

A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre

Ainmean-àite Èirisgeigh

Gaelic in the Landscape

Place-names of Eriskay

An t-Ollamh Iacob King le Liam Crouse

Dr Jacob King with Liam Crouse



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
nature.scot



Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba
Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland

ceòlas

Clàr ainmean-àite Place-name gazetteer

'S e comharraidhean-tìre beaga a tha sa mhòr-chuid de na h-ainmean san teacsa nach deach a chlàradh air mapaichean. 'S e tuairmse a th' anns an stiùireadh seo. Tha an litir ann an camagan an dèidh ciall an ainm a' sealltainn cànan an ainm bho thùs. Far nach eil litir ann 's e ainm Gàidhlig a th' ann.

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 oeu '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, ? = uncertain meaning)

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
An Abhainn Dubh	none	the black burn	un ah -veen doo	NF7969912187	59
Abhainn Mhic Cuinn / 'ic Cuthein	none	MacQueen's burn	ah -veen vee chcun / eechc coo -in	NF7857111081	59
Abhainn na Creige	none	the burn of the crag	ah -veen nu krayk -uh	NF7998312254	59
Abhainn nam Pàirceannan	none	the burn of the parks	ah -veen num par -kenun	NF7906010271	59
An Acarsaid	Acairseid	the anchorage	un ach -kar-sitch	NF802100	13
An Acarsaid Mhòr	Acairseid Mhòr	the big anchorage	un ach -kar-sitch vore	NF794098	13
Bàgh na h-Aibhne Duibhe	same	the bay of Abhainn Dubh	Bah -gh nu hi -nyh dooy	NF798124	59
Am Baile	Balla / Baile	the village	um bal -uh	NF787110	45

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Banca a' Bhaile	none	the bank of Am Baile	bank uh val -uh	NF777122	45
Banca an Rubha Bhàin	none	the bank of An Rubha Bàn	bank un roo vaan	NF788125	49
Banca Chalbhaigh	none	the Calbhaigh sandbank	bank -uh chaal -uh-veye	NF8012	41
Banca Rubha Bun a' Mhuilinn	none	the bank of the promontory of Bun a' Mhuilinn	bank -uh roo boon uh voolin	NF7974212648	49
Beinn nan Stac	Beinn Stac	the mountain of the high cliffs or stack	bayn uh stach k	NF790091	73
Beinn Sgritheann	Ben Scrien	scree mountain	bayn skree -in	NF7946411185	73
A' Bhuaille Ghlas	none	the grey fold	a vo -ula ghlas	NF787097	57
Bogach	none	a wet place	bow -kaw <u>ch</u>	NF797117	52
Bogha an Rubha Dhuibh	none	the reef of the black point	bow roo -uh dhoo -ee	NF816131	15
Bogha Mhic an t-Saoir	none	MacIntyre's sunken rock	bow -uh vee chk un toeur	NF7667311562	37
Bogha Ruairidh	none	Rory's sunken rock	bow -uh rooa -ree	NF796083	37
Bruach Lizzie	none	Lizzie's brae	broo -o <u>ch</u> lizzy	NF788114	62
Na Brùchdannan	Na Brugannan	? seaweed islands	nuh broo <u>ch</u> k-unan	NF780130	45
Bùidh na h-Oitireach	none	the buoy of the sandbank	boo -ee nuh hotch -raw <u>ch</u>	NF790053	41
Bun a' Mhuilinn	none	the foot of the mill	boon uh vo -lin	NF796121	49
Caisteal a' Bhreabadair	Caisteal an Reubadair	the Weaver's castle	cash -jull uh vre -puh-dur	NF7860607161	37
Caisteal an Reubadair	none	the castle of the pirate	cash -jull un ray -puh-dur	NF7860607161	37

