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Place-Names of Barra in the
Outer Hebrides

Anke-Beate Stahl

Ph. D.
The University of Edinburgh

1999
Abstract

The aim of the thesis is to examine the nomenclature of the Barra Isles by investigating the distribution and interaction of Norse, Gaelic and English name-forming elements. Consideration is given to the historical, political and economic reasons for changes in place-names, and the language situation is assessed. In a theory-based chapter the function of names, naming strategies, name changes, and reasons for loss of names are examined. The main thrust is to compile a gazetteer of place-names gathered both from historical documents such as maps, sea-charts, registers and travel literature, and from interviews with local people. With the help of a database the corpus is analysed with regard to semantics, morphology and naming intention. Finally, a consideration of the historical development of names illustrates degrees of stability and of change in the place-names of Barra.
Acknowledgements

A number of people and institutions were involved in making this project possible.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. E. Burgschmidt of the University of Würzburg in Germany, who played a key role in setting up the project and in helping to secure major grants. This project was funded entirely through scholarships from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and the Evangelisches Studienwerk e.V. Villigst (Lutheran Foundation for Advanced Studies).

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Thank you to Julian Crowe, Dr. Axel Kern, Dr. Kenny MacDonald and Henry J. Cox who provided extensive computing support for the project, and also to Henry for proof-reading the manuscript.

On Barra, former councillor Allan MacLeod and the head of the department of social services of Barra and Vatersay, Jessie MacNeil, were always helpful and played a vital role in suggesting potential informants. I am also grateful to Màiri and Iona a Jen (MacLean) for feeding me, letting me camp on their croft and hundreds of cups of tea. I am indebted to Calum a Chal (Malcolm MacNeil) and Ruairidh Fhionnlaigh (Roderick MacNeil) for their continuous expert advice, and to Rhoda Campbell and Jean MacNeil for their patience and hospitality. My thanks go also to Ken and Màiri Liz MacKinnon, who transcribed many hours worth of Gaelic tapes, to Katie and Lachy John (MacLean), Michael Nialtaidh (MacKinnon), Peggy a Na (MacNeil), Mary Flora MacLeod, Monika and Klaus Schmitz and Sir Sandy Willison. My warmest gratitude goes to the people of Bruernish, especially to Tina and Michael MacPhee and their family, whose house became a second home to me, and to my friend Neil Handie (MacNeil) for too much to mention.

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MacPherson, Christine
MacPherson, Niall
Nicholson, Peter
Robertson, Morag
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Sinclair, Donald Patrick
Sinclair, Joseph †
Sinclair, Neil

Ian Ailein
Iain Aonghais Bhig
Eoin a' Feannaig
Ceit
Calum a' Chal
Margaret Forbes
Peigi Mhicheil Sheònaid
Catriona
Bean Ruairidh
Murchadh Beag
Neil Handie
Ruairidh Fhionnlaigh
Màiri Tugalls
Chrissie
Niall a Chodaidh
Padraig Uilleam
Donnie
Dòmhnaitt Phàdraig
Jaw
Neilie Mòr

Castlebay
Tangusdale
Ardveenish
Vatersay Vill.
Nask
Eoligarry
Tangusdale
Ardveenish
Garrygall
Ardveenish
Brurnish
Kinloch
Paisley
Bolnabodach
Bolnabodach
Bolnabodach
Criochan
Northbay
Horough
Uidh
Garrygall
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<td>before Christ</td>
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<td>CNPN</td>
<td>compound name including a personal name</td>
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<td>Craigston Register (see bibliography)</td>
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<td>International Phonetic Alphabet</td>
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m masculine
MEng. Middle English
Mfr. Middle Irish
ML MacLean's map (see bibliography)
NGR National Grid Reference
nom. nominative
n neuter
no. number
NTB Northumberland
O other
OEng. Old English
OIr. Old Irish
ON Old Norse
OR Oral Tradition
OS Ordnance Survey
P parish
PER Perthshire
pl. plural
PN personal name
PrN name including a preposition
S settlement
Sco. Scots
sg. singular
SHR Shropshire
SN simple-name
SPNDB Scottish Place-Names Database
SSPCK Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge
T tidal island
TIPA Tokyo International Phonetic Alphabet
U underwater feature
v. verb
V vegetation
vol. volume
W water-related feature
WAR Warwickshire
WML Westmoreland
YOE Yorkshire (East Riding)
YOW Yorkshire (West Riding)
* indication of older existing name
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1 The Project

One of the fundamental factors contributing to the formation of Europe as it is today was the cross-migration of peoples between its constituent countries. One might think that the Hebrides, lying as they do on the western fringe of Europe, would be relatively unaffected by this process. In fact the islands are situated on what was the main sea route between Scandinavia and Ireland and so have been home to a number of cultures. This is reflected in the variety of languages by which the place-names of Barra have been influenced.

This thesis deals with the collection and analysis of the place-names of the Barra group.

The first chapter describes the geographic layout of the isles, their historical, cultural and economic setting, and discusses the evolution of the language situation from the time of earliest settlement until the present day. It summarises the most important publications on the place-names of Scotland, the Hebrides, and, in particular, Barra, and describes the methods used for collecting and evaluating place-name data.

The theory-based second chapter concentrates on the terminological situation of words and names and attempts to define what a place-name is. It examines the function of names and naming strategies, and characterises the creators of place-names. It introduces various types of name change, and discusses the reasons for loss of names with a particular view to the place-names of Barra.

Chapter three details the main sources from which place-names material has been gathered and concludes with an outline of Barra’s settlement history.

The core of the thesis is the gazetteer of place-names which is introduced by a brief user manual. This collection forms the basis for the subsequent analysis chapters which aim to shed light on naming intention, syntax, aspects of morphology and phonology, and the interaction of languages. The concluding chapter identifies the main characteristics of Barra’s nomenclature and discusses possible areas for future research.

1.1 Topography: Barra and Its Satellites

The Barra group lies off the west coast of mainland Scotland, in the area between longitude 7° 40' W and 7° 19' W and latitude 56° 46' N and 57° 04' N. The islands between Barra Head and the Sound of Barra measure a distance of approximately
Figure 1.1: Location of the Barra group within Scotland

32 km and form the southernmost extremity of the Western Isles. Apart from Barra and Vatersay, nowadays the only inhabited islands of the group, there stretch to the south a further seven islands of which Sandray, Pabbay, Mingulay and Berneray are the largest. Islands of varying sizes are scattered to the north-east of Barra. The number of skerries and rocks varies according to the tidal level.
The archipelago which forms the Barra Isles lies 7 km south west of South Uist, and approximately 150 km west of Oban. The closest inhabited place is Eriskay, which lies just south of South Uist.

Figure 1.2: The Barra group

Barra's physical appearance is dominated by an Archaean gneiss formation chain of hills, which cuts through the island from north-east to south-west, with the peaks of Heaval, Hartaval, An Sgala Mór and Ben Tangaval all rising above 330m. These mountains separate Barra’s rocky and indented east coast from the machair plains of its west coast. The chain of steep and rocky hills is continued in the islands south of Barra. Biulacraig in Mingulay rises steeply from the sea to a height of more than 219 m, and is the second highest cliff in Britain.

The barren hills and windswept moorlands of Barra’s interior contrast with the
Figure 1.3: Bulacraig on Mingulay

Figure 1.4: Interior, looking south–west from Bruernish
sheltered harbours of Castlebay and Northbay, and the wide sandy bays found in other parts of the island. The main peat areas are concentrated in the centre and on the east side, whilst sandy soils predominate in the northern and western parts of the island. Extensive dunes in the north are in constant danger of being reduced by sand drift. Due to the strong winter and spring gales the shore is subject to marine erosion, resulting in a ragged coastline with narrow inlets, caves and natural arches. Loch an Dùin and Loch Tangusdale\(^1\) are the largest freshwater lakes, but generally speaking the number of lakes is rather small. Among the numerous small water courses only Abhainn Mòr,\(^2\) in Borve, and Abhainn nam Breac, in Northbay, are noteworthy.

The climate is oceanic, mild and wet. The average temperature is 13\(^\circ\)C in summer and 4\(^\circ\)C in winter. Rainfall is moderate and fairly constant throughout the year and ranges from 1000–1600 mm per annum.\(^3\) Prevailing winds reach gale force in more than 30 days each year and are responsible for the absence of trees or bushes. Only in sheltered places in the east can a few older trees and shrubs be seen.

\(^1\)This is the OS spelling. In conversation the specific is lenited.

\(^2\)The spelling of this name in the above form is incorrect. It should be \((An) Abhainn Mhòr\). However, the above spelling is the one published by the OS in the Pathfinder series and for reasons of reference is quoted in its incorrect version.

A mostly single-track ring road of some 21 km surrounds the central group of hills. Leading off the ring road are two cul-de-sac roads, one heading to the northernmost settlement, Eoligarry, and the other one crossing the causeway to Vatersay. Several smaller roads lead to townships off the main track. At low tide Tràigh Mhóir, with its extensive cockle shell layers, is used as an airfield.

The land is divided into 26 townships, of which Castlebay is the economic and administrative centre. Barra constitutes a civil parish within the county of Inverness-shire.

1.2 Historical, Cultural and Economic Setting

The first human settlers arrived on Barra after the last Ice Age and were hunter-gatherers. Archaeological finds suggest that farming was established by 3000 B.C. Standing stones, raised individually or in pairs, a few of which may be found on Barra, were erected during the Bronze Age and later. The next traceable stage of habitation was the Iron Age, during which time the duns and stone brochs were built. The large network of these defence sites indicates that times were unsettled. The Picts who settled in the Outer Hebrides were superseded by the Scots, who came from Ireland and pushed into what is now known as Scotland, from the 6th century onwards.

The Norse settlement in the Western Isles probably started in the last decade or two of the 8th century. The Norsemen probably used Barra initially as winter quarters on their way to Ireland but soon became permanent settlers. Unlike for Iceland, where the Landnámabok gives a detailed account of the Norse settlement, there are no written records for the Hebrides. The viking raids on Iona and Skye in the period between 795 and 825 A.D., as described in the Annals of Ulster and in the Annals of Innisfallen, are most likely the cornerstones of the initial Norse settlement of the Hebrides. In 888 A.D. Harald Finehair conquered the Outer Isles and established Norwegian royal power. By the tenth century the inhabitants of the Western Isles were known as the Gallgaels, ‘foreign Gaels’, and the islands themselves as Innsegall, the ‘islands of the foreigners’. Apart from a few changes between Norwegian and Celtic rulers in the one hundred years following the arrival of Harald Finehair, the Hebrides remained Norwegian territory until the Battle of Largs in 1263. In 1266, as a result of the Treaty of Perth, the Hebrides were sold to the Scottish Crown.

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4See K. Branigan, 1995, SEARCH Sheffield Environmental and Archaeological Research Campaign in the Hebrides, exhibition leaflet.
5See A. Jennings, 1996:64.
The twenty-first chief of the MacNeils, Neil of the Castle, arrived on Barra in 1030. In 1344 David II gave Barra to Ranald MacRuary, whose heir and brother-in-law, John of Isla, became the Lord of the Isles. In 1427 Gilleonan MacNeil received a charter of Barra and Boisdale from Alexander III, Lord of the Isles, which was confirmed by the Crown in 1495. During the following four and a half centuries until about the mid-eighteenth century, a mixed feudal-tribal structure dominated political and social life on Barra. Kinship affiliation and territorial identification coincided and the island remains MacNeil territory until the present day. Although the political rulership of the MacNeil of Barra ceased in 1837, MacNeil remains the dominant surname on Barra. Up until the 16th century the Lord of the Isles was considered the sovereign of the clan chiefs. After this time the Scottish Crown tried to break his power. In 1601 MacNeil lost his property in South Uist to the MacDonalds of Clanranald. King James II confirmed MacNeil’s possession of Barra in 1688 and made Roderick, 38th chief of Barra, a baron. Roderick is said to have refused to support King William in 1691, and to have taken part in the uprising of 1715 on the side of the royal Stuarts. Although the MacNeils never openly supported Charles Stuart in the uprising of 1745, Roderick MacNeil, the 39th chief, assisted the prince during his escape and was imprisoned.

The period from 1746 to 1886, when finally the Crofters’ Act was passed, was characterised by attempts to ‘bring the Highlands and Islands into line with the cultural, economic and political system of Britain’.

“The relationship between chief and clansman was transformed into one between landlord and tenant.”

The introduction of the potato, a rise in the price of cattle, and the booming kelp industry caused a rapid increase in population. In order to satisfy the growing financial needs of landlords, rents for crofts, fishing and coastal rights were raised. However, after the Napoleonic Wars continental resources became accessible again, and barilla from Spain replaced kelp. Production of kelp subsequently collapsed, and although the islanders’ incomes dramatically decreased, rents stayed high. As a consequence the population was struck by poverty, and in many cases islanders were hardly able to provide enough food for their families, let alone raise money to pay the rent.

From 1822 onwards, when Colonel Roderick MacNeil was succeeded by his son Lieutenant-General Roderick MacNeil, the local population was in constant danger of being evicted to be replaced by protestants. After MacNeil’s last attempt to maintain his income, by building a glass factory, failed, bankruptcy followed and in 1838 the estate was sold to Colonel John Gordon of Cluny.

It was during the ownership of Colonel John Gordon that the island faced its worst depressions. A succession of bad winters and the failure of the potato crop in 1846, in combination with overpopulation, resulted in a decade of vicious clearances. The best arable land, the areas of Eoligarry and Vatersay, were turned into large farms run by estate factors, who were non–locals. The islanders, deprived of any rights, had the choice of either accepting poor housing conditions and insecurity of tenure, or of following the Gordons’ appeal to emigrate to Canada. Colonel Gordon’s attempts to rid himself of his tenants even went as far as offering Barra to the British government as a penal colony. When in 1886 the Crofters’ Act was passed, the rents were fixed by the government, housing conditions were improved and the forced evictions stopped.

In the period between 1886 and the end of the First World War the economic situation changed rapidly. During the second half of the nineteenth century the Hebridean economy was based on fishing. Whereas agriculture hardly provided enough for Barra’s inhabitants – unless they had fertile land in Eoligarry or Allasdale – fishing was the main pillar of the island’s economy. The installation of a telegraph connection in 1884 and the natural deep and sheltered harbour in Castlebay combined to attract curing companies. During the herring season the whole of Castle Bay was filled with anchoring vessels and fish was exported to as far away as Germany and Russia.

In addition to the improved rights of crofters, more land was made available by the Congested Districts Board, who purchased parts of Northbay and Ardveenish from the Gordons and split them into crofts. The southern islands were deserted in the first decade of the twentieth century, with almost all of their population moving to Barra. This influx led to congestion which was particularly severe in the areas of Castlebay and Glen. The subsequent demand for more crofting land led to the so called ‘Vatersay Raid’, when a number of islanders occupied Vatersay, erected huts and began crofting. As a result some of the raiders were sent to prison. In 1909, after months of negotiations, the owner of Vatersay, Lady Gordon Cathcart, Colonel Gordon’s widow, reluctantly sold the island to the Congested Districts Board. Vatersay was divided into crofts and distributed among the applicants. However, some of those who were most involved in the raid were rejected as crofters. The remainder of Eoligarry Farm was occupied after the First World War and eventually bought by the Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries.

Trade was, of course, severely interrupted by the First World War. Additionally, with the appearance of increasing numbers of motor boats and rationalised labour, the local small boat fishermen, who lacked the funds for modern fishing equipment, could no longer compete. The industry recovered to a certain extent between the wars but the beginning of the Second World War put an end to large scale fishing in Barra. The island women, who had previously worked as gutters and herring packers, re-oriented themselves and most of them went to Glasgow to work as domestic servants. It is estimated that after the war about 80% of all Barra men of working age turned to the merchant navy.

Figure 1.6: Barra Airfield

The 20th century and its rapidly evolving technology also benefitted the island. The ferry service improved, providing a next-day Glasgow to Barra mail service, where previously six days had been typical, and in 1935 a commercial air service was established between Glasgow and Barra. In the early sixties Barra was connected to the national electricity supply and modern media followed. Despite these improvements, younger adults left the island for further education or employment on the mainland or at sea, only to return to the island on retirement.
Several attempts to attract businesses to the island have been made. In 1967 a factory for spectacle frames opened at Northbay House but went into liquidation two years later. There was a perfume factory at Tangusdale and a company that manufactured thermostat components. The shell grit company closed in 1996. The fish factory, Barratlantic, opened in the mid-1970s, is a thriving business and one of the biggest employers on the island. The number of full-time fishermen is rising, as is the number of boats equipped with the latest technology. Tourism and building form the other main branches of employment. Crofting is highly subsidised with grants for land improvements, fencing and agricultural machinery. 

With a secondary school having opened and large funds for housing having been made available by the European Commission, Barra is now one of the very few Hebridean communities whose population has increased in recent years.

1.3 The Language Situation

In place-names, more than in any other aspect, the historical impact of former immigrant activity becomes apparent. Cumbric and Pictish, the first known languages spoken in what is now called Scotland, were overshadowed by later immigrants’ languages such as Gaelic, Norse and English, which in the course of history would influence each other and be influenced by other languages such as Latin and French.

Little is known about the languages of the earliest inhabitants of Barra. Recent historical research suggests Dalriadic influence in the Inner Hebrides while the Outer Isles were Pictish.\(^{12}\) It is not certain whether the Gaelic spoken by the Scots, who had emigrated from Ireland at around 500 A.D., was spoken on Barra before the arrival of the Norse settlers. With the lack of reliable early linguistic evidence, the Celtic cross-slab of Kilbar, with its Norse ornaments and inscription, is the first traceable source of any language spoken on Barra.\(^{13}\)

\[\text{"Eptir þorgerðu Steinars dótur er kross sjá reistr"}\]

\[\text{‘After þorgerð, Steinar’s daughter is this cross erected’}\]\(^{14}\)

As this cross is dated to the beginning of the 11th century, it can be assumed that Norse was by then well established. And, while it was in the process of

\(^{12}\)See A. Jennings, 1996:64.

\(^{13}\)The original stone is kept in the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh, and a replica is located in Cille Bharra, Eoligarry.

\(^{14}\)See A. Jennings, 1996:69.
being absorbed by Gaelic in areas closer to mainland Scotland, Norse may have lasted considerably longer in the Outer Hebrides. However, it is likely that by the beginning of the 13th century it had given way to Gaelic.\(^\text{15}\) During the five hundred years of Norse cultural influence, the language was influential enough to leave its unmistakable fingerprint on the nomenclature of the Outer Hebrides.

On mainland Scotland the reinforcement of Gaelic after the collapse of Norwegian sovereignty lasted only one hundred years. From 1350 onwards the Gaidhealtachd started retreating north-westwards. After the reformation the tie between Irish and Scottish Gaelic was cut and local Gaelic dialects emerged. The decline of power of the Lord of the Isles took place in the reign of James IV, forfeiture happening in 1490. Lowland language and affairs entered the Highlands in the reign of James VI/I. The statutes of Icolmkill\(^\text{16}\), as a result of which a few Highland clans at the fringe between Highlands and Lowlands were supported by the Crown, were intended to undermine the collective power of the Gaels with the intention to finally assimilate them with the Lowlands. The sixth statute in particular shows the attitude of the Lowlanders at the time:

"The quhilk day, it being undirstood that the ignorance an incivilitie of the saidis Iles hes daylie increassist be the negligence of guid educatioun and instructioun of the youth in the knowledge of God and good letters for remeid quhair of it is inactit that every gentilman or yeaman within the said Ilandis, or any of thame, haweing childerine maill or famell, and being in goodis worth thriesore ky, sall put at the leist their eldest sone, or haweing no children maill thair eldest dochter, to the scuillis in the Lowland, and interteny and bring thame up thair quhill that may be found able sufficientlie to speik, reid, and wryte Inglische."\(^\text{17}\)

To the ruling classes English was the language of propriety, education and civilisation, whereas Gaelic epitomised the absence of these qualities. Some children of clan chiefs already attended schools in the Lowlands. During the 17th and 18th centuries, schools were introduced to the Highlands with the aim of promoting not only the English language, but also the presbyterian religion. One of the organisations running these schools was the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the SSPCK, which targetted areas "especially in the Highlands and Islands were Error, Idolatry, Superstition and Ignorance do most abound."\(^\text{18}\)

\(^{15}\)See A. Jennings, 1996:72.

\(^{16}\)Iona.

\(^{17}\)Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, 1609:28f.

At the end of the 17th century Barra accommodated one of the only two catholic schools in Scotland in which young men were prepared for the priesthood. Two SSPCK schools were opened in the Isles, one on Barra, the other on Sandray at the end of the following century. Visits by school inspectors were paid on a regular basis and their reports reveal that, despite a relative fluency in reading English texts, the children were unable to understand the meaning of what they were reading. Gaelic did not appear on the timetable. During the 18th century Gaelic was associated with “backwardness, political protest and religious dissent.” In the light of such an attitude it is not surprising that in 1751 the SSPCK chose to ban Gaelic – except for translation – from schools and playgrounds.

Edward MacQueen, local minister in 1794, described the language situation in Barra:

“The Gaelic is the only language commonly spoken here, and I believe the purest dialect of it to be met with in any country; though by their frequent excursions to Glasgow, the people have introduced a number of English words. Numbers of the inhabitants, who attended the school, speak English tolerably well.”

Fifty years later the New Statistical Account of Scotland shows that the situation had not changed much.

“Gaelic is the language universally spoken, and it is very pure and still unmixed with English words. The English language has made little or no progress, because schools have been wanting. [...] The parochial is the only school now in the parish. English and writing only are taught there at present, although the teacher is qualified to teach Greek, Latin, arithmetic, book-keeping, and geography; but as the school has but lately been keeping, there are no scholars as yet advanced farther than English reading.”

During the 18th century there were several schools in Barra funded by different bodies. All of them, the Parish School as well as the school of the Church of Scotland Ladies’ Association, had in common that education was given with a view to gaining control over religious doctrine, and in all of them Gaelic as an independent subject was ignored. The islanders’ language was used only as an auxiliary language with which to learn English faster.

19 C. W. J. Withers, 1984:2.
20 E. MacQueen, 1794:341.
Although their everyday language was disregarded, the locals at the time would probably have appreciated the fact that their children had the opportunity to receive education at all, and English and Reading would be useful, not only for mainland trade, but also in emigration matters.

The Gaelic Schools Society, founded in Edinburgh in 1811, aimed to teach Highlanders to read the Bible in their native tongue. Their concept was to run a school for a period of two years in order to initiate literacy, and then move on to a different area so as to cover as much of the population as possible. From 1818 to 1825 the Gaelic Schools Society ran a school in Barra, first in Kilbar, before moving on to Greian, Bruernish and Kentangaval.

With the arrival of the Gaelic Schools Society, the SSPCK schools, which formerly had discriminated against Gaelic, changed their policy and included Gaelic reading in their curriculum. Due to lack of funding both kinds of schools had to be closed in the middle of the 19th century. Again, in the Education Act of 1872, prescribing compulsory education, Gaelic was ignored. For centuries, both schools and churches actively contributed to the anglicisation of the Gaidhealtachd.

After the First World War, attempts were made to re-establish minority languages. In the second Education Act in 1918 Gaelic, for the first time in history, was considered a proper subject and exams could even be taken in it.

When BORGSTRØM undertook his research on the Dialect of Barra in 1937, he provided yet another eye-witness account:

"Gaelic is the everyday language of all the native inhabitants, but most persons over six years of age can speak and understand English; most children do not know English before they go to school, and there are also a few old people who know only Gaelic. Up to some years ago English was the only language taught at school, so that very few people can read and write Gaelic." 22

The picture would not change during the following decades. Some local informants remember that if a Gaelic teacher was provided at all, the tuition was restricted to one period a week, and pupils would receive Gaelic tuition intermittently, rather than continuously, during their school careers.

Generally Barra is regarded as one of the last strongholds of Gaelic, although its present situation is complicated. There are no monoglot Gaelic speakers left. In

recent years a growing number of native English speakers have sought and found employment on the island. However, whilst every native Gaelic speaker is at least bilingual, not every native English speaker is. As a result Gaelic can no longer be understood by everybody. In situations of language contact between Gaelic native speakers and English native speakers, English is spoken as a lingua franca. Even among fluent native Gaelic speakers code-switching may occasionally be observed, where a conversation is held partly in English and partly in Gaelic.

From Primary 1 onwards children spend one afternoon per week learning Gaelic. In secondary school native Gaelic speakers and non-native Gaelic learners are taught separately. In 1999 Gaelic evening classes for adult learners were offered.

1.4 Toponymic Research in the Western Isles: Origin, Development and Current State

The earliest writings on Scottish place-names appeared in newspapers in the mid 1870s. In 1876 CAPT. F. W. L. THOMAS was one of the first to explore the names of the Western Isles in Norse Place-Names in the Hebrides. Sixteen years later J. B. JOHNSTON undertook the first attempt at a place-names dictionary, which he called Place-Names of Scotland. SIR H. MAXWELL’s book Scottish Land-Names followed in 1894. W. J. WATSON’s Place-names of Ross and Cromarty appeared in 1904. G. HENDERSON examined the The Norse Influence on Celtic Scotland (1910) which, despite a few erroneous interpretations, was the earliest large scale attempt to assess the interaction of Gaelic (G) and Old Norse (ON). His conversion table of sound changes from ON to G was the first of its kind and, although not accurate, was certainly a good starting point for further research. A. MACBAIN’s book, The Norse Element in the Topography of the Highlands and Islands, appeared the following year. The 1920s and 1930s saw further publications on Scottish place-names, including A. MACBAIN’s Place-Names in the Highlands and Islands (1922), and a more general book published by W. C. MACKENZIE in 1931 called Scottish Place-Names. W. F. H. NICOLAISEN’s book Scottish Place-Names, published in 1976, remains the standard work on the subject.

Further stepping stones in research into the place-names of the Western Isles are a number of articles published from the early 1950s onwards. In 1952 A. SOMMERFELT examined Norse-Gaelic Contacts. This was followed by M. OFTEDAL’s articles The Village Names of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides (1954), Norse Place-Names in the Hebrides (1955), and The Norse Place-Names in Celtic Scotland (1959). I. A. FRASER’s Scheme for the Systematic Collection of Place-Name Material in the Hebrides (1967) was succeeded by Place-Names from Oral Tradition
in the Scottish Outer Hebrides (1969) and Norse and Gaelic Coastal Terminology in the Western Isles (1978).

Although researchers have shown a strong interest in Barra and its satellites, they have focused on folklore, not place-names. The first written collection of place-names in the Barra group is A List Of Non-Gaelic Place-Names in the Island of Mingulay, published in 1903 as an appendix to the article The Norsemen in Uist Folklore. Its collector, FR. A. MCDONALD, undertook his research during the time when Mingulay was still inhabited. The only other publication on the place-names of Barra is C. HJ. BORGSTRØM’s article The Norse Place-Names of Barra, which appeared in 1936.

Place-name collections in neighbouring Hebridean communities produced publications of varying length and quality. There is E. BEVERIDGE’s North Uist (1911), including a section on place-names, D. MACIVER’s Place-Names of Lewis and Harris (1934), and D. MACAULAY’s Studying the Place-Names of Bernera (1972). In Place-Names of the Carloway Registry, Isle of Lewis (1987) R. A. V. COX gives a detailed insight into the nomenclature of an area in North-west Lewis and includes a thorough analysis of the place-names. R. COATES’ Place-Names of St. Kilda (1990) and O. EYSTEINSSON’s Norse Settlement-Names in North Harris (1992) contain further research on Hebridean place-names. Though discussing place-names in the Inner Hebrides and on the western fringe of the mainland, two more recent studies should not be ignored: Collecting Place-Names from Oral Sources in the North-west Highlands (1997) by R. WENTWORTH, and CH. MACLEAN’s The Isle of Mull. Further references to relevant literature on place-names in the Inner Hebrides, the Isle of Man, and on the Northern Isles appear in the bibliography.

In 1996 the Scottish Place-Names Society was founded. Conferences take place bi-annually and help to promote communication amongst members and with other place-name societies in the United Kingdom. With a view to national and international collaboration, a committee has been formed to set up a database for the standardised collection of Scottish place-names. The fourth chapter will discuss this database.

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23 Place-Names occurring in field-books of the Ordnance Survey (OS) and travel accounts are not included at this point but will be discussed in full detail in chapter 3.
1.5 Methodology

The area examined in this thesis is the Barra group as described in section 1.1.24 The research covers all place-names, coastal names and field-names available at the time the field-work took place, but excludes names such as house- and street-names unless they are well established. However, names of old paths, e.g. cattle tracks, are part of the examination.

The compilation of major and minor names forms the core of the gazetteer. Its place-names are gathered from three different main sources:

- maps and sea-charts
- further written material
- interviews with local inhabitants

Map evidence, which provides the material for a diachronic analysis, is scarce. Despite the Crown’s growing interest in surveying the Western Isles after the events of 1745, the first detailed sea-chart of the territory around the Barra group was not produced until 1861/62. The cartographers of the Western Isles seldom spoke the languages of their surveyed terrain. Consequently, map evidence in isolation cannot be considered a reliable source for research. Other written material, such as charters, rentals, parish registers and travel literature, provides further information on place-names. The most important work in this context is the Ordnance Survey Object Name Book of 1878 for the parish of Barra. Set up to collect data for the first detailed survey of place-name material in the Hebrides, the book comprises valuable information on sites of public interest, different spelling suggestions for various names, historical forms of names and, in some cases, historical background information. Other records consulted are school logbooks, gazetteers and letters. However, where historical material is fragmented its validity and reliability have to be treated with caution.

A systematic compilation of place-names would be incomplete without investigating oral evidence. An empirical collection conducted through interviews with locals proved indispensable to obtain data on microtoponymics. Many names have never occurred on printed maps before, existing only on cognitive maps in the users’ minds, and have been passed on through the process of oral communication. The earliest sound recordings of place-names available in the School of

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24 This means that all former MacNeil territory in Boisdale, South Uist, as within the old parish boundaries before 1840, is not included.
Scottish Studies were made during 1958 and 1960 when James Ross and Lisa Sinclair interviewed various inhabitants of Barra and Vatersay. The material was extended by Ian A. Fraser, who undertook a week's recording in 1976 accompanied with substantial map-backing.

I interviewed more than 70 islanders in April and June 1995 and during a six months period from November 1995 till May 1996. Living in Barra for some time was important as it allowed me to become familiar with the area, to establish important contacts, and to access as many people as possible. My field-work was undertaken from the perspective of a Gaelic learner. At the time when the data for the gazetteer were compiled I only had a working knowledge of Gaelic so that the interviews were mainly conducted in English. Fluency in Gaelic or even Barra native speaker qualities on my behalf would almost certainly have put the informants more at ease in the initial stage, may have resulted in the provision of more place-name material and would have kept notation mistakes low. I tried to compensate for my own shortcomings by revisiting my informants on a regular basis to discuss the collected names with them and to detect any errors at an early stage.

