

Gaelic in the Landscape

Place-names in Islay and Jura

A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre

Ainmean-àite ann an Ìle agus Diùra

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Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba



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

Place-name gazetteer / Clàr ainmean-àite

Most of the names mentioned in the text are small features not recorded on maps. This guide is based on local pronunciation and recordings of Gaelic speakers on Islay and Jura. CH represents 'ch' as in Scots 'loch', TCH represents 'ch' as in English 'church'. Names in brackets after the main name represent the English or variant OS form. The letter in brackets after the meaning denotes the language of origin. Where none is stated, the name is Gaelic. (N = Norse, S = Scots/English)

'S e comharraidhean-tìre beaga a tha sa mhòr-chuid de na h-ainmean a tha a' nochdadh san teacs, nach deachaidh a chlàradh air clàir-dùthcha cheana. Tha an stiùireadh seo stèidhichte air fuaimneachadh an àite agus air clàraidhean de luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig ann an Ìle agus Diùra. Tha na h-ainmean ann an camagan an dèidh a' phrìomh ainm a' sealltainn cruth na Beurla no an cruth OS far a bheil sin eadar-dhealaichte. Tha an litir ann an camagan an dèidh ciall na Beurla a' sealltainn cànan an ainm bho thùs. Far nach eil litir ann 's e ainm Gàidhlig a th' ann.

Name Ainm	Meaning (if known) Ciall (far a bheil e againn)	Pronunciation guide (approximate) Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh	Grid reference (approximate) Clàr-stiùiridh
Abhainn Bhogaidh (Avenvogie)	river of the muddy place	aw-eeen VOA-kee	NR360564
Acarsaid Cholla	Coll's harbour	ahkarsaitch CHOLa	NR458477
aig an Drochaid	at the bridge	ek an drochitch	NR2561
Àird an Naoimh (Ardnave)	height of the saint	aart NAOIV	NR293749
Àirigh Màiri Thormaid	Mary Norman's pasture	A-ree ME-ree HORamitch	NR364717
Àirigh Sgallaidh	pasture of the bog cotton	A-ree skall-ee	NR176552
A' Bhadag Mhòr	the big soft ground	a vatak VOAR	NR487640
Baile a' Ghràna (Ballygrant)	town of the grain	bala GRANa	NR394662

Baile a' Chlamhain (Ballachlaven)	town of the buzzard	bala CHLAVin	NR371675
Baile Chat nan Tri Ceann (Ballychatrigan)	town of the three-headed cat	bala chat na tree CYEN	NR324419
Baile Ghillean	town of the young men	bal YEELyin	NR408697
Baile Uilbh	town of (John) Ulive	bal OO-liv	NR406699
Bealach na Fròige	pass of the niche	byalach na FRO-eekah	NR176550
Na Beanntan Diùrach / Beanntan Dhiùra (The Paps of Jura)	the hills of Jura	na BYAN-tan JOO-ra / BYAN-tan YOO-rach	NR4974
Beinn a' Chaolais	the mountain of the narrows	bayn a CHOO-leesh	NR487734
Beinn a' Mhinisteir	hill of the minister	bayn a VINishtayr	NR225634
Beinn an Òir	the mountain of gold	bayn an OR	NR496749
Beinn Shiantaidh	the mountain of the saint	bayn HEE-yantee	NR514748
Beinn Tart a' Mhill	understood as: 'hill of the thirst' (N)	bayn TART a veel	NR208568
Beul an Àtha (Bridgend)	mouth of the ford	byal an EH	NR336624
Bun na h-Abhainne (Bunnahabhain)	foot of the river	bun na HEVinya	NR420732

