

Gaelic in the Landscape

Place-names of Colonsay and Oronsay

Gàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre:

Ainmean-àite Cholbhasa agus Orasa

Dr Jacob King with Eilidh Scammell

An t-Ollamh Iacob King le Eilidh Sgaimeal



Scottish Natural Heritage
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Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland

Place-name gazetteer / Clàr ainmean-àite

Many of the names mentioned in the text are small features not recorded on maps. Local dialect has been taken into consideration in the pronunciation guide, which is meant as a rough guide only. ch represents 'ch' as in Scots 'loch', tch represents 'ch' as in English 'church'. The digraphs 'gh' and 'dh' in the pronunciation make a voiced guttural sound which does not exist in standard English and are indicated as gh and dh. Likewise 'ao' is a sound which does not exist in standard English, the closest approximation is in the French oeuf 'egg', and is thus indicated as oeu. The pronunciation of the other vowels are as follows: 'aw' as in 'law', 'u' as in 'rug', 'ay' as in 'day', 'ie' as in 'lie', 'au' as in 'auld'. Letters in bold indicate the placing of stress in a place-name. The letters in brackets after the meaning denote the language of origin. Where none is stated, the name is Gaelic. (N = Norse, EN = English, ? = uncertain meaning)

'S e feartan beaga a th' ann am mòran de na h-ainmean san teacsa agus nach eil clàraichte air mapaichean. Thugadh fa-near do dhualchainnt Cholbhasa anns an stiùireadh air fuaimneachadh, ged nach urrainnear ach blasad a thoirt seachad an sin. Tha na litrichean anns na camagan a' riochdachadh a' chàin thùsail. Far nach eil sion comharraichte, 's e ainm Gàidhlig a th' ann.

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Abhainn a' Ghlinne	same	the river of the glen	ah-veen uh ghleen yu	NR367919	44
Abhainn a' Mhuilinn Duibh	Sruthan a' Mhuilinn Duibh	the river of the black mill	ah-veen uh voo-lin doo	NR375908	42
Achadh MhacGhairbh	none	the MacGarrows' field	ah <u>ch</u> -uh vach <u>k-ghu</u> -riv	NR373933	34
An t-Adhradh	An t-Aoradh	the worshipping	un toeu -rugh	NR361894	50
Àird Sgeidheanais	Ardskenish	the headland of the war ship	arsht skin -ish	NR345914	23
Allt an Tobair Fhuair	none	the burn of the cold well	aull un tow-pur oour	NR358937	50
Aoineadh na h-Ulaidhe	none	the steep hillside of the treasure	<u>oeun</u> -yugh nuh hoo -leech-uh	unknown	44
Baile a' Mhaide	none	the farm of the stick	bahl uh vetch -uh	NR401973	–

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Baile na h-Àirde	Balnahard	the homestead of the headland	bahl nuh harsht	NR415994	27
Ballan-Stiallach	none	pillory stone	bah-lun sjee -luch	NR366932	50
Am Bealach	none	the pass	um bell -och	NR351922	44
Bealach na Gaoithe	none	the pass of the wind	bell-och nuh goeu -ich	NR351922	44
Bealach nan Sac	none	the pass of the loads	bell-och nuh sachk	NR357942	44
Bealach Turnaigil	Turnigil	the pass of Turnigil	bell-och toor -nuh-gull	NR353925	44
Beinn Èibhinn	Beinn Eibhne	Èibhinn's (N) mountain	ben ay -veen	NR379904	14
Beinn nam Fitheach	same	the mountain of the ravens	ben nuh fee -och	NR407967	40
Beinn Orasa	Beinn Oronsay	the mountain of Oronsay	ben or -as-ah	NR350891	46
Blàr an Dèabhaidh	Blar an Deabhaidh	the field of (a place called) the seepage	blahr un jay -veech	NR387960	28
Bogha an Eilthirich	none	the sunken rock of the emigrant	bow un eh -lir-eech	NR332896	18
Bogha Chùbaig	none	the sunken rock of (a boat called) Cubaig	bow choo -bik	NR324863	18
Bogha Dale	none	the sunken rock of (a boat called) Dale	bow dale	NR323883	18
Bogha nan Eilthireach	none	the sunken rock of the emigrants	bow nun eh -lir-och	NR332896	18
Bruthach a' Ghaoil	none	the bank of the loving	broo-och uh ghoeu -il	NR355891	50
Burma Road	none	(EN)	–	NR390967	28
Cable Bay	Port na Beiste	(EN)	–	NR390907	24