The choice of informants was based largely on word of mouth and the local telephone register, from which Jessie MacNeil, of the Barra and Vatersay Council of Social Services, identified the most promising candidates. Interviews were held in a non-standardised way shaped to the individual requirements of each informant. Ideally the informant was knowledgeable about his or her environment, interested in local history, map-literate, skilled in Gaelic orthography, and willing to be both interviewed and recorded. Four individuals fulfilled all of these demands, whilst the remaining interviews required various amounts of improvisation. When an exact spelling was difficult to establish, the name was, if not recorded, noted in phonetic transcription for temporary preservation. Most sessions were taped in order to preserve the unique Barra pronunciation, thus preparing the ground for comparative language studies. Informants who were not comfortable reading maps provided a glossary of names, which map-literate family members or neighbours would assign to the relevant location at a later stage. In some cases walks with the informants in the countryside were the key to tracing the exact position of sites. It was of great benefit to be familiar with an area before conducting interviews with its inhabitants.

25 In some cases this amounted up to ten or even more visits to one informant.
26 Without the Barra Phoney Book and its extensive list of Barra people and their nick-names, research would have been difficult.
27 In a few instances informants would insist on not being taped. In these cases other people familiar with the sites assisted with the sound recording.
'Brainstorming' sessions with a small number of informants provided the highest output of place-names. The initially used early editions of OS maps proved unsuitable for field-work because they lacked relief features, and caused confusion rather than helping with orientation. They were replaced by more recent editions. The 1971 O.S. maps on a scale of 1:10 000 served as the basis for interviews. Collected names were noted in field-books, and with help of a numbering system, fixed on the map. A unique colour code identified each informant's place-names in the books and on the maps, thus providing easy recognition of an informant's mind map. The gazetteer\textsuperscript{28} forms the basis for synchronic and diachronic research.

\textsuperscript{28}See chapter four.
2 From Word to Name

Place-names are part of everyday life and are communicated both orally and by the written word. They are all around us in the media, on road signs, on maps, and in travel literature. But names are not restricted to densely inhabited areas. Labelled territory is present in the countryside too, and an absence of signs should not be mistaken for an absence of names. Maps and road signs are important, but are relatively recent aids for orientation. Before literacy was established among the wider population, street signs occurred in the form of drawings, and maps were unintelligible to the ordinary man. Over the centuries information about places and their names has been transmitted orally and has been, and still is, recorded in mind-maps which each individual forms. As the perception of place and association, as well as memory capacity, differ from person to person no two mind-maps contain exactly the same information.

In the past the belief that onomastics deals only with the semantics of names has dominated, but this view is too simplistic. Although the question of meaning strongly influenced early research, the intensely discussed philosophical question of what is considered a name, the linguistic aspect of how names are structured, and the psychological motivation involved in naming strategies all contribute to the science. Consequently, onomastic research can be approached from a variety of angles.

2.1 Words and Names

2.1.1 The Terminological Situation

Despite the early reflections on names and noun phrases by Greek grammarians, the final differentiation between proper nouns and appellatives has to be attributed to Roman scholars. Varro, 116–27 B.C., distinguishes between the Latin nomen and vocabulum, which, together with the pronomen and the provocabulum, he called the four partes appellandi. By doing so he placed the nomen, which may be translated as name, and the vocabulum, which may be translated as word, on the same level and subordinated both to the class of appellatives. Six hundred years later Priscian differentiated between nomina propria and nomina appellativa, and by contrasting proper nouns and appellatives created a differently balanced classification from that of Varro. The current terminol-

30See G. Bauer, 1985:27.
ogy is pluralistic and confusing and has led to there being a variety of different interpretations of the terms word, name and appellative.

ALGEO describes the present terminological difficulties as follows:

"[...] on the orthographic level, there are ORTHOGRAPHIC NAMES or CAPITALIZED WORDS, versus UNCAPITALIZED WORDS; on the morphosyntactic level, there are PROPER NOUNS versus COMMON NOUNS; on the referential level, there are SINGULAR TERMS versus GENERAL TERMS; on the semantic level, there are PROPER NAMES or simply NAMES versus COMMON NAMES or APPELLATIVES."\(^{31}\)

As a result of the confusion, terms such as name and proper name, proper name and proper noun are commonly, but mistakenly, treated as synonyms and contrasted to the category known as common nouns, count nouns, mass nouns, ordinary nouns or, synonymously used, appellatives.\(^{32}\)

In this word maze NICOLAISEN suggests making a fresh attempt at formulating the basic terminology and, by going back in history to Varro's categorisation, proposes regarding the group of words and the group of names both as independent sub-categories of the general term appellative. From a lexicographical point of view this would simplify the distinction between an onomasticon and a lexicon.\(^{33}\) It would also make more economic use of the English language as the epithets proper and common would become redundant, and the term noun would no longer have to be part of the formula distinguishing words from names.

2.1.2 Similarities and Differences

Words and names cannot at their time of creation be distinguished, because both have the same origin in language. They are treated as nouns and refer to the same extralingual objects i.e. people, things, places or events. As parts of the lexical system of language they both follow the same rules concerning grammar, syntax and word-formation. Consequently names and words can both be affected by linguistic changes.

From a referential point of view there is a fundamental difference between names and words. Whereas the latter point out the general idea of an object, names


\(^{32}\) See W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 1995:386.

specify a particular characteristic of one object, making it monoreferential. Words may have a determiner such as 'each', 'this', 'a', or 'some', whilst names may not. This implies that names are always definite, whereas words are either definite or indefinite. A word whose meaning has become opaque becomes unproductive and has no chance of survival. Names, however, continue to function perfectly even if their lexical meaning is lost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
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<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>· same origin in language</td>
<td>←→ individualise</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>· both treated as nouns</td>
<td>←→ definite only</td>
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<tr>
<td>· reference to extralingual objects</td>
<td>←→ no determiner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· similar syntax, grammar, morphology</td>
<td>←→ if meaningless, survival possible</td>
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<td>· both affected by linguistic changes</td>
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Although the suggested indicators of names may be applied to the majority of names, there are exceptions to the rules. Admittedly, most place-names do not have an article, cannot be translated, start with a capital letter and do not occur in plural form. However, there are so many exceptions to the above statements that they must be treated as generalisations rather than rules.

lack of article     Running contrary to the statement that the lack of an article makes a name distinguishable from a word, there are a large number of Gaelic place-names that have an article, names such as Am Bealach ‘the pass’, or A' Phalla Dhubh ‘the black cliff’. Languages other than Gaelic also provide examples of names with articles. In German there is der Rhein, in Dutch there is Den Haag. Examples in English are the North Sea and the Thames.
According to modern translation theory, a name that is semantically transparent may be translated. Reasons for translating place-names include improved fluency in literary work and easier international usage. An example of the latter reason is the Swedish city Göteborg, known in English as Gothenburg. The same applies to the Cape of Good Hope, whose name changes to Cap de Bonne Espérance in French and Kap der Guten Hoffnung in German.

To consider a capital initial letter as a safe indicator of a name is dangerous, because this rule is not valid for all languages. This is not only true for languages which operate with entirely different sign systems, such as Japanese or Chinese. In German, for instance, all nouns start with a capital letter, so that the distinction would not apply in Germany, Austria or parts of Switzerland. Additionally, the converse assertion, that no place-name starts with a lower case letter, is also untrue. For instance, road signs in Holland refer to Den Bosch as s’Hertogenbosch. Generally, the spelling is fixed by the individual cartographer who also decides whether to begin a name with an upper or a lower case letter. Additionally, the identification of a place-name through its spelling is impossible with orally perceived and transmitted names.

Although most names are singular there are exceptions that designate places in the plural, such as the Alps, the Netherlands, the United States and the Hebrides.

Nicolaisen sums up the difficulties and contradictions in the clear separation of names and words as follows.

“Words which have become names never totally cease to be words, nor can names ever fully deny their lexical origins.”

2.1.3 Denotation and Connotation

The English philosopher J. S. Mill was the first to introduce the terms connotation and denotation in onomastic research. Although he uses a different, rather
unusual, terminology by including nouns and adjectives, Mill's message is that names are denotative and words connotative. In his book, System of Logic, he describes his ideas in detail:

"... all concrete general names are connotative. The word 'man', for example, denotes Peter, Paul, John, and an indefinite number of other individuals of whom, taken as a class, it is the name. But it is applied to them because they possess, and to signify that they possess, certain attributes." 35

and emphasises that

"... proper names are not connotative: they denote the individuals who are called by them; but they do not indicate or imply any attributes as belonging to those individuals." 36

Traditionally, connotation has been assigned to the category of words and denotation to the category of names, which has led to the intense discussion as to whether or not names have meaning. According to Nicolaisen the answer to this question lies in distinguishing lexical from onomastic content and connotative from denotative function, whilst acknowledging a close relationship between meaning and function. 37

Names do not need lexical meaning to fulfil their function. They almost certainly will have had meaning at some point in time but whether that is transparent to the present name user or whether it has been disguised is of no importance for its application or its survival. Sometimes a locality may change its appearance so radically that the lexical meaning that its name had at the time of name-creation is no longer applicable. This is the case with the city of Düsseldorf. Once a village, it constantly grew and is now one of the largest German cities and home to several million people. The generic -dorf, usually designating a village, continues to function onomastically, but no longer lexically.

In name transfer the original lexical meaning of a name always loses its force, and only on an onomastic level can a transplanted place-name be considered meaningful. The lexical meaning of a name – whether transparent or not – does not affect its denotative function. Indeed, the lexical meaning may no longer be applicable because the characteristics of the reference object have changed, and

yet the name of a place can still be identified correctly. Nowadays, word meaning of a name and onomastic meaning rarely coincide.\textsuperscript{38} The often discussed lexical and the onomastic level of names may be extended by an additional one, the associative level, located between the first two.\textsuperscript{39} The lexical level, simply reflecting the dictionary meaning of the words involved in name-creation, becomes entirely independent in the onomastic level. Through association, particular choices in name-formation are made and this is the stage where connotative words become denotative names. In reverse this implies that denotative names, though onomastically independent, may still reveal characteristics of the objects to which they are attributed. \textit{An Abhainn Ruadh} ‘the red river’, for instance, connotes a river whose ground is reddened as a result of the iron content of the water. \textit{A’ Phalla Bhàn} ‘the white cliff’ is probably stained by birds’ droppings.\textsuperscript{40} The associative level is accessible from the lexical one as long as the name-forming elements are transparent. Only the group of so-called ‘semi-appellatival names’\textsuperscript{41} may at this point form an exception to the rule.

\subsection*{2.1.4 Names and Places}

In order to receive a name, a place must have certain qualities. It must be identifiable and be separable from its surroundings. Additionally, its naming must be useful. Usefulness is not restricted to economic needs but encompasses the entire way of life of the people frequenting the area, and includes their tribal, religious and social requirements. STEWART calls these pre-suppositions the “principle of entity and use.”\textsuperscript{42}

A place-name and the actual place that it refers to, the so-called name object, are not identical. Although a place-name presumes a place and unnamed territory sometimes requires a name, the terms cannot be interchanged, but have to be treated as separate items. The name is the linguistic expression for the physical place to which it is attributed. The name and the name object are interdependent and form what may be described as the idea of a place.

Both the name and the place it designates can independently be subject to change. A name may fall out of use and be replaced, although the place continues to exist. In other cases a name can survive, although the feature it originally designated may have disappeared in the meantime. Examples of the latter may be a forest

\textsuperscript{38}See W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 1978:42.
\textsuperscript{39}See W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 1976b:161f.
\textsuperscript{40}Further examples in R. A. V. Cox, 1987:88f.
\textsuperscript{41}The term is extensively discussed in V. Dalberg, 1985.
\textsuperscript{42}G. R. Stewart, 1975:8ff.
that had to give way to a motorway, or a path that has fallen out of use and has become overgrown.\textsuperscript{43}

A place may have several competing names, inspired either by a variety of ethnic groups inhabiting the same area, or given by members sharing the same cultural background but living in different communities. In Barra it is not uncommon to find several different names in use for one geographical entity. In all known cases these entities are located on or close to township boundaries and consequently must have been in the geographical scope of at least two communities. An informant in Garrygall remembered three different names for a bay located southwest of Beinn nan Càrnan: Bàgh na Teileagraf, ‘telegraph bay’, Port a’ Bhuailte, ‘harbour of the hut’, and Bàgh Hòraid, an obsolete name. The name Bàgh na Teileagraf can be directly linked to Barra’s telegraph connection, which was established in 1884, and is probably the youngest of the three. Port a’ Bhuailte is the name that residents of Garrygall applied to the place, whereas people living in Breivig used Bàgh Hòraid, a name most likely of ON origin. I collected five different names for a small, but strikingly located island in the harbour of Northbay. The island, too small to be of any economic use, and too far inland to serve as a nautical point, is visible from the main road junction connecting the East and West roads with the northern route to the airport and Eoligarry. The island is known under the names of Eilean nan Geadh ‘geese island’, Eilean na Craoibh ‘tree island’, Statue Island, An t-Eilean Beag ‘small island’, and Eilean nan Rodan ‘island of the rats’.

Conversely, one name can be attributed to a number of different locations. For instance on Barra there is a large number of places called A’ Bheinn Mhòr ‘the big mountain’, An Sgeir Dhùbh ‘the dark or black skerry’, and An Tobar Ruadh ‘the red well’. Despite the large number of recurring names it is uncommon for any one township to be host to more than one entity carrying a particular name. As a place–name consists of both label and entity, frequently occurring names, such as An Tobhta Ruadh ‘the red ruin’ or An Rubha Dubh ‘the dark headland’, will be treated as several names and therefore be listed in the database as separate entries.

According to the principle of entity and use, innumerable places lack names simply because they are of no interest to humans and there is therefore no need for them to be labelled. A new approach towards places and names may be observed in the U.S. American “wilderness areas”\textsuperscript{44}, protected territory that is untouched by civilisation. In order to preserve the unspoilt character of a wild landscape, naming is actively discouraged.

\textsuperscript{43}See P. Hallaråker, 1986:117.

2.2 Definitions

Many disciplines draw heavily on onomastic research. Examples are archaeology, history, linguistics, geography, sociology and psychology. The interdisciplinary nature of onomastics has led to there being a variety of definitions of the term 'name'.

To historians and archaeologists names are pieces of a historic jigsaw and "as valuable as old fragments of pottery." Geographers and cartographers will consider names to be designations of territory-structuring features with labelling character. Seen from a sociologist’s perspective place-names give insights into the habits, customs and beliefs of the people who created them. The psychologist will focus on naming-strategies, the information they reveal and the means of name acquisition involved. From a linguistic point of view names are linguistic signs. As structured units within the system of language they follow their own lexical, grammatical, morphological and syntactical rules. Nevertheless, when they are formed, names have the same characteristics as words, with the additional purpose of being usable in an onomastic context.

In his book on local collection and archiving of place-names Hallaråker collected the most common definitions for the term 'place-name'. The majority of them emphasise the geographical component in names, defining place-names as the name of a place (geographical location) or as "names of geographical locations of all sorts."47

"Place-names are names of territorial points, lines or areas that are or may be map-fixed. A place-name tells what a larger or smaller geographical entity is called."48

To Stewart possible map-fixation is not a place-name defining aspect. He considers a place-name to be "a word or words used to indicate, denote or identify a place" and defines a 'place' as follows:

"A place, [...] is any area which an observing consciousness, whether human or animal, distinguishes and separates, by whatever means, from other areas. The boundaries may be precise or vague; they may

be physical and concrete or mental and imaginary. A place may be a
natural feature or a human construction.” 50

Both HELLELAND and OLSEN argue for an associative element in their definitions
and include the actual user of the place-name in the equation.

“Place-names are a word or group of words that trigger an association
of the place the name refers to within a larger or smaller amount of
people.” 51

“A place-name is a word or group of words that within a larger or
smaller community of certain stability in a situation of contact mo­
mentarily releases the idea of a certain place.” 52

The above-mentioned quotations are bound to suffer from shortcomings, mainly
by concentrating on one or two defining aspects only. This is not surprising as most
scholars focus only on their own discipline, and fail to grasp the interdisciplinary
nature of names that permits a variety of different angles for a possible definition.
But, although minimal and certainly imprecise, the quoted definitions supply a
starting point for the inquiry as to the true nature of a name.

A further definition is provided by COX:

“In origin the place-name stems from the appellative. The process
whereby the latter is raised to the status of the former is effected
when an appellative ceases to be merely descriptive, but by frequent
citation with reference to a particular feature, and with unconscious
agreement on the part of the community, comes to refer to both feature
and location. Thereupon it acquires the quality and function of a
place-name.” 53

Cox targets the aspects of origin, association and reference, but neglects the
initial necessity of identifying a suitable place for possible baptism. Additionally,
the question of the origin of names is doubtful. If a place-name always had to
have an origin in an appellative, the increasing number of manufactured place­
names, fantasy creations, would no longer qualify as place-names. The place­
name Tolono, for instance, was invented by J. B. Calhoun, who intended to create

50 G. R. Stewart, 1975:3f.
51 B. Helleland, 1975:16.
a beautiful sounding place-name "by placing the vowel o three times, o-o-o, and filling in with the consonants t-l-n." This name cannot be traced back to any meaningful word, but still it functions as a name.

The following definition of the term name will form the terminological base for the current examination:

A place-name is a label that in its spoken or written form designates an identified location, real or imaginary, and reflects the culture and history of an area. The application of a label to a user's association of place eases reference and provides a basis for communication.

2.3 Function of Names

The three functions of names that will be examined in this study are the labelling, the communicative and the identity-creating functions.

2.3.1 Labelling Function

Places that have been labelled help to structure and specify the surrounding territory and provide orientation. No matter whether the names are stored in individuals' mind-maps or written on physical maps, the territory has been noticed, separated from its surroundings and deemed worthy of being labelled. Labels help to avoid lengthy, clumsy or complicated descriptions. They ease recognition and simplify reference.

Through the act of naming, that large North German town near the mouth of the River Elbe with its international port and world-famous entertainment quarter is identified as Hamburg. By applying a label to the place, the name Hamburg is associated with that German port and may be recognised even on an international level.

2.3.2 Communicative Function

"Names do not merely distinguish referents from alternatives, among other things they seem to also provide descriptions of their referents, communicate a range of speaker goals and attitudes toward the interlocutors (linguistically and otherwise)."55

54 See G. R. Stewart, 1975:140ff.
Closely interwoven with the function of labelling is the function of communication, and the need for place-names is as old as communication itself. Whereas labelling is merely the baptismal act of naming, in communication names become reference points.

When an individual assigns a new name or learns an existing name for a geographical entity, that geographical entity is accepted into the individual’s perception. Naming means integrating a place into a system of referential points known to a larger or smaller user-group. Depending on the context of communication interlocutors can refer to a place in a variety of different codes.

In an administrational context, such as the news, title deeds or in government documents, places will be referred to by their official name.

Before the re-unification of Germany in 1989 East Germany would correctly be referred to as the Deutsche Demokratische Republik or DDR. The term Ost Deutschland was preferred by inhabitants of West Germany, whereas inhabitants of East Germany tended to go with the official version. Sowjetisch besetzte Zone, ‘soviet occupied territory’, or the German abbreviation for that term, Ostzone, or just Zone, were names with a dismissive connotation and used by people who disapproved of or mocked the then existing political system.

Another example will clarify how different names are applied by different users depending on the context of communication. In the northwest of Barra, between Aird Greian and An Sgeir Liath, lies a beach for which the Ordnance Survey maps do not provide a name. Among islanders, especially locals of the adjoining townships of Allasdale, Greian and Cleat, the bay is known as Bàgh nan Ròn, ‘bay of the seals’. When Gaelic-speaking locals talk to non-Gaelic speakers they usually refer to the place as Seal Bay, a mere translation of the name into English. Bàgh nan Ròn is used in an abbreviated version, Am Bàgh, ‘the bay’, among members of the tight-knit community of Allasdale. This restricted user-group, who communicate almost on a daily basis, share approximately the same mind-horizon. For this reason they can communicate in a different language code from non-locals, and while using a shorter and more efficient name, still be sufficiently precise to be understood by members of their township. By labelling a place in the immediate vicinity Am Bàgh, the Allasdale residents describe the closest and most familiar beach on their territory so that the qualification that seals are part of the natural habitat is not required. The closer the group of interlocutors, the more abbreviated the name can be while still acting as a monoreferential label. The fact that within small user groups, names acquire almost the quality of words, such as ‘the Beach’, ‘the Bay’, ‘the Meadow’ or ‘the Mountain’, does not interfere with their function as proper names. What may appear to be a word to
an incomer, functions as a name to a resident. As the context of communication varies, a place can have several names, each of which exists in its own right, and in the context of the bay in question, these are Bàgh nan Ròin, Seal Bay and Am Bàgh depending on the situation of communication.

Since name-creating individuals or communities in most cases supply names only within a given area, which can be considered a reference unit, a number of duplicate names may occur within wider areas where reference units overlap. Examples on Barra are An Sgeir Bheag, ‘the small skerry’, and A’ Bheinn Mhòr, ‘the big mountain’, which designate a number of different places. The recurring names will be given by people inhabiting different reference units. In the Hebrides, features carrying the same name are distinguished by adding the name of the township on whose land the entity is found. This results in names such as Ben Leribreck Glen and Ben Leribreck Cheann Tangabhail.

2.3.3 Creation of Identity

Communication and reference are aspects closely linked with the identity-forming function in naming. Through the process of naming, identity can be assigned to both the inhabitants of a place and the location itself. Once a place has been identified as a unit and subsequently labelled, it is distinguishable from all other similar looking places and its name may be applied within smaller or larger user-groups.

"Naming establishes a personal relation and stresses the individuality of the entity named."\(^{56}\)

Memorising a name and including it in one’s mind-map helps form an identity of place. A personal relationship is established between the entity, the name-creator and the name-users. The aspect of identity for instance, is one of the main reasons for the transfer of names into newly settled territory. In order for settlers to feel at home wilderness had to be named quickly, and the import of existing names was an effective way of remembering dear and familiar places in one’s homeland.

Both naming and recognition of a given name have an identity-giving function and contribute to the uniqueness of the named entity. Out of all existing skerries, a named one, e.g. An Sgeir Liath, ‘the grey–blue skerry’, is distinguished from all other skerries in the vicinity and can be referred to individually as that particular skerry. Names exist in a human context. They are parts of networks or onomastic

\(^{56}\)See L. Zgusta, 1995:1876.
fields. *An Sgeir Liath* would hardly have been given that name if the namer had not perceived its colour to be greyer than at least that of the neighbouring skerry. In onomastic fields entities compete with or support each other and thus obtain identity.

People create, by naming their surrounding area, not only an identity of the territory, but an identity of their own. By structuring an unfamiliar place they structure their lives. And if names for geographical features are not available from earlier settlers they have to be made up quickly for one’s own peace of mind.

> “Naming is survival. Namelessness spells oblivion.”

Revealing how an area was once perceived by its inhabitants, place-names are indicators of historical heritage. The names – once coined by people who lived and worked on the land – can influence later settlers by conveying a sense of cultural continuity.

The settlers’ attitude towards a place, and their acceptance of it as a home, is an important factor for naming. If the land has not been handed down from generation to generation, but acquired relatively recently, perhaps only with a view to maximising economic return, then a different and less stable place-names fabric can be expected as compared to that which might be found on inherited soil.

As much as first name and family name reveal about personal characteristics of an individual and their family background, an address, too, is considered a substantial and important identity-forming attribute. For that reason the psychological effect that an offensive or unappealing place-name as part of an address has on people should not be underestimated. The fear of having an address that includes a low status name has frequently led to residential protests. This shows how much people identify with their surroundings and the names attached to them.

### 2.4 Name-creators

Having discussed a number of philosophical and historical aspects of naming, the question arises of who are the people who coin the names for their surroundings.


58 See A. Kruse, 1996.

59 P. Hallråker applies the term 'low status name' (lägstatusnamn) to unwanted names and both he and Dalberg give vivid accounts of various place-names that residents were opposed to. P. Hallråker: 1997, p. 168f., also in V. Dalberg: 1985, p. 134f.
Most names are formed by individuals, but for a place to be accepted as a reference point it has to be approved by at least one other person. Through being used within a family, or other restricted group of people, a designation may develop into a widely accepted name.

Some groups play a more active role in place-naming than others. For instance, people who work the land, or who fish along the coastline, make active use of the land or the sea and thus have a far greater need for names than, say, teachers or shop-assistants. To fishermen and crofters a detailed knowledge of land or sea is essential for their livelihood and for safety. The former will know of features such as dangerous rocks, the latter will be aware of features such as underground streams or hollows, and in each case they will have names by which to refer to these features.

The land-owning aristocracy and the churches were once powerful enough to play a large part in the process of name-creation. Nowadays they have lost much of their influence.

Going even further back, the discovery of every continent, country or island triggered off a new wave of name-creation. The naming patterns adopted by some individual explorers reveal strong tendencies towards commemorative names, often the names of rulers, but also those of relatives, friends, and – of course – themselves, too.

"The Bermudas islands were discovered by Juan Bermudas in 1527; they were also called Somers’ Islands, as Sir George Somers was cast on them in 1609. Byron Island was discovered by Byron in 1765; Baffin’s Bay by Baffin in 1616; and the Mackenzie River by Mackenzie in 1789 [...]." 60

That explorers imposed not only their names on unexplored territory, but occasionally also replaced already existing names through ignorance or vanity, is illustrated by the following example:

"A group of islands near the southern extremity of America, was discovered by Sir John Davies, and he called it Davies’s South Land; it was also discovered by Hawkins, who called it Hawkins’s Maiden Land, by Sebald de Wert, who named the islands the Sebaldines; by a native of St. Malo, who called them the Malouines; by a navigator from the Low Countries, who gave them the name Belgic Austral; and

60A. Hume, 1851:29.
Not only the people who discovered, who owned or who worked the land were involved in the naming process. Travellers and merchants who regularly used long distance routes also contributed to naming. Along their routes prominent features, resting places, and dangerous or beautiful areas received names which then would be passed on to other wayfarers.

Nowadays governments on whose territory unnamed areas are found supervise their naming, and may also interfere with arbitrarily applied names. Mass-naming by individuals has been discouraged.

Most large-scale name-creation is undertaken by government bodies or council committees. Official bodies become active in the naming process when confusion arises as to which name should be applied to a locality. This may be the case when two villages grow together. The decision on whether to create a double-barreled name, use one of the existing names, or choose an entirely new name then lies with the authorities.

Few private individuals now have the chance to take an active part in naming their surroundings unless they concentrate on microtoponymics. This is, in part, due to the fact that these days most areas in the world are more densely populated than ever before and will already have been subject to intense naming, and in part due to the dominance of the written word, manifested in mapped names, which impedes name-changes.

The most productive areas where new names are still required are the growing number of suburban settlements. The fashionable act of naming family homes provides another opportunity for people to create place-names. New names are also required in mining, for designating oil fields, and in mountaineering, where names are given to individual sections of rocks.

Naming as a sign of creativity is valued by onomasticians in different ways. Opinions range from regarding the local population as composers and place-names as a form of poetry, to regrets that present naming suffers from a lack of imagination and innovation.

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61 A. Hume, 1851:29.
2.5 Naming Strategies

The strategies involved in the process of name formation are complex. Depending on circumstances they can be intentional or unintentional. The demand for names can affect an entire previously unsettled region, a deserted location that is due to be re-settled, or an inhabited area whose community territory is already covered with a name fabric.

Naming patterns reflect the psychological, political, economical, geographical, cultural and emotional condition of namers. Stewart acknowledges this when he observes that empty, nameless territory can evoke strikingly different naming patterns depending on the circumstances and mentality of the settling people. The traditional culture of the settlers strongly determines their choice of place-names. Pious people produce a religiously oriented nomenclature. A strong sense of personal property, as reflected in Anglo-Saxon and in Scandinavian place-names, results in a higher frequency of possessive names. And, finally, amongst peoples with a vivid memory of the past, such as the Maoris, names reflecting historical incidents will dominate. However, place-names, and the name-forming process that precedes them, depend largely on the geographical layout of the unnamed territory. A landscape consisting of a hilly, indented coastline with varying soils, a number of rocks, skerries and streams produces a different naming pattern than a desert, or, for example, the great plains of the North-American Midwest.  

2.5.1 Reflective and Non-reflective Naming

There are two contrasting types of naming, the non-reflective and the rational. In the non-reflective approach the namer is led by emotion and an associative attitude, and his experience and imagination are reflected in an uncontrolled choice of name. For instance, a stream can have different names for its source, its middle section and its mouth. The namer does not see the river as a whole and consequently only that section of the river relevant to the namer receives a label. Even on an island like Barra, where sizeable streams are lacking, this phenomenon can be observed. The same concept, of an entity too large to be grasped by an individual just by means of natural senses, applies also to chains of mountains. Whereas an individual hill or mountain would receive its name at an early stage, the entire mountain-range would be difficult to experience as a whole and would consequently be named considerably later. Large geographical units such as rivers, mountain-ranges and even oceans, that an individual could

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not experience as a whole within a limited amount of time, used to be divided into various identifiable sections, each carrying a different name.

A rational attitude towards place-names can be observed in systematic naming, which can occur in the form of name clusters. Naming a whole district according to a theme is a younger trend. Varying generics, but stable specifics generate name fields such as Ferniehill Avenue, Ferniehill Drive, Ferniehill Gardens, Ferniehill Grove, Ferniehill Place, Ferniehill Road, Ferniehill Square, Ferniehill Street, Ferniehill Terrace and Ferniehill Way in Edinburgh. In these names what is usually the generic becomes the specific. Clustering is an economical, but extremely unimaginative, way of naming. The psychological motivation behind rational naming, by creating so-called hodonymic fields, is to provide structure in order to ease learning of names and orientation. Although it is easy to remember where certain hodonymic fields are located within a city, the orientation within one of these fields may prove to be extremely difficult. This is due to saturation by the recurring specific and the lack of graphemic and phonemic differentiation. The extent to which name clusters are applied in larger cities is not repeated on Barra, although smaller name fields, as in Scurrival Point, Dùn Scurrival, Tràigh Scurrival and Ben Scurrival, may be identified. By designating a variety of geographical entities their level of differentiation is higher than in the former clustering situation.