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Calbhaigh	same	calf island (N)	caal -uh-veye	NF809127	19
Caolas Èirisgeigh	Caolas Eirisgeidh	the sound of Eriskay	coeu -lus ay -rish-keye	NF7913	45
An Càrn	Coilleag a' Phrionnsa	the Cairn	un carn	NF78444610217	49
Càrn / Ceann a' Chliabhain	none	the cairn / headland of the wreckage	carn / ceun uh chlee -ah- vin	NF8091611966	19
Carraig an Eilein	none	the fishing rock of the island	cah -rik un elin	NF8065811412	26
Carraig Chisholm	none	Chisholm's fishing rock	cah -rik Chisholm	NF805106	26
Carraig Iain	none	Iain's fishing rock	cah -rik ee -in	NF793098	26
Ceann a' Ghàrraidh	none	the head of the dyke	ceun uh ghah -ree	NF784102	49
Ceann an Ròin	none	the seal's head	ceun uh rawn	NF7668412193	37
An Ceum Cas	none	the steep path	un kaim kas	NF8036711100	57
A' Charraig Dhomhain	none	the deep fishing rock	uh chah -rik dhow -een	NF8066511376	26
Cidhe a' Chlàirich	none	the quay of the Clerk	key uh chlay -reech	NF7904511992	19
Cidhe an t-Sagairt	none	the quay of the priest	key un tac -arsht	NF7897212018	19
Cidhe nan Convicts	none	the quay of the convicts	key -uh nun convicts	NF7897212018	19
Cnoc an t-Sil	none	the hill of the seed	kraw -chk un tcheel	NF784117	73
Cnoc Dhòmhnail Bhàin	none	the hill of Blond Donald	kraw -chk dhaw -ill vaan	NF80591197	26
Cnoc na Feannaig	none	the hill of the crow	kraw -chk nuh fee - eh -nik	NF784122	75

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Cnoc na h-Eaglaise	none	the hill of the church	kraw -chk nuh hay -glish	NF788113	75
Cnoc nan Luch	none	the hill of the mice	kraw -chk nun looch	NF787116	73
Cnoc nan Sgrath	none	the hill of the sods	kraw -chk nun skrah	NF786120	75
Cnoc Seonag	none	Shona's hill	kraw -chk shaw -nak	NF7862611819	75
A' Choilleag	Coilleag	the sand dune	uh chaw -lyak	NF786103	49
Coilleag a' Phrionnsa	none	the sand dune of the prince	kaw -lyak uh fron -sa	NF785105	49
An Corra-linn	none	the small channel	un caw -ruh leen	NF780138	45
Cracabhaig	Loch Cracabhaig	crook bay (N)	crack -uh-vik	NF793106	9
Craobh Ann	none	Ann's tree	kro <u>eu</u> v Ann	NF7926511840	57
Craobh Dhùghaill Eachainn	none	Dougal Hector's tree	kro <u>eu</u> v dhoo -ill ech -in	NF7926511840	57
Craobh mo Sheanar	none	my grandad's tree	kro <u>eu</u> v mo hen -ur	NF7926511840	57
Craobh Netty	none	Netty's tree	kro <u>eu</u> v Netty	NF7926511840	57
Creag Cuibhle	none	wheel crag	crek coey -luh	NF801098	26
Cuaraidh an Òir	none	the quarry of the gold	koo -aree un awr	NF785122	57
Druim nan Sgrath	none	the ridge of the sods	doo -eem nun skrah	NF786119	75
Dubhat	Loch Dubhat	muddy water (N)	doo -vat	NF802112	67
An t-Easgann	An Easgann	the eel	un tches -kan	NF779130	45

