
GAZETTEER OF SITES

SCOTLAND

1. Tigh an t-Sithiche (House of the Fairies)

- **Location:** Hirta, St Kilda, Western Isles
- **Coordinates:** 58.83° N, 5.83° W
- **Type:** Underground structure / Earth-house
- **Folklore:** This ancient souterrain, whose name translates directly as "House of the Fairies," is a remarkable stone-lined underground passage and chamber dating from the Iron Age. Local tradition held that these structures were not built by mortal hands but were the dwellings of the *sithiche* (fairies). St Kilda, the remotest part of the British Isles, was abandoned in 1930, but its fairy associations remain part of its haunting legacy.
- **Source:** RCAHMS; St Kilda folklore collections

2. Doon Hill

- **Location:** Near Aberfoyle, Stirling
- **Coordinates:** 56.20° N, 4.20° W
- **Type:** Fairy hill / Otherworld entrance
- **Folklore:** Doon Hill is one of Scotland's most famous fairy hills. According to tradition, it is the home of the Fairy Queen and her court. The Reverend Robert Kirk, minister of Aberfoyle and author of *The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Fairies* (1691), is said to have been taken by the fairies while walking on this hill in 1692. A memorial stone marks the spot, and locals believe Kirk now lives within the hill, serving as the Fairy Queen's chaplain.
- **Source:** *The Secret Commonwealth*; *Magical Folk*

3. The Hills of Rendall

- **Location:** Rendall, Orkney
- **Coordinates:** 59.00° N, 3.00° W (approximate for Orkney)
- **Type:** Fairy community within hills
- **Folklore:** Recorded in 17th-century witch trial testimony, the hills of Rendall were said to house a thriving community of fairies. One notable figure named "Walliman" was described as a fairy who lived inside the hill. These Orcadian traditions reflect a belief in organized fairy societies living parallel to human communities, with their own hierarchies and social structures.
- **Source:** Orkney witch trial records (1615-1620)

4. Loch Clunie

- **Location:** Near Blairgowrie, Perthshire
- **Coordinates:** 56.60° N, 3.40° W
- **Type:** Underwater fairy dwelling
- **Folklore:** Loch Clunie is associated with a water-dwelling fairy or kelpie. According to tradition, a beautiful fairy woman would rise from the loch at sunset and comb her hair on the shore. A local farmer fell in love with her and was given magical cattle that never sickened, on condition he never

strike them with iron. When he broke the taboo, the cattle vanished into the loch, and the fairy was never seen again.

- **Source:** Perthshire Folklore Collection

5. Glen Lyon (MacGregor's Leap)

- **Location:** Glen Lyon, Perthshire

- **Coordinates:** 56.50° N, 4.20° W

- **Type:** Fairy-assisted site

- **Folklore:** Glen Lyon, Scotland's longest enclosed glen, has a famous fairy site known as MacGregor's Leap. According to legend, a MacGregor chief escaping his enemies leapt across a narrow gorge with the help of the fairies. The site is considered enchanted, and locals would leave offerings at the nearby fairy mound for good luck.

- **Source:** Perthshire Folklore Collection

6. Sueno's Stone

- **Location:** Forres, Moray

- **Coordinates:** 57.60° N, 3.60° W

- **Type:** Fairy hill marker

- **Folklore:** This Pictish cross-slab, standing over 6 meters tall, is surrounded by fairy legends. Locals believed the stone marked a fairy hill and that the carvings depicted fairy warriors. Children were warned not to play near the stone after dark, lest they be taken by the Good People. The area was also known for fairy music heard on calm evenings.

- **Source:** Moray Folklore Collection

WALES

7. Llyn y Fan Fach

- **Location:** Black Mountain, Carmarthenshire

- **Coordinates:** 51.88° N, 3.70° W

- **Type:** Lake fairy kingdom

- **Folklore:** This remote lake in the Black Mountains is the most famous fairy lake in Wales. According to legend, a beautiful fairy woman, one of the Gwragedd Annwn (lake fairies), rose from the waters to marry a mortal farmer named Rhiwallon. She brought with her magical cattle and gave him healing knowledge that became the foundation of the famous Physicians of Myddfai. When he struck her three times (breaking a taboo), she returned to the lake with all her cattle. The lake is considered an entrance to an underwater fairy kingdom.

- **Source:** *The Fairy-Faith in Celtic Countries*; *British Goblins*

8. Llyn Barfog (Bearded Lake)

- **Location:** Near Aberdyfi, Gwynedd

- **Coordinates:** 52.52° N, 4.02° W

- **Type:** Portal to Annwn (Welsh Otherworld)

- **Folklore:** Llyn Barfog is believed to be a portal to *Annwn*, the Welsh fairy underworld—a realm of abundance, youth, and no disease. According to legend, green ladies from the lake would emerge accompanied by milk-white hounds and magical white cattle. A farmer captured one of the cows, which brought him prosperity until he tried to slaughter it, at which point the lady appeared and called all her cattle back into the lake.

- **Source:** **British Goblins**; **Magical Folk**

9. Llyn Tegid (Lake Bala)

- **Location:** Bala, Gwynedd

- **Coordinates:** 52.90° N, 3.60° W

- **Type:** Submerged fairy palace

- **Folklore:** Wales's largest natural lake is said to conceal a fairy palace beneath its waters.

According to tradition, the lake was once a valley where a magnificent fairy palace stood. When the valley flooded, the fairies retreated to the lake's depths, where they still live in crystal palaces.

Fishermen would sometimes glimpse fairy maidens rising to the surface on moonlit nights.

- **Source:** **Welsh Fairy Lore**

10. Llangorse Lake (Llyn Syfaddan)

- **Location:** Near Brecon, Powys

- **Coordinates:** 51.90° N, 3.30° W

- **Type:** Submerged fairy city

- **Folklore:** The largest natural lake in South Wales has a rich fairy tradition. According to legend, a fairy city lies beneath the lake, and its bells can supposedly be heard ringing on calm days. The crannog (artificial island) on the lake was believed to have been built by the fairies. The Gwragedd Annwn (lake fairies) are said to rise from the water on misty mornings.

- **Source:** **Welsh Fairy Lore**

11. Bardsey Island (Ynys Enlli)

- **Location:** Off the Llŷn Peninsula, Gwynedd

- **Coordinates:** 52.76° N, 4.79° W

- **Type:** Gateway to Annwn

- **Folklore:** Known as the "Island of 20,000 Saints" for its early Christian heritage, Bardsey is also considered a gateway to **Annwn**, the Welsh Otherworld where fairies and spirits dwell. The island's birds were believed to be fairies in disguise. Pilgrims making the dangerous crossing would pray for protection from the fairies of the sound, who could raise storms.

- **Source:** **Welsh Fairy Lore**

12. Parys Mountain

- **Location:** Near Amlwch, Anglesey

- **Coordinates:** 53.40° N, 4.30° W

- **Type:** Mine fairy settlement

- **Folklore:** Once one of the world's largest copper mines, Parys Mountain has a strong tradition of mine fairies known as Coblynau—similar to Cornwall's Knockers. These small, ugly but good-natured dwarfs would live in the mine tunnels and help miners by knocking to indicate rich veins of ore. Miners would leave offerings of bread to ensure the fairies' goodwill.

- **Source:** **Welsh Fairy Lore**

ENGLAND

13. Pook's Hill

- **Location:** Ashdown Forest, Sussex

- **Coordinates:** 51.07° N, 0.04° E

- **Type:** Fairy dwelling / Puck's residence
- **Folklore:** Pook's Hill in Ashdown Forest is traditionally associated with Puck (Robin Goodfellow), the mischievous household spirit and perhaps the most famous fairy in English folklore. Rudyard Kipling set his children's book **Puck of Pook's Hill** (1906) here, where Puck conjures figures from English history. The name derives from the Old English 'puca', meaning a fairy or goblin. The area has long been considered fairy-haunted.
- **Source:** Kipling; Sussex Folklore

14. Castlerigg Stone Circle

- **Location:** Near Keswick, Cumbria
- **Coordinates:** 54.60° N, 3.10° W
- **Type:** Fairy gathering place
- **Folklore:** Castlerigg stone circle in the Lake District is surrounded by fairy legends. The circle, set against dramatic mountain views, is said to be a gathering place for fairies on Midsummer's Eve. Local shepherds would avoid the area after dark, fearing they might be drawn into the fairy dance. The nearby mountains are believed to be home to fairy herds of magical cattle.
- **Source:** Cumbrian Folklore

15. The Rollright Stones

- **Location:** Near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire
- **Coordinates:** 51.90° N, 1.60° W
- **Type:** Fairy ring / petrified dancers
- **Folklore:** The Rollright Stones are strongly associated with fairies. The stone circle, known as the King's Men, is said to be a fairy ring where dancers were turned to stone. The Whispering Knights dolmen is where the fairies hold council, and local legend says you can hear them whispering on windy nights. The area is considered a major fairy site, and visitors report seeing lights and hearing music.
- **Source:** Oxfordshire Folklore

16. Avebury Stone Circle

- **Location:** Avebury, Wiltshire
- **Coordinates:** 51.40° N, 1.90° W
- **Type:** Fairy stone circle
- **Folklore:** Avebury, the largest stone circle in Europe, has a rich fairy tradition. The stones are said to dance at midnight on certain nights, and fairies are believed to live beneath them. Local folklore warns against counting the stones, as doing so will bring bad luck. The nearby village was traditionally avoided after dark, as the fairies would lead travellers astray among the stones.
- **Source:** Wiltshire Folklore

17. Cottingley Beck

- **Location:** Cottingley, West Yorkshire
- **Coordinates:** 53.80° N, 1.80° W
- **Type:** Modern fairy site
- **Folklore:** In 1917, 16-year-old Elsie Wright and 10-year-old Frances Griffiths photographed themselves with what appeared to be fairies in the glen behind their home at Cottingley Beck. The photographs caused a sensation, attracting the attention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Decades later, the cousins admitted the photographs were faked using paper cutouts, though Frances always maintained they had really seen fairies. The site remains a pilgrimage point for fairy enthusiasts.
- **Source:** **The Coming of the Fairies** (1922)

IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

18. Caherconnell Stone Fort

- **Location:** Carron, County Clare
- **Coordinates:** 53.04° N, 9.14° W
- **Type:** Fairy fort
- **Folklore:** This ancient stone fort is a classic example of an Irish **lios** or fairy fort—a structure believed to be inhabited by the **sidhe** (fairies). Such forts were traditionally avoided, especially at night, and disturbing them was thought to bring terrible misfortune. The fairies are believed to reside within and protect the site. Archaeological evidence shows occupation from the early medieval period, but folklore maintains the fairies were there first.
- **Source:** Irish Folklore Commission

19. Latoon Fairy Thorn

- **Location:** Latoon, near Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare
- **Coordinates:** 52.80° N, 8.90° W
- **Type:** Fairy thorn / meeting place
- **Folklore:** The Latoon Fairy Thorn is a famous whitethorn bush that became the subject of a major folklore preservation effort in 1999. Local folklorist Eddie Lenihan campaigned to save the bush from destruction during road construction, arguing it was a fairy meeting place—specifically, a place where fairies gathered on their way between provinces. The bush was preserved and the road was built around it. This became one of the most celebrated cases of fairy thorn preservation in modern Ireland.
- **Source:** Northern Ireland Folklore Collection; **Irish Times** (1999)

20. Loughcrew Hills (Sliabh na Caille)

- **Location:** Near Oldcastle, County Meath
- **Coordinates:** 53.70° N, 7.10° W
- **Type:** Fairy hills
- **Folklore:** The Loughcrew Hills are a complex of Neolithic passage tombs that local tradition calls the fairy hills. The main cairn, known as Sliabh na Caille (Mountain of the Witch), is said to be home to a powerful fairy queen. Visitors report seeing lights on the hills on certain nights, believed to be fairy processions. The ancient carvings inside the tombs are said to be fairy symbols.
- **Source:** Meath Folklore

21. Connemara Fairy Paths

- **Location:** Connemara, County Galway
- **Coordinates:** 53.50° N, 9.80° W (approximate region)
- **Type:** Fairy thoroughfares
- **Folklore:** The Connemara region is crisscrossed with fairy paths—invisible routes that fairies travel along. Local builders would avoid constructing houses or walls across these paths, fearing fairy wrath. Several roads in the region were reportedly re-routed to avoid disturbing fairy paths. The practice of respecting fairy paths continues in some rural areas to this day, representing a living fairy tradition.
- **Source:** Connemara Folklore

ISLE OF MAN

22. Fairy Bridge (Santon)

- **Location:** Near Santon, Isle of Man
- **Coordinates:** 54.10° N, 4.58° W
- **Type:** Fairy gathering place
- **Folklore:** The famous Fairy Bridge on the road to Santon is one of the Isle of Man's most celebrated fairy sites. It's traditional to greet the fairies when crossing the bridge by saying "Hello fairies" or "Good morning, fairies" for good luck. Those who forget risk misfortune. The tradition is so strong that tour buses and even government officials make a point of greeting the fairies when crossing.
- **Source:** *The Folk-lore of the Isle of Man*

23. Tynwald Hill

- **Location:** St. John's, Isle of Man
- **Coordinates:** 54.20° N, 4.60° W
- **Type:** Fairy parliament site
- **Folklore:** Tynwald Hill, the ancient Norse parliament site, has strong fairy associations. The hill is traditionally considered a fairy mound, and it's said that the fairies gather there on Midsummer's Eve to hold their own parliament. The ancient ceremony of Tynwald Day includes rituals to ensure the goodwill of the fairies.
- **Source:** *The Folk-lore of the Isle of Man*

24. Glen Meay

- **Location:** Glen Meay, Isle of Man
- **Coordinates:** 54.20° N, 4.63° W
- **Type:** Fairy valley / water horse site
- **Folklore:** Glen Meay is famous for its water horse (*Cabbyl-Ushtey*) legend, but it is also known for its fairy activity. A beautiful horse would emerge from the river and allow children to ride it, but would then carry them into the deepest part of the water. The glen is also known for its fairy bridge, where travellers would greet the fairies for good luck.
- **Source:** *The Folk-lore of the Isle of Man*

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Further Reading

1. **Bord, Janet.** *Traveller's Guide to Fairy Sites*. Gothic Image Publications, 2004.
 - The definitive guide to fairy sites across the British Isles, with detailed directions and folklore.
2. **Evans Wentz, W. Y.** *The Fairy-Faith in Celtic Countries*. Oxford University Press, 1911.
 - A classic anthropological study with extensive interviews and site descriptions.
3. **Sikes, Wirt.** *British Goblins: Welsh Folk-lore, Fairy Mythology, Legends and Traditions*. 1880.
 - Comprehensive collection of Welsh fairy lore.

4. **Young, Simon, and Ceri Houlbrook, eds.** *Magical Folk: British and Irish Fairies - 500 AD to the Present*. Gibson Square Books, 2017.

- Modern academic survey with regional studies of fairy belief.

5. **Moore, A. W.** *The Folk-lore of the Isle of Man*. 1891.

- The standard work on Manx fairy traditions.

Appendix B: Visitor Information

Access: Many of these sites are on public land or accessible via public rights of way. Always check local access information before visiting.

Best Times: Traditional fairy activity is often associated with twilight, full moon, Midsummer's Eve (June 23), and Samhain/Halloween (October 31).

Etiquette:

- Greet the fairies politely at bridges and known gathering places
- Do not remove stones, flowers, or other items from fairy sites
- Leave offerings? Some traditions suggest bread, milk, or cream; others advise against interfering
- If you find yourself lost or disoriented, turning your coat inside out is said to break a fairy spell

Photography: Always permitted, though some believe photographs can capture fairy activity invisible to the naked eye!

CONCLUSION

This gazetteer represents a selection of the most significant and well-documented fairy settlements in the British Isles. From the subterranean chambers of St Kilda to the submerged palaces of Welsh lakes, from the fairy parliament of Tynwald to the thorn bushes of Clare, these sites offer a tangible connection to the rich fairy faith that has persisted in these islands for millennia.

Whether you approach these places as a folklorist, a seeker of the supernatural, or simply a curious traveller, may your journeys be safe and your encounters—if any—be with the Good People at their most benevolent.

Compiled February 2026

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