The German place-name Immenstadt provides another example of rational naming. The original name Immendorf was changed to Immenstadt in 1618. As soon as a place managed to accommodate the required number of inhabitants, and the economic power to support itself, it was given the opportunity to call itself Stadt. The old generic then becomes redundant, but does not necessarily disappear as the example Stadt Hildesheim illustrates.

Applying a numbering system in naming reflects another organised and rational, though dull, attitude in naming. With the increase in literacy among the population, numbering systems for house and street names grew in usefulness, the latter becoming extraordinarily popular in the United States. Numericals in British place-names range from One Hole (BUC) to Thousand Acres (DOR, HMP, HRT). Some numbers, especially the biblical ones, three, four and twelve, but also the 'lucky seven' are particularly popular among place-names containing numerals. Names, for instance, including the number four, appear in an amazing variety in names including Four Ashes, Four Crosses, Four Lees (YOW), Four Forks, Four Lanes, Four Marks, Four Mile Bridge, Four Oaks (LEI, WAR), Fourpenny, Fourstones (NTB) and Four Throws.\footnote{For examples of field-names containing numbers see J. Field, 1972.} Generics within this group often designate
important traffic routes, such as junctions and bridges, distances between two places, rentals once charged and groups of prominent hard-wood trees.

2.5.2 Description

The simplest way of creating a name for a nameless feature is by means of description. A well containing an above average amount of iron is consequently named An Tobar Ruadh, ‘the red well’. A lake that is covered with algae and whose bottom cannot be seen is called An Loch Dubh, ‘the dark lake’. Words for topographical features form an extensive reservoir, a name pool, from which an appropriate name can be chosen for a designated entity. Thus words for mountains, islands, settlements or other features can be extracted and used either in simplex form or, combined with a suitable specific, as generics in compound names. Within descriptive names the number of combinations is essentially unlimited.

“They [descriptive names] are the natural major resources for would-be namers, even when the nature of the new terrain demands modifications in their connotation and creative semantic shifts.”

Despite the considerable scope for variation within the composition of descriptive names, there is always the risk of choosing names which already exist. Similar names can be distinguished from each other by adding other qualifying elements. These qualifying elements can vary considerably as illustrated by the following examples:

Distinction by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>township</td>
<td>Ben Leribreck Glen ↔ Ben Leribreck Cheann Tangabhail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>Oldenburg / Oldenburg ↔ Oldenburg / Holstein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>river</td>
<td>Newcastle upon Tyne ↔ Newcastle-under-Lyme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>historic context</td>
<td>Deutsch-Nienhof ↔ Dänisch-Nienhof</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relative location</td>
<td>Upper Dallachy ↔ Nether Dallachy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In section 5.1 descriptive place-names in the Barra group are discussed in detail.

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2.5.3 Transfer

Name transfer has been known since Roman times. Its frequency increased from 1000 A.D. onwards connected with the growing mobility of peoples. The crusades, trade on land and at sea, and the discovery of the New World and subsequent mass emigration led to a further increase in names being exported. This was assisted by improved education leading to higher levels of literacy among large parts of the population and extended geographical awareness.

The terminology is pluralistic. Eponymised names, transplanted or transplaced names, and imported names are terms frequently mentioned in the discussion of name transfer.

2.5.3.1 Transferred and Transplanted Names

The group of transferred names, according to KRUSE,\(^{66}\) includes names of persons, ideas, or mythical places which are adopted as place-names. Names in this group represent national involvement or reflect biblical or classical motifs. Although British maps offer biblical references such as Bethlehem Hill (GLO), Jerusalem (CAM, CHE, WML, YOE) and Jericho (CHE, CUM, SHR),\(^{67}\) none of these transferred names may be found on Barra.

Transplanted names are "ready-made names"\(^{68}\) that emigrants exported from their homeland to the colonies. The transplanted name is "consciously chosen from a range of existing names to label a location at a different place. The choice of name is determined by association or so-called secondary connotation."\(^{69}\) In most cases transplanted names show the namers' intention to continue a connection with a base in their homeland.

On Barra there are some ON names that have Norwegian counterparts, but whether they have been transplanted, which would imply that the word meaning of the commemorative name need not always match the locality to which it is assigned, or whether they are mere descriptions in a language once spoken on the islands, will be examined at a later stage in this thesis.

Whilst recognising the differentiation between transplanted and transferred names, the traditional, broad terminology, which includes both groups under the umbrella term of 'transferred names', is sufficiently precise in the context of this thesis.

\(^{67}\) Further examples in J. Field, 1972.
\(^{68}\) A. Kruse, 1996:256.
2.5.3.2 Transfer of Generics

Within the overall classification of name transfer, distinction should be made between the simple transfer of names\(^{70}\) and the transfer of productive elements or patterns of word formation. ON generics such as \(-fjall\), \(-ey\), \(-vik\), \(-klettr\), \(-holm\), \(-sker\) and \(-nes\) occur frequently, and form part of names like Heaval, Lingay, Tresivick, A’ Chleit, Greanamul, Innisgeir and Rosinish.

The majority of mountain names in the Barra group contain variations of the the ON generic \(-fjall\), smaller headlands carry names ending in \(-nes\), and the names of some small islets include the element \(-holm\). Other generics imported from Scandinavia experienced great popularity on Barra. An example of this is the generic \(-gjd\), which may be found in a number of names for gullies on the islands lying to the south of Barra mainland. The transfer of place-name forming elements from their country of origin to a new territory, and their rapid and independent spread there, are subjects which merit further investigation.

2.5.3.3 Transfer of Name Types

A transfer of name-type takes place when a place-name from the homeland is semantically correctly applied to a similar looking feature in the new territory. Without referring to a specific place in the old country, the place-name is used to label a particular group of features and may – because of its semantic transparency – easily be traced back to its word meaning.

Twenty-eight Hebridean islands carry the name Orosay or one of its derivations.\(^{71}\) All of them have in common that they are attached to a larger island at low tide and that they become independent islands at high tide. The name Orosay is derived from ON Ørfirisey, ‘tidal island’. In the Barra group three out of four islands named Orosay share the same characteristics. They are all tidal islands of approximately the same size, and they are of similar altitude, with the maximum height difference between any two being only 7 m. Additionally, they are all covered with a thin layer of grass, and they all slope rather moderately into the sea. The fourth island called Orosay is tidal, but is twice as large and twice as high as the others.

There are other islands in the Barra group that appear to be tidal, for instance, Uinessan, east of Vatersay, Biruaslum, west of Vatersay, and the middle rock of southern Flodday. These islands may be tidal, but in order to be called Orosay an island has to have all of the above mentioned qualities, not just one.

\(^{70}\)As discussed in section 2.5.3.1.
\(^{71}\)See W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 1978:45f.
Summing up, not all tidal islands in the Barra group are called Orosay, but the ones that are, resemble each other considerably. That the name Orosay occurs four times in such a restricted area is most peculiar and hints at an automatic transfer of name-type. The same pattern applies to the two small islets named An Laogh, 'the calf', of which one is located north of Muldoanich and the other one north of Hellisay. The principle of calling a small, striking rock in the vicinity of a large island 'the calf' is adopted from Scandinavia. Here the main distinguishing characteristic is the striking difference in size.

2.5.3.4 Motivation for Transfer

The main reasons for transfer of names are nostalgia, prestige of the original name, and positive or negative associations connected with a place.

Each category is discussed below.

Nostalgia

The desire to be reminded of home is the main motivation for commemorative naming. New, unknown territory has a frightening character until names are established there. A structured area helps people to feel comfortable. The transfer of names offers quick results in terms of making settlers feel at home.

The U.S.A. and Canada have the highest proportion of imported names. Over the last few centuries millions of immigrants from various ethnic groups took with them their dear and familiar homeland names and applied them to new territory. Thus in North America may be found a colourful constellation of place-names of French, Spanish, Greek, Scottish, Scandinavian and other origins. Places which lie thousands of miles from each other on the European continent, might then have North American namesakes lying within close proximity of each other.

From the age of discovery onwards names have been transferred from Europe to the New World and, to a lesser extent, from the New World to Europe. An example of the latter, reflexive name-transfer into European territory, is given by Bach:

Frederick the Great prevented German farmers from emigrating to America, although some of them had already been waiting in ports for the crossing. Given new land in Germany for cultivation, the farmers founded new villages and named them after their intended destinations in America.\(^{72}\) Names such as Pennsyln-
vanien, Philadelphia, Maryland, Florida, and Jamaica in Germany are reminders of this historical event. In Britain there is Georgia in Cornwall. During the transfer these names lost all lexical meaning and the linguistic history responsible for their coinage is no longer relevant. The same applies to names such as Strelitz (PER) and the plentiful Waterloos spread all over Britain after the Napoleonic Wars.

After 1870 fourteen villages in America were called Bismarck, reflecting the strong ties that German expatriates felt for their homeland. Transforming a personal name into a place-name without adding a topographical generic is a common means of name creation. Names of politicians and explorers rank among the most popular choices in this category. As pointed out by Nicolaisen\textsuperscript{73} several shifts from place-name to personal name and back to place-name are possible.

Commemorative names are most often chosen by the people who inhabit a place, although there are examples of place-names that were applied by neighbouring communities such as Little Italy in the United States. Place-naming motivated by nostalgia occurs not only in long-term emigration situations, but also where namers stayed temporarily abroad and on their return brought with them names which they then applied to features at home, most often estates, farms or houses.

Prestige

The transfer of French names into German territory towards the end of the 17th century was motivated mainly by the prestigious connotations that the use of French evoked. For social reasons, but also as a result of the fashionable use of French at European courts, the transfer of names was strongly influenced by the aristocracy.

Most often French names were applied to palaces and castles as a consequence of the ruling classes copying the naming strategies of Louis XIV, and resulted in names such as Sanssouci in Potsdam and Solitude in Stuttgart in Germany. Bellevue, used as an elegant name for a beauty spot, falls into the same category. The application of a prestigious name to a location was often intended to create a new intellectual or exclusive centre. Choosing a French name in British or German territory most certainly served to suggest that the owners or inhabitants of a place belonged to a privileged social group. In Britain, where the influence of French on the English language and British toponymy increased after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, a number of unchanged French place-names may be identified. These include Beaufort (Wales), Beaulieu (HMP), Beaumaris (north of Bangor),

\textsuperscript{73}W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 1976b:155.
Beaumont (ESX), Beaumont (CUM), Belvedere (London south) and Belvoir (LEI).

Transfer as result of positive / negative associations

Positive or negative impressions that people have of certain places can lead to a form of name transfer in which the existing name of a place is officially kept, whilst the transferred or borrowed name acquires nick-name status.

A district in the city of Braunschweig in Lower Saxony, Germany, is nicknamed Die Bronx due to its higher rate of crime in comparison with the rest of the town. Here the socio-cultural situation of the inhabitants is commented on through choice of name.

On Barra a settlement on the peninsula of Bruernish is known as Little England, a name once given by islanders because of the number of holiday homes owned by English people. Although circumstances have changed, and most English people have sold their houses in the area, the name is still remembered and occasionally used.

2.5.4 Other Naming Strategies

A place bearing an associative name can be distinguished from other locations carrying the same generic by application of a distinctive specific which describes the named location. An example of that on Barra is Drochaid nan Coineanach, ‘bridge of the rabbits’.

Incidents form a fruitful base for name creation. In Barra some of the most striking names describe rocks that were involved in shipping accidents.

Possessive names pointing at ownership can frequently be found throughout the island, especially when denoting houses. On Vatersay all ponds are named after people who once occupied, or who still occupy, the crofts on which the ponds are located.

Commendatory names are intended to create a good effect. The belief that a name influences its name-object, and can turn a dangerous place into a pleasant and calm place, runs through many cultures. The name Cape of Good Hope was applied to the south coast of Africa, location of many shipping accidents, in order to exorcise the bad magic. In the Hebrides, too, this phenomenon may be

\footnote{See A. Bach, 1954:552.}
observed: Off Barra there is a dangerous, submerged rock called *Bogha Bheannachan*, ‘the reef of blessings’, possibly indicating the act of blessing oneself to ensure a safe journey.

### 2.6 Change of Name

A change of name takes place when an old name is discontinued or even lost and a new name is either adopted or assigned.\(^75\) Place-names, like words, are subject to change. Name change can be intentional or unintentional, usually affects some groups of names more than others, and may be influenced by a variety of extra- or intralinguistic factors.

Three different categories of name change may be identified. These are apparent or fictitious change, partial change, and total change.\(^76\)

#### 2.6.1 Apparent or Fictitious Change

When one of two names on the same hierarchical level increases its scope and the status of the other one is lowered, an apparent change of name can take place. An increase in population can lead to a number of villages joining together with the name of the village containing the cultural nucleus being retained and the scope of this name extending to the surrounding settlements. As a consequence the names of the smaller villages are degraded to district names within the larger community or even lost. Having been swallowed by the village of *Eoligarry*, the name *Kilbar*, once designating a settlement in North Barra, was degraded to become the street name *Cille-Bharra*.

The same applies to *Horough*, which was once a small, but independent settlement between *Bagh Beag* and Castle Bay. It was first mentioned in the Barra parish register in 1852, some years before Castlebay was mentioned. Although it is signposted and still used in postal address, *Horough* seems to have been swallowed by Castlebay.

In contrast to total change of name, which happens as a chronological sequence within a given area, apparent change of name is a result of a geographical shift.\(^77\)

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\(^{75}\)E. Neuß, 1986:327.  
2.6.2 Partial Change

In partial change substitution or entire loss of some morphological parts of a name occurs, whilst other parts are retained. The most frequent changes of this type involve the replacement of generics and the loss of applications.

On Barra *Bogachnafalladh*, as listed the Parish Register of 1823, has been shortened to *Bogach* in spoken and in written language.

\[ \text{Bogachnafalladh} \rightarrow \text{Bogach} \]

A settlement on the west side of Barra is now called *Grean*, but Parish Register entries show that the village was once divided into *North Green* and *South Green*.

A partial change of name is not restricted to the reduction of elements only. In tautologies such as *Bàgh Huilavagh*, the primary name Huilavagh is extended by adding another, this time Gaelic, generic.\(^{78}\)

2.6.3 Total Change

A total change of name occurs when a continuously inhabited place receives an entirely new name which differs considerably from the original one.\(^{79}\) Total name changes are most often politically motivated and, in comparison with the preceding two groups, occur rarely. An example in this category is:

\[ \text{Byzantium} \rightarrow \text{Constantinople} \rightarrow \text{Istanbul} \]

The city of Byzantium as centre of the Byzantine Empire kept its name until 330 A.D. when it was changed to Constantinople. This name remained in use for more than 1000 years until Mohammed II conquered the city in 1453 and renamed it *Istanbul*. As this example shows, an officially chosen name can sometimes abruptly replace an existing name.

The name of the Hebridean village of *An t-Öb*, 'bay with narrow inlet', or *Obbe* in its anglicised version, was changed to honour of Lord Leverhulme’s achievements. As an established businessman he bought Lewis and Harris during the First World War with the intention of developing the islands’ economy by improving harbour

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\(^{78}\) Tautologies are discussed in detail in chapter 7.

\(^{79}\) E. Neuß, 1986:342.
facilities and introducing loan schemes to local fishermen. In December 1920 the
village was officially renamed Leverburgh. Although in the long term Lord Lever­
hulme’s plans failed and the islands were eventually sold on, the name Leverburgh
remained.

A more detailed picture of the variety of place-name change emerges when extra­
and intralinguistic factors are examined.

### 2.6.4 Extralinguistic Factors

There are a number of reasons for name changes, including external factors such as changes in geographical conditions, political or religious issues, and economic matters.

#### 2.6.4.1 Politics

Place-names memorising historical events often became unacceptable when polit­
cical opponents of former rulers come into power. From 1789 it was common for
governments to name places to reflect their own ideology. The politicisation of
names is a phenomenon which occurs all over Europe.80

For instance, *St. Petersburg* was originally named after its founder, Czar Peter I.
During various political eras the name of the city changed to *Petrograd* and later
to *Leningrad*. Only recently, the inhabitants of the city decided in a plebiscite to
restore the name *St. Petersburg*.

Barra’s place-names do not show any obvious political influences, no islands,
settlements or headlands commemorate names of former kings or rulers. However,
political decisions of the MacNeil chiefs and later the Gordons did affect the island
and its nomenclature. The landlord had the right to decide which villages were
to stay and which had to be relocated and consequently ruled over death or
continuity of a name.

#### 2.6.4.2 Fashion

Fashionable trends in naming have a long tradition and probably are as old as early settlement history itself. On the continent the fashion element became par­ticularly obvious in names of forts and estates that were changed to ‘pomp’

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80 See A. Bach, 1954:261.
or ‘grandeur names’. Aristocratic circles, who tended to celebrate their power through their choice of names, were often responsible for fashion-related naming.

Naming fashions are not only reflected in the choice of new names, but also in name changes. Generics are particularly revealing about settlement periods. Whereas the Scandinavian elements -by and -thorp enjoyed particular popularity in English place-names, the ON bólstaðr, staðir and setr were, for a limited period of time, frequently used in place-names of the Northern and Western Isles. The examination of fashion movements in naming throws light on settlement sequences and, in some cases, allows a chronological classification.

### 2.6.4.3 Religion

Place-names with religious connotations are common and may be found all over Europe. Religious inspiration could influence newly founded settlements as well as existing ones. The founding of a church or a monastery could cause the change of an old and established village name. At first monasteries would adopt the name of the settlement in which, or close to which, they were located, but would soon change their name, and often the name of the settlement, to a name honouring their patrons or a name suggesting spiritual life. Name changes affecting religious gathering places were driven by the influence of the powerful clergy. In catholic dominated areas saints’ names were often adopted as place-names, whereas in protestant areas the transfer of existing names from Israel, such as Bethlehem or Nazareth, was favoured. In Britain popular elements for religiously inspired place-names are -church, kil- and -kirk.

Surprisingly for such a pious community, field-work on Barra identified relatively few religious names: Kilbar, ‘St. Finnbarr’s chapel’; Bealach Dhuggain, ‘Father Duggan’s pass’; Cille Bhriainain, ‘St. Brendan’s chapel’ also known as Cill’ Anndrais ‘St. Andrew’s chapel’, located on the small islet of Uinessan east of Vatersay. There is the island of Pabbay, ‘hermit’s island’, Muldoanich, ‘headland of the lord’ and Sgeir na Trithinn, ‘trinity skerry’.

### 2.6.4.4 Economy

Occasionally changes of names are undertaken in order to attract more settlers or tourists or to increase sales of products originating from a particular area.

For instance, vineyards in the vicinity of the prestigious Goldberg vineyard in

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Germany began to call themselves Goldberg in order to benefit from the image of the original owners.

Examples of name changes for economic reasons can also be found on Barra. In the 1850s east coast fishermen would refer to Tiòrbàgh as Northbay, the latter being easier for them to remember and pronounce. The choice of the new name is not a translation of Tiòrbàgh, ‘dry bay’, but most certainly was inspired by its position with respect to the other fishing port Castlebay. The exonym Northbay was eventually accepted and adopted by locals.

### 2.6.4.5 Differentiation

Changes of single sounds or letters of place-names to avoid doublets are not as common as taking on an additional qualifier such as location within a district, relative location to a twin settlement, a river-name, proximity to a forest or mountain or other feature. On Barra relative altitude is emphasised in A’ Phàirc Ard, ‘the high enclosure’, and A’ Phàirc Ìseal, ‘the low enclosure’. Further examples are Heishival Mór and Heishival Beag, ‘big mountain of horses’ and ‘small mountain of horses’, and Outer Heisker and Inner Heisker, the latter pair emphasising relative distance from a reference point.

### 2.6.5 Intralinguistic Factors

Affecting appellatives as well as names, intralinguistic factors can cause changes within one language or changes among several languages in areas of language contact. Where the linguistic rules of one language meet the grammatical, syntactical, orthographic and phonological laws of the other, a variety of different changes can occur.

#### 2.6.5.1 Phonological / Morphological Adaptation

Phonological and morphological adaptations in zones of language contact can take on many different forms, of which assimilation, dissimilation, loss of vowels or consonants, and simplification are just a few.

In spoken language there has always been the tendency to contract words or successions of words. This applies to names, too. The English place-name Brighton originated from Brighthelmstone, the initial version of Bo’ness, Borrowstounness,

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\(^{82}\)See section 2.5.2.
is hardly remembered. Simplifications may occur intralingually and interlingually. Names that were adopted by Gaels from Scandinavian settlers will have been altered as much as younger Gaelic names have been altered to suit English sound patterns.

Phonetic transfers occur when two peoples communicate at a low level of understanding and sounds from one language are integrated into the other language. Sounds for which no equivalent in the immigrants’ language exists are ignored while others are imitated as closely as possible.

An example of possible phonological change in Hebridean place-names is the mutation of the Norwegian aspirated sound /h/. This sound is never found in the beginning of a Gaelic word, and if transferred into the Gaelic language, it is replaced by the sound /t/. The ON word for an islet, holmr becomes tolm. 

2.6.5.2 Translation

Translations occur in bilingual communities and assume a relatively good knowledge of the language of at least one of the communicating groups. When place-names are translated, the language barrier between original settlers and incomers cannot be considered as obvious as in phonetic transfer. In this category one may distinguish full from partial translation.

Castlebay on Barra has a parallel version in Bàgh a’ Chaisteil. Outside the island the English version dominates in travel brochures, airport announcements and on maps. The place-name signs at the entrance and exit of the village refer to the place in its Gaelic name which, of course, is also used in local Gaelic conversations. The English and Gaelic versions of the name are equally well understood among locals in Barra.

However, translations are comparatively rare and Castlebay, Northbay and Craigston remain the only directly translated names in this examination.

2.6.5.3 Euphemism

When the inhabitants of a place become aware of possible negative associations that the name of that place possesses, they may choose to change the name to one with more pleasant connotations as illustrated by the following examples: 

Aspects of morphology and phonology are discussed in chapter 7.

From Word to Name

Kuhschietendal → Kuhschützental
‘valley of cow droppings’ ‘valley of cow hunters’

Dreckgasse → Eintrachtsstrasse
‘dirt lane’ ‘harmony street’

2.6.5.4 Folk-etymology

The urge not just to know a name but also to understand it is responsible for a number of corruptions, known as folk-etymology. They are "popular attempts to explain from the vernacular, and to bring [the names] into harmony with a supposed etymology." Folk-etymologies are based on, mostly erroneous, phonological and morphological breakdowns and occur in areas of language contact. They are results of the spoken, rather than the written language.

Instead of accepting a name with an abstract onomastic meaning once its lexical meaning has become opaque, a similar sounding new name is created and an entire story spun round the name to give it credibility. And – after a few generations – the invented new meaning may be considered the ‘true’ original meaning.

A’Mhiriceil appeared to be so closely related to the Eng. word ‘miracle’, that the place could easily be believed to be the site of strange, supernatural happenings as one informant suggested. Indeed, the Celtic mythology boasts many fairy stories so this derivation would have appeared likely. However, a close examination of the name in combination with the nature of the territory proved that the name is derived from ON myrkr + áll, ‘the dark stretch of land’, which is appropriate to the location.

Folk etymologies should not be mistaken for false etymologies, a few of which appear to circulate on Barra. In Northbay there is a place called Creag an t-Silidh. An informant who provided the name assumed that it used to be the place where berries were collected for making jam, thus it must have been called ‘jam rock’. ‘Silidh’ is both the Gaelic word for jelly, and the genitive case of sileadh, ‘act or state of dropping’. Consequently Creag an t-Silidh may also apply to a place at which water is running over stone and have the lexical meaning of ‘dripping rock’. An examination of the area in question revealed that it was boggy, covered in rocks and sloping so that small tracks of water were constantly crossing the rocks.

86] I am grateful to Roderick MacNeil (Ruairidh Fhionnlaigh) of Kinloch for providing this information.
2.6.5.5 Orthography

Since the invention of letterpress printing and the subsequent growth of the book industry, the printed word has overruled oral tradition. Generally, the written word is given more credibility than the spoken one, and this also applies to names. Written forms of names are considered official and enjoy more prestige than names that may occur in everyday use but are not found on maps or charts.

In the Western Isles the OS employed Gaelic-speaking surveyors. But as in the case of Barra, where A. Carmichael was involved in keeping the field-books, surveyors were often not from the same area.

Errors, or toponymic lapses, can hardly be avoided in maps and may be traced back to a variety of different causes. They may be result of hypercorrections, simplifications or unintelligible handwriting.\(^{87}\)

Hypercorrections occur when a native spelling is mistakenly thought to be wrong and consequently corrected by the cartographer in charge. The large amount of different Gaelic dialects, combined with the lack of an official, comprehensive Gaelic dictionary, did not help in fixing orthographical rules for place-names in the Western Isles. There was no standard under which the different orthographical solutions in which a place-name can be expressed, might have been unified. The Gaelic language includes a number of sounds for which there is no adequate representation in English. Hence it is not unusual to find wrong spellings on maps and charts, especially if the map-makers failed to consult anyone who was expert in the dialect in question. Additionally, sounds, wrongly perceived, may either have been simplified or ignored. When relying only on the sense of hearing a number of sounds may easily be interchanged. Examples are the labials and semi-labials /b/ and /p/, and /b/ and /v/, the plosive /p/ and the fricative /f/, and the dentals /d/ and /t/. Other easily misperceived sounds are the palatal sounds /k/ and /g/, and the liquids /n/ and /l/, /n/ and /m/, and /l/ and /r/. On Barra the skerry noted as Eilean Vialish is locally known as Eilean Vianish.

Errors in place-name spellings may also be traced back to misreading of older sources.

2.7 Loss of Names

During the undertaken fieldwork, the lack of interest in old place-names amongst young people was the most frequently quoted reason for loss of names. But the

\(^{87}\)See J. B. McMillan, 1985:58.
problem is too complicated to be accounted for by any one cause. A variety of influences affect place-names and are responsible for their retention, change or loss. The indicators for name loss will now be discussed in depth with special reference to the Isle of Barra.

2.7.1 Cartographers

Maps protect names. Place-names that have been entered on a map have more chance of survival than names that are used in speech only. The power of the written word is strong enough to preserve a place-name long after it has fallen out of use in oral tradition. Identifying the location of the cleared settlement Sco-tagearraidh was only possible by referring to a map on which the secondary name Loch Scotageary was entered. When cartographers decide against the inclusion of a place-name on their maps because they consider the location unimportant, or because the mapped area is already saturated with entries, then that name depends entirely on oral tradition to be handed on to future generations and kept in use. Once an area ceases to be frequented its non-recorded names are likely to be forgotten and eventually lost.

Another important issue in map-making and its preceding field-work is the choice of collectors, their degree of familiarity with the area and the languages spoken in it, their ability to interact with informants, and, of course, their choice of informants. The Ordnance Survey Object Name Books, containing the collection of place-names of the parish of Barra in 1878, list, apart from the location of the entity, a description, references to various maps, and the names and occupations of the local informants. An examination of the interviewed parties reveals that the number of informants earning their livelihood as crofters or fishermen, and consequently having the closest possible involvement in the land and shore, was negligible. Instead, people of so-called respectable positions served as informants. These included parish ministers, a postmaster, a teacher and an innkeeper. Two extensively used informants, both non-locals, were Dr. MacGillivray, lease holder of Eoligarry farm, and his cousin, M. MacLennan, manager of Vatersay farm. A. Carmichael, who is named as an authority in almost all collected entries, originated from Lismore, and acted as an advisor on spelling.

2.7.2 Geology and Climate

Geological change is a continuous process. Some changes, such as continental subsidence, are too gradual to be noticed within a generation’s lifetime, whilst others, such as volcanic eruptions, are so sudden, that within hours the appearance of a
place may change dramatically. The prevailing winds on Barra, together with the force of the waves and heavy rainfall, combine to slowly change the landscape. However, more noticeable changes are caused by unusually high spring tides which may even have the power to separate land masses.

Climatic changes have led to a significant rise in sea level over the last four thousand years. A consequence of this is that Barra’s earliest settlements, which are believed to have been close to the shore, would have had to be abandoned in favour of sites on higher ground. After the desertion of a settlement there is little hope for the survival of its names if the territory on which it was located is unavailable for subsequent use.

More recent examples of geographical changes as a result of climate alterations can be observed on the wild western coastline of the archipelago. Two kilometres west of Sandray lies a formation of three large rocks known as Flodday. The main rock was connected with the next smaller one via a natural archway which collapsed in the mid 1970s. The Flodday group, lying as it does off any tourist route, is mainly of interest to fishermen and to Vatersay crofters, to whose common grazing ground the island belongs. An outstanding feature such as a natural arch would at any time have been an important landmark. Its physical disappearance will accelerate the loss of its name and lead to its disappearance from maps, charts and mind maps. In interviews with local fishermen no one was able to remember whether the archway ever had a distinctive name.

A further victim of continuously changing geological conditions is Ciste na Clithe, ‘pass of the cliff’, the route once used by funeral parties when carrying bodies from Cleat, in the north-west of Barra, to the graveyard in Eoligarry in Barra’s north. By taking this shortcut along the rocky coastline, six kilometres of detour could be avoided. During the strenuous walk the coffin carriers took regular breaks, and the resting places along the path received names.

Nowadays coffins are transported in hearses and the original motivation to use the path no longer exists. Traversed by only the occasional hill-walker, the track has faded and in some parts is no longer traceable. Located on one of the wilder coasts of the island, and subject to heavy erosion, some of the named features along the path can no longer be identified, whilst others have disappeared into the sea.

### 2.7.3 Settlement Structure

Changes in settlement structure are another reason for loss of names. Clearances and re-settlement schemes, common from 1850 onwards, led to villages becoming
Figure 2.7: Uamh Chliaid at the bottom of Ciste na Clithe

deserted with their ground subsequently lying empty or becoming part of large farms.

*Scotagearraidh* was a village located south of *Rulkos* and north of the river *Allt*. It is said to have been cleared within twenty-four hours. Foundations of houses can still be traced, but present knowledge of the existence of the settlement *Scotagearraidh* was restricted to two families only. Interviews with locals, undertaken by Ian A. Fraser in 1975, identified a lake in the neighbourhood of the settlement as *Loch Scotageary*. However, recent interviews showed that this name has been replaced by the versions *Loch an Rubha*, 'lake of the point', and *Loch nan Lilies*, 'lake of the lilies'. With this change of name the last reminder of the settlement has disappeared from the locals' mind maps.