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Eilean a' Gheòidh	same	the isle of the goose or creek	ay -lun uh ghee -aw-ee	NF791079	41
An t-Eilean Dubh	none	the black isle	un tchay -lun doo	?NF790077	41
An t-Eilean Leathann	Eilean Leathan	the wide island	un tchay -lun lay -hun	NF786073	45
Eilean na Coilleig	Coilleag	the island of the sand dune	ay -lun nuh kaw -lik	NF7863410475	49
Na h-Eileanan Beaga	none	the small islands	nuh hay -lun-un bek -uh	NF790077	41
Eileanan nan Stac	none	the islands of the stacks	ay -lun-un nuh stach <u>hk</u>	NF785073	41
Èirisgeigh	Eriskay	Eric's Isle (N)	ay -rish-keye	–	5
Fionnphort	none	white port	fyun -uh-forsht	NF8051712323	55
A' Ghèireag	none	the sharp one	uh gheh -rack	NF7959807430	37
A' Ghlaic Mhòr	none	the big defile	uh ghlah - <u>chk</u> vore	NF797088	26
A' Ghlumag Mhòr	none	the big river-pool	uh ghloo -mak vore	NF796121	59
Gioghaigh	Gighay	Gyða's isle (N)	gee -eye	NF766046	31
Glaic a' Chòmhraidh	none	the hollow of the conversation	glah - <u>chk</u> uh chaw -ree	NF796085	67
Glaic a' Chòmhraig	none	the hollow of the battle	glah - <u>chk</u> uh chaw -rik	NF790115	67
Glaic a' Chorraig	none	the hollow of the finger	glah - <u>chk</u> uh chorik	NF790116	67
Glaic an Tobair Ruaidh	none	the hollow of the red well	glah - <u>chk</u> un toe -purr roo - ah-ee	NF786111	62
Glaic na Còmhraig	none	the hollow of the battle	glah - <u>chk</u> nuh caw -rik	NF790114	67

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Glaic nam Muirsgean	none	the defile of the razor fish	glah - <u>chk</u> num moor-sken	NF786122	26
Gleann an Fhir Mhòir	none	the glen of the big man	glaun un ir vore	NF802110	57
Gleann Stulabhaig	none	the glen of Stulabhaig	glaun stool -ah-vik	NF801103	9
Glumag Dhòmhnail Bhàin	none	Blond Donald's little pool	gloo -mak dhaw -ill vaan	NF8094712084	22
Gob Rubha nam Bàsadairean	none	point of Rubha nam Bàsadairean	gope roo-uh num bahs -uh-tur-un	NF806108	52
Grianamul	Grainamul	green holm (N)	gree-un -uh-mul	NF763118	45
Na Hann	the Haun/ Haunn	safe anchorage (N)	nuh hawn	NF790119	13
Heinis	none	grass headland (N)	hay -nish	NF782091	9
Leac na Banaraich	same	the slab of the milkmaid	lyachk nuh ban -uh-reech	NF791081	67
Lingeigh	same	heather island (N)	ling -guy	NF751115	45
Loch a' Chapail	Loch a' Chapuill	the loch of the horse	<u>loch</u> uh cha -pill	NF797092	67
Loch Cracabhaig	none	the loch of Cracabhaig	<u>loch</u> crack -uh-vik	NF793106	9
Loch Dhòmhnail Iain	Lochan an Àil	Donald John's loch	<u>loch</u> dhaw -ill ee -in	NF790094	67
Loch Dubhat	same	loch of Dubhat	<u>loch</u> doo -vat	NF802112	67
Loch Eòsa Bhig	Loch Cracabhaig	little Joseph's loch	<u>loch</u> ee-aw -suh vik	NF793106	9
Meall Ainort	none	the mound of Ainort	mee-al eye -nort	NF795090	26
Meall nan Caorach	Rubha Meall nan Caorach	the mound of the sheep	mee-al nun coeu -rawch	NF798086	26
Oitir an Leisgein	none	the sandbank of the lazy man	otch -ir un laysh -kin	NF790132	41

