



List of Spellings

(For use alongside our Gaelic Place-Names Policy)

Last updated: March 2020

Executive Summary

These are recommendations for spelling common words used in place-names and signage.

1. List of Spellings

1.1 Elements

Form	Notes
Àird	when meaning ‘height’ or ‘headland’
Annaid	not Annait
Bac	not Bachd (from Norse <i>bakkr</i> or Old Irish <i>bacc</i>)
Bodha	not Bogha (in sense of submerged rock)
Cair	not Cathair ¹
Geàrraidh	not Gearraidh
Geodha	when as a discrete word (but <i>-geo</i> when as part of a name of Norse origin)
Giuthas	not Giubhas (from Old Irish <i>giús</i> , with ‘inorganic hiatus’)
Leac, Leacainn	not Leachd, Leachdain(n) (from Old Irish <i>lecc</i>)
Sithean	not Sidhean or Sidhean
Sloc	not Slochd
Srath	not Strath
Rubha	not Rudha or Rugha (from Old Irish <i>ruha</i>)

¹ *Cathair* and **cair* are in fact two distinct Scottish Gaelic words which have been confused over a long period in ways not yet fully understood. *Cathair* is most common in Wester Ross and denotes a perceived ‘fairy seat’ or some other naturally occurring seat. (E.g. A’ Chathair Dhubh (NC826626)) **Cair* is a separate term generally used to denote ‘an enclosed, defensible site’ (E.g. Kirkcaldy ~ Cair Chaladain (NT277913)). Cf. Taylor with Márkus, Place-names of Fife vol. 5, p. 316-318 and James 2011, 63

1.2 Variant Spellings

The following variant spellings are to be used according to local practice or dominance:

Acairseid or Acarsaid

Laimhrig or Laimrig²

Siadar or Seadar

Uamh or Uaimh

2. Spelling of Individual Place-names

The following place-names occur multiple times and should be spelled accordingly:

Aineort

not Ainort

Grianamul

not Greanamul

3. Spelling of Individual surnames

Macfee

Mac-a-phì

MacInroy

Mac-an-Ruaidh

4. Place-names from GOC 2009

The following is a list of all place-names and related words mentioned in GOC 2009. The forms below are for clarification only. AÀA do not necessarily recommend these forms.

3a: Sgalpaigh; Gramasdal, Lacasdal, Loch Baghasdail

4h: Àird Àsaig, Ìle, An t-Òban, Ùig

7a: Iorc ~ York

10a: bàta Mhalaig; rugbaidh na h-Alba

² “There are several variant forms of this word. *Laimrig* seems to have a north-westerly distribution and occurs in Lewis, Skye and South Uist. A closely related form, *lamraig*, with non-palatal -r-, is found in Wester Ross... it is also recorded in dictionaries along with *laimrig*” Cox 1997, 53-4.

11f: Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain, Dùn Èideann, Inbhir Nis, Obar Dheathain, Earra-Ghàidheal, Barraigh, Beàrnaraigh, Èirisgeigh, Pabaigh, Sgalpaigh, Tarasaigh

11h: Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Eòrpa, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean, Sabhal Mòr Òstaig

12a: A' Ghearmailt, Àird Àsaig, Alba, An Eadailt, Barraigh, Beàrnaraigh, Beinn na Fadhla / Beinn a' Bhadhla, Breatannach, Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain, Ceinia ~ Kenya, Coiria ~ Korea, Earra-Ghàidheal, Èirisgeigh, Èitseal, Gàidhealtachd, Gramasdal, Hiort, Ìle, Inbhir Aora, Inbhir Nis, Iorc ~ York, Loch Baghasdail, Na Hearadh, Òban (An t-), Obar Dheathain, Pabaigh, Rùm, Sealtainn, Sgalpach, Sgalpaigh, Sgarpach, Sgitheanach, Spainn(t)each, Spainn(t)is, Sràid na h-Eaglais(e), Tarasaigh, Tiridheach / Tiristeach, Tobar Mhoire, Ùig / Ùige, Ulapul