The north of Barra, one of the most fertile areas on the island, was cleared to make way for a large farm with the Eoligarry House as its centre. In the Parish Register of Barra, reference is made to four villages that were formerly located in that area. They are *Vaslain*, *Chiall*, *Kilbar* and *Eoligarry*. The name which
appears least frequently in the register, *Eoligarry*, nowadays refers to the whole district of North Barra, whereas the names of other settlements in that area are in danger of being forgotten. Although the area in which *Chiall* or *Kial* is located is still inhabited, and its name is mentioned on the Ordnance Survey map, it is no longer used as a landmark for local orientation or in conversations. *Vaslain*, frequently referred to as *Vaslene* and *Vasline* in the records, was still inhabited by a shepherd in 1878, but is nowadays a deserted stretch of land. As in Chiall, a nearby hill in Vaslain carries the name of the former settlement, but with the decline of intensive land use, the names of smaller elevations have fallen into disuse. *Kilbar* was once the name of the local church and the settlement surrounding it. It is now only the name of the church and a street called *Cille Bharra*, but in contrast to Vaslain and Chiall, it is still part of the postal address.

The dominance of the name *Eoligarry* over the other settlements located in the north of Barra was made possible in 1919, when Eoligarry was raided and eventually purchased by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The land was divided into crofts and the postal address has since consisted of the croft number and the name *Eoligarry*. Surprisingly the northernmost district within the area, *Scurrival*, is in an administrational context also dominated by the name *Eoligarry*, despite its embedding in a wide name field containing place-names like *Ben Scurrival*, *Dùn Scurrival*, *Tràigh Scurrival* and *Scurrival Point*. Locals resident in the northern part of Eoligarry are fully aware of inhabiting an area called Scurrival. In spoken language the place-name is used as a means of reference throughout the island, but its written presentation is neither reflected in the postal address, nor the local telephone directory, nor in any place-name signs in the village.

Voluntary emigration caused a break in continuity of settlement and was thus responsible for further loss of names. The major emigration waves of the early 1800s, during which many families moved to the Carolinas and Canada, were followed by the rural exodus, starting after the decline of the herring industry in the 1920s and 1930s. Falling population figures led to crofts lying derelict after their owners had retired, left or died and caused further loss of bonds with the land, resulting in further loss of names.

### 2.7.4 Agriculture

The decline of self-sufficiency resulted in inevitable changes in land-use and husbandry. When noticeable numbers of Barra’s inhabitants moved to the mainland in order to find work, crofts became vacant and more land was available for the remaining people. Consequently cattle and sheep could be moved from the hills to lower ground closer to the croft houses. In the meantime the shielings in the hills
fell into disuse, and with them the names of locations higher up in the mountains. The land in general is not as intensely worked as it used to be. All kinds of food can be purchased in the local stores so that vegetables and fruit need not be grown in the garden any more. Spots in which berries used to be collected for jam are no longer frequented. The beaches are no longer walked in search of driftwood, which in the last century was an important source of fuel and a rare, but desirable, building material. Nowadays timber and other materials can instead be obtained in a local store. Carragheen, a special kind of nutritious seaweed, which could only be collected at very low tides and was once an important part of the local diet, has been replaced by iron tablets. Speed of work has been increased and agricultural machines are used whenever possible. Only some pendicles, which a number of families still use for growing potatoes, are, due to funding policies of the European Commission, fertilised in the old way with sea-weed. This will help to keep alive a few place- and field-names in the vicinity of the beaches.

2.7.5 Technology

The mechanisation of agriculture has to some extent detached crofters from the land which they work. Features which may have been significant to a man and horse working on the field may not be an issue to a tractor. Consequently, the need to refer to those features is diminished and their names fall into disuse and are lost. An increasing number of Barra’s boats are fitted with echo sounding and satellite positioning technology, and so the importance of navigational landmarks in the daily business of the fishermen decreases. Consequently the names of such landmarks will fall into disuse and will eventually be forgotten.

With the introduction of radio and television the importance of social events, such as ceilidhs, declined. Every household containing TV and radio became a self-sufficient information unit, and so the need to obtain information from neighbours faded. Concern over disturbing neighbours’ TV habits was frequently mentioned as a reason for decreasing contact among islanders.

Television and radio, although benefitting the community with national and international information and entertainment, interfered immensely with communication among locals. Place-names, whose survival is highly dependent on interaction of the islanders through work and conversation, are doomed to be exchanged less often. Places that cease to be mentioned in conversation and lore are likely to be eventually forgotten.
2.7.6 Social Life

Organised traditional meetings in village halls are held at regular intervals but spontaneous ceilidhs in private houses, despite being greatly enjoyed, are rare. Oral tradition is the main sufferer from the decline of the ceilidh, which was once an island institution. Songs and stories are not as frequently repeated as they used to be, and so the places mentioned in them will eventually be forgotten along with the songs and stories themselves.

Over-representation of English in the media and the lack of Gaelic equivalents for English technical terms favour the use of English. Code-switching, conversations started in Gaelic but finished in English, can be observed frequently.

2.7.7 Transport

Before the arrival of the first car on Barra in 1926, horse-riding, walking and sailing were the only means of transport available. Prior to 1825, when the road was built, the main traffic routes across the island were a network of paths which were hardly adequate even for carts. Walks from Eoligarry to Northbay, from Allasdale to Ardveenish, or from Bruernish to Castlebay were not unusual. The traditional Easter tour was a walk around the whole island. Those taking the long and strenuous journeys from north to south, or from east to west, across the island required regular rests. Places called Suidheachan, 'seats', of which there are several on the island, were once important landmarks in the locals' perception, because they defined walkable distances.

A formerly important traffic route led from Earsary through the hills to Craigston and Borve, and was the main east–west connection. Am Bealach, 'the pass', or Bealach Dhuggain, 'Father Duggan's pass', is a reminder of the times when the catholic priest used to walk the island to provide services in various places. Nowadays the improved ring road dictates the route travellers take. Old paths such as An Leadhad Cas, 'the steep slope', in Glen, which used to be part of the main road from Castlebay to Brevig, have been made redundant by a changed road layout. The path through Gleann Dorchu, 'dark valley', formerly one of the most important peat trails, has fallen into disuse with the decrease in use of that fuel, and the route from the east coast to the west coast through Bealach Dhuggain is walked by none save the occasional tourist. Place-names connected with old traffic routes have a diminished chance of long-term survival once the routes have fallen into disuse. This process can be slowed down if the routes continue to be frequented as tourist paths or remain of interest to locals. Walking is considered an activity of the past as soon as another means of transportation can be used.
The car dominates the streets and walking and cycling are not encouraged by the lack of pavements on the island.

With the arrival of the car, journeys which used to take hours can now be completed within minutes. Places fly past the window, but their names are no longer essential for daily survival. Modern means of transport provide rapid movement and have broadened peoples’ horizons. Peoples’ knowledge of national and international places has increased considerably in comparison with that of their grandparents, but at the same time knowledge of microtoponymics, of places in their own locality, has decreased. This shift in perception will be examined in detail in the following chapter. In general, faster modes of transport lessen contact with places passed through and so contribute to loss of field names.

2.8 Continuity and Survival

As the examination has shown, names can be seen as part of a never-ending cycle. They are created, they change, die and can even be recovered, as illustrated by the example of St. Petersburg. Yet names do not have a life of their own. In the centre of the never-ending cycle is always man, who chooses, uses and controls place-names. Therefore place-names exist only in a human context.

Measures to give names a degree of permanence, such as signs or mapping, are relatively recent developments in comparison to the long oral tradition of names over the centuries. Nowadays place-names on maps and road signs are to some extent protected by administrative bodies. In some countries, such as the United States, where the National Geographic Board decides on continuation or change of a particular name, place-names are more stable than in, for instance, Britain, where no such authority exists. In Britain place-names may undergo radical changes from one edition of a map to the next, as neither the Ordnance Survey nor the Admiralty consider themselves authorities on place-names. Thus their decisions on what names to include on maps and on which spellings to apply are driven by market requirements, rather than by the interests of the onomastician. Orally transmitted names remain entirely dependent on their users, actively communicated lore and on continuity of land-use.

Density of names depends on the peoples’ ties to their land. The greater the variety of peoples by which a given area has been inhabited, the more diverse are the linguistic strata of that area. The survival of place-names depends on people’s attachment to their property, on their use of the land and on whether they identify with their surroundings. It is possible to maintain place-names
artificially by archiving existing material, but it is impossible to keep names alive in people’s mind maps if they do not need to know the names.
3 Documentation

This chapter discusses and evaluates material collected from a variety of documentary sources and from interviews with informants. Analysis of the written sources, such as church records, gazetteers, travel literature and Ordnance Survey collection field-books, reveals that some documents were simply copied from existing documents without verifying the information therein. The history of the mapping of Barra is presented, and consideration is given to how increasingly accurate maps contributed to an improved geographical perception of the island.

Since Hebridean folklore became of public interest, a number of researchers have visited Barra. Their impact on recording Barra’s heritage will be examined with the focus on their contribution to place-name collection. Observations made during my own field work in 1995/96 form the basis for the characterisation of local informants. Finally, data published in Census Returns and earlier sources illuminates recent settlement history, which is an important factor in the distribution of place-names.

3.1 The Cartography of Barra

The first map to show Scotland in a recognisable shape was made by George Lily in 1546 and was called Britanniae Insulae. Fourteen years later an Italian map, by an anonymous surveyor and publisher, shows Scotland for the first time on a sheet separate from the rest of Britain. On this map the Hebrides, some thirty islands lying to the west of the Scottish mainland, are rather arbitrarily accumulated and sized without any clear distinction between the Inner and Outer Hebrides. Some of the islands on this map are named, but with Mull and Iona exchanged and Iona being approximately the same size as Mull, the credibility of the map is questionable.

In Abraham Ortelius’s Scotiae Tabula of 1573 the Minch clearly separates the Inner and the Outer Hebrides. The outline of the Outer Isles is fairly identifiable although the representation of Barra, marked as Barray on the map, and the four islands located to its south do not resemble the contours of any island of the Barra group as known today. Two further names, Erth and Scail, appear on this and subsequent maps, but they cannot with any certainty be linked to any of the large islands surrounding Barra.88

88 It has been suggested that these names correspond to Hirte and St. Kilda respectively. This, however, is doubtful, as the St. Kilda archipelago is located much further north west. Additionally, since Hirte and St. Kilda designate the same place it is difficult to see why they
One decade later NICOLAS DE NICOLAY's chart of Scotland was available but hardly differed from its predecessors. Barra is larger than its four satellites, but the outlines of the islands as they appear on the map do not permit definite identification. The same applies to maps by GERARD MERCATOR, 1595, and PIETER VAN DEN KEERE, c.1605.

The slight diagonal tilt in the orientation of the Western Isles, in a north–easterly south–westerly direction, was first recognised by JOHN SPEED and acknowledged in his map *Kingdome of Scotland* in 1610. On ROBERT GORDON's *Scotia Regnum* of 1653 the largest two islands, Barra and Vatersay, may be identified, as may the groups of northern and southern satellites, less precisely contoured, but correctly located. Erth and Scail, the names mentioned on earlier maps, have disappeared and a number of new names are assigned to various islands. Vatersay appears correctly indented. In the north of Barra the natural border between Barra and South Uist, formed by the Sound of Barra, cannot be identified. Where the sound should have been located, a cluster of skerries and islets makes it impossible to differentiate between Barra and South Uist territory. BLAEU, who had commissioned GORDON to prepare PONT's material, published the *Atlas Novus* in the following year. The only surviving Pont manuscript map of the Outer Hebrides is the one of South Uist, which reveals no information about Barra.

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**Figure 3.8:** Joan Blaeu 1654: Uistus Insula. Detail from Bernera to Eriskay.

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On the Barra sheet of the *Atlas Novus*, west is located at the top of the map. The shape of the main island appears more indented than it actually is. Small islets in the south, such as Flodday and Lingay, are oversized in comparison with should appear on the same map naming two different islands.
Vatersay. Settlement symbols, in the shape of little houses, are found in various places throughout the islands. The only lake marked on this map lies in the northern part of Barra and has an outlet running west into the Atlantic. The surrounding villages would suggest the lake to be Loch an Dùin, but the outlet of Loch an Dùin runs in an easterly direction into the Minch. The only lakes directly connected with the Atlantic are Loch Tangusdale\(^{89}\) and Loch na Doirlinn, both of which are located much further south than that shown on the map. Despite a number of uncertainties, Blaeu’s map is the first serious attempt at mapping the Barra group and providing information on place-names in its interior.

**Martin Martin** was not a surveyor, but at the end of the 17th century he travelled the Western Isles extensively. Although he accompanied **John Adair** on his Hebridean voyage it is not sure whether they ever visited Barra, or whether Martin’s description derived from knowledge which he gained whilst working as a factor on Skye. He almost certainly did not visit the islands south of Barra, as his map interchanges the locations of **Mingulay** and **Pabbay**. Adair, known for his detailed surveys of the East coast, was also active in the Hebrides, but there is no proof that he ever manufactured a printed or manuscript map of Barra.

A map produced in 1718 by **Herman Moll** shows the whole of Scotland on one sheet and consequently is bound to be less detailed than **Blaeu’s Atlas Novus**. Moll did not survey the Western Isles but merely copied previously available information. For the Barra group, which seems to have reverted to a north–south orientation, seven names are entered. It is striking that Moll decided to include **Fuday**, a medium sized and rather unimportant island among Barra’s northern satellites, although he locates it incorrectly. To the south, the **Bishop’s Islands** are shown, but only two islands out of the three that form the group, namely **Berneray** and **Pabbay**, appear on the map, whilst **Mingulay**, the largest, is not mentioned. This odd mixture of important along with insignificant geographical features proves Moll’s lack of familiarity with the territory, and that his choice of names was arbitrary.

**Mark Tideman’s** *Draught of part of the Highlands of Scotland* of 1730 is only a rough sketch, lacking accuracy in both survey and spelling. The island **Sandray**, on early maps spelt **Sandrera**\(^{90}\), is misspelt as **Landlera**, and **Berneray**\(^{91}\) appears as **Barnero**. **Mingulay** is, again, omitted, which suggests a possible link between this and Moll’s map.

In 1761 **James Dorret** published his *Accurate map of Scotland drawn from* \(^{89}\)See Loch Tangusdale in the gazetteer.  
\(^{90}\)Gordon 1653, Blaeu 1654, Martin 1703.  
\(^{91}\)Gordon 1653, Blaeu 1654, Moll 1718.
all the particular surveys hitherto published, which was indeed an improvement over its predecessors. Pabbay and Mingulay are correctly located, but Sandray, an island of substantial size, is omitted despite the inclusion of smaller islands such as Flodday and Lingay. Fuday has been shifted to the north-west of the northern peninsula, and Fiary, spelt on the map as Fara, has been placed in the former location of Fuday. Kilbara, Borg and Kismul Castle are listed as settlement names.

The Orcadian Murdoch MacKenzie was hydrographer to the Admiralty and charted the entire west coast of Scotland between 1748 and 1757. As Roy's military survey only covered the Scottish mainland, the Hebrides, from which Charles Stuart had escaped so successfully, were chosen as a starting point for MacKenzie's systematic survey. By this time surveying instruments and methods had improved considerably. The use of a baseline on land, in combination with triangulation and the theodolite, increased accuracy. Clocks, however, were still imprecise and this had a negative impact on his calculations of longitude. His chart of Barra, published in 1776, introduces a number of new place-names. In addition to the largest islands, he names various islets and coastal features such as bays and rocks serving as navigational landmarks and even one mountain. A few of the islands show symbols indicating habitation, although the entire east coast, nowadays speckled with a number of sizeable settlements, does not feature any settlement names. The accuracy and detail achieved in this chart were either ignored by, or not known to, subsequent map publishers.

M. J. Armstrong's map, also published in 1776, omits Mingulay, as Moll and Tiddeman had done before, and F. J. J. von Reilly, who in 1791 produced a map carrying the promising title Die Insel Bara, is known to have gathered his information from Blaeu. Von Reilly's map was nonetheless significant in being the first to show Barra independently of other Hebridean islands.

Twenty years after MacKenzie's survey of the west coast the next important step in Hebridean mapping and charting history was made. In 1789 the British Fisheries Society commissioned Joseph Huddart to undertake a survey. The result was A new Chart of Scotland from the Point of Ardmurchan to Cape Wrath, which was published in 1794. Huddart improved on MacKenzie's chart by providing information on the nature of the sea bed and tidal currents, and by indicating safe anchorages. In addition to a number of villages, the profile of a hill on Barra is shown for the first time. Huddart locates depths around the island and describes the shores of Bernera, Mingulay, and Pabbay as being steep and rocky, in contrast to the sandy stretches in the north of Barra. A number of beaches are mentioned for the first time, including The Bay in Vatersay, Ba
Figure 3.9: Joseph Huddart 1794: A new chart of the west coast of Scotland. 
Detail: from Barra Head to Boisdale
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

Chisamil, Ba Hiravah, nowadays known as North Bay, and Otervore, which, apart from a different spelling, is still known under this name.\(^\text{92}\)

In 1804 William Heather produced A new and improved chart of the Hebrides, but provides no new name material for the Barra group.

\(^{92}\)See Oitir Mhór in the gazetteer.
A large step towards a detailed survey of Barra was undertaken by MACLEAN in 1820/21. The map, published by THOMSON in 1823 on a separate sheet, appeared in atlas form in 1832. The map shows the entire Barra Isles and large parts of South Uist with the top of the map west-facing. It is the first map to show the physical layout of Barra by locating mountains and the most frequented roads. Although the east coast settlements such as Brevig, Leanish, or Earsary are mentioned, there is no trace of a link between them. The road as indicated by MACLEAN runs from Glen via Kentangaval, Tangusdale, Borve, Craigston and Allasdale to Loch na h-Ób. It branches several times in Grean, with one branch following the old coffin carriers’ route, Ciste na Clithe, along the Atlantic shore to what is known today as Tràigh Mhòr, but was called ‘Ottervore’ by MACLEAN. The other path leads past Loch an Dùin, Northbay, along Ardvenish and Ardmhòr and joins the coffin carriers’ path at Tràigh Mhòr. There is an abundance of names distributed all over the map with some areas entirely saturated. The spelling of the names and the density of place-names, especially on the peninsula of Bruernish and its adjacent skerries, suggest not only that MacLean might have been a native speaker of Gaelic, but also that he may have been a native of Bruernish or at least have strong links to that part of the island.93 It is striking that the map provides detailed information on both coastal and interior features and covers names which formerly were published separately on either maps or charts. MacLean’s map serves as an important starting point from which the development, not only of place-names, but also the distribution of settlements may be examined.

The first hydrographic survey by the Admiralty of the waters of the Western Isles took place between 1846 and 1863. Captain HENRY C. OTTER, the director of the survey, was assisted by Captain FREDERICK W. L. THOMAS and Commander A. G. EDYE. Barra was targeted at the end of that period mainly by OTTER and Edye, and the chart, Scotland West Coast, Hebrides or Western Isles From Barra Head to Scarpa Island, was published in 1865. The most distinguishing feature of this chart are three inset maps, appearing at the left hand side of the main chart, which show the Sound of Bernera,94 Castle Bay and the Sound of Vatersay in a larger scale. Numbers indicate depths around the islands, and details of the heights and names of mountains are given also. There is a noticeable increase in English names. Whereas MACLEAN’s map uses English merely for the straits between the islands and for the Bay of Vatersay,95 the Admiralty chart makes use of English translations as often as possible. This ranges from rather clumsy combinations such as Vatersay Island, to the fully anglicised form of Michael

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93 This observation was made by Ken MacKinnon (Ken a Nec) of Bolnabodach/Oban to whom I am grateful.
94 See Sound of Berneray in the gazetteer.
95 See Vatersay Bay in the gazetteer.
Figure 3.10: Admiralty chart 2474: Hebrides or Western Isles from Barra Head to Scarpa Island, 1865.
Detail: inset Bernera to Drover Channel.
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland
Point translated from G *Rubha Mhicheil*. There is no doubt that this chart was made by non-Gaelic speakers and intended for English-speaking users.

Figure 3.11: Admiralty chart 2474: Hebrides or Western Isles, from Barra Head to Scarpa island, 1865. Inset: Sound of Bernera.

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The most important changes to the chart took place in 1911 and in 1953. In 1911 the flat appearance of the land masses was altered to a physical map so that hills could be identified more easily. Concerning the choice of language on the chart, a change of direction was made in 1953, when a number of English place-names were replaced by their Gaelic counterparts, of which *Tom a’ Reithean*, formerly *Ram Head*, *Rubha Domhain*, formerly *Steep Point*, and *An Laogh*, formerly *Calf Lump*, are examples. Revised editions of this map were published every ten to fifteen years until its most recent edition in 1975.

Two large-scale charts in a scale of 1:30,000 provide a close-up look at the Barra group with detailed information on reefs, skerries and rocks. One map covers the area from *Barra Head to Greian Head*, with an enlarged plan of *Castle Bay*. 


in a scale of 1:12,500. The other map shows the northern part of the island from Bruernish to Loch Boisdale in South Uist. The latest editions of both maps appeared in 1987 and are the most recent hydrographic material referenced in this thesis.

The first Ordnance Survey maps of Barra were compiled in 1876. The information gathered in the Ordnance Survey Object Name Books will be discussed in detail in section 3.2.4. In 1878 the material from the Ordnance Survey Object Name Books was published on eleven maps at a scale of 1:10,560, providing detailed geographical information on the entire Barra group. There followed, the same year, a further eleven maps, covering the inhabited and cultivated areas only. A second edition, published in 1901, showed an improved geographical layout, but did not contain any more information on place-names. The third edition of 1971/72 provided improved graphical representation of the elevations indicated on the map. The national grid system, introduced in the 1940s, simplifies reference to any location.

A major development in new-technology mapping was made in 1995 when the OS introduced Superplan. The OS have digitised mapping data of the entire British Isles stored in a computer database which Superplan can access to produce seamless maps of any particular area, eliminating the need for map users to consult two, three or, in some cases, four adjoining maps. For a number of places the conventional method of paper mapping has already been withdrawn.

The Ordnance Survey Landranger Series, however, are continued on paper. Their latest edition for Barra, published in 1997, shows a remarkable change in orthography. All names are represented in Gaelic orthography, even names of distinctly Norse origin such as Scurrival, Pabbay, and Lingay. When questioned about the reasons for this change, staff of the Ordnance Survey pointed out that the changes were carried out due to public demand. This move towards gaelicisation of all existing names is artificial, and is more confusing than helpful for anyone trying to trace the origin of the place-names of Barra.

96 OS Landranger Series: Sgùrabhail.
97 OS Landranger Series: Pabaidh.
98 OS Landranger Series: Lingeigh.
3.2 Written Sources

3.2.1 Church Records

Church records on Barra are scarce. In 1845 the *New Statistical Account* gives the following information for the Church of Scotland records:

“There is no parochial register kept in this parish, nor can we learn that any was ever kept. This may be accounted for by the parishioners having been, till of late, almost all Roman Catholics, over whom the minister could exercise no control.”

NICOLSON excludes the parochial register for Cuier Church, covering the period from 1843 to 1857, to which he most likely contributed. It is possible that his report in the *New Statistical Account* was written before the introduction of the parochial register, but published afterwards. The *Register of Births and Baptisms of Protestants in the Parish of Barra*, and the subsequent sections on marriages and deaths, consist of only a few pages and provide hardly any information on place-names.

As the first two *Statistical Accounts* on Barra were written by parish ministers, they could also be considered as church records, but for the purpose of this thesis, they will be discussed separately in section 3.2.5.

Some information was kept in the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, the records of the presbytery, including details on new churches, repair costs for existing church property, and reports of moral offenders among the parishioners. The *Fasti* reveal that the parish of Barra was annexed to South Uist, Kilpheatir and Benbecula in the second half of the seventeenth century and separated again in 1733. Consequently, the presbytery record of South Uist covering the period 1760–1786, which was lost at sea in 1786, would not have included any information on Barra. The material on heritors gathered in the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae* is accumulated from various *Parliamentary Papers* and the *Register of the Great Seal*, and offers little information on place-names.

The *Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles Records*, formerly kept in Craigston, cover the period from 1805 to 1944, registering births and deaths and, in a separate volume, marriages from 1853 to 1944. The first part of the register is of particular interest, as each entry for a newborn states the place of birth and the address of its godparent. The register includes references to settlement names.

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99 A. Nicolson, 1845:206.
some of which have since been transformed to field-names, or have vanished entirely from maps. Examples are Kiall, Duari, Garbruernish, Gasabha and Druidal. The spelling of the names varies, with different versions of the same name sometimes appearing on one page. The contents of the register describe a comparatively large fabric of settlements including a number of remote and hardly accessible locations, spread over the entire Barra group. As the Roman Catholic records cover the period during which Barra's population reached its peak, and the island was categorised as one of the most heavily congested districts, the place-name information contained therein is a valuable source for reconstructing Barra's settlement structure in the nineteenth century.

### 3.2.2 Registers

There are several registers revealing early spellings of Barra place-names. The Register of Sasines, which lists all transfers of heritable property in Scotland since 1617, refers to Barra several times, but contains few unfamiliar place-names. The same applies to entries referring to Barra in the Register of the Great Seal. This register includes details of all charters in which the Crown grants its vassals estates. Barra is mentioned, but again the information given consists merely of several spelling variations of the name Barra. The Valuation Rolls form the basis for local government taxation by estimating rent for both land and heritages. In this function they list smaller units such as villages, houses and farms and provide a larger number of Barra place-names than any of the other registers.

### 3.2.3 Gazetteers

Early sources, such as The Topographical Dictionary of Scotland (1846) and The Gazetteer of Scotland (1882), describe the location of Barra, its agriculture, history, economy, and Barra's inhabitants, and also contain a number of

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100 See Chiall in the gazetteer.
101 See An Dubhairigh in the gazetteer.
102 See Gáraidh Bharuarnis in the gazetteer.
103 See Gaiseabhul in the gazetteer.
104 See Drudeal in the gazetteer.
105 See Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles records, 1805–1944, held in the Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.
106 See Register of Sasines, Index of Place–Names Inverness, Scottish Record Office.
107 See Register of the Great Seal, Scottish Record Office.
108 See Valuation Rolls, VR 103 and Field Books for the Valuation Rolls, IRS 68/15–19, Scottish Record Office.
109 S. Lewis, 1846.
110 J. Wilson, 1882.
place-names. The islands surrounding Barra are listed separately. The information seems to be gathered partly from the New Statistical Account (1845), and partly from the Census Returns.\textsuperscript{111} The Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland additionally lists transport links to South Uist and Oban, but does not contain any unfamiliar Barra place-names. Early gazetteers list the names of Barra’s satellites alphabetically, but not the names of places on the satellites.

More recent gazetteers, such as the Pathfinder Gazetteer,\textsuperscript{112} list in alphabetical order the place-names of a number of regions in one volume, thus making quick reference to the place-names of one particular parish difficult. Each name in the Pathfinder Gazetteer (1992) is accompanied by an eight character reference, stating the map it appears on, its 100 square kilometre reference, and the four figure number of the grid square in which the location may be found.

In comparison to other sources, gazetteers proved to be of little value in providing place-name material.

### 3.2.4 Ordnance Survey Object Name Books

The Object Name Books, compiled by the Ordnance Survey, contain descriptions of all properties entered on the Ordnance Survey 6 inch and 25 inch maps and are arranged by parish within counties. The Object Name Books for Barra were compiled between 1876 and January 1878, possibly by Captain J. C. MacPherson, whose name is noted on the last page.

The printed layout of the Ordnance Survey Object Name Books provided space for the place-name, alternative spellings, informants and sources from which information was obtained, and descriptions of varying lengths. Depending on the collector, detailed information about antiquities, natural history and sometimes even social conditions were given. For Barra at least two different people were involved in the accumulation of material, as the different hand-writings in the Ordnance Survey Object Name Books reveal. Although it is certain that A. A. Carmichael played an important role in the contemporary spelling of place-names, and is frequently mentioned as an authority for names in Barra, it is unknown whether he acted as a collector of place-names himself. Despite his detailed knowledge of Barra’s lore, he would certainly not have been able to contribute much information about unrecorded places himself. However, Carmichael was most likely aware of the significance of including or omitting names and the con-

\textsuperscript{111} The Census Returns were published every ten years.

\textsuperscript{112} R. A. Hooker, 1992.
sequences for local heritage.\textsuperscript{113}

The names to be included in the books were selected from historical maps and charts, and gathered from local people. From a variety of different spellings one was chosen to become the official version, often in favour of anglicised orthography. As a lighter shade of ink in the document reveals, the English translations of names were added at a later stage. John T. Hoban is a name which frequently occurs in the collected material. He seems to have been the controlling officer, as he excludes a number of names by marking them "cancelled by order" and adding his signature. As the Ordnance Survey are unable to provide any information on Captain MacPherson or Hoban, their identities will remain uncertain.

The people named in the category of authority came from a variety of different backgrounds, ranging from crofters and fishermen, who worked the land or sea on a daily basis, to people who held key professions in the local community, who probably did not have an intimate knowledge of the land, with the latter group representing one third of the total number of informants. Between 34 and 36 informants,\textsuperscript{114} excluding the collectors themselves, were included in the collection and verification of the material. In places where non-locals are listed as the only source of verification the accuracy of the survey and the reliability of the material obtained is questionable.\textsuperscript{115} However, during this first large-scale survey, 500 place-names found their way onto the Ordnance Survey maps. No doubt names could have been provided for many more places, but it depended on the collectors, the available space on the maps, and eventually the map-makers to decide which names were to be included and which were not.

3.2.5 Statistical Accounts

There are three statistical accounts of Scotland, each containing detailed information about the history of each parish, its topography, local economy, population numbers, church life, transport and language.

The first account, known as the Statistical Account of Scotland, was written by each parish minister, and in the case of Barra by Reverend Edward MacQueen in 1791. Published three years later, this is the earliest detailed document dealing with the Barra group. Though the spelling of names within the account is inconsistent, the place-names mentioned cover the major villages and sheltered

\textsuperscript{113} For further information on Carmichael see section 3.3.1.

\textsuperscript{114} Some informants were impossible to identify with only their surnames and first letter of their christian names entered into the register.

\textsuperscript{115} In the following chapters this examination will illuminate to what extent contemporary informants disagree with the information provided on Ordnance Survey maps.
harbours of Barra at the end of the 18th century, revealing important information about the settlement structure. MacQueen derives the name Barra from the island’s patron St. Barr but admits that this derivation might be wrong and that an older name for the island may have existed.