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Cailleach Uragaig	same	the old woman of Uragaig	kal-yoch oo -rah-gig	NR381982	18
Caisteal nan Gillean	none	the castle of the boys	cash-jull nuh geel -yin	unknown	22
Càrn Cùl ri Èirinn	none	the hill with a back to Ireland	carn cool ree ay -reen	NR350892	46
Carraig a' Chait	none	the cat's fishing rock	cah-rik uh chootch	NR403991	18
Carraig Cruimein	none	MacCrimmon's fishing rock	cah-rik croo -min	NM415003	18
Ceann a' Chrithidh	none	the headland of the shaking	kyen uh chree -ee	NR389965	34
A' Chachaileith Mhòr	none	the big gate	uh chah - chill -eh vore	NR383961	46
A' Charraig Gharbh	none	the rough fishing rock	uh chah -rik ghah -riv	unknown	18
A' Chlach Thuill	none	the hole stone	uh chlach hoo -eel	NR364896	46
Cille Brighde	none	Bridget's chapel	keel-uh breetch	NR373933	10
Cille Chatain	Upper/Lower Kilchattan	Cattan's chapel	keel chat -un	NR363950	10
Cille Chatriona	none	Catherine's chapel	keel cha - tree -nuh	NR421998	10
Cille Choinnich	none	Kenneth's chapel	keel chaw -nyeech	NR355918	10
Cille Mhoire	none	Mary's chapel	keel-uh vaw -ruh	NR359888	10
Cille Odhrain	Kiloran	Oran's chapel	keel oh -ran	NR399967	10
Clach a' Pheanais	none	the penance stone	klach uh fen -ish	NR421999	50
Clach na Gruagaich	none	the stone of the Gruagach	klach nuh groo -ak-eech	NR417998	50

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
An Claigeann	none	the headland area ('the skull')	un klak -un	NR365934	34
Cnoc an Àrd-Rìgh	Cnoc an Ardrìgh	the hill of the high king	kraw- chk un ahrsht -ree	NR378935	36
Cnoc Calanda	Keepers Cottage	Calanda hill (unknown meaning)	kraw- chk cah -lin-tuh	NR392963	14
Cnoc Eibrìgin	Cnoc Eibrìgin	the hill of Eibrìgin (N)	kraw- chk ay -prik-in	NR364912	36
Cnoc Ormasdail	Cnoc Ormadail	the hill of Ormasdal (N)	kraw- chk or -uh-mus-dull	NR414992	36
Colbhasa	Colonsay	island of Koll-vangr (hill field) (N)	coll -us-ah	NR377942	7
An Comharra	none	the marker	un caw -huh-ruh	NR372875 & NR346879	16
Comharra nam Muirsgeanan	none	the marker of the razorfish (plural)	caw-ruh nuh moor -sken-un	NR346879	16
Còmhlairidh	none	unknown	caw -la-ree	NR389964	34
Creag nan Druideag	none	the crag of the starlings	krayk nuh droo -jak	NR394955	40
Creag nan Speireag	none	the crag of the sparrow-hawks	krayk nuh spee -rak	NR395956	40
Crò a' Ghoirtein	none	the pen of the field	crow uh ghorsh -jen	NR364908	34
An Crosan Beag	none	the small crosslet	un cross-un bek	NR398972 approx	36
An Crosan Mòr	none	the big crosslet	un cross-un more	NR398974	36
The Dardanelles	none	(EN)	–	NR362931	28
An Dèabhadh	none	the seepage	un jay -vugh	NR389958	28
Druim an Dèabhaidh	none	the ridge of (a place called) the seepage	drim un jay -veech	NR390957	28