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
An Oitir Mhòr	Outer Oitir Mhòr	the big sandbank	un otch -ir vore	NF754066	41
Othaisgeir	Hoisgeir	? skerry (N)	aw -ash-kir	NF776116	37
Na Pàirceannan	The Parks	the parks	nuh parchk -un-un	NF791102	59
Port a' St Patrick	none	the harbour of the St Patrick	pawst uh saint patrick	NF791099	19
Port an Tàilleir	none	the tailor's port	pawst an tah -lee-ur	NF7919609589	55
Port Aonghais mhic Mhurchaidh	none	Angus son of Murdo's port	pawst un- oeu sh vee ch k voor -u ch -ee	NF7909412069	55
Port Chaluum Mhòir	none	Big Calum's port	pawst chah -lim vore	NF8051712323	55
Port Dhùghail Eachainn	none	Dougal son of Hector's port	pawst dhoo -ill ech -in	NF7914112108	55
Port 'ic Iain Òig	none	Young Ian's son's port	pawst ichk ee -in aw-ik	NF7902609916	55
An Rathad Àrd	none	the high road	un raht ahrt	NF7929012019	57
Rathad na h-Eaglaise	none	the church road	raht nuh hay -glish	NF788115	62
Roc Druim Ghioghaigh	none	the rock of the ridge of Gioghaidh	rawk droo -eem ghee -eye	NF824119	31
Roc na Làir	none	the rock of the mare	rawk nuh lahr	NF819079	37
Roc na Pollaidh	none	the submerged rock of the Polly	rawk nuh polly	NF816122	15
Roisinis	same	horse headland (N)	rawsh -uh-nish	NF805122	9
Rònais	none	rough headland (N)	raw -nish	NF806112	9
An Ruadh-Phort	none	the brown port	un roo -ugh fawst	NF7896611994	55
An Rubha Bàn	Rubha Ban	the white promontory	un roo -uh bahn	NF784121	49

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
An Rubha Bàn (settlement)	Rhuban	the white promontory	un roo -uh bahn	NF786118	49
An Rubha Dubh	Rubha Dubh	the black point	un roo doo	NF816131	15
Rubha Fraoich	none	heather promontory	roo -uh freou - <u>ch</u>	NF7915312186	52
Rubha Iain Roisinis	Rubha Liath	the promontory of Iain from Roisinis	roo -uh ee -in rawsh -uh-nish	NF7967512434	52
An Rubha Mòr	Rubha Liath	the large promontory	un roo -uh more	NF800091	52
Rubha nam Bàsadairean	Rubha Basadearn	the promontory of the sinking bogs	roo -uh num bahs -uh-tur-un	NF805108	52
Rubha Sheisinis	same	the promontory of Seisinis	roo -uh haysh -uh-nish	NF801098	26
Seisinis	Sheisinis	rushes headland (N)	shaysh -uh-nish	NF802098	9
Sgala Mhòr Roisinis	none	the big cliff of Roisinis	skal -uh vore rawsh -uh-nish	NF809121	37
Sgala na Creiche	none	the cliff of the plundering	skal -uh nuh kray - <u>chuh</u>	NF788085	67
Sgala nam Breug	none	the cliff of the lies	skal -uh num bree -ak	NF7885311905	37
Na Sgalachan Mòra	none	the big cliffs	nu skal -uh- <u>chun</u> more -uh	NF809121	37
Sgeir a' Bhanca	Bun a' Mhuilinn	the skerry of the bank	skehr uh vank -uh	NF794126	49
Sgeir an t-Salainn	none	the skerry of the salt	skehr un tah -leen	NF803132	37
An Sgeir Mhòr	none	the big skerry	un skeir vore	NF7977912300	37
Sgeir na h-Aibhne Duibhe	none	the skerry of Abhainn Dubh	skehr nuh hi -nyh dooy	NF7977912300	37
Sgeir na h-Àirigh Samhraidh	none	the skerry of the summer shieling	skehr nuh hah -ree sah -oo-ree	NF785107	31
Sgor na Bèiste	none	the rock of the beast	skawr nuh bay -sh-juh	–	15