The New Statistical Account of Scotland appeared fifty years after the first one. For the parish of Barra it was written by Reverend ALEXANDER NICOLSON, who gives detailed information on Barra’s changed social and economical situation and frequently draws comparisons between first and second account. Nicolson derives the name of the island from its location within the chain of the Hebrides. By translating Ay or I as ‘island’ and Bar– as ‘top’ or ‘point’, he concludes that Barray is the ‘point or top island’ of the Hebrides. Bearing in mind that the Vikings used to call the Hebrides Suðreyjar, ‘southern islands’, Barra, seen from a Scandinavian perspective, does indeed lie at the extreme end of the Outer Hebrides. However, it is doubtful that the ON generic øy, ‘island’, would have been combined with the G specific ‘bàrr’, m, ‘top’ when all other islands in the Barra group containing the generic –ay are combined with ON specifics.

The Third Statistical Account, written in 1954 by A. F. SMITH, Barra’s district clerk, contains reference to 33 different place-names, in contrast to the 21 mentioned in each of the two earlier reports. In addition to the most important island names and Castlebay and the Oitir Mhór which appear in all three accounts, this one mentions a number of field- and marine names such as Tanguisdale Loch,¹¹⁶ Loch an Dùin, Sound of Barra and Sound of Vatersay. Smith gives names of the largest mountains, Heaval and Ben Tangaval, and a number of settlement names from both the west and the east sides of the island, which indicates that the road, and consequently the access to the east, must have been improved considerably between 1845 and 1954.

Over the period between the writing of the first account and the writing of the third, only one place-name has obviously undergone a full change: Tirivah, as stated in the first account, appears as North Bay in the third. The other names remain largely unchanged.

### 3.2.6 Travel Literature

Place-name evidence from early written sources is scarce. The oldest description made from personal observation in the Western Isles was made by DONALD MONRO, Dean of the Isles, in 1549, but was not published until 225 years later.

¹¹⁶ See Loch Tanguisdale in the gazetteer.
Although Monro delineates and locates a number of Barra's satellite islands inaccurately, and even confuses Bàgh Beag with Castle Bay, he includes names of islets and even two settlement names, and consequently gives more detailed information than any of his contemporaries.

George Buchanan's account of 1582 contains names of chapels, wells and other interior features, and suggests that he may well have visited the island of Barra himself.

Martin Martin travelled most of the Hebridean islands, including Barra, in the late 17th century. Although Martin was aware of his predecessors' accounts and includes parts of them into his own report, he describes why he failed to visit Kisimul Castle, and this honesty contributes to his credibility. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that he visited the southern satellites of Barra, as he places Sandray immediately south of Barra, shifting Vatersay to the south of Sandray. Also, he erroneously states that Pabbay and Mingulay are of the same size. In addition to those located on his map, further place-names are included in his report and this publication remains a valuable early contribution to place-names evidence.

When Reverend John Walker wrote his Report on the Hebrides of 1764 and 1771, he covered Barra, the Tràigh Mhór, Craymore as he calls it, Kilbarra, and the large islands surrounding Barra. All of these names he could, at that point in time, have copied from existing maps or travel descriptions. Only his detailed account of the economic situation of Barra suggests that he actually visited the island.

Other famous travellers in the Hebrides were Johnson and Boswell in 1775, but they did not come any closer to Barra than the island of Coll. After years of oppression as a result of the uprising in 1745, the Highlands started to regain popularity. This was, to a great extent, made fashionable by Sir Walter Scott, who undertook two tours in the Hebrides. His first journey in 1810 covered Mull, Staffa and Iona. His second, in 1814, led him to visit a number of lighthouses. As the Barra Head lighthouse was not erected until 1833, it is unlikely that Barra was on his agenda.

In the period between 1811 and 1821 John MacCulloch, a geologist and surgeon, travelled the Western Isles extensively, and in 1826 was commissioned to make a geological map of Scotland. Although MacCulloch reached Barra, Mingulay and Berneray, his report contains no place-names other than those already recorded. His attempt at determining the origin of certain place-names produced some erroneous results.

117 See Kilbar in the gazetteer.
From 1860 onwards the Barra group became a popular destination for natural historians. The large puffin colonies which inhabit the high cliff, Biulacraigh, on Mingulay, attracted a number of visitors. Transport improvements in the 1880s included the establishment of a railway connection between Oban and Glasgow, improving access to this important gateway to the Hebrides. Regular access to the southern islands of the Barra group was established in order to maintain and provide supplies for the Barra Head lighthouse. As travel became easier the Barra group attracted more visitors. Since the start of the twentieth century, many travel descriptions and guide books have been written about Barra. But, as might be expected of reports by travel writers aimed at a tourist audience, the coverage of place-names is restricted to the most prominent tourist locations.

3.3 Oral Tradition

3.3.1 Collectors

The information gathered by people whose interest was less in recreation, and more in collecting island lore and songs, proved far more valuable than the accounts composed by tourists. In the past one hundred years Barra has been a favourite destination for ethnologists, mainly because of its remote location and its pure Gaelic.

John Francis Campbell, author of *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*, was a keen collector of folklore and, in his position as a secretary to the lighthouse commissioners, would probably have travelled to Barra. Apart from the occasional reference to a place with which a story would be connected, Campbell does not appear to have collected place-name information.

The contemporaries Alexander Carmichael and Father Allan McDonald both compiled large collections of songs, poems and stories, and both were involved in the study of place-names in the area of South Uist and Barra. Carmichael advised the Ordnance Survey in translating matters and, when required, in supplying the Gaelic spelling of place-names collected for the first Ordnance Survey 6-inch maps. Father Allan was based in South Uist, and later on Eriskay, but paid frequent visits to Barra. The only known place-names material for Barra he published is a list of non-Gaelic names on Mingulay\(^{118}\) in 1903, which contains 52 entries, partly phonetically spelled.\(^{119}\) During some of his visits to Barra Father Allan was accompanied by Ada Goodrich-Freer, a folklorist and collector.

\(^{118}\) A. McDonald, 1903:432f.

\(^{119}\) The names of this collection which could not be placed on the map are listed in the appendix.
Unlike Carmichael and Father Allan she did not speak Gaelic. Having had un­restricted access to Father Allan's material, she published large parts of it, failing to mention that the field-work had been carried out not by her, but by Father Allan. As she concentrated on customs and second sight, her contribution towards place-names is minimal.

Father Allan McDonald died three weeks after Marjory Kennedy-Fraser finished her first field trip to Eriskay in 1905. She was an enthusiastic collector, although she had only a working knowledge of Gaelic. Initially noting down the melodies of songs with pencil and paper, but from her second field-trip onwards equipped with a graphophone, she would record songs and, whenever possible, employ a local native Gaelic speaker to take down the words. As Father Allan died before he could keep his promise to note down the Gaelic words of the songs, other Gaels, such as Carmichael and Father Allan's successor John MacNeil, helped with the Eriskay material. In 1907 Marjory Kennedy-Fraser, accompanied by her daughter, started collecting songs on Barra. During the following twenty years she visited the island frequently and became friends with Annie Johnston, a Barra school teacher well known for her contribution to conserving Barra folklore. The words for the Gaelic songs collected on Barra were transcribed by Annie Johnston.

Marjory Kennedy-Fraser started her recording in Northbay instead of the more densely populated Castlebay, a decision which she justifies as follows:

"We had been warned in Oban that Castle Bay, the chief port of Barra, was now too sophisticated to yield us ancient songs, hence our stay in the north of the isle".

Although Kennedy-Fraser focusses on songs, and from that point of view is of little help to an onomastician, she notes the decline of situations in which old traditions would be kept alive such as spinning, weaving and singing during work. An indicator of this tendency is the replacement of the work ceilidh by the recreational ceilidh, organised for both locals and tourists and usually held in one of the island's village halls.

During the 1920s and 1930s Barra was also targeted by another writer and eth­nologist. A number of publications dealing with the Hebridean way of life on Barra were written by Alasdair Alpin MacGregor. He spent some time on

120In her autobiography, A Life of Song (1929), Marjory Kennedy-Fraser gives an interesting insight into her recording habits and the sometimes difficult circumstances under which she carried out field-work on Eriskay and Barra.
Barra until he fell into disfavour with the island population due to his comments on illegitimacy rates in his book 'The Western Isles'. Although MacGregor's style of writing and the information conveyed may not be considered scientific, but rather based on his individual, highly emotional observations, he nevertheless has to be included in the list of outsiders publishing material on Barra.

With John Lorne Campbell's arrival on Barra a new phase of folklore collection began. In his field-work Campbell used modern technology, such as a reel to reel machine, and was able to record the locals' songs and stories in their own Barra Gaelic pronunciation. Campbell's Book of Barra, published in 1936, includes an article, written by C. H. Borgstrøm, on Norse place-names on Barra. This article remains the only published source devoted entirely to Barra place-names.

The archive of the School of Scottish Studies lists three researchers who were involved in place-names collection in the Barra group. In 1958 James Ross recorded shore-names of Vatersay. Lisa Sinclair, a native of Vatersay, collected some Barra, Mingulay and Pabbay place-names in the period between 1958 and 1960. Sixteen years later Ian A. Fraser undertook the first attempt at a systematic place-name survey. Despite his time restriction of only one week, he managed to recruit a number of knowledgeable informants covering the main island of Barra plus some northern satellites and Vatersay.

All place-names evidence from former collectors will be included in the database and forms part of the material to be analysed.

### 3.3.2 Local Informants

More than seventy local informants contributed to this large corpus of formerly non-recorded place-names. The involvement of the islanders in the project was a crucial requirement, as material collected from oral tradition forms a far more fruitful resource than maps or other written evidence alone. The importance of the co-operation of Barra's inhabitants cannot be over-emphasised. The success of the project depended largely on their contributions.

Starting from randomly acquired acquaintances, a loose web of possible further informants was soon spun. The most successful method of finding new informants was to ask existing ones to point out other people who might be willing to take part in the project. Reference to previous interviews with their relatives or other

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121 See A. A. MacGregor, 1949.
122 Now Lisa Storey.
members of the community helped make potential informants less hesitant in participating. In some cases news about the collection of place-names on Barra preceded my contacting potential informants, so that a number of people knew the background to my research before eventually taking part. There were instances in which participation was declined. This has to be accepted as part of the investigation, and without knowing any details, it is only possible to speculate as to the reasons for this behaviour. Possible reasons may be a desire to retain privacy, lack of belief in one's memory, or saturation of researchers asking for help. Especially during the summer months the island is heavily frequented by researchers from national and international institutions, camera teams, and individuals eager to discover their genealogy. They normally go to what the public mind considers to be the "approved" tradition bearers, a handful of people frequently asked for advice on island matters. One informant belonging to that group told me that during the summer of 1995 he had received new visitors on a daily basis, each requesting his help to clarify their family history. This informant proved to be extraordinarily helpful in place-name research, but other people declined to take part.

Although place-names form part of local heritage, as do songs and lore, the informants involved in singing or story-telling need not necessarily be experts on place-names. To characterise the ideal place-names informant is a difficult, perhaps impossible, task. However, there are certain indicators that help in the identification of potentially good informants.

3.3.2.1 Profession

Place-name knowledge is strongly influenced by factors such as profession, place of living, and interest in nature or local history. As mentioned in section 2.8, an informant's exposure to the elements, combined with a need to know the place-names in a certain area as part of earning a livelihood, will provide a high rate of orientation points in the field and most certainly generate a large number of place-names. This means that in a territory like Barra, crofters and fishermen will naturally be the most promising sources. Indoor occupations, such as teaching, religious welfare, or shop- or inn-keeping, do not require in-depth knowledge of the surrounding place-names fabric. Consequently, people working in such jobs may be expected to know less names. However, on Barra this clear-cut division between indoor and outdoor working informants was difficult, if not impossible, to make. Most islanders have at least two sources of income with, in almost all cases, at least one activity being performed outdoors. Nevertheless, the largest
number of formerly unrecorded place-names was provided by informants who spent their entire working lives outdoors.

3.3.2.2 Place of Living

An informant's repertoire of place-names is influenced by his or her environment. Although the only Barra emigrant who was involved in the collection of data contributed an average amount of non-recorded place-names, an even larger amount of material could have been expected if the territory in question had been walked with the informant or at least been viewed from a window. Long absence from the island will, no doubt, make the remembered place-name fabric become faint. But the opposite, a life-time residency on Barra, does not necessarily guarantee a dense place-names knowledge.

A large majority of the informants had left Barra at one stage of their lives, most often to work either in the merchant navy or in service in Glasgow, so that continuity of settlement was interrupted. This, however, did not necessarily alienate them from the island, as sometimes their families remained on Barra and, in almost all cases, there was a vacant croft waiting for them at their return. With most Barra people a strong attachment to the soil remains, despite temporary emigration to the mainland.

3.3.2.3 Interest in Nature and Local History

A good knowledge of local place-names can be expected from people with a keen interest in the land, its inhabitants and historical events that took place on their soil. This aspect weighs heavier than profession or place of living. Under normal circumstances the three teachers among the informants might not have been considered prime informants, as they had spent their working lives inside the classroom and, additionally, had lived on the mainland for long periods. Despite this, all of them were highly interested in local place-names and proved to have good knowledge of unrecorded names. This might have been supported by the fact that all of them were native Gaelic speakers, could write fluently in Gaelic, and that they had kept their crofts during their absence from Barra.

123 This means a minimum of 200 place-names per individual.
124 Like so many other Barra people, she is now resident in Glasgow.
125 When the Glasgow informant was contacted by a Barra resident who asked for help in correctly positioning some of his remembered place-names, it became apparent that the mind-map of the Glasgow informant merely had to be reactivated by a fellow islander to produce even more names.
Cases in which a long residence on the island was combined with attachment to a croft, job–related exposure to nature, and a keen interest in the history of Barra, produced prime informants, with one of them contributing more than 420 names.

Other variables in the characterisation of what makes a good informant are gender, travel experience and age.

### 3.3.2.4 Gender

When analysing lists of informants in theses on onomastic topics it becomes obvious that male informants dominate. This has led to the erroneous conclusion that men's perception of place is better than that of women. It is rather the case that profession and gender–related symptoms are being confused. Traditionally men worked on the croft and went fishing, whilst their wives dealt with family needs such as cooking, child–care and clothing, activities which tied them to the house. In families where this was the case the men’s knowledge of place–names covered a more extensive territory, whereas the women contributed names close to their homes. However, in cases where the man was at sea, or where there was no man at all, the female informants who ran their crofts on their own were able to contribute as many unrecorded place–names as any male neighbour. During the interviews male informants would provide names freely. Female informants on the other hand were more reticent and would provide only names of which they were absolutely certain.

### 3.3.2.5 Age

The informants' ages ranged from early twenties to over eighty. When recruiting informants there was a tendency to be sent to the very oldest members of the community. They were thought to be able to remember all the incidents that had taken place during their lifetimes and also to have the largest collection of place–names. But with failing eye–sight, hearing or even memory, some older people, who possibly might have been valuable informants ten years previously, proved no longer suitable to be interviewed.

On the other hand, younger people were frequently accused of lacking interest in the local traditions and in lore, and were never recommended as possible informants. When VALLEE undertook his sociological study on the community structure on Barra he, too, observed the then older generation regretting the loss of traditional values within the younger generation. However, the youngest two

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126 F. G. Vallée, 1954.
informants involved in this study were in their twenties and both knew a fair number of formerly unrecorded minor place-names.

The reason for the informants' average age being comparatively high is practical. When recruiting new informants, which was done mainly during daytime, retired people were easier to trace than young or middle-aged working people. The majority of informants were pensioners, who were not only prepared to spend time looking over maps and giving interviews, but were also keen to pass on their knowledge in order to preserve it for future generations, perhaps acknowledging their own mortality. During my field-work two excellent informants died, having between them contributed more than 260 names. Field-work is a race against time and recording the oldest voices within a community first is wise. Nevertheless, middle-aged and younger people should not be ruled out as possible informants.

3.3.2.6 Repertoire

Although each informant has to be considered individually, I made a few general observations during my field-work. The average number of non-recorded place-names per person lay between twenty and thirty. Four informants remembered more than one hundred place-names each, a number which might have risen had not two of them died during the time in which data was being collected. The other two informants provided more than 350 names each, the information coming from their own memories and from conversations with neighbours, relatives and friends.

Several informants showed a keen interest in their place-names and took the initiative in collecting them. After an initial interview they would arrange ceilidhs or small meetings, inviting other knowledgeable people from the township to their homes in order that they could browse the maps together and stimulate each others' memory. In this way far more names than an informant with an average knowledge of place-names could provide on his own found their way on to the map. The most fruitful conversations were those involving not more than three informants. This was most likely due to the fact that small groups would concentrate on one topic, whereas in larger groups several conversations would tend to take place simultaneously.

The place-names recorded during the initial interviews were mainly names in active, everyday usage. In almost all cases, a second or third visit revealed that the informant remembered further names. For that purpose it was necessary to activate each informant's passive place-name repertoire as much as possible. The names that were eventually recorded had been pre-filtered by the informant, who decided which information was to be shared and which names did not qualify as
proper place-names. Especially when interviewing more than one informant at a time, discussions arose on what place-names were worthy of being collected. Although always informed in advance that the collection of place-names included the smallest location as long as it had a name, islanders were reluctant to consider names that were used in their particular family context only. A Barra family who located A’ Phàirc Árd, ‘the high enclosure’, on their croft, decided to omit A’ Phàirc Ìseal, ‘the low enclosure’, in the first interview as they thought it was of too little significance. Only when specifically asked whether there was a low enclosure, as suggested by the existence of a high enclosure, were the family members who had decided against inclusion of the name overruled.

The perception of place influenced the repertoire of an informant to a great extent. The majority of place-names contributors felt confident in their township or the coastline adjoining their township only, and were reluctant to locate names on the map of a different township. Most of them recommended a knowledgeable inhabitant of the township in question rather than making an attempt of their own. A remark made frequently was:

“If you have seen X, you will know all the names!”

This turned out to be wrong, as no two informants gave exactly the same information. No matter how many people had a look at the same map, new unrecorded place-names would continue to be revealed. This observation did not only apply to people who had lived in the same village for the same period of time, but also to members of the same family. Normally one would expect place-names to be passed on within a family and information gathered in one family to overlap considerably. This was not the case in the west coast village of Allasdale. There, the father, a blacksmith, interviewed in 1976, contributed 54 names, his son, twenty years later, 45 names. A comparison of the collected material reveals that of all place-names given by both informants, only one location was named by both. Even more surprising was that the father named a large quantity of coastal features despite having been the local blacksmith and never having been involved in fishing professionally.

3.4 Recent Settlement History

Barra has witnessed the influx of different peoples over the centuries, but until the mid-eighteenth century, hard evidence of habitation could be obtained only
from archaeological excavations. Statistical information is scarce and only became available, in comparison with the mainland, relatively recently. Existing material has to be treated with caution as it is not always clear whether the given population numbers refer to the entire parish including satellite islands, or whether the satellite islands are considered separately. In 1755 WEBSTER published his population survey, which forms the earliest source for Barra, and stated the number of inhabitants to be 1150. Further information is available from Walker's Report, the Statistical Accounts and, from 1841 onwards, the Census Returns of the Registrar General of Scotland. Gazetteers occasionally contain information on population numbers of the islands surrounding Barra, although evidence here is extremely scarce. Despite the lack of data available some general trends in population statistics may be observed.

According to Webster's Report the period from 1755 to 1821 is characterised by a constant increase in population, at the end of which numbers have more than doubled. The collapse of the kelp industry in the 1820s coincided with the first emigrations to the New World. Early emigrants moved to the Carolinas, but the vast majority of them went to Nova Scotia. Although these islanders were not explicitly forced to leave, they were strongly encouraged to emigrate, often under
false promises.

From 1821 to 1831 the Census Returns show a drop in population of two hundred, but ten years later the population figure had once again reached the 1820s level. These two decades were shaped by a number of uncertainties. The MACNEIL OF BARRA had not been able to maintain his income after the kelp industry ceased to be profitable. Despite his relocation of tenants from the fertile west coast and northern parts of Barra to the barren east coast and some less fertile satellite islands, in order to provide land for sheep, he was eventually forced to sell Barra. During MacNeil’s rule he had often threatened to evict his kinsmen but the threat was never carried out. His successor, Colonel Gordon of Cluny, regarding the island merely as a source of income, proved less considerate. From his takeover onwards a number of violent evictions took place with the assistance of the local minister HENRY BEATSON. The failure of the potato crop in 1847 was yet another economic catastrophe which may have encouraged or forced people to leave. Between 1841 and 1851 the island experienced a decrease in population of 500. The best land, that of Vatersay and Eoligarry, was turned into large farms, the remaining tenants being distributed among other townships, thus increasing the number of holdings but not the available land.
Figure 3.14: Populated Islands in the Barra Group
Between 1851 and 1871 the population remained steady, and thereafter rose slowly until 1911. The Napier Commission, which established crofters’ rights, must have provided relief to the islanders and encouraged them to stay. Furthermore, the improving economic situation, based on fishing, would have provided enough work for the islands’ inhabitants. This came to an end with the First World War and its drastic effect on exports, which forced people to at least temporarily emigrate to the mainland. This trend was assisted by the emigrants’ desire to enjoy mainland luxuries such as running water and electricity. In 1971 the population reached its lowest level since population statistics were introduced. Since then the number of inhabitants has once again been rising. The decline of population is regrettable for onomastic studies, as with every departing emigrant information is at first dislocated and eventually lost.

In 1771 we find at least nine islands of the Barra group inhabited, possibly one or two more. At that time 27% of the group’s population lived on islands other than Barra mainland.127 By 1841 only seven of Barra’s satellites were inhabited, collectively accounting for 19% of the group’s population, and by 1901 the five remaining occupied satellites were home to only 8% of the group’s population. By the middle of the twentieth century 8% of islanders still lived on smaller islands in the Barra group, although the number of populated satellite islands had dropped to two, Vatersay and Berneray. The last residents of Berneray, the keepers of the Barra Head lighthouse, left when the lighthouse was automated in the early 1970s. The depopulation of Vatersay stopped with the construction of the Vatersay causeway in 1991 and the provision of a bus service. At the time of writing the number of people in the parish of Barra living on satellite islands is less than 8% of the overall population.

The northern islands had already been deserted at the turn of the century. The Census Returns of 1901 list four inhabitants on Fuday, this document providing the last evidence of habitation of the northern islands. The southern islands maintained their populated status slightly longer. This was in part due to the lightkeepers who kept Berneray in the statistics of inhabited small islands, and in part due to the size of the southern islands, which were large enough to support a healthy community.

4 The Gazetteer

The oldest method of arranging place-names is the gazetteer which provides a general collection of names for a given area. Place-names may also be grouped according to their chronological appearance, alphabetical order, or after their language of origin. A popular approach in onomastics is the classification by generics, followed by sub-classification by topics such as names for water-features, mountain-names, river-names or habitation names. The use of a database allows place-names to be classified under any of the above mentioned categories. Primarily arranged as a gazetter in alphabetical order, the database enables the user to reorganise the names chronologically, by generics, by language of origin, according to the OS classification system, or according to any other desired criteria.

4.1 Database User Manual

The database used in this study was set up by a committee of Scottish onomastics under the lead of Dr. Simon Taylor and is still under development. It currently has 64 categories under which a place-name may be listed, including sources, pronunciation, National Grid Reference, parish information, historical information and a full analysis of all place-name elements and languages involved. Because of restrictions on length of thesis only the most important categories have been included.

4.1.1 Topname

The topname is the form of the name found either on maps of the OS Pathfinder Series, the form collected during interviews with locals, or, if not already mentioned on the OS map, the form appearing on Admiralty charts. Names acquired from local informants are noted in the form given i.e. a name may be sorted by the first letter of the article instead of by the first letter of the generic. On paper this approach is restrictive. In the Scottish Place-Names Database (SPND), however, there is an intention to develop mechanisms which will take into account articles and any effect, such as lenition, that they may have on corresponding place-name elements. In this respect a database will provide a more flexible approach than the strict alphabetical order of a gazetteer. As indicated in section 7.5.1.2 below, toponames represent an attempt to restore historically correct forms in the

128 The OS Pathfinder series was chosen as opposed to the OS 1:10.000 series or to Superplan as it is easily accessible to a broad audience.
appropriate case and gender, rather than a strict rendering into Gaelic orthography of the exact forms supplied by informants, which frequently appear to be in something resembling the genitive or dative case. If a place has two names from different roots it is given two different entries, which are cross-referenced in the database. The mere translation of a name is not given a separate toptopname entry. Instead the mapped name is listed with a reference to the translated form. If a place has a number of slightly varying names, then the version occurring most often will be entered with reference to the alternatives. To ease identification of names on maps the OS spelling is used, even when it contains orthographic lapses in spelling or accentuation. The SPND provides a separate field for the correct spelling of names. Because of space constraints this study does not include the correct spelling field. The toptopname is printed in bold font in the gazetteer.

4.1.2 Pronunciation

Borgström’s research on the dialect of Barra provides a detailed phonological system on which this examination is based. The following alterations have been made.

![Figure 4.15: Location of Vowels](image)

Half-long vowels will not be explicitly indicated. The sign ‘ž’ has been changed to ‘dʒ’. The nasalized diphthong /au/ is written as [āū]. Furthermore, stressed syllables are marked at the beginning of the syllable, in contrast to Borgström’s system which accentuates the emphasised vowel. However, an attempt is made to conform as closely as possible to Borgström’s notation.

Vowels

129 See C. H. Borgström, 1937.
Diphthongs

/ai/ [aIN'icæn] aibhnichean ‘rivers’
/ei/ [beIN] beinn ‘mountain’
/ei/ [qiIN'oxk] doimhneachd ‘depth’
/ui/ [lui] laoigh ‘calf’

/ø/ [k'o:li'tæn] coilltean ‘woods’
/aou/ [lau-ø't'] labhairt ‘to talk’
/aO/ [a:iN] abhainn ‘river’
/aw, ru/ [k'ewN] ceann ‘head’
/au/ [p'ðu:t] poll ‘muddy hole’
/ia/ [iæsk] iasg ‘fish’
/ia/ [biai] beul ‘mouth’, ‘opening’
/iu/ [p'iu-ør] piuthar ‘sister’
/ex/ [eø:RNæ] eòrna ‘barley’
/uo/ [ruæt] ruadh ‘red-haired’
/ua/ [uAN'ø] uaine ‘green’
Labials

/p'/  [p'iː-u-ɔɭ]  piuthar 'sister'
/l/  [lɔ-ɹ]  bogha 'sunken rock'

Dentals

/t/  [t'ɔ-raːv]  tarbh 'bull'
/d/  [dɾɔxət]  drochaid 'bridge'
/s/  [ʃən ʃiN]  an teine 'the fire'

Gutturals

/k/  [k'əi-u]  claidheimh 'sword'
/g/  [ɡə:ʃ]  gaoth 'wind'

Spirants

/f/  [fɾaːx]  fraoch 'heather'
/v/  [vɔ-ɹ]  lámh 'hand'
/x/  [k'laɾx]  clach 'stone'
/y/  [ɾuəv]  ruadh 'red-haired'
/z/  [kəl'ɲ]  coileich 'cockerel'
/j/  [əməj]  a-muigh 'out'

Sibilants

/s/  [sui-ɹ]  suidhe 'to sit'
/z/  [k'laɾsɔɭ]  clàrsach 'harp'
/f/  [iʃəl]  iseal 'low'
/J/  [lau-ɔʃ]  labhairt 'to talk'

Nasals / Approximants / Trill, Tap

/m/  [ɾim]  im 'butter'
/ŋ/  [ɾʊŋəɭ]  langa 'ling'
/l/  [ləɾv]  lámh 'hand'
/l/  [k'ul'sɔɭ]  cailleach 'old woman'
/l/  [blɪ oN]  bliadhna 'year'
/N/  [k'ɾuN]  ceann 'head'
/n/  [niɭ]  gen. and voc. of Niall
/N/  [bəN]  bainne 'milk'
Nasals / Approximants / Trill, Tap ctd.

\[ /r/ \quad [\text{R̞̞ːv}] \quad \text{rāmh} \quad \text{‘oar’} \]

\[ /r/ \quad [\text{d̞̞ːr̞}] \quad \text{dōrn} \quad \text{‘fist’} \]

\[ /r/ \quad [\text{g̞r̞ː̞}] \quad \text{grian} \quad \text{‘sun’} \]

\[ /h/ \quad [\text{H̞̞ːr̞}] \quad \text{Na Horgh} \]

4.1.3 National Grid Reference

The Ordnance Survey National Grid will form the reference basis. In this examination every topname is assigned a National Grid Reference number consisting of two letters and six digits. A National Grid Reference (NGR) identifies a square area of side 100 metres. In areas of high place-name density, such as Bàgh Beag, it was unavoidable that some place-names would share the same NGR number. Although an incorrect OS spelling of a name will be retained for easier reference, all OS errors concerning the map location of a name are pointed out and the correct location is indicated. Such corrections are mentioned in the discussion field.

4.1.4 OS Classification

The site classification system helps to identify what kind of feature is named, as sometimes neither place-name nor map location reveal enough information on the nature of the named object. The mainly land-based OS classification system has been extended to cover Barra’s wealth of named coastal features. The following abbreviations were chosen:

A antiquity: all features in Gothic or Roman print style on OS maps
I island: all features surrounded by water, regardless of size
F field
E enclosure
P parish
S settlement: village, farm, other buildings
T tidal islands
U underwater features: reefs
V vegetation: wood, forest
W water: all features entered in blue colour on OS maps such as streams, lakes, bogs, wells
O other: any feature not otherwise categorised, e.g. quarries, bridges
4.1.5 Source

To simplify the layout of the source field it has been narrowed down to six possible values:

AD indicates that a place-name is extracted from the most recent Admiralty chart.

CR quotes the Craigston Register of Births, Baptisms and Marriages of 1805–1919 which in many cases is the first written source of habitative names.

ML stands for MacLean’s map of 1823, the first comprehensive map of both coastal and interior features of Barra and surrounding islands. It provides material which has been considered neither by the OS nor by the Admiralty.

SH refers to estate plan by H. Sharbau, 1901.

OR indicates that a place-name has been collected from an oral source and that it has not previously occurred in written form. The spelling of the name will conform to current orthography. In this study the individual informants are listed in the introduction but will not be explicitly mentioned with each name they provided. However, in the SPND every entry will be traceable back to individual informants.

OS marks place-names extracted from the OS Pathfinder map. Any name which appears on an OS map is marked as OS in this study, regardless of whether the name was also obtained from any other source.

* An asterisk indicates that older written forms of the name exist. This is the case for a number of OS names and a few entries on Admiralty charts.

Full details of the source can be obtained in the historical forms field of the database.