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
An Dubh-Eilean	Dubh Eilean	the black island	un doo ay-lun	NR340886	45
Dùn Cholla	same	Coll's fort	doon chow -luh	NR377915	14
Dùn Dòmhnail	Dùn Domhnuill	Donald's fort	doon daw -il	NR355890	14
Dùn Èibhinn	Dun	Èibhinn's (N) fort	doon ay -veen	NR389934	14
Dùn na Mara	none	the fort of the sea	doon nuh mah -ruh	NR379901	14
Dùnan nan Con	Dunan nan Con	the little fort of the dogs	doo-nun nuh con	NR376919	14
Eilean a' Chraoibh Chaorainn	Eilean a' Chro-caorainn	the island of the rowan tree	ay-lun uh chroeu choeu -reen	NR366897	46
Eilean Ghaoideamal	same	the island of Gaoideamal (N)	ay-lun ghootch -uh-mull	NR370872	18
Eilean nan Corp	none	the island of the corpses	ay-lun nuh cawrp	NR355947 approx	16
Eilean nan Giomach	same	the island of the lobsters	ay-lun nuh gim-och	NR340896	18
Eilean nan Ròn	Eilean nan Ron	the island of the seals	ay-lun nuh rawn	NR335866	16
An Fhadhail	The Strand	the tidal ford	un oeu -ill	NR369904	22
Na Fidean	none	the links	nuh feetch -un	NR370912	34
An Garbh-Chladach	none	the rough shoreline	un gar -uh chlah-toch	NR351940	24
Gadhail na Crithe	none	the field of the quaking	geh-awl nuh cree-huh	NR389965	34
An Geata Dubh	none	the black gate	un gayhta doo	NR381937	46
Geata Dùnan nan Con	none	the gate of Dùnan nan Con	gayhta doo-nun nuh con	NR376919 approx	46

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Glac an Airgid	none	the glade of the silver	glachk un eh -ri-kit	NR350892	44
An Gleann	same	the glen	un gleh -own	NR367918	44
Gob a' Chlacharain	Avenue Cottage	the point of the wheatear	gope uh chlach -ur-un	NR396966	14
Lag nan Eala	none	the hollow of the swans	lak nun eh -luh	NR368909	40
Lagan Soilleir Doilleir	none	the little hollow of light and shade	lak-un sull -yer dull -yer	NR344886	44
Leac nan Gèadh	Leac nan Geadh	the slab of the geese	lyachk nuh geh	NR365883	40
An Làana Ghlas	none	the green wet meadow	un len-uh ghlass	NR378958	34
An Làana Mhòr	none	the big wet meadow	un len-uh vore	NR397973	34
Learga Bheag	none	the small slope	lerrick-uh vek	NR392968	34
Learga Mhòr	none	the big slope	lerrick-uh vore	NR390967	34
An Loch Breac	Loch Breac	the speckled loch	an loch breh -uchk	NR358909	44
Loch Fada	Loch Fada	long loch	loch fat -uh	NR383955	31
Lochan na Cealltrach	Lochan Chille-moire	little loch of of the burial ground	loch -un nuh keh -al-trawch	NR360889	42
Lochan Raonabuilg	none	the little loch of Raonabuilg	Loch -un roeu n-uh-boo-lik	NR369938	44
Loch Sgoltair	Loch an Sgoltaire	cleaver loch	loch skole -tir	NR386972	42
Lochan Chille Mhoire	Lochan Chille-moire	the little loch of Cille Mhoire	loch -un cheel -yuh voe -ruh	NR360889	42
Na Machairean	Machrins	the Machairs (costal plain)	nuh meh -chur-un	NR366933	33

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Mealbhan Bhàrnaidh	none	Barney's dune	mel-un vahr -nee	NR404980	34
Meall na Suirghe	Meall na Suiridhe	the hill of the wooing	mel nuh soo -reech	NR403993	50
Orasa	Oronsay	tidal island (N)	or -us-uh	NR355885	7
Pàirc an Iodhlainn	none	the field of the stack yard	park un yew -ling	NR369933	32
Pàirc Dharach	none	oak field/field of (a person called) Darroch	park dhah -roch	NR393970	32
Pàirc na h-Eaglaise	none	the field of the church	park nuh hay -glish	NR383914	32
Pàirc nan Capall	none	the field of the horses	park nuh cah -pul	NR399972	32
A' Phàirc Bhàn	none	the fair field	uh fark vaan	NR373913	32
A' Phàirc Bheag	none	the small field	uh fark vek	NR371934	32
A' Phlaide Mhòr	Plaide Mhòr	the big blanket	uh flatch-uh vore	NR348922	22
Am Poll Gorm	Poll Gorm	the green pool	um pawl gaw -rum	NR373896	24
Port a' Chrochaire	Port na Beiste	the harbour of the hangman or hanged man	pawrt uh chraw -chur-uh	NR390907	24
Port an Taighe Mhòir	Port an Tighe Mhoir	the harbour of the big house	pawrt un tie-uh vore	NR391984	24
Port Iain Hart	none	John Hart's harbour	pawrt iain heh -art	NR373898	24
Am Port Mòr	Port Mòr	the big harbour	um pawrt more	NR355947	24
Port na Cuilce	same	the harbour of the reeds	pawrt nuh kool -kyuh	NM414002	18
Port na h-Àthaig	Port na h-Atha	the harbour of the little kiln	pawrt na heh -ik	NR362881	24