Bun Othann (Port Wemyss)	foot of 'Othann'	bun Oh-an	NR168517
A' Chabraich (Cabrach)	area of the logs	a CHAPreech	NR490640
Camas nam Meanbh-Chuileag	bay of the midges	kamas na MENav choolak	NR661895
Caolas Uspraid	narrows of confusion	koolas OOS-pritch	NR155538
Carraig an t-Solais	rock of the light	karrik an TOLash	NR201527
A' Charraig Dhubh (Black Rock)	the black rock	a charik GOO	NR303626
Carraig MhicCruimein	MacCrimmon's rock	karrik vihc KREEmen	NR167517
Catadal (Cattadale)	valley of the cats	KAHTaTUL	NR387602
Ceallsa (Kelsay)	keel farm (N)	KYALLsa	NR191561
Cill Chomain (Kilchoman)	church of Coman	keelye CHO-min	NR216632
Cille Chiarain (Kilchiarain)	church of Ciaran	keelye CHEE-ran	NR205603
Clach Dhonnchaidh Mhòir	big Duncan's rock	klach dunnachee VOAR	NR208649
Cladach nan Easgann	strand of the eels	klatach nan ESS-kan	NR197655
Cnoc a' Chròtha	hill of the enclosure	krohk a CHRO-a	NR411710
An Cnoc Crom (Knockrome)	the crooked hill	en krohk KROAM	NR555717

Cnoc Innein	hill of the anvil	krohk EEN-yin	NR410691
Cnoc na Faire	hill of the watch	krohk na FAR-a	NR180514
Cnoc nan Seabhag	hill of the hawk	krohk na SHEV-ok	NR385724
Coille Chabraich	wood of Cabrach	kul-yah CHAPreech	NR489639
Creag Bhealach na Caillich	rock of the pass of the old woman	krehk vyalach na KALyeech	NR205613
An Daimh-Sgeir	meaning unclear (N)	en DIE-shter	NR442672
Diùra (Jura)	deer island (N)	JOO-ra	–
An Drochaid Mhòr (Three Arch Bridge)	the big bridge	en drochitch VOAR	NR544720
Dudal Mòr (Doodilmore)	meaning unclear (N)	DOOtul moar	NR367741
Druim an t-Sil	the ridge of the seed	drooim an tchEEL	NR417680
Eas na Fola	waterfall of the blood	ess na FOALa	NR428699
An t-Eilean Ruadh	the red island	antCHELan ROO-a	NR174512
Fagaid	clover	FA-gitch	NR2561
An Gart Loisgte (Gartloist)	small burnt enclosure	an gart losht-ya	NR334609
Geata Àth nam Marbh	gate of the ford of the dead	geyhata aah nam MARav	NR506647

Geata Cheàrd	gate of the tinkers	geyhtha CHYARD	NR396666
An Geata Meadhan	the middle gate	an geyhta MEE-an	NR2561
Geodha na Bà Ruaidh	gully of the red cow	gyoh na bah ROO-eye	NR198526
Geodha nan Cistichean	gully of the cists	gyoh na KEESHT-ichen	NR232554
An Glas-Ùig	the green/grey bay	an glass OO-EEk	NR471515
An Gleanna Dorcha	the dark glen	an glena DUR-acha	NR356610
Gleann a' Mhoirt	glen of the murder	glawn a VORHT	NR503669
Gleann nam Marbh	glen of the dead	glawn na MARav	NR503669
An Goirtean Dubh	the small black enclosure	an gortchayn DOO	NR398684
An Goirtean Seileach	small reedy enclosure	an gortchayn SHELach	NR487639
Ìle (Islay)	meaning unclear	EE-la	–
Lag Luaidhe	lead hollow	lak LOOEE-yi	NR395663
Lag nan Losgann	hollow of the frogs/toads	lak na LOSS-kan	NR419726
Loch an Dàil (Loch Indaal)	loch of the delay	loch in DAAL	NR2658
Loch Àirigh nan Caisteal	loch of the pasture of the castle	loch A-ree na cashtchel	NR380697
Loch Gorm	blue loch	loch gorrum	NR230657