4.1.6 Translation

The place-names are translated as far as possible. If a primary name occurs in a place-name, the primary name is abbreviated to its first letter. The translation of the primary name can be found in the primary name’s main entry. Where an element is obsolete this is indicated by a query. There are a number of place-names whose meaning can only be guessed, or to which more than one interpretation may be given. In these cases the translation field is left empty, as only translations with a reliability of very likely or better are included. Possible interpretations are then given in the discussion field.
### 4.1.7 Historical Forms

Place-names occurring on earlier maps, charts or documents are listed with the relevant date. As maps and charts are arranged according to their date of publication in the bibliography, and reports and travel accounts according to their author, the following list of sources is provided for quick reference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1549</td>
<td>Sir Donald Monro</td>
<td>report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1654</td>
<td>Joannis Blaeu</td>
<td>map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1695</td>
<td>Martin Martin</td>
<td>account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1764</td>
<td>Dr. John Walker</td>
<td>report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794a</td>
<td>Rev. Edward MacQueen</td>
<td>1st Statistical Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794b</td>
<td>Joseph Huddart</td>
<td>chart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805-1919</td>
<td>Craigston Register</td>
<td>register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>MacLean</td>
<td>map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>MacCulloch</td>
<td>account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Rev. Alexander Nicolson</td>
<td>2nd Statistical Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>A. &amp; C. Black</td>
<td>atlas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854-57</td>
<td>J. M. Wilson</td>
<td>gazetteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Admiralty (Otter, Edye et. al.)</td>
<td>chart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874, 1933</td>
<td>Admiralty</td>
<td>chart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Object Name Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>H. Sharbau</td>
<td>estate plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945, 1987</td>
<td>Admiralty</td>
<td>chart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.1.8 Aliases

This category lists alternative names of a given place. Except in cases where the variation from the topname is minor each alias name will have its own entry in the toponame table.

### 4.1.9 Discussion

This field includes a number of aspects, such as possible derivations, issues with uncertain locations, and additional information regarding usage or folklore. Norse names are always discussed in full.
4.2 Gazetteer

‘Annie Jane’ [ˌaniˈjɛn] NL626955 247 O OR
ship wreck
On the 28th of September 1853 the ‘Annie Jane’, which was carrying emigrants from Liverpool to Quebec, was totally wrecked in Bàgh Siar in Vatersay. Three-fourths of the crew and passengers numbering about 350 men, women and children were drowned and their bodies buried at the shore. See Charnley (1992) for detailed account. H. Sharbau’s estate plan of Barra from 1901 mentions a site marked ‘grave of 280 wrecked emigrants’ at NL628956.

‘Baron Ardrossan’ [ˌbærənˈɔrdrəsən] NL646901 247 O OR
ship wreck
The ‘Baron Ardrossan’ sank off Sandray during the Second World War around 1940. The crew survived.

‘Ben Bheula’ [ˌbɛnˈviːlə] NL662963 247 O OR
ship wreck
“The ‘Ben Bheula’ from Aberdeen went into distress at this location. The boat did not sink, but her helper, the ‘Cyelse’, did.” Michael MacKinnon, Vatersay.

‘Brigade’ [ˈbrɪgɪd] NF741003 231 O OR
ship wreck
The ‘Brigade’, a trawler, ran onto rocks just off An Condrum Fheòir off Bruernish Point.

‘Degens’ [ˈdegəns] NF735067 231 O OR
ship wreck
The spelling of this name is uncertain.

‘Empire Homer’ [ˌempaɪərˈhɒmər] NL642904 247 O OR
ship wreck
The ‘Empire Homer’ ran aground at Sandray in 1943. The crew made it safely to shore. The cargo, coal, was salvaged by the islanders.

‘Gurse’ [ˈgɔːrs] NF732004 231 O OR
ship wreck
In 1947 the ‘Gurse’ from Norway ran aground north of the Caolas a’ Bhristidh Ràmh off Bruernish. As it did not sink most of the ship was scrapped. Some metal parts of the ship may still be found in Ardveenish. The spelling of this name is uncertain.

‘Maple Branch’ [ˈmeplˈbrɑntʃ] NL652901 247 O OR
ship wreck
The ‘Maple Branch’ ran onto rocks at Sandray in the 1870s or 1880s at a time when Sandray was still inhabited. Alasdair MacMillan found the wreck.

‘Samuel Dexter’ [ˌsæmjuəlˈdɛkstər] NF695084 231 O OR
ship wreck
The ‘Samuel Dexter’ ran aground at Solaicridh during the Second World War. The crew survived.

A’ Bheinn Bheag [əˌvɔiˈvɛk] NL618965 247 R OR
the small mountain
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>OS Code</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Other Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A' Bheinn Bheag</td>
<td>[ə ,vɔi 'vɛk]</td>
<td>NL623988</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>the small mountain</td>
<td>Alias: Cuialachmore, Beinn na Cuidhe Fhalaiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bheinn Bhioirach</td>
<td>[ə ,vɔi 'viɡɔx]</td>
<td>NL647915</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>the pointed mountain</td>
<td>Alias: Carnach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bheinn Bhreac</td>
<td>[ə ,vɔi 'vɾæxk]</td>
<td>NL634991</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>the speckled mountain</td>
<td>Alias: Beinn na Ca illiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bheinn Chreagach</td>
<td>[ə ,vɔi 'xɾeɡɔx]</td>
<td>NF650002</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>the rocky mountain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bheinn Mhór</td>
<td>[ə ,vɔi 'vo:r]</td>
<td>NL626964</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>the big mountain</td>
<td>Alias: Ben Tanga val</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NF705071</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bheinn Mhór</td>
<td>[ə ,vɔi 'vo:r]</td>
<td>NL626964</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>the big mountain</td>
<td>Alias: Beinn Eoligarry Mór</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NF705071</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td></td>
<td>See comments on Ben Bheg Eoligarry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NF725016</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bhuaile</td>
<td>[ə ,vuaɪə]</td>
<td>NF725015</td>
<td>231 E</td>
<td>the enclosure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bhuaile</td>
<td>[ə ,vuaɪə]</td>
<td>NF715016</td>
<td>231 E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bhuaile Àrd</td>
<td>[ə ,vul'ɔr:d]</td>
<td>NL694998</td>
<td>247 E</td>
<td>the high enclosure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Bhuaile Buidhe</td>
<td>[ə ,vuaɪə ˈvuiə]</td>
<td>NL652999</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>the yellow enclosure</td>
<td>Alias: Am Meall Buidhe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This name has been both misspelt and misplaced by the OS, who on the 6" map located it at NL625964. Sharbau's estate plan of 1901 lists Bein a' Carnan at this location.
A' Bhuaile Chlach
the stone enclosure
James MacNeil locates this place-name at NF696002. In this name the specific is acting as an adjective.

A' Chachailleith
the gate

A' Chachailleith Bheag
the small gate

A' Chachailleith Mhor
the large gate
Alias: A' Chachailleith Ur

A' Chachailleith Mhor
the large gate
Alias: A' Chachailleith Ur

A' Chaigionnach
the pair
Alias: Bogha Mhic Doonan
This name is related to caigeann, f, 'pair', 'couple', and may designate two low-lying rocks (see Dwelly, 1901:147).

A' Chailleach
the old woman
In place-names the G term 'cailleach' is used for prominent stones.

A' Chailleach
the old woman

A' Charaidh
the fish-trap, weir

A' Charaidh
the fish-trap, weir

A' Charaidh
the fish-trap, weir

A' Charragh
the rock, pillar

A' Charragh
the rock, pillar

A' Charraig a-muigh
the inner fishing rock

A' Charraig a-staigh
the outer fishing rock

A' Charraig Bhàn
the white fishing rock

A' Charraig Bheag
the small fishing rock

A' Charraig Bhreun
the stinking fishing rock

A' Charraig Ghainmheineach
the sandy fishing rock

A' Charraig Mheadhoin
the middle fishing rock

A' Charraig Mhòr
the big fishing rock

A' Chèardach
the smithy

A' Chèardach
the smithy

A' Chèardach
the smithy

A' Chlach Bhàn
the white rock

A' Chlach Bhiorach
the pointed rock

A' Chlach Fhlaireachaidh
the rock of the warning
One of the stones of the causeway to an island in Loch Nic Ruaidhe is a warning stone which collapses against another stone if a foot is set on it. This was intended to warn inhabitants of the island of unwanted visitors.

A' Chlach Ghainmheineach
the sandy rock
Alias: Sgeir Feannaig
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>NF</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A' Chlach Mhór</td>
<td>[ə.xlax vɔ:ɾ]</td>
<td>NF717034 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>big stone</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ]</td>
<td>NL644972 247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Cleit a' Chaolais</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G cleit, f, 'rocky eminence' from ON klettr, m, 'hill'.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ]</td>
<td>NF734036 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See A' Chleit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ]</td>
<td>NF763033 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See A' Chleit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ]</td>
<td>NF701107 216 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See A' Chleit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ]</td>
<td>NF648049 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See A' Chleit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ]</td>
<td>NL704985 247 I</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See A' Chleit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chleit Ruadh</td>
<td>[ə 'xleʰʃ ]ə 'Ruəv]</td>
<td>NF643018 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the red rocky eminence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See A' Chleit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Choille</td>
<td>[ə 'xɔlɛ]</td>
<td>NF703044 231 V</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the forest, vegetation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chorrairigh</td>
<td>[ə 'xɔɾari]</td>
<td>NF676014 231 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the lofty shieling</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The G adj. corr has a number of meanings including 'lofty', 'great', 'vast' and 'stormy'. If a noun it could also mean 'end' or 'corner'.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A' Chraobh</td>
<td>[ə 'xɾɔ:v]</td>
<td>NF761042 231 V</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the tree</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A' Chreag Dhaoimein</td>
<td>[ə .xrek ˈvɔimən]</td>
<td>NL653974 247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the diamond-shaped rock</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A' Chreag Dhubh</td>
<td>[ə .xrek ˈvu]</td>
<td>NF662048 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the black rock</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A' Chreag Ghainmheineach</td>
<td>[ə .xrek ˈɡεnˈjanəx]</td>
<td>NF740083 231 R</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>the black rock</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The sandy rock
1823 Craignagainach

A' Chreag Ghorm
the blue rock

A' Chreag Liath
the grey rock

A' Chreag Mhór
the big rock
Alias: Creag Mhór an Eilein, Meall Mór

A' Chreag Rhìgh
the red rock
Alias: Biulacraig

A' Chreag Ruadh
the red rock

A' Chreagan Bhiorach
the pointed little rock

A' Chuarraidh
the quarry
G cuarraidh is a loan from Eng. quarry.

A' Chuidhe
the enclosure, fold
G cuidhe, f, a loan from ON kví, f, 'enclosure'.

A' Chuidh' Bheag
the small fold
A' Chuidh' Bheag is a primary name. It forms part of Uamh na Cuidhe Bige. See A' Chuidhe.

A' Chuidh' Dhùbh
the dark enclosure
See A' Chuidhe.

A' Chuidh' Dhùbh
the dark enclosure
See A' Chuidhe.

A' Chuidh' Ghlàs
the grey-green enclosure
See A' Chuidhe.

A' Chuidh' Ghorm
the blue enclosure
See A' Chuidhe.

**A' Chuidh' Mhór**

the big enclosure
See A' Chuidhe.

- [ə 'xui ˈvoːr] NL648975 247 E OR
- [ə 'xui ˈvoːr] NL699987 247 E OR

**A' Chūil**

the back, rear part

- [ə ˈxuiːl] NL645976 247 R OR

**A' Chūil Bhàn**

the white neuk

- [ə 'xuiːl ˈvɔːn] NF713004 231 R OR

**A' Chūil Ghasd’**

the fine neuk

- [ə 'xuiːl ˈɡast] NL633910 247 R OR

**A' Chūil Ghorm**

the blue neuk

- [ə 'xuiːl ˈɡɔɾəm] NF675040 231 R OR

**A' Chūil Ruadh**

the red neuk

- [ə 'xuiːl ˈruːə] NF656044 231 R OR

- [ə 'xuiːl ˈruːə] NL695996 247 R OR

**A' Fhāing**

the enclosure, the fank

G fang, f, is a loan from Sc. fank, ‘enclosure’, ‘pen’.

- [ˈænj] NL635975 247 E OR

**A' Ghlaic Ārd**

the high hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈaːrd] NL639980 247 R OR

**A' Ghlaic Chaol**

the narrow hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈxəil] NF702007 231 R OR

**A' Ghlaic Dhomhain**

the deep hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈɡɔvən] NF720027 231 R OR

**A' Ghlaic Dhubh**

the black hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈruːh] NF682016 231 R OR

**A' Ghlaic Gharbh**

the rough hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈɡarəv] NF699007 231 R OR

**A' Ghlaic Ghlas**

the grey-green hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈɣloːf] NF683014 231 R OR

**A' Ghlaic Ghorm**

the grey-green hollow

- [ə ˈɡläiːk ˈɡɔɾəm] NF729018 231 R OR
The Gazettler

A' Ghlaić Iséal
the low hollow

A' Ghluamag Mhór
the large deep pool

A' Ghuala' Mhóir
the big shoulder

A' Ghualann
the shoulder

A' Mhiriceil
the dark stretch
This name is possibly derived from the ON adj. myrkr, 'dark', and ON áll, m, 'stretch', 'stripe', 'patch of land'. The name has been gaelicized by adding the G definite article and consequent lenition.

A' Mhol
the shingly beach
G mol, f, from ON 11191, f, 'gravel bed'. A' Mhol is one of the three areas of the township of Cleat. It describes the low-lying coastal part.

A' Mhol Bheag
the little shingly beach
1901 Molt
See A' Mhol.

A' Mhol Bheag
the little shingly beach
1865 Molt, 1878 Mol Beag
See A' Mhol.

A' Mhol Mhór
the big shingly beach
1823 Mollmore, 1878 Mol Mhór, 1901 Mollmore
The 1972 entry on the OS six-inch map is Molladh Mór. See A' Mhol.

A' Mhuc
the pig
Alias: Sgeir na Moice

A' Phairec Àrd
the high lying enclosed field
G pairc, f, from ME parrok, 'park'.

A' Phairec Iséal
the low lying enclosed field
See A' Phairec Àrd.
A' Pháirc Dhubb
the dark enclosed field
See A' Pháirc Árd.

A' Phalla Bhan
the white cliff
See A' Phalla Bhan.

A' Phalla Bhan
the white cliff
Derived from ON pálr, m, 'step', 'cliff'. In this generic the dat. has become the nom. form. Locals tend to spell the generic 'fala'.

A' Phalla Bhan
the white cliff
See A' Phalla Bhan.

A' Phalla Bhuidhe
the yellow cliff
See A' Phalla Bhan.

A' Phalla Dhubh
the black cliff
See A' Phalla Bhan.

A' Phalla Líath
the grey cliff
See A' Phalla Bhan.

A' Steinn
the rock
Alias: Kisimul Castle
ON steinn, m, applies to 'stones that cannot be moved', to 'hills' and, as in this case, to 'small rocky islands'.

Abhainn 'IcillEathain
MacLean's River

Abhainn a' Chidh
river
The specific is related to Eng. quay.

Abhainn a' Chloibaire
river of the shepherd
Alias: Abhainn Loch na h-Ob
G ciobaire, m, a loan from Eng. shepherd.

Abhainn a' Ghlinne
river of the valley
Abhainn a' Ghlinnie  
river of the valley
Abhainn a' Ghlinnie feeds into An t-Allt Ruadh.

Abhainn a' Ghlinnie  
river of the valley
Locals apply this name to the middle section of the stream only. The upper part is Abhainn a' Ghoirtein, the lower part is An t-Allt Ruadh.

Abhainn a' Ghoirtein  
river of the enclosure
Abhainn a' Ghoirtein feeds into Abhainn a' Ghlinnie and Allt Ruadh. See Goirtein.

Abhainn a' Mhorghain  
gravel river
Abhainn a' Mhuilinn  
river
Alias: Abhainn na Coille, Abhainn na h-Innse
This name was noted down in the OS Object Name Books but never found its way onto the map.

Abhainn Ailein  
Allan's river
Abhainn Allathasdail a Deas  
river of South A.
See Allasdale.

Abhainn an Eas Dhuibh  
river of the dark waterfall
Alias: Allt nam Breac
Abhainn an t-Sil  
river of the seed
Alias: An Abhainn Dhubh
Abhainn Bàgh Chòrnaig  
river of B.
See Cornaig Bay.

Abhainn Bhàn  
white river
Abhainn Bhàn leaves Loch Tangusdale, is fed by Loch na Doirlinn and runs into the Atlantic.

Abhainn Bhàrnais  
river of ?
An alternative name is Abhainn Bhàrlish. There may be a link to ON blær, m, 'gust', and ON nes, n, 'headland'.

Abhainn Bhàislain  

river of V.
See Vaslain.

Abhainn Bheannachain
river of B.
See Am Beannachan.

Abhainn Bhréibhig
river of B.
Alias: An Abhainn Ruadh
See Brevig.

Abhainn Chuier
river of C.
Alias: Abhainn Stubhaidh
See Cuier.

Abhainn Cotan an Laoigh
river of the calf-fold
G cotan, m, a loan from Eng. cote.

Abhainn Dhrolum
river of D.
See Drolum.

Abhainn Eòrasdail
river of E.
See Eorisdale.

Abhainn Ghluig
river of the hollow
1878 Cluig Burn
Henderson suggests a derivation from ON glúfr, 'abrupt descent' (see Henderson, 1910:209).
The correct form is Abhainn Ghlaic.

Abhainn Gusabost
river of the settlement
The primary name Husabost could not be placed on the map. It only appeared in combination with the generic listed above. Husabost is likely to derive from ON hús, n, 'house', 'room' and ON bóstadar, m, 'farm', 'settlement'. Ian A. Fraser observed a similar case in Illeray, where the river-name containing a settlement-name survived, but the original habitative name has been lost (see Fraser, 1973:155-166).

Abhainn Loch na h-Ob
river of L.
Alias: Abhainn a' Chioibair
See Loch na h-Ob.

Abhainn Luireag Phaitir
river of Peter's cow called Luireag
Roderick MacNeil translates G luireag as 'bowl'. Dwelly lists 'handsome, shaggy cow', 'water-fairy'.
Abhainn Mhuiileann Domhnull
river of Donald’s mill
Alias: Allt a’ Mhuilinn

Abhainn Mór
large river

Abhainn na Coille
river of the forest
Alias: Abhainn a’ Mhuilinn, Abhainn na h-Innse

Abhainn na Creadha
clay river

Abhainn na h-Innse
river of the meadow
Alias: Abhainn na Coille, Abhainn a’ Mhuilinn
Dwelly (1901:542) lists a number of further meanings for the G specific innis such as ‘island’, ‘sheltered valley protected by a wood’, ‘pasture’, ‘headland’ and ‘riverside meadow’. Indeed, Abhainn na h-Innse runs through a meadow, but the most striking feature is the sheltered, wooded valley through which it runs before entering North Bay. Therefore the translation of the name ‘river of the sheltered valley’ would apply, too.

Abhainn na Sgoile
river of the school

Abhainn nam Ban
river of the wives
Drinking water out of this stream was considered lucky for those who were on their way to Traigh Mhòr, the cockle beach.

Abhainn nam Breac
tROUT river
1823 Amhinambreak
Alias: Allt Loch an Dùin

Abhainn Peigi na Cùile
river of Peggy from the corner
Alias: An Abhainn Dhubh

Abhainn Stùbhaidh
Stùbh’ s river
Alias: Abhainn Cuier
Stùbhaidh lived in the house at this river. None of his family are still alive.

Acarsaid Fhalaich
secluded harbour
Jonathan MacNeil of Bruernish (see bibliography, tape section) locates this name at NF752026.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Achdìn</strong></td>
<td>['a:xkən]</td>
<td>NL565805</td>
<td>260 R ML The meaning is obscure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird a’ Chaolais</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrdə ˈxə:ləʃ]</td>
<td>NL621976</td>
<td>247 R OS Headland of the sound 1901 Bein Caolais This is an alternative name for An Àird. The OS locate the name at the point of Aird a’ Chaolais.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Àird a’ Mhóir Phuille</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrdə ˈvoːrvuːlə]</td>
<td>NL642965</td>
<td>247 R OR Headland of the large peat moss (?) Nan MacKinnon (see bibliography, tape section) locates this name at NL649959.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Àird a’ Mhùrain</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrdə ˈvəɾənə]</td>
<td>NF734096</td>
<td>231 R ML Headland of the bent grass 1823 Ardvuran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird Allasdale</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrd ˈalə-osdəl]</td>
<td>NF654032</td>
<td>231 R OS* Headland of A. 1823 Ardallasdale See Allasdale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird Chollach</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrdə ˈkələs]</td>
<td>NL558795</td>
<td>260 R OS* Headland of C. 1865 Coll’s Point See Colla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird Greian</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrd ˈɡriːn]</td>
<td>NF651048</td>
<td>231 R OS* Headland of G. 1764 Ard Ghrinn, 1823 Ard Ghrinn See Grean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird na Greqag</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrd na ˈɡɾəɡək]</td>
<td>NF639006</td>
<td>231 R OS* Headland of the little rocks 1823 Arduagroigag Alias: Àird Thangasdail, An Àird The specific is likely to be a misrepresentation of nan creagag, ‘of the little rocks’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird na Moine</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrdə ˈmoːnə]</td>
<td>NL667975</td>
<td>247 R OS6” Headland of peat 1823 Ardnamona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aird Pabbach</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrd ˈtapəx]</td>
<td>NL640904</td>
<td>247 R OS* Pabbay headland 1823 Ard Phabbach Alias: Rubha Pabach This headland is located on Sandray facing Pabbay. See Pabbay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Àird Reamhar</strong></td>
<td>[ˌaːrdə ˈɾəʊəɾ]</td>
<td>NL647904</td>
<td>247 R ML</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
broad headland
1823 Ardramher, 1901 Ard Ramhar

Aird Rubha Mór [aird ru-ba moir] NL693979 247 R OS*
headland of R.
1823 Rumore, 1865 Ru Mor
See Rubha Mór.

Àird Thangasdail [aird hangasadal] NF639006 231 R OR
headland of T.
Alias: An Àird; Aird na Gtegaig
See Tangasdale.

Àirgeadal a’ Choire [airde kada-xor] NL655975 247 R OR
the headland of the sleeping hollow (?)
No explanation was given to illuminate the meaning of this name.

Àirigh a’ Ghreusaiche [airi-yorisaiga] NF702022 231 S OR
shieling of the cobbler
Alias: Airigh a’ Phen

Àirigh a’ Phen [airi faen] NF718022 231 S OR
shieling of the fold
Alias: Àirigh a’ Ghreusaiche
The specific is a loan from Eng. pen.

Àirigh Ard [airi jord] NL652989 247 S OS6”
high shieling

Àirigh Bun na Beinneadh [airi bu-na beney] NF723011 231 S OR
shieling of the base of the mountain

Àirigh Dhaoimein [airi yoimen] NF721019 231 S OR
Diamond’s shieling

Àirigh Eòin [airi eauin] NL719926 247 F OR
Jonathan’s shieling

Àirigh Fhearchair [airi eraxar] NL673982 247 F OR
Farquhar’s shieling

Àirigh Flodaigh [airi lojai] NF754022 231 S OR
shieling of F.
See Flodday.

Àirigh Meall na Meadhonaich [airi meul na mi-enx] NF727016 231 S OR
shieling of the middle hill

Àirigh na Craobhaig [airi-na kravak] NF721032 231 F OR
shieling of the little tree
This primary name is related to Rubh’ Ar’ na Craobhaig.

Áirigh na h-aon Oidhche [ˈɔrɪgəna ˈhɑːnɪç] NF703037 231 S OR

shieling of the one night

The name Áirigh na h-aon Oidhche was given by an informant who said that the shieling was said to be haunted and that people hardly stayed for more than one night. Ronald Black adds that in folklore this place-name is connected with a kelpie, a water-horse, who attacked the inhabitants of the shieling to suck their blood, just like vampires. The proximity of Loch an Eich Uisge which is just over a mile located to the west of Áirigh na h-aon Oidhche makes the above derivation very likely.

Áirigh nan Treothasach [ˈɔrɪgənən ˈtɾiːˈɔsax] NF735013 231 S OR

shieling of the people from Montrose

Na Treothasaich, ‘people from Montrose’, was the collective term used by the Barra population for people from the east coast of Scotland.

Áirigh Ruairidh Sheumais [ˈɔrɪ ruəɾi ˈheːmiʃ] NL650978 247 S OR

shieling of Roderick (son of) James

Alias: Rubha Alainis

Fr. Allan McDonald lists Eileir-nis and Eile-nais as alternative spellings (McDonald, 1958:287). If a personal name, there are corresponding variations of the ON name Qlivir (Lind, 1915:1247f.) such as Eilir, Aelir and Eiler.

Allanish [ˈæliniʃ] NL593879 260 R OS

Alias: Rubha Alainis

Fr. Allan McDonald lists Eileir-nis and Eile-nais as alternative spellings (McDonald, 1958:287). If a personal name, there are corresponding variations of the ON name Qlivir (Lind, 1915:1247f.) such as Eilir, Aelir and Eiler.

Allasdale [ˈɔləs-dəl] NF660032 231 S OS*

1654 Allasdel/ Alloisdal, 1794b Allasdale, 1794b Halastil, 1805 Alasdale, 1823 Allasdale, 1825 Allastill, 1827 Alasdle

Borgström notes this name as Alla’asdale with a hiatus on the second /a/. He assumes an /f/ or a /v/ after the /l/ and interprets the name as Alfa-st9oull, the ‘fairies’ milking-place’ (Campbell, 1936:239). However, A. has the geographical qualities of a dale. The correct meaning is uncertain. The correct G spelling is Allathasdal.

Allt [ˈɔlət] NF706004 231 W OR

stream

Allt [ˈɔlət] NF706004 231 S CR

stream

1901 Ault

Allt a’ Charbhanaich [ˈɔlətə ˈxoravanɨʃ] NF696006 231 W OS6”

stream of the carp

This stream feeds into Allt Heiker.

Allt a’ Chàrnaich [ˈɔlətə ˈxorəɲɨʃ] NL687977 247 W OR

stream of the stony ground

Allt a’ Chriochain [ˈɔlətə ˈxɾi킵əɲ] NL687987 247 W OR

stream of the boundary

This stream feeds into Allt Alasdair.
Allt a’ Ghlinne
stream of the valley
Alias: Allt Alasdair

Allt a’ Ghoirtein
stream of the garden, little field
See Goirtein.

Allt a’ Mhuilinn
stream of the mill
Alias: Abhainn Mhuileann Domhnuill
The OS version of this name, Abhainn Mhuileann Domhnuill, is unknown among local residents.

Allt a’ Mhuilinn
stream of the mill

Allt Alasdair
stream of Alexander
Alias: Allt a’ Ghlinne
This OS version of this name, Allt a’ Ghlinne, applies to only the bottom part of this stream. Locals have various names for different parts of the river.

Allt Allasdair
stream of Alexander

Allt Beag nan Tunnag
small stream of the ducks

Allt Bhreibhig
stream of B.
Alias: Allt Alasdair
The bottom part of the stream is called Allt Alasdair. See Brevig.

Allt Chrisal
stream of ?
1823 Ault Chrisail
Alias: Allt Eathasdail
G ‘ailt’, stream. The second element may have been misspelt by the OS and could stand for ‘crystal’ as one informant suggested. The derivation remains uncertain. See Allt Eathasdail.

Allt Cruachain
stream of the stack-shaped hill
This stream joins Allt Alasdair at its mid-point.

Allt Eathasdail

stream of ?
Alias: Allt Chrisal
The OS version of this name is Allt Chrisal. The meaning of the specific is uncertain. It may derive from an unknown element and ON dalr, m, ‘valley’.

Allt Gunnary [aul.t ‘gwnar] NF688013 231 W OS*
stream of G.
Allt Gunnary describes the section of stream between Stapaig Burn and Abhainn Mór. It may be an alias for Duarry Burn.

Allt Heiker [aul.t ‘heikə] NF695006 231 W OS*
stream of ?
1823 Aulthaichair, 1901 Allt Haichair
G ‘allt’, stream. The second element is obscure. It may be of ON origin. The pronunciation simply reflects a local resident reading the name.

Allt Loch an Dùin [aul.t ‘loκə ‘ndə:n] NF689033 231 W OR
stream of L.
Alias: Abhainn nam Breac
See Loch an Dùin.

Allt na Béiste Duibhe [aul.tna ‘beistə ‘djuia] NL668992 247 W OR
stream of the otter

Allt nam Bodach [aultnəm ‘bɔdax] NL648905 247 W OS
stream of the old men

Allt nam Breac [aultnəm ‘bɾæk] NL640999 247 W OS
stream of the trout
Alias: Abhainn an Eas Dhuibh

Allt nan Gamlma [aultnə ‘ɡɔmlmə] NL646993 247 W OS
stream of the stirks

Allt Nighean Thearlaich NF655025 231 W OS*
stream of the daughter of Charles
This entry, for which no pronunciation was available, never made its way onto the map. In the OS Object Name Book it was marked “cancelled by order 17.5.1877”, probably because it was considered too unimportant.

Allt Ruadh [aultə ‘rʊə] NF666007 231 W OS
red stream
Allt Ruadh flows out of Loch Uisge and feeds into Allt Gunnary.

Am Bacan [am ‘bɔxkən] NL694940 247 W OR
G bac is a loan from ON bakki, m, ‘bank’. See Bac.

Am Bàgh [əm ‘bərə] NL646952 247 W OR
the bay
Alias: Vatersay Bay
G bàgh, m, from ON vágr, ‘bay’.
Am Bàgh
the bay
Alias: Seal Bay, Bàgh nan Ròn
See Am Bàgh.

Am Bàgh Dubh
the dark bay
See Am Bàgh.

Am Bàgh Mòr
the big bay
The exact location of Am Bàgh Mòr is uncertain. It may possibly be an alternative name for Bàgh a' Cnuic Mhòr at NF715042. See Am Bàgh.

Am Barra Làthchedh
the muddy surface
This location is a place for boats on the east side of Barra just at Sgoileir Bàn's house (see Dwelly, 1901:38). The first part of the name is derived from G barr, 'top', 'surface', the second part is gen. sg. of G làthach, 'mire', 'clay', 'moisture'.

Am Bealach
the pass

Am Bealach
the pass
The OS location at NF697005 was corrected by a number of informants.

Am Bealach Uaine
the green pass

Am Beannachan
the blessing
1823 Beanachan

Am Bight a Tuath
the north bay
'Bight' is related to G bideadh, the 'bite'.

Am Bight a-muigh
the inner bay
See Am Bight a Tuath.

Am Bight Beag
the small bight
See Am Bight a Tuath.

Am Bodach 's a' Chailleach

The Gazetteer

the old man and the old woman

Am Bogha Beag  [əmˈboʊə ˈbɛk]  NL711997  247 U  OR
the small sunken rock
G bogha, m, from ON boði, m, ‘breaker’, ‘reef’.

Am Bogha Beag  [əmˈboʊə ˈbɛk]  NF667053  231 U  OR
the small sunken rock
Alias: Bogha Beag Chliaid
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Caol  [əmˌboʊˈkəl]  NL618982  247 U  OR
the narrow sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Carach  [əmˌboʊə ˈkərək]  NL743054  231 U  AD
the deceiving reef
1874 Bo Charach
Alias: Sgeir an Tairbh, Bogh’ an Tairbh

Am Bogha Cór  [əmˌboʊˈkɔr]  NL705988  247 U  OR
the friendly reef
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Dearg  [əmˌboʊə ˈdɛərək]  NL651930  247 U  OR
the red sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Domhain  [əmˌboʊə ˈdəvən]  NL545828  260 U  OR
the deep sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Dubh  [əmˌboʊə ˈdʊh]  NL541819  260 U  OR
the black sunken rock
Alias: Bogha Dubh an Dùin, Twin Rocks
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Dubh  [əmˌboʊə ˈdʊh]  NL705982  247 U  OR
the black sunken rock
Alias: Na Sgeirean Carach
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Dubh  [əmˌboʊə ˈdʊh]  NL706982  247 U  OR
the black sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Liath  [əmˌboʊ ˈliə]  NL707980  247 U  OR
the grey sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Mór  [əmˌboʊ ˈmoʊr]  NL714995  247 U  OR
The Gazetteer

the big sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Mór [am 'bo'mɔr]  
big sunken rock
1901 Bo' More
Alias: Bogha Mór Chliaid
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Ruadh [am 'bo 'ruəv]  
the red sunken rock
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Ruadh [am 'bo 'ruəv]  
the red sunken rock
Residents of Northbay call this place Bogha Glac Mheall'. Locals in Bruernish call it Am Bogha Ruadh. See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Tàimh [am 'boʊo 'təv]  
the quiet sunken rock
Alias: Sgeir an Fheidh
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bogha Tàimh [am 'boʊo 'təv]  
the quiet sunken rock
Alias: Bogh' Eachainn
See Am Bogha Beag.

Am Bota Ruadh [am 'boʊhə 'ruəv]  
the red peat bank

Am Botch [am 'bof]  
Alias: Sgeir Feannaig, Sgeir 'IcillEathain, The Perch 'The Patch' might be a possible meaning.

Am Brioga Beag [am 'brɪɡə bɛk]  
the small landing-place (?)
The name may be derived from ON bryggja, f, a 'landing-place', 'quay' or 'anything built'. Local tradition has it that a ship called 'Brigade' ran aground here. A shed of the Dutch herring fleet is said to have been located here.

Am Brioga Mór [am 'brɪɡə mɔr]  
See Am Brioga Beag.

Am Factoraidh [am 'faktəri]  
the factory
G factoraidh a borrowing from Eng. factory.

Am Feadan Mór [am 'fedan 'mɔr]  
the big opening
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>Sheet</th>
<th>Ordnance Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am Machair the fertile plain</td>
<td>[ə 'mæxər]</td>
<td>NL647999</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Machair the fertile plain</td>
<td>[ə 'mæxər]</td>
<td>NF655032</td>
<td>231 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Marbh Alias: Marbh a’ Bheirbh</td>
<td>[ə 'maː-rəv]</td>
<td>NL649998</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Meall the knoll</td>
<td>[ə 'mjəl]</td>
<td>NL632946</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Meall the knoll</td>
<td>[ə 'mjəl]</td>
<td>NL650945</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Meall Buidhe the yellow knoll</td>
<td>[ə 'mjəl ˈhuiːʃ]</td>
<td>NL652999</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Meall Mór the big knoll</td>
<td>[ə 'mjəl ˈmoːr]</td>
<td>NL685995</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Morghan the gravel bank</td>
<td>[ə 'moː-rəɣən]</td>
<td>NF707010</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Morghan the gravel bank</td>
<td>[ə 'moː-rəɣən]</td>
<td>NF707010</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Muileann the mill</td>
<td>[ə 'mjuːlən]</td>
<td>NL562835</td>
<td>260 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Muileann Beag the small mill</td>
<td>[ə 'mjuːlən ˈbek]</td>
<td>NL675995</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Port Bàn the white port</td>
<td>[əm ˈpɔːʃt ˈhəːn]</td>
<td>NF643004</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Port Bàn the white port</td>
<td>[əm ˈpɔːʃt ˈhəːn]</td>
<td>NF711003</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Port Bàn the white port</td>
<td>[əm ˈpɔːʃt ˈhəːn]</td>
<td>NF648020</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One informant pointed out that Beirbh is the G name for the Norwegian town Bergen. However, there was no additional information why this place is called Am Marbh and whether it had a possible connection with Norway. The generic may be connected with Am Parbh from ON hvarf, ‘turning’, with which Cape Wrath is associated.
Am Port Caol
the narrow port
[əmˈpərət kəl] NL696989 247 W OR

Am Port Dubh
the black port
[əmˈpərət dúb] NL636978 247 W OR

Am Port Dubh
the black port
[əmˈpərət dúb] NF718028 231 W OR

Am Port Mór
the big port
[əmˈpərət mɔr] NF731036 231 W OR

Am Port Mór
the big port
Alias: Port Mór Mås a' Rubha, Port an Rubha
[əmˈpərət mɔr] NF717005 231 W OR

Am Port Ruadh
the red port
[əmˈpərət ruəd] NF717007 231 W OR

Am Priosan
the prison
This is a relief feature.
[əmˈpɾiəsən] NL661955 247 R OR

Am Priosan
the prison
[əmˈpɾiəsən] NL628975 247 R OR

Amhach Rubha na h-Acairsaid
neck of R.
See Rubha na h-Acairsaid.
[əvəkəˌruːhə həˈkɑːsət] NF733014 231 R OR

An Abhainn Bhàn
the white river
The river is clear due to the sandy ground of croft 7 Eoligarry.
[əˌnəu̯-ɪnˌvən] NF701085 231 W OR

An Abhainn Dhubh
the dark river
Alias: Abhainn an t-Sil
[əˌnəu̯-ɪnˌru̯h] NF705038 231 W OR

An Abhainn Dhubh
the dark river
[əˌnəu̯-ɪnˌru̯h] NF709003 231 W OS*

An Abhainn Dhubh
the dark river
Alias: Abhainn Peigi na Cùile
[əˌnəu̯-ɪnˌru̯h] NL702993 247 W OR

An Abhainn Mhosach
the nasty river
Dwelly lists the adj. mosach with a short vowel (Dwelly, 1901:673).
[əˌnəu̯-ɪnˌvəsək] NF701092 231 W OR

An Abhainn Ruadh
[əˌnəu̯-ɪnˌru̯əd] NF717018 231 W OR
An Abhainn Ruadh

the red river
Alias: Abhainn Bhréibhig

An Acairseid

the anchorage
1549 Nahakersait, 1654 Hakerset, 1874 Harbour, 1987 Acairseicl
G acairsaid, f, a loan from ON akkeris-sæti, n, 'landing-place'. Dwelly lists two spellings of this element, acarsaid and acairseid (see Dwelly, 1901:4).

An Acarsaid

the anchorage
See An Acairseid.

An Aird

the headland
1823 Aird, 1846 -, 1865 Aird Caolas
This name applies to the entire area.

An Aird

the headland
Alias: Áird Thangasdail, Aird na Gregaig

An Aird Ghlas

the grey headland

An Altair Mhór

the big altar
G altair, f, a loan from Lat. altare, 'high place'.

An Cadha

the pass
An Cadha
the pass

An Cadha
the pass

An Cadha Clireig
the serrated pass

An Cadha Dubh
the black pass

An Caisteal
castle

G caisteal, m, a loan from Lat. castellum, 'bulwark', related to Eng. 'castle'.

An Camus Gasd'
the beautiful bay

An Caolas a Deas
the southern sound

An Caolas a Tuath
the northern sound
Alias: Caolas Árnamul

An Caolas a-muigh
the outer sound
Alias: Caolas Shnuasamul, Caolas Mór Shnuasamul

An Caolas a-staigh
the inner sound
Alias: Caolas na Sgeire Duibhe

An Caolas Bán
1901 Caolus Ban
the white sound

An Caolas Bán
the white sound

An Caolas Dearg
the red sound

An Càrn
cairn

An Càrn Garbh
the rough cairn

An Càrn Mór
the castle
the big cairn

An Càrnach  
the stony ground

An Càrnach  
the stony ground
Donald Patrick Sinclair locates this name at NL684980.

An Cearcall  
the circle
1901 Cearcall
The OS location at NL593875 is wrong.

An Cearcall Chlach  
the stone circle
G crcall, m, a loan from Lat. circulus, related to Eng. circle.

An Cladach Bàn  
the white coast

An Cladach Dearg  
the red coast

An Cnap Glas  
the green-green knoll
G cnap, m, a loan from ON knappr, m, ‘knob’, ‘knoll’.

An Cnap Séige  
knoll of the bent grass
See An Cnap Glas.

An Cnoc Breac  
the speckled breac

An Cnoc Breac  
the speckled hill
1823 Knockbreak

An Cnoc Dubh  
the black hill
This name mentioned on Sharbau’s estate plan as Croc Dhu.

An Cnoc Fraoich  
the heather hill

An Cnoc Gorm  
the blue hill
Gnoc 'hill'. It is uncertain whether the specific represents a Gaelicized form of Eng. plain.

An Cnoc Soilleir
the bright hill

An Cnoc Soilleir
the bright hill

An Cnoc Soilleir
the bright hill
An Cnoc Soilleir is one of the three parts that form the township of Cleat.

An Comharradh
the mark
Alias: Sgeir na Feannaig
When the tide reaches the mark there is just enough time to fetch the sheep grazing on Orosay.

An Conasg
gorse

An Condrum Cloiche
the stone dog-hillock
1823 Coundum

An Condrum Dubh
the black dog-hillock
Alias: An Condrum Fheoir
See An Condrum Cloiche.

An Condrum Fheoir
the grassy dog-hillock
Alias: An Condrum Dubh
See An Condrum Cloiche.
An Corran
the sickle-shaped gravel pit
[æn 'kərən] NF657037 231 R OR

An Craobhan
the little tree
Alias: Greotal
[ə 'krə:vən] NF654010 231 V OR

An Creagan
the little rock
[ə 'krekan] NL695999 247 R OR

An Criathrach
wilderness, marshy ground
G criathrach, m, 'wilderness', 'marshy ground', 'swamp'. See Dwelly, 1901:270.
[æn 'kriarax] NF675031 231 R OR

An Curach
1843 -
Alias: Gara Cruaidh
This name occurs first in the Craigston register of births, baptisms and marriages. It lies south of Higgins Cottage and is likely to designate a rock formation shaped like the bottom of a wicker-boat.
[æn 'kuɾəx] NF658025 231 S OR

An Dàm
the dam
G dàm, m, a loan from Eng. dam.
[æn 'ðaum] NF699089 231 R OR

An Dig Mhór
the big ditch
G dig, f, a loan from Eng. dyke.
[æn 'dʒɪg 'vɔr] NF714035 231 R OR

An Doirlinn
the promontory
1849 Dorlin
[æn 'dɔrl'ɪn] NF640004 231 S OR

An Domhaich
The meaning of this name is obscure.
[æn 'dɔbʰiʃ] NL670983 247 OR

An Dòrnan
the little fist-sized pebble
[æn 'dɔɾnək] NF652005 231 R OR

An Druim Dubh
the black ridge
[æn druim 'dubʰ] NF704006 231 R OR

An Druim Dubh
the black ridge
[æn druim 'dubʰ] NL649979 247 R OR

An Druim Robach
the rugged ridge
[æn druim 'ɾəpəx] NL550819 260 R OR

An Dubhairigh
the black shieling
[æn 'dubəri] NF675013 231 S OR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Dun</td>
<td>[ɔn duːn]</td>
<td>NF693032 231 A</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Fhéith Mhór</td>
<td>[ɔ ,njeː vor]</td>
<td>NL689985 247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Garrabost</td>
<td>[ɔ̃'ŋarapost]</td>
<td>NL705999 247 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Gearraidh Árd</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪ar̪i 'aːrd]</td>
<td>NL637982 247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Gearraidh Creamh</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪ar̪i 'k'rev]</td>
<td>NF702076 231 E</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Gearraidh Íseal</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪ar̪i 'iːsəl]</td>
<td>NL636981 247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Gearraidh Mór</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪ar̪i 'moːr]</td>
<td>NF703076 231 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Gearraidh Úr</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪ar̪i 'uːr]</td>
<td>NF693004 231 E</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Geata Geal</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪eːtʰə ˈɡeːl]</td>
<td>NF705041 231 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Geata Iarainn</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪eːtʰə ˈiːriŋ]</td>
<td>NL673988 247 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Geòðha</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪eːx]</td>
<td>NL695989 247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Geòðha Beag</td>
<td>[ɔŋ̪eːx ˈheːk]</td>
<td>NF637005 231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See An Geòdha.

**An Gleann Ìrde**  
the high valley

**An Gnòban Buidhe**  
the yellow knoll

G gnob is a variation of G cnap, m, which is a loan from ON knappr, m, ‘knob’, ‘knoll’.

**An Goirtèann**  
the enclosure

Alias: Na Goirtèann

G goirtèann is a loan from Lat. hortus, ‘garden’.

**An Goirtèann Beag**  
the little field

See An Goirtèann.

**An Goirtèann Buidhe**  
the yellow field

See An Goirtèann.

**An Goirtèann Geal**  
the white field

See An Goirtèann.

**An Goirtèann Mòr**  
the big enclosure

1826 Gorstan

See An Goirtèann.

**An Làimhrig Mhòr**  
the big landing-place

G làimhrig, f, a loan from ON hlað-hamarr, ‘slope rock’, here ‘landing-place’. An alternative spelling for làimhrig is lamraig (see Dwelly 1901:567 and 1901:564).

**An Laogh**  
the calf

1823 Laogh, 1865 -

Alias: Calf of Muldoanich

**An Laogh**  
the calf

1874 Calf Rock

**An Làraidh**  
[an ’la:ri]  
NL654984 247 R  OR
the lorry
This place-name describes a rock shaped like a lorry. G lâraidh is a loan from Eng. lorry. It is perhaps influenced by G lâir, 'mare'.

An Leac Dhubh
the black flagstone

An Leac Mhór
the big flagstone

An Leac Ruadh
the red flagstone

An Leac Mhór
the big flagstone

An Leac Uaine
the green flagstone
Donald MacKinnon locates this place-name at NF654013.

An Leac Uaine
the green flagstone

An Leacach
the place of flagstones / side of a hill

An Leacach
place of flagstones / side of a hill
In its adjectival form Leacach means 'abounding in stones', the noun describes a 'hill side' (see Dwelly, 1901:572).

An Leacan
the little flagstone

An Léana
the meadow

An Léana
the meadow

An Léana Glas
the grey-green meadow

An Léana Mór
the big meadow

An Léana Mór
the big meadow
The wrongly attributed OS location of Léana Mhór at NF670006 has been corrected in this entry.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Léana Mór</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂iːːnə ˈmɔːr]</td>
<td>NF698017</td>
<td>231 F OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the big meadow</td>
<td>An Léana Robach</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂iːːnə ˈɾ̪̂o̱pə]</td>
<td>NF664033 231 F OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the ragged meadow</td>
<td>An Leathad Breac</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂e̱-ət ˈbr̪̂æ̱k]</td>
<td>NL552824 260 O OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the speckled slope</td>
<td>An Leathad Cas</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂e̱-ət ˈk̪̂əs]</td>
<td>NL676988 247 O OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the steep slope</td>
<td>An Leathad Dubh</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂e̱-ət ˈdu̱ʰ]</td>
<td>NF691002 231 R OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the dark slope</td>
<td>An Léig</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂e̱ɡ]</td>
<td>NF646001 231 W OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the marshy pool / brook</td>
<td>An Leth a Deas</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂e̱θə ˈd̪̂e̱s]</td>
<td>NL693984 247 O OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the south half / share</td>
<td>An Li</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂iː]</td>
<td>NF655035 231 W OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwelly lists two similar interpretations for the generic, each of which suits the location. An Li may either be derived from G li, f, 'the sea', 'water' (formerly fresh and salt water, now fresh water only) (see Dwelly, 1901:587) or from G linne, f, meaning 'pool', 'sea', 'part of the sea near the shore' and 'bay' (see Dwelly, 1901:590).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>An Loch Beag</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔx ˈb̪̂e̱k]</td>
<td>NF722023</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the little lake</td>
<td>An Loch Beag</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔx ˈb̪̂e̱k]</td>
<td>NF643002 231 W ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the little lake</td>
<td>1901 Loch Beg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Loch na Doirlinn</td>
<td>An Loch Mór</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔx ˈmɔːr]</td>
<td>NL645988 247 W ML*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the big lake</td>
<td>1764 -, 1823 Lochmor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Loch an Eas Dhuibhe, Loch St. Clair, Loch MhicLèoid, Loch Tangusdale</td>
<td>An Lón Beag</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔn ˈb̪̂e̱k]</td>
<td>NF717011 231 F OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the little pool</td>
<td>An Lón Dubh</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔn ˈdu̱ʰ]</td>
<td>NF738094 231 F OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the dark pool</td>
<td>An Lón Gorm</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔn ˈɡ̪̂ɔɾəm]</td>
<td>NF665040 231 F OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the blue pool</td>
<td>An Lón Mór</td>
<td>[ən ˈl̪̂ɔn ˈmɔːr]</td>
<td>NF655020 231 F OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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the big pool

An Luba Dhomhain
the deep marsh

[ON 'lu:da:k] NF710002 231 F OR

An Lòdach
The dictionary meaning is the 'little finger', 'joint'. (Dwelly, 1901:606)

An Luir
The meaning is obscure.

An Oitir
sand bank
Alias: Oitir a' Bhàigh
G bàgh, m, a loan from ON vágr, m, 'bay'.

An Oitir Àrd
the high sand bank

An Rochn Mhòr
the large sunken, tangle-grown rock
G roc, f, 'wrinkle', 'tangle-grown rock', 'kind of species of seaweed' (see Dwelly 1901:764) is likely to be a loan from ON hrukka, f, 'fold', 'wrinkle'.

An Rodh
the watermark
Alias: Maclean's Point, Rubha MhicillEathain

An Rubha
the point

An Rubha
the point
Alias: Huilish More

An Rubha Dubh
the black point

An Rubha Dubh
the black point

An Rubha Dubh
the black point

An Rubha Dubh
the black point

An Rubha Dubh
the black point

An Rubha Dubh
the black point
**An Rubha Dubh**
*the black point*
Alias: Ru-Fear-Vatersay

**An Rubha Liath**
*grey-blue point*

**An Scarp**
Alias: Vatersay Village
Dwelly lists G `sgarbh` meaning ‘shallow water’ or ‘ford’. Unless the informant intended to name Loch Pheigi, which is located in Vatersay Village, it is unlikely that this name is based on Gaelic. Rygh lists Skaroas a farm name. There is an island called An Scarp in Harris.

**An Seann Chidh’**
*the old pier*
G `cidhe, m`, related to Eng. quay.

**An Seanna Bhaile**
*the old village*
This primary name is related to Rubh’ an t-Seana Bhalla. Hellisay used to be inhabited.

**An Sgala Beag**
*the small rock*

**An Sgala Mór**
*the large rock*
1865 Scalla
Alias: Sgala

**An Sgathan Mór**
*the big mirror*

**An Sgeir Bheag**
*the little skerry*
1823 Skerveg, 1865 Shelter Rock
Alias: Shelter Rock
G `sgeir, f`, a loan from ON `sker, n`, ‘skerry’, ‘rock surrounded by water’.

**An Sgeir Charach**
*the deceiving skerry*
1865 Sgeir a’ Charach
Malcolm MacAulay (see bibliography, tape section) gives the plural version of this name, Na Sgeirean Carach. See An Sgeir Bheag.

**An Sgeir Dhubh**
*the black skerry*
Alias: Na Ludagain, Sheader Rocks
See An Sgeir Bheag.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Map Page</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgeir Dhubh</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ér-'dhu:b]</td>
<td>NL687970</td>
<td>247 I</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>the black skerry</em></td>
<td>See An Sgeir Bheag.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgeir Ghlas</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ér-'glas]</td>
<td>NF728022</td>
<td>231 I</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>the grey-green skerry</em></td>
<td>Alias: Sgeir Ghlas Dhrolum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgeir Liath</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ér-'lia]</td>
<td>NF632007</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td><em>the grey-blue skerry</em></td>
<td>An Sgeir Bheag.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>[an 'sk'ér-'lia]</td>
<td>NF718006</td>
<td>231 T</td>
<td>OR*</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>the grey-blue skerry</em></td>
<td>1654 Skyr lia, 1823 Skerlia</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>See An Sgeir Bheag.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgeir Mhór</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ér-'vor]</td>
<td>NF717068</td>
<td>231 I</td>
<td>AD</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>the big skerry</em></td>
<td>1874 Sgeir Vore, 1823 Skervore, 1901 Sgeir Vore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Sgeir Mhór Tràigh Chragain</td>
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<tr>
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<td>247 I</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>big skerry of H.</em></td>
<td>Alias: Sgeir Mhór na Horg</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgòr Bàn</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ôr-'ba:n]</td>
<td>NL549836</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>the white cleft</em></td>
<td>G sgòr, m, 'sharp rock', is a Norse loan (see MacBain, 1911:318).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgòr Buidhe</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ôr-'bui]</td>
<td>NL637978</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>the yellow cleft</em></td>
<td>See An Sgòr Ban.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgòr Buidhe</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'ôr-'bui']</td>
<td>NF703035</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>the yellow cleft</em></td>
<td>Alias: Sgòr a' Chait</td>
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<tr>
<td>This name is used by the older generation. See An Sgòr Ban.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><em>the yellow cleft</em></td>
<td>See An Sgòr Ban.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgùdag</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'udak]</td>
<td>NF718015</td>
<td>231 OR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>G sgùdag means 'little boat' or 'little cluster'. It is impossible to trace back the precise meaning of this place-name.</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Sgùdag</strong></td>
<td>[an 'sk'udak]</td>
<td>NL698989</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>the little cluster</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See An Sgüdag.

**An Sgüd Ruadh**  
the red cluster (?)  
[an 'sku:d ru:vd]  
NL549842 260 W OR

**An Sgüban**  
the summit  
[an 'sku:mban]  
NL660997 247 R OR

**An Sgüban a Tuath**  
the northern summit  
Alias: Creagan Móra  
[sku:mbana 'twu:t]  
NL661996 247 R OR

**An Sgüban an Ear**  
the eastern summit  
Alias: Creagan Móra  
[sku:mbana 'ne:ar]  
NL664994 247 R OR

**An Sgüban Meadhoin**  
the middle summit  
Alias: Creagan Móra  
[an 'sku:mban mi-en']  
NL662995 247 R OR

**An Sithean**  
the fairy knoll  
[an 'fjein]  
NF650003 231 R OS

**An Sithean Ruadh**  
the red fairy knoll  
This place is named An Sidhean on the OS 6" map.  
[an 'fjein 'ru:vd]  
NF652004 231 R OR

**An Sloc**  
the gully  
[an 'slaxk]  
NL676972 247 W OR

**An Sloc Caol**  
the narrow gully  
See An Sloc.  
[an 'slax k'asol]  
NF652046 231 W OR

**An Sloc Carach**  
the twisted gully  
See An Sloc.  
[an 'slax karax]  
NF631004 231 W OR

**An Sloc Dubh**  
the black gully  
See An Sloc.  
[an 'slaxk 'du:b]  
NF724022 231 W OR

**An Sloc Dubh**  
the black gully  
Alias: Sloc an Tairbh  
See An Sloc.  
[an 'slaxk 'du:b]  
NF658049 231 W OR

**An Sloc Dubh**  
the black gully  
See An Sloc.  
[an 'slaxk 'du:b]  
NF663048 231 W OR
<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Grid Reference</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>An Sloe Dubh</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈduːh]</td>
<td>NL707990</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the black gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>An Sloe Gainmheineach</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈɡænjənəx]</td>
<td>NL628936</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the sandy gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sloe Gorm</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈɡɔrəm]</td>
<td>NL620950</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the blue gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc Chalman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sloe Gorm</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈɡɔrəm]</td>
<td>NL628982</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the blue gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc Néill Chailein, Sloc Chailein</td>
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<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Sloe Gorm</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈɡɔrəm]</td>
<td>NL706998</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the blue gully</td>
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<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sloe Gorm</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈɡɔrəm]</td>
<td>NL701992</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the blue gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc Gorm Leithinis</td>
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<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sloe Mór</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈmɔr]</td>
<td>NL622939</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the big gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc an Êisg, Sloc Grisivick</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sloe Mór</td>
<td>[ən slok ˈmɔr]</td>
<td>NL654918</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the big gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See An Sloc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Sruth</td>
<td>[ə ˈstruː]</td>
<td>NF718014</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>the current / stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sruth</td>
<td>[ə ˈstruː]</td>
<td>NL565978</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the current / stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sruth a’ Bhàigh Bhig</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>An Sruthan</td>
<td>[ə ˈstruːn]</td>
<td>NF675036</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>the little stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sruthan</td>
<td>[ə ˈstruːn]</td>
<td>NL638978</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>the little stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Sruthan Bàn</td>
<td>[ə struːn ˈbɑːn]</td>
<td>NF659040</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the white stream
An Sruthan Bàn runs from the golf course in southerly direction into Abhainn Cuier.

An Sruthan Beag
the small rivulet
[əˌstruːn ˈbæk] NL652974 247 W OR

An Steallag
the small waterfall
[ən ˈstjelək] NF706003 231 W OR
Diminutive form of G steall, f, ‘spout’, ‘cataract’.

An Stéisean
the curing station
[ən ˈstɛːʃən] NL655975 247 S OR
A loan from Eng. station.

An t-Allt Mhór
the big stream
[əˌnau̯lətəˈvoːr] NF671034 231 W OR

An t-Allt Rogaidh
the red stream
[əˌnau̯lətəˈro̯ki] NL634982 247 W OR
It is not possible to say whether the specific derives from G rocach, ‘curly’, ‘rocky’ (Dwelly, 1901:764) or from the Eng. adj. ‘rocky’.

An t-Allt Ruadh
the red stream
[əˌnau̯lətəˈruːər] NF678007 231 W OR
This is not a river but still water.

An t-Allt Ruadh
the red stream
[əˌnau̯lətəˈruːər] NF671036 231 W OR
An t-Allt Ruadh forms the upper section of what later becomes Abhainn Cuier.

An t-Allt Ruadh
the red stream
[əˌnau̯lətəˈruːər] NL673982 247 W OR
The part of Abhainn a’ Ghlinne adjoining Morag MacNeil’s croft is called An t-Allt Ruadh.

An t-Aonach Pabach
the Pabbay plateaux
[əˌhæːniɡˈtæpæx] NL594873 260 R OR
Alias: The Hoe
See Pabbay.

An t-Eilean Beag
the small island
[əˌeɪlən ˈbæk] NF712028 231 I OR
A combination of G eilean, m, a loan from ON eyland, ‘island’ and the G adj. beag, ‘small’.

An t-Eilean Beag
the small island
[əˌeɪlən ˈbæk] NF706032 231 I OR
Alias: Eilean nan Rodan, Eilean na Craobh, Eilean nan Gèadh, Statue Island
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Beag
the small island
[əˌeɪlən ˈbæk] NL705994 247 I OR
See An t-Eilean Beag.
An t-Eilean Beag  
the small island  
Alias: Eilean nan Rodan, An t-Eilean Dubh  
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Creagach  
the rocky island  
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Creige  
the rock island  
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Dubh  
the black island  
Alias: An t-Eilean Beag, Eilean nan Rodan  
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Glas  
the grey-green island  
Alias: Na h-Eileanan Glasa  
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Mór  
the big island  
See An t-Eilean Beag.

An t-Eilean Uaine  
the green island  
1878 Eilean Uaine  
Alias: Green Island, Arnamul
An t-Seolaid a Deas  
*the southern harbour passage*

An t-Seolaid a Tuath  
*the northern harbour passage*

An t-Srón  
*the nose*
1823 Strachumperin
Alias: Srón a' Chruimpain

An t-Srón Bluidhe  
*the yellow promontory*

An t-Srón Fheòir  
*the promontory of the hay*

An t-Sùil Gaimheineach  
*the sandy eye*
Alias: West Sand
1823 Suilgainacha
Suilean Gaimheineach is an alternative interpretation given by Fr. Allan McDonald (1958:233).

An t-Uachdar  
*the summit / upper part*
Uachdar designates the upper part of the township of Cleat.

An Taigh Chlach  
*the stone house*
Joseph MacDougall locates this name at NL668992.

An Taigh Geal  
*the white house*
Alias: Eoligarry House, An Taigh Mòr
The 'white house' designates 'Eoligarry House', which used to be whitewashed on a regular basis. The house served as an orientation mark for fishermen but is now demolished.

An Taigh Mòr  
*the big house*
Alias: Eoligarry House, An Taigh Geal

An Taobh Beag  
*the small side*
Alias: Taobhan Beag

An Taobh Siar  
*the west side*

An Tir Ruadh  
*the red land*
The Gazetteer

An Tobar
the well

An Tobar Dubh
the black well

An Tobar Ruadh
the red well

An Tobhta
the ruin

An Toll Beag
the little hollow

An Toll Gorm
the blue hollow

An Tom Buidhe
the yellow knoll

An Torr Chlach
the stony round hillock

An Tráigh a Deas
the south beach

G tîr, m, related to OIr. tîr and to Lat. terra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Tobar</td>
<td>[an 't'opar]</td>
<td>NL634946</td>
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<td>An Tobar Dubh</td>
<td>[an ,t'opar 'duh]</td>
<td>NF723020</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
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<td>An Tobar Ruadh</td>
<td>[an ,t'opar 'rua]</td>
<td>NF704043</td>
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<td>[an ,t'opar 'rua]</td>
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<td>An Tobhta Ruadh</td>
<td>[an ,t'ohto 'rua]</td>
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<td>An Toll Beag</td>
<td>[an ,talb'ek]</td>
<td>NL571852</td>
<td>260 R OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Toll Gorm</td>
<td>[an ,talgo -ram]</td>
<td>NL648968</td>
<td>247 R OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Tom Buidhe</td>
<td>[an ,tam 'buis]</td>
<td>NL627982</td>
<td>247 R OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Torr Chlach</td>
<td>[an ,tor 'xla]</td>
<td>NL655977</td>
<td>247 R OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Tráigh a Deas</td>
<td>[an ,tra:'dais]</td>
<td>NL636939</td>
<td>247 R OR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

G tobhta, f, a loan from ON toft, topt, a ‘clearing’, ‘space enclosed by roofless walls’.

