration.