



## [Place-names - Wells and Springs]

**Reference No. 253: 'An Tobair Mhor'** (the big well) - Funding was provided for the Calbost village well by the Congested Districts Board, which was set up in 1896 and was replaced by the Department of Agriculture in 1912. It was built by John Macleod, 1 Calbost (Iain Aonghais Alastair). It is constructed from poured concrete with a flat wooden top. The plan is about five feet square and about four feet high with a small square opening in one side to enable a pail on a chain to gain entry in order to draw the water from the well. In a very dry summer more or less all of the wells in the village ran dry except An Tobair Mhor and Fuaran a Capull, nearby, about two or three hundred feet to the south of the village well. Both wells are on croft 6 Calbost.

**Reference No. 254: 'Fuaran a Chapull'** (the well of the horse) - We have no record of a horse ever being in Calbost so probably this fuaran is a very old well.

**Reference No. 255: 'Tobair Glaic a Mhearlach'** (the well in the robber's glen) - Neither have we any record of a robber ever being in Calbost and probably this well is very old also. It is located at Lon a Ghrugaich on the extension of croft 3 at the north approach to the village from Marvig direction.

**Reference No. 256: 'Tobair na Cheannadach'** (The Kennedy well) - This well is located on croft 3 below the branch road that connects crofts 8 and 9. Although croft 3 has been in occupation by the Macleods since the 1870s the same Kennedy's who occupied croft 2 previously occupied it. It was a very good well and it retained a reasonable supply of water for most of the summer, and the folk from crofts 8 and 9 used it in the early summer as well as the usual people on crofts 1, 2 and 3.

**Reference No. 257: 'Tobair na Gobhaich'** (the Smith well) - This well is located on croft 5 but as it was located downhill of the houses the water was not used for drinking etc., although it was a beautiful, clear, soft water and the well hardly ever went dry. Folk from croft 8 etc. used this well in the early summer for some purposes.

**Reference No. 258: 'Tobair an Sheoc'** - This well was on croft 8 but it dried out during the warm summers. Another well was opened in the 1930s on croft 8 beside the road, with a purer water supply, but it also ran dry in the summer.

**Reference No. 259: 'Fuaran na Moiristeannach'** (the Morrison spring) - This spring was located on croft 9 and it yielded a good supply of beautiful, clear, soft water for most of the year, but in a very warm summer it more or less dried up.

**Reference No. 260: 'Tobair Iain Bhig'** - This was John Morrison's well on croft 9. It ran dry early in the summer.

**Reference No. 261: 'Tobair Dhomhnuill an Mhurchaidh'** - Donald Morrison's well on croft 9. It retained the water supply reasonably well in the summer.

**Reference No. 262: 'Tobair Neill an Mhurchaidh'** - Neil Morrison, croft 9's well. It ran dry on warm summers.

**Reference No. 263: 'Fuaran a Ghò'** (Mol a Ghò spring) - This spring is located to the east of the pebbly beach, just above the shoreline. It was not used in our time but people may have lived in this area earlier on, as there is evidence of cultivation in the form of lazybeds. The water in this spring was clear, cold and soft.

**Reference No. 264: 'Tobair na Fionnlasdach'** - The Finlayson's well on croft 10 was a small well.

**Reference No. 265: 'Tobair Clan Choinneach'** - This was on croft 12 and was a small well.

**Reference No. 266: 'Tobair an t-Saighdear'** - The well on croft 14 was also a small well.

**Reference No. 267: 'Allt Dubh Spring'** - The people of crofts 10 and 11 used the water from this spring.

**Reference No. 268: 'Allt Ruadh Stream'** - The people from croft 13 used the water from this stream.

**Reference No. 269: 'Fuaran Loch na Craobhe'** - This spring is in the Rudha Iosal area near Loch Na Craobhe. There were several other small wells in Calbost but they all dried up in warm summers. The local authority piped water supply came to Calbost in the 1950s. It comes from Loch Duntatha in Catisval. We are not aware that the

water from any of the Calbost springs was used for healing purposes, as was the case in some places in the distant past.

[ends]

**AN ARCHIVE RECORD FROM THE ANGUS MACLEOD ARCHIVE [www.angusmacleodarchive.org.uk](http://www.angusmacleodarchive.org.uk)**

Author: Angus Macleod

Date:

Original document title: Calbost Place Names - Tobraichan and Fuarain (wells or springs)

Location in physical archive: Series F, File 2, Section 8

NRAS reference: NRAS 4336/1/6/3

© Angus Macleod Archive