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Na Sgritheann	none	the screens	nuh skree -in	NF794113	73
Sloc a' Mhaide	same	the pit of the wooden stick	slaw - <u>chk</u> uh vatch -uh	NF8069411695	19
Sloc an Ìme	none	the pit of the butter	slaw - <u>chk</u> un eem -uh	NF8062411432	67
Sloc Gille Lèigh	none	the pit of the doctor's son or assistant	slaw - <u>chk</u> gil -uh lay	NF796085	67
Sloc na Creiche	none	the pit of the plundering	slaw - <u>chk</u> nuh kray - <u>chuh</u>	NF783089	67
Sluic nam Mònadh	none	the pits of the peats	sloo - <u>chk</u> nu maw -nugh	NF789084	67
An Stac Àrd	An Stac	the high stack	un stachk ahrt	NF786071	37
Na Stacanan Dubha	Stack Islands	the black stacks	nuh stachk -un-un doo -uh	NF785073	41
Stulabhaig	none	? Stulli's bay (N)	stool -uh-vik	NF801103	9
Taigh an Tairbh	none	the Bull's house	tie un ter -iv	NF788114	57
Taigh Dhòmhnail Bhàin	none	the house of Blond Donald	tie dhaw -ill vaan	NF805119	26
Taigh Dhòmhnail Iain 'ic an Tàilleir	none	the house of Donald John, the tailor's son	tie dhaw -il ee -in ichk un tah -lee-ur	?NF7919609589	55
Taigh Fairy	Ben Scrien Cottage	the Fairy's house	tie fairy	NF788114	57
Taigh Lizzie	Ben Scrien Cottage	Lizzie's house	tie lizzie	NF788114	57
Taigh nam Bòcan	none	the house of the ghosts	tie num baw <u>chk</u> -un	NF7874210760	57
Tobar a' Phrionnsa	same	the well of the prince	toe -purr uh fron -sa	NF794113	62
Tobar Lizzie	none	Lizzie's well	toe -purr lizzie	NF788112	62

Ainm Name	Ainm mapa Map name	Ciall far a bheil i againn Meaning if known	Stiùireadh fuaimneachaidh Approximate pronunciation	Clàr-stiùiridh Coordinate	Duilleag Page
Tobar na Creige	none	the well of the crag	toe -purr nuh krayk -uh	NF800120	59
Tobar na Rèilig	Tobar na Realeig	the well of the burial place	toe -purr nuh ray -lik	NF783098	62
Tobar na Sgrithinn	Tobar a' Phrionnsa	the well of the scree	toe -purr nuh skree -in	NF794113	62
An Tobar Ruadh	none	the red well	un toe -purr roo -ugh	NF786111	62
An Tràigh Leis	none	the ? beach	un try laysh	NF786106	49



Tha an leabhran seo air cuid de dh'ainmean-àite Èirisgeigh nach eil cho aithnichte na fhianais air an dlùth-cheangal eadar muinntir an àite is an tìr. Chaidh 300 ainm-àite – cruinneachadh nach beag idir - a thrusadh, le mòran dhiubh a' buntainn ris a' chòrsa is na h-uisgeachan timcheall air an eilean, agus iad a' sònrachadh sgeulachdan, cur-seachadan is beatha làitheil air eilean far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast gu math làidir.

Tha Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba toilichte a bhith ag obair ann an com-pàirteachas ri Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba is Ceòlas airson daoine 's an n-àrainneachd nàdarra a chomharrachadh. Le bhith a' cleachdadh eòlas nan daoine às an sgìre, tha beartas de dh'ainmean-àite – mòran dhiubh nach do nochd ann an clò riamh roimhe – gan lorg 's an cuid brìghean gan deasbad.

This booklet on some of the lesser-known place-names of Eriskay is testimony to the inhabitants' inseparable link to the island's landscape. A staggering 300 placenames, many pertaining to the coast and surrounding waters, have been collected and reflect stories, past-times and daily routines in what remains a Gaelic-speaking island.

Scottish Natural Heritage is pleased to partner with Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba and Ceòlas on this celebration of people and our natural environment. By drawing on local knowledge, a wealth of place-names - including many that have not been recorded in print before - are identified and their meaning discussed.

ISBN 978-1-78391-847-8

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba / Scottish Natural Heritage
www.nature.scot



Scottish Natural Heritage
 Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
nature.scot



Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba
 Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland

ceòlas