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Port na h-lùbhraich	none	the harbour of the barge	pawrt nuh hew -reech	NR350907	46
Port nam Fliuchan	same	the harbour of the wet spots	pawrt nuh flew -chun	NR383980	24
Raonabuilg	none	the flat area of the bag	roeun -uh-boo-lik	NR369938	44
Rubha nan Deamhas	none	the promontory of the shears	rooa nuh jeh -uhs	NR361903 approx	24
An Seann Mhuileann	Mill House	the old mill	un sheh-on voo -lun	NR385962	10
Sgalasaig	Scalasaig	Skalli's bay (N)	skah -lass-ayk	NR393940	33
Sgeir nam Faileann	same	the skerry of the (common) gulls	skehr nuh foeu -lun	NR353911	40
Sguit Brideag	none	Bridget's piece of land	skoos bree -jak	NR375934	32
Sithean Bhùraich Bharraich	none	unknown	shee-un voo -reech vah -reech	unknown	22
Sithean Cnoc Riabhaich	none	the speckled hill midden	shee-un kraw- chk ree -ah-eech	unknown	22
Sithean Phort Chrag	none	the crag harbour midden	shee-un pawrt chrahk	NR358 28798	22
Sloc Dubh Mhic-a-Phi	none	MacPhee's dark gully	slaw- chk doo vee chk -uh- fee	NR404986	24
Sloc na Sgùineir	none	the gully of the schooner	slaw- chk nuh skoo -ner	NR425990	24
Sloc nan Sgarbh	same	the gully of the cormorants	slaw- chk nuh ska -riv	NR414969	40
Spion Kop	none	Spioenkop (Afrikaans)	–	NR387960	32
Sruthan na h-Ulaidhe	same	the stream of the treasure	sroo-an nuh hoo -lich-uh	NR416996	44
Taigh Alasdair Ruaidh	none	Red Alexander's house	tie alasdair roo -eye	NR367912	14

Name Ainm	Map name Ainm mapa	Meaning if known Ciall far a bheil i againn	Approximate pronunciation Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Coordinate Clàr-stiùiridh	Page Duilleag
Taigh Ghilleasbaig Ruaidh	none	Red Archie's house	tie <u>g</u> heel- as -pik roo -eye	NR367912	14
Taigh nan Ceilpearan	none	the house of the kelpers	tie nuh kyell -pur-un	NR338867	10
Teampall a' Ghlinne	Chapel	the temple (or sanctuary) of the glen	jem-pul uh ghleen yu	NR374917	44
Tobar Chalum Chille	none	Columba's well	tow-purr chah-lum cheel -yuh	NR404986	46
An Tobar Fuar	Tobar Fuar	the cold well	un tow-purr foor	NR359937	50
Tràigh an Tobair Fhuair	Traigh an Tobair Fhuair	the beach of the cold well	try un tow-pur oor	NR355937	50
An Tràigh Bàn	Tràigh Bàn	the fair beach	un try baan	NR401980	22
Tràigh nam Bàrc	same	the beach of the barks (boats)	try nuh bark	NR355914	22
Traigh Orasa	none	the beach of Oronsay (Oronsay Bay)	try or -us-uh	NR349882	16
Turnaigil	Turnigil	twisting gully (N)	toor -nuh-gull	NR352924	–
Uamh a' Chorpaich	none	the cave of the corpse place	oo-av ah chawr -pee <u>ch</u>	NM424009	22
Uinneag Eircheil	none	Hercules' window	oo-nyahk ehr - <u>ich</u> -il	NM420011	22
Uragaig	same	bay with rock-strewn beach (N)	oo -rah-gik	NR391981	36

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