



Glenmidge Burn and tributaries in blue, catchment area outlined in red.

As part of a larger research project based in Dumfries, called *Atlas Pandemica*, I am exploring the past and the future of the Glenmidge Burn. I have called this project, *Landwatership*, to reflect three elements: the land, its water and its community.

<https://thestove.org/atlas-pandemica/>

People have always lived near water so I am using the catchment area of the Glenmidge Burn to describe its community. I will look at how the burn has shaped life and work within the catchment and, in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and climate change, the role the burn may play in our future.

In Scotland the abundance of water can be taken for granted, there being so much of it. For instance:

Burn catchment area	7sq.km.
Average rainfall	1219mm. pa.
Annual catchment rainfall	8.5 million cubic metres, or tons

Nevertheless, water remains a vital resource.

Farming is the biggest single occupation of the catchment but we have a variety of others: a significant leisure/holiday sector, many households of self-employed home-based people, children, retired people, and some second homes.

To help, I am asking residents and stakeholders of the Glenmidge Burn catchment to contribute information about its history and, more important, your ideas about its future. Initially I have chosen two areas to look:

1. Local sustainable power generation.
2. Local food production.

With your help I will put together a series of '*future maps*' which might include:

1. Potential sites for generating electricity from hydro, wind and other renewable sources.
2. Potential water development: food production, leisure, water supply etc.
3. Other: theme park, ski slopes, solar farm, rewilding, rice paddies, airport, biodiesel production, etc...

I am making outlandish suggestions here to emphasise that this is a free-thinking exercise into which I am keen to include all ideas unrestrained by present economic circumstances, land ownership or moral judgement. I am interested in what the land, the water and you, the community, suggest as a viable, interesting or amusing picture of the future.

Finally, thank you for your time if you have got this far.

Please contact me at: markzygadlo@btinternet.com if you would like to take part or contribute. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Zygadlo, Glenhead.