Loch Ghruinneart (Loch Gruinart)	shallow ford (N)	loch GROO-nyart	NR293712
Loch nam Bruaithearan	brewers' loch	loch na BROO-haran	NR301635
Margadal (Margadale)	meaning unclear (N)	MARGatul	NR393744
Meall na Coille Beithe	the mound of the birch wood	myal na kul-ya BEY-he	NR375451
A' Mhòine Mhòr	the big bog	a von-ya VOAR	NR3645
Mòine Sheilich	moor of the willows	moan-yah HEYLL-eech	NR560733
An Obh (The Oa)	meaning unclear (N)	an O	–
Pàirc Chanada	Canada field	parhk CHANada	NR219666
Pàirc Cùl a' Bhaile	field at the back of the village	parhk kool a VALa	NR394689
Pearsabus (Persabus)	priest's farmstead (N)	PERsabuss	NR416690
Port Asgaig	port of Asgaig	port ASkik	NR431693
Port Duine na h-Èiginn	port of the man in difficulty	port DOO-nya na HAY-kin	NR160539
Port Ilein (Port Ellen)	port of Ellen	port EE-lin	NR365453
Port an Draighinn	port of the blackthorn	port an DRAY-in	NR431679
Port na Cesaich	port of the temporary bridge	port na KAYSS-eech	NR253581

Port na Craoibh	port of the trees	port na KROOEEV	NR343436
Port nam Brògan	port of the shoes	port na BROKIn	NR174513
Port nan Gailleann	port of the storms	port na GAH-lyan	NR281411
Port nan Gobha	port of the smiths	port na GOH-ah	NR341432
Rathad nan Dròbhar	road of the drover	ra-ad nan DROA-ver	NR412687
Ruadhphort (Caol Ila)	red port (from Ruadhphort in Gaelic)	roofort	NR428698
Rubha na Faing	point of the fank	roo-ah na FENG	NR156537
Rudha a' Phartain	point of the velvet crab	roo-ah FAR-tayn	NR2355
An Seasgan	the moory ground	an sheskan	NR494637
Na Sgeirean Fiaclach	the jagged skerries	na skAYran FEE-ahklach	NR401446
Sgreuch a' Chlèirich	cleric's call	skrEch a CHLAY-reech	NR339448
An Slèibhe	upland moor	an shlay-vah	NR4169
Na Sliabhan Riabhach	the brindly upland moors	na SLEE-van REE-vach	NR490638
Smeall (Smaull)	meaning unclear (N)	smyall	NR214685
Sràid an Diolladair (Saddler's Brae)	saddler's street (S)	sraatch an JEE-ladar	NR253581

Sràid na Laimhrig	pier road	sraatch na LAYrik	NR252582
Sràid na Mèinne (Miner's Row)	miner's street	sraatch na MEEen-yah	NR395662
Sràid Theàrlag (Charlotte Street)	Charlotte street (S)	sraatch HYAAR-lok	NR364453
Sruthan an Fhaing Shalaich	burn of the dirty fank	SROO-an aneng HAL-eech	NR376645
Sruthan nan Nathrach	burn of the snakes	SROO-an nan NA-rach	NR410659
Suidhe nan Eun	seat of the bird	sooya nan EYN	NR332417
Sùil-chrith	shaking eye	sool chree	NR392746
Taigh na Geata (Gatehouse)	the gatehouse	tay na GEYhta	NR584771
Tobar an t-Sithein	fairies' well	topar an TCHEE-in	NR362673
Tobar Thuraidh	Toorie's well	topar HOO-ree	NR422697
Toll na Caointich	pool of the banshee	toal na CAOIN-tcheech	NR174513
Toll nan Each	pool of the horses	toal nan ECH	NR254613
Tom na Feannaig	bush of the crow	toam na FYEN-ak	NR401676
Uchd nan Clach (Auchnaclach)	breast of the stone	oochk nan klach	NR409681
Uisge an t-Suidhe (Uiskentuie)	water of the seat	ooshk an TOO-ee	NR296630