See An Tobhta.

An Tobhta
See An Tobhta.

An Toll Beag
See An Toll Bheag.

An Toll Gorm
See An Toll Bheag.

An Tráigh a Deas
Alias: North Sand
1823 Traindeis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Pronunciation</th>
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<th>Type</th>
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<td>NL653910</td>
<td>247 R</td>
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<tr>
<td>the south beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alias: Tràigh a Deas Shanndraigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Tràigh a Deas Shanndraigh</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Bheag</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'vek]</td>
<td>NL634937</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the little beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alias: Centre Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Bheag</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'vek]</td>
<td>NL707999</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>the little beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Bheag</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'vek]</td>
<td>NF717008</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>the little beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Bheag</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'vek]</td>
<td>NF676050</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>the little beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alias: Tràigh Shanndraigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Chragain</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'ɾaɡæjn]</td>
<td>NF713066</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>the rocky beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Traichroagan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Gharbh</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'ɾaɾav]</td>
<td>NL664957</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the rough beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Tràigh Tuath</td>
<td>[ən .dɾa'tuʃ]</td>
<td>NL659959</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the north beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This primary name was extracted from Boghannan na Tràigh Tuath, which lies opposite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Tucaid</td>
<td>[ən 'dukæt]</td>
<td>NF707078</td>
<td>231 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the dove cot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>G tucaid, f, related to Sco. doocot, ‘dove-cot’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Uamh</td>
<td>[o'nuɑ̃v]</td>
<td>NF725008</td>
<td>231 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the cave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Uamh</td>
<td>[o'nuɑ̃v]</td>
<td>NF735012</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the cave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Uamh</td>
<td>[o'nuɑ̃v]</td>
<td>NL549812</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the cave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Uamh</td>
<td>[o'nuɑ̃v]</td>
<td>NL603899</td>
<td>260 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the cave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Uamh Bheag</td>
<td>[o'nuɑ̃ 'vek]</td>
<td>NF750038</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the little cave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An Uidh Gheal
*the white isthmus, ford*
Joseph Sinclair locates this name at NL651956. G uidh, f, a loan from ON eíð, ‘isthmus’, ‘neck of land’.

An Uidh Riabhach
*the brindled isthmus, ford*
1823 Uieriach, 1865 Murioch
The OS use the simplex form, Uidh. G uidh, f, a loan from ON eíð, ‘isthmus’, ‘neck of land’.

An Útrathad
*the common road*
G útrathad, f, a loan from ON útreið, ‘expedition’, ‘out-road’, here with the meaning of free egress and regress to common pasture.

An Útrathad
See An Útrathad.

An Útrathad
See An Útrathad.

Analepp an Ear
*? of the east*
Alias: Analepp Ear
This name has various pronunciations and also occurs in Bay Analepp and Analepp an Iar. There may be a connection with the ON ‘hlaup’ for a ‘run of water’. The first two syllables cannot be accounted for.

Analepp an Iar
*? of the west*
Alias: Analepp Iar
See Analepp an Ear.

Aneir
Alias: Aneir a-staigh
Local fishermen differentiate between Aneir a-muigh and Aneir a-staigh. There may be a connection with G ainnir, ‘girl’, possibly designating a rock formation.

Aneir a-muigh
*outer A.*
See Aneir.

Aneir a-staigh
*inner A.*
Alias: Aneir
See Aneir.

Aonach
*flat-topped height*
4 The Gazetteer

1823 Aonig
See Bàgh na h-Aoineig.

Archie Rock ['arki,rok] NF725085 231 R SH
The source does not reveal whether the specific refers to an arch-shaped rock or to a person called Archie.

Ard nan Capuill [a:rd na'ya:ga'pol] NL572849 260 R OS*
headland of the mares
1823 Airdnacaple, 1846 Airdnacapl, 1901 Mare Point

Ardgheilinxinish [a:rd'jei tiNi] NF713045 231 R OS*
point of the headland of the Shetlander (?)
1823 Ardgheldernish
A low-lying peninsula south of the Tràigh Mhór. The second element may be a derivation of the ON word for a person from Shetland, 'hjaltr', m. The latter would correspond with the use of this element as a specific in the Norwegian place-names of Hjeltynes (Rygh, G11) and Hjeltefjorden (Sandnes, 1976:156). Less likely is a connection with the ON 'geil' used in fish-drying as the sound of /ti/ in the above name is not accounted for.

Ardmhór [a:rd 'vor] NF713039 231 S OS*
large headland
1823 Ardhealish, 1834 Ardmhor

Ardveenish [a:rd 'viNi] NF707036 231 S OS*
point of the middle headland
1823 Ardvihinish
This peninsula is located between the peninsulas of Ardmhor and Bruernish which explains the obvious choice of name. A combination of G ãird, f, 'point', and G meadhon, a loan form Lat. medius, 'middle', and ON nes, m, 'headland'.

Ardvuran [a:rd 'vuRan] NF668049 231 R OS*
headland of the bent grass
1823 Ardvaran
The OS locate this name 200m further west of the NGR given above.

Arnamul [a:rn'omul] NL545825 260 I OS*
eagle rock
1654 Arnislum, 1823 Arnimul, 1901 South Green Island
Alias: Green Island, An t-Eilean Uaine
Arnamul is an island but may at one time have been attached to Mingulay. The use of ON múli is inconsistent within Barra place-names. Although usually describing a high-lying headland or a mountain, places which do not fulfil this requirement, such as entirely detached islands or small islands close to larger ones, may also incorporate this element. Further investigation of the use of ON múli is essential.

Astronomer's Cell [as'tra:nomor sel] NF703068 231 S AD
1874 Cell, 1874 Astronomer's Cell

Bac ['ba:k] NF653008 231 R OS
bank
**G gac** is a loan from **ON** bakki, m, ‘bank’. In **G** gac-mônach, m, it has the meaning of ‘peat-bank’. It is possible that the above place-name is an abbreviated form of bac-mônach (see Dwelly, 1901:57).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bac</strong></th>
<th><strong>G gac</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peat-bank</td>
<td>[ˈbɑːk]</td>
<td>NF653008</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>CR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1823 Bachd, 1901 Bacca
See Bac.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bac Raghnaill Mhóir</strong></th>
<th><strong>Big Ronald’s hollow / peat-bank</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbɑːk ˌrɔː̚-əlvoːr]</td>
<td>NF713016</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Bac.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bac Scan</strong></th>
<th><strong>Scan’s hollow / peat-bank</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbɑːk ˈskən]</td>
<td>NF714015</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Bac.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh a Tuath Shanndraigh</strong></th>
<th><strong>northern bay of S.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhə tʰˈua ˈhaʊndɾeːi]</td>
<td>NL631922</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alias: Bàgh Shiaidair
G bàgh, m, from **ON** vágr. See Sandray.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh a’ Chàrnaich</strong></th>
<th><strong>bay of the stony ground</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhənˈkʃərniːk]</td>
<td>NL691975</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Am Bàgh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh a’ Chuinic Mhóir</strong></th>
<th><strong>bay of the big mountain</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhə kruːiːk ˈvoːr]</td>
<td>NF715042</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is possible that this location is also called Am Bàgh Mór. The exact location of Am Bàgh Mór is uncertain, it is thought to be at NF711043. See Am Bàgh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh a’ Deas</strong></th>
<th><strong>south bay</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhə dəʃəs]</td>
<td>NL636935</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Am Bàgh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh an Dùin Bhàin</strong></th>
<th><strong>bay of the white fort</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhən dʊn ˈvəːn]</td>
<td>NF631005</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Am Bàgh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh an Éisg Dhriomain</strong></th>
<th><strong>bay of the mullet</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhə Nesk ˈtrɪmən]</td>
<td>NF716020</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alias: Bàgh Seónaid
The second part of the specific is derived from **G** druim, ‘ridge’ and **G** fionn, ‘white’, meaning white-backed. See Am Bàgh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh an t-Suidheachain</strong></th>
<th><strong>bay of the seat</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːhən ˈtuːiəxən]</td>
<td>NF686056</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Am Bàgh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bàgh Bàn</strong></th>
<th><strong>white bay</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Map Code</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ˈbaːh ˈbɑːn]</td>
<td>NL650922</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See Am Bàgh.

Bàgh Beag 
\[\text{Bay Beag}\]
small bay
1823 Little Bay
Malcolm MacAulay gives Bàgh Beag Cheann Tangabhail as an extended version of this name. See Am Bàgh.

Bàgh Beag Glaic Choinnich
\[\text{Bay Beag Glaic Choinnich}\]
small bay of G.
See Am Bàgh and Glaic-Choinnich.

Bàgh Chàrâis
\[\text{Bay Chàrâis}\]
bay of the reed headland
Alias: Hintish Bay
See Am Bàgh. The second element contains ON kjarr, n, 'reed', 'thicket' and possibly ON nes, n, 'headland'.

Bàgh Ghunamul
\[\text{Bay Ghunamul}\]
bay of G.
See Am Bàgh and Gunamul.

Bàgh Haussevik
\[\text{Bay Haussevik}\]
skull bay
'Hauss', m, is the ON term for 'skull'. In place-names it is used for round summits and may be used for small islands, mountains and settlements (Rygh, 1898:53). See Am Bàgh.

Bàgh Héigeo
\[\text{Bay Héigeo}\]
bay of ?
The specific possibly contains ON gja, f, 'gully'. The first part of the specific is obscure. An alternative location for this name is at NF638005. Other suggested spellings are Headhcu, Heicu and Heico. In local tradition the specific is thought to derive from the ON personal name Hákon. Although King Hákon of Norway used to frequent the Hebrides, Lind (1915) does not provide enough linguistic evidence to support this theory. Alternatively the specific may be a lenited form of G séige, 'bent grass'. See Am Bàgh.

Bàgh Héisegeo
\[\text{Bay Héisegeo}\]
bay of the gully of the small bay (?)
The long vowel /e:/ of the specific may be broken into a diphthong and result in a possible derivation from ON kjoss, 'little bay'. See Sloc Héisegeo and Sloc Hiasigeo.

Bàgh Hirivagh
\[\text{Bay Hirivagh}\]
dry bay
See Am Bàgh and see Bayhirivagh.

Bàgh Hòraid
\[\text{Bay Hòraid}\]
bay of ?
Alias: Bàgh na Teileagraf
Bàgh Hòraid is Brevig usage. Locals locate this name at NL690974 or at NL690973. Both location and spelling are uncertain. The meaning may originate from G òraid , 'speech', 'oration', 'prayer' (Dwelly, 1901:710). Ronald Black suggests a possible link with G mòraid, 'moorings'. See Am Bàgh.
Bagh Huilavagh

bay of hills
c.1822 Uillhibha, 1823 Bahulavagh, 1874 Hulavay Bay
A local informant associated the specific with G uille, the genitive of uileann, 'elbow-joint'. In this syntax the name appears to be more likely of ON origin. Cox collected the name Ceann Thulabhaig in Lewis and derives it from ON Huglauik, ‘bay of hills’ (Cox, 1985: name 620). As the bay is very narrow, much like a canal, the surrounding hills dominate the scenery. Cox’s interpretation of the name appears to be applicable in the Barra context. See Am Bågh.

Bagh Lachlann

bay of Lachlan
See Am Bågh.

Bagh Leithinis

bay of L.
See Am Bågh and Leanish.

Bagh na Coille

bay of the vegetation
See Am Bågh.

Bagh na h-Aoineig

bay of the flat-topped height
Alias: Night Bay
See Am Bågh.

Bagh na h-Aonaich

bay of the flat-topped height
1823 Beirranahina, 1846 Berranahind
See Am Bågh.

Bagh na Sgeir Léitheadh

bay of the grey skerry
See Am Bågh. G sgeir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, ‘skerry’.

Bagh na Steinn

bay of the rock
See Am Bågh. This name refers to A’ Steinn as the rock on which the castle stands. Bågh na Steinn forms the inner section of Castle Bay.

Bagh na Teileagraf

bay of the telegraph cable
Alias: Bågh Höraid
See Am Bågh.

Bagh nam Feusgan

bay of the mussels
1878 Bågh nan Easgann
See Am Bågh. The 1878 OS Object Name Book entry did not find its way onto the map.
Bagh nan Clach
bay of the stones
1874 Stoney Bay
Alias: Mol Sgurabhail, Stony Bay
See Am Bågh.

Bagh nan Cruach
bay of the peat stacks
This used to be the loading place for peat cut for the glass factory. See Am Bågh.

Bagh nan Each
bay of the horses
See Am Bågh.

Bagh nan Greòd
gavel bay
For the generic see Am Bågh. The specific is derived from ON grj6t, n, ‘gravel’.

Bagh nan Ròin
bay of the seals
Alias: Seal Bay, Am Bågh
See Am Bågh.

Bagh Rubha na Tobhtaig
bay of Peter’s point
A combination of G ‘bàgh, m, from Eng. ‘bay’, G ‘rubha, m, ‘promontory’, and the diminutive form of G ‘tobhta, f, a loan from ON toft, ‘walls of a house’.

Bagh Rubha Pheadair
bay of Peter’s point
See Am Bågh.

Bagh Seònaid
Janet’s bay
Alias: Bågh an Êisg Dhriomain
See Am Bågh.

Bagh Shiadair
bay of the dwelling / farm
Alias: Bågh a Tuath Shanndraigh
See Am Bågh.

Bagh Siar
west bay

Bagh Sloc an Ìm
bay of the gully of butler
See Am Bågh.

Bagh Thréisibhig
[.ba ‘refivik]
NL569797 260 W OR
Bay of T.
One informant provided the alternative spelling of Bagh Tarnesibhig. See Am Bagh and Tresivick.

Baile MhicNéill
1901 -
Alias: Castlebay, Bagh a’ Chaisteil
This name was remembered by few informants as the old name of Castlebay. It is listed in Dwelly (1901:1009) as the official G name for Castlebay.

Balnabodach
milking-place of the old men
1814 Bualenanbodach, 1823 Buailanbodach, 1828 Bolinabodach, 1874 Old Mans Fold
“MacNeil of Barra’s wife was passing through the buaille (fold) when the women were milking. It was the custom to offer a drink to anyone who passed but for some reason she was not offered it. She cried at the top of her voice: “Bithidh fein Buaile nam Bodach!”, ‘May yourselves be the fold of the old men’, which was understood to predict for them belated marriages, and unhappy homes afterwards.” Farquhar MacRae (See Maclean manuscripts, P. 8103).

Bannaig
straight way
Barnaig or Banaik are variations of this name. This name is likely to be derived from the ON adj. beinn, ‘straight’, and vegr, ‘path’, ‘route’.

Bannish
straight headland
Alias: Wedding Point, Rubha Bheanais
Also known as Bennish or Rubha Bheanais. The name is likely to originate from the ON adj. beinn, ‘straight’ and ON nes, n, ‘headland’.

Banca Fhlodaigh
bank of F.
G fian, f, gaelicized form of Eng. bank. See Flodday.

Barnacle Rock
1901 Limpet Rock
Donald MacNeil gives the G version, Sgeir nam Bairnichean, for this place.

Barra
1549 Baray, 1654 Barra, 1695 Barray, 1764 Baray, 1845 Barray, 1848 Barra, 1854 Barra(y)
The generic is derived from ON øy, f, island. A derivation of the first element from St. Finbar appears most unlikely. It is more likely that the specific is of a descriptive nature such as the ON adj. berr, ‘naked’, ‘bare’ or the ON adj. barr, ‘rough’. There is, however, the possibility that the name Barra is pre-Celtic as is the case with names of some other Hebridean islands.

Barra Head
1794b Bara Head, 1823 Barra Head, 1845 Bararray Head, 1846 Barra Head, 1854 - , 1865 -
The OS name Barra Head is often used synonymously for the most southern island of that chain, Berneray.
Bay Analepp 
*bay of A.*
1901 Anne’s Bay
The historic form of 1901 is very likely to be a misinterpretation as Sharbau, the surveyor, relied almost entirely on information based on charts. See Analepp an Ear.

Bay Hunadu 
1865 B. of Sonodal
The generic is Eng. but takes front position. The meaning of the specific is obscure. It may contain the ON personal name for males ‘Hundi’. The OS Object Name Book lists a possible derivation from G Băgh a’ Chinn Duibh, ‘bay of the black head’, but gives no further information. Cox lists Toma Dubha, ‘dark hills’, in his collection of names (see Cox, 1987:232, pt. 2) which may correspond with the above specific.

Bay Sletta 
*bay of the plain*
The specific is ON slétta, f, ‘level piece of ground’.

Bay herivagh 
*dry bay*
1814 Balhirrabha
A tautological combination of Eng. bay, the ON adj. burr, ‘dry’ and ON vágr, m, ‘sheltered bay’.

Bealach a’ Mhaim 
*pass of the breast*
1823 Bealackamhaim, 1878 Bealach a’ Mhainn

Bealach a’ Phuinnd 
*pass of the fold*
This primary name is related to Sruth Bealach a’ Phuinnd. G punnd, m, ‘fold’, is a loan from Sco. pound. According to Ian A. Fraser, a pound was used for enclosing strayed livestock, which had to have access to feed and water until collected by their owners.

Bealach an Dà-bheinn 
*pass of the two mountains*
Alias: Eadar an Dà Bheinn

Bealach an Dreann 
*pass of the haste*
1823 Bealachandreann
For the specific Dwelly (1901:358) lists the additional meanings of ‘contention’, ‘battle’, ‘grief’ and ‘pain’.

Bealach an Duine 
*pass of the man*

Bealach an Sguile 
*pass of the creel*
Bealach Bhréibhig
pass of B.
Alias: Am Bealach
See Brevig.

Bealach Carnach
pass full of cairns

Bealach Chordale
pass of C.
1823 Bealachchordale
See Cordale.

Bealach Dhuggain
Fr. Duggan's pass
Rev. Dermit Duggan was a priest in Barra from 1652-1657. He regularly passed this place
on his way from Craigston to the east side of Barra.

Bealach Iain
Ian's pass

Bealach na Beinne Bige
pass of the small mountain

Bealach na Cruidhe
pass of the horse-shoe

Bealach na Gaoithe
windy pass
1823 Bealachnagaoi

Bealach na Gaoithe
windy pass

Bealach na Haf
pass of the sea
The Gaels use Na Haf, a word which is of ON origin, as a general term for the West Atlantic
(see McDonald, 1958:148). ON haf, n, 'the sea'.

Bealach nan Càrn
pass of the cairns

Bealach nan Daoine
pass of the men

Bealach nan Gall
pass of the strangers
1823 Bealachnagaul
"The place is named after mainland raiders who were stopped by two boys, each the son of
a widow, from Tangusdale." Nan MacKinnon (see SA 1960/117/B13).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>OS*</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bealach Port a' Bhualte</td>
<td>pass of P.</td>
<td>NL682978</td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Port a' Bhualte.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaton's Shoal</td>
<td>1874 Beaton's Shoal</td>
<td>NF755014</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Bogha Bheannachan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn a' Charnain</td>
<td>mountain of the little cairn</td>
<td>NF753043</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn a' Cheathaich (?)</td>
<td>misty (?) mountain</td>
<td>NL672976</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Ben Orosay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn a' Ghoirtein</td>
<td>mountain of the little field</td>
<td>NL638982</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Beinhghorstin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn an Lochain</td>
<td>mountain of the small loch</td>
<td>NL643985</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn Chaolais</td>
<td>hill of C.</td>
<td>NL627972</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865 -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Caolis.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn Ghunnairigh</td>
<td>mountain of Gunnar's shieling</td>
<td>NF681020</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Beinhghunarie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Gunnairigh.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn Hirivagh</td>
<td>mountain of the dry bay</td>
<td>NF699035</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>1823 Beinhhiravagh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ML</td>
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<tr>
<td>See Bhagh Hirivagh.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beinn Mhcartaing</td>
<td>Martin's mountain</td>
<td>NF664021</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Beinvastin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Beinn Sgiodair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn na Cailliche</td>
<td>mountain of the old woman</td>
<td>NL634991</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: A' Bheinn Bhreac</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beinn na Cuidhe Fhaliche</td>
<td>mountain of the hidden enclosure</td>
<td>NL623988</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Cuialachmore, A' Bheinn Bheag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beinn na Faire  
1901 Bein Hereva  
*mountain of the look-out*

Sharbau’s entry of Bein Hereva at this location is either an alias possibly as ‘Beinn Hirivagh’ relating to the proximity of Bâgh Hirivagh or it is a form of Ben Erival which has been located incorrectly. His entry of Bein na Heira which he possibly incorrectly located at the site of Ben Erival may be a historic form of the above Beinn na Faire, i.e. Beinn na h-Aire. Cf. Tom na h-Aire at Inverlochy.

**Beinn na Leòg**  
*mountain of the marsh*

One informant suspects an OS error and suggests Beinn na Laig, ‘mountain of the hollow between two knolls’.

**Beinn na Mòine**  
1901 Bein na Monach  
*peat hill*

**Beinn na Mòna**  
1823 Beinamona  
*peat hill*

**Beinn na Mòna**  
1901 Bein na Monach  
*peat hill*

**Beinn na Mòna Bheag**  
1823 Beinamonabeg  
*small peat hill*

**Beinn nan Càrnan**  
1823 Beinnacarnan  
*mountain of the little cairns*

**Beinn nan Carnan**  
1865 Beinn a Carnan  
*mountain of the little cairns*

**Beinn nan Coileach**  
1823 Beinnahaob, 1901 Bein Obb  
*mountain of the grouse / rills of water*

G coileach, m, has the meanings of ‘grouse’, ‘moor cock’ and ‘rill of water’.

**Beinn Òb a Deas**  
1823 Beinnahaob  
*south mountain of the enclosed bay*

A combination of G beinn, f, ‘mountain’, ON hópr, m, ‘enclosed bay’ and the G adj. a deas, ‘south’.

**Beinn Òb a Tuath**  
1823 Beinnahaob, 1901 Bein Obb  
*north mountain of the enclosed bay*

Alias: Ben Obe
Local informants divide the location pointed out by the OS as Ben Obe into the northern and the southern Ben Obe. Beinn Òb a Tuath and the OS Ben Obe are names for the same location. See Beinn Òb a Deas.

**Beinn Sgiodair**

*mountain of the puddle*

Alias: Beinn Mhartainn

This primary name is extracted from the secondary name Lèana Beinn Sgiodair.

**Beinn Slétta**

*hill of the plain*

1823 Beinsleita, 1901 Bein Sleita

Alias: Tom a’ Mhaide

ON slétta, f, ‘level piece of ground’.

**Ben Bheg Eoligarry**

*small mountain of E.*

1823 Beinveg

Alias: A’ Bheinn Bheag

Ben Bheg Eoligarry, as entered on the OS map, has a corresponding mountain in the west, named A’ Bheinn Mhór, marked as Ben Eoligarry Mór by the OS. The use of the specific in both names is inconsistent and the spelling is incorrect. See Eoligarry.

**Ben Cliad**

*mountain of C.*

1823 Beinchlade, 1901 Bein Cleach

The specific is related to ON klettr, m, ‘hill’. See Cleat.

**Ben Cuier**

*mountain of C.*

1823 Beincuier, 1865 B. Chuil, 1901 Bein Chuil

The specific, Cuier, is related to ON kví, f, ‘enclosure’.

**Ben Eoligarry Mór**

*large mountain of E.*

1823 Beinvore, 1874 Bein Eoligary

Alias: A’ Bheinn Mhór

The OS version is misspelt. See comments on A’ Bheinn Bheag NF705071. See Eoligarry.

**Ben Erival**

*mountain at the sandbank*

1823 Benarimore, 1865 Bein Erivall

Possibly a combination of G beinn, f, ‘mountain’, ON eyrr, f, ‘sand or gravel bank at the mouth of a river’ and ON fjall, n, ‘mountain’. Eysteinsson, however, lists the almost similar sounding name Oreval in his collection on Harris place-names which he derives from ON orri, m, ‘grouse’ and ON fjall, n, ‘hill’. (See Eysteinsson, 1992:51). Sharbau’s entry of Ben na Heira at this location is likely to be placed incorrectly on his plan. There is a hill called Beinn na Faire closeby.
Ben Gunnary  
mountain of G.  
1901 Bein Gunerie  
See Gunnairigh.

Ben Leribreck  
mountain of the clay slope  
1823 Beinheribreck  
Possibly from ON leirr, m, 'clay', ON brekka, f, 'slope'. Its location may be within one kilometre of this NGR.

Ben Leribreck  
mountain of the clay slope of K.  
See Ben Leribreck.

Ben Leribreck Glen  
mountain of the clay slope of G.  
See Ben Leribreck.

Ben na Scute  
1823 Beinacuad, 1865 Beinn na Scoot, 1901 Bein na Scool  
A combination of G beinn, 'mountain' and possibly G sguit, f, 'basket for holding wool' (Dwelly, 1901:836.)

Ben Obe  
mountain of the enclosed bay  
1865 Bein Obb  
Alias: Beinn Òb a Tuath  
Local informants divide this location name into the northern and the southern Ben Ob. Beinn Òb a Tuath and the OS Ben Obe lie at the same location. A combination of G beinn, f, 'mountain' and hópr, m, 'enclosed bay'.

Ben Orosay  
mountain of O.  
1823 Beinornsay, 1865 Beinn Oronsay  
See Orosay.

Ben Rulibreck  
uneven mountain  
1823 Beinruillibrick, 1901 Bein Rulibreac  
A combination of G beinn, f, 'mountain', the ON adj. rugl, 'uneven', 'bent' and ON brekka, f, 'slope'.

Ben Scurrival

mountain of S.

1823 Beincurreival, 1874 Ben Scurrival
See Scurrival.

Ben Tangaval

mountain of the promontory

1865 Beinn Tanguall
Alias: A' Bheinn Mhòr
A combination of G beinn, f, 'mountain', ON tangi, m, 'promontory' and ON fjall, n, 'mountain'.

Ben Vaslain

mountain of V.
See Vaslain.

Ben Verrisey

[hein 'virisig]
1823 Beinvirishig, 1878 Ben Verrisig, 1901 Bein Verasa
The OS location of this name was incorrectly marked at NF683027. Local informants suggested the NGR mentioned above. The generic is G beinn, f, 'mountain', the second part of the name is obscure.

Berneray

'Bærnaír]

1549 Berneray, 1654 Bernera, 1794a Bernaray, 1794b Berneray, 1823 Bernera, 1840 Berneray, 1848 Bernera I., 1854 Bernera, 1865 -
Borgstrøm discusses this name in Campbell, 1936:289. He suggests Bearnaraidh as G spelling and Bjarnarey as ON spelling. The specific is derived from ON bjørn, m, 'bear' or from the ON personal name Bjørn. The generic is derived from ON ey, f, 'island'.

Beul a' Bhàigh

mouth of the bay
See Am Bàigh.

Beul a' Bhealaich

opening of the pass
1823 Bealavealich

Beul a' Chaolais

opening of the sound
This primary name is part of Pàirc Beul a' Chaolais. In its current location the name appears out of place, as the 'Caolas', the sound separating Barra from Vatersay, is located behind Ben Tangaval.

Beul an Fheadain

opening of the crevice through which the wind whistles
G feadan can have a number of different meanings such as 'canal', 'flute', 'chanter', 'rivulet', 'reed' or the one given above (see Dwelly, 1901:420).

Beul an t-Sruth

[heal]. OR
mouth of the current

Beul Gréin  
*mouth of the bottom*
A variation is Beul Greme.

Beul na Creige  
*mouth of the rock*

Bight a Deas  
*south bay*
‘Bight’ is related to G bideadh, the ‘bite’.

Bight a Deas Sgeir  
*Noddimul*
*south bay of S.*
See Noddimul in Knock Noddimul. G sgeir, f, is a loan from ON sker, n, ‘skerry’. See Bight a Deas.

Bight a’ Ghille Ruaidh  
*Bay of the red boy*
The specific of this name is a striking rock off the north coast of Mingulay. See Bight a Deas and The Reel Boy.

Bight Caolas na h-Adhairc  
*Bay of C.*
See Bight a Deas and Caolas na h-Adhairc.

Bird Rock  
1865 -
Alias: Na Creanan, Sgeir a’ Chìrein, Sgeir an t-Salainn

Biruaslum  
*Berra’s (?) island*
1654 Bereslum, 1823 Bierislam, 1846 Bierislam, 1865 Bierislam, 1878 Birastil
This tidal island holds an ancient fort. The specific may derive from the ON personal name for females, ‘Beru’ or ‘Bera’. A derivation from a personal name would in most cases require an s-genitive and fit in with the representation of sounds. The generic is derived from ON holmr, m, ‘island’.

Bishop’s Isles  
*The Bishop’s Isles*
1695 Bishop’s Isles, 1794b The Bishop’s Isles
There is some confusion as to what islands are included in this term. Berneray, Mingulay and Pabbay are always included in this group, sometimes Sandray too, and on inaccurate maps sometimes even Vatersay.

Biulacraig  
*Edge rock*
1823 Binlachraig, 1901 Eagle Cliff
Alias: A’ Chreag Mhór
This name is likely to be a combination of G bile, f, ‘edge’, ‘margin’, ‘rim’ (see Dwelly, 1901:94) and G creag, f, ‘rock’, ‘cliff’. The second element G craig should be lenited, but it isn’t. It seems to have been lenited in 1823. The letter ‘n’ in Maclean’s form will be a misinterpreted or misspelt letter ‘u’. MacBain (1911:32) lists G bil, bile, ‘edge’, ‘lip’ and derives it from Ir. bil, ‘mouth’. The Scottish G version of beul for ‘mouth’ may account for the use of ‘u’ in the spelling of the above place-name. There may be a connection with the second element of the specific of Carraig Bilibibi.
Black Islands
1874 Black Island
Alias: Na h-Eileanan Dubha

Bodach Fhùaigh
old man of Fuiay
Alias: Sleeping Indian
See Fuiay.

Bogach
swamp
1823 Bogach na Falla
Alias: Bogach na Fala
Maclean’s name from 1823 Bogach na Falla, ‘swamp of blood’, is likely to indicate that this area was used when bleeding animals to obtain blood for making puddings.

Bogach an Tàilleir
swamp of the tailor
G tàillear, m, a loan from Eng. tailor.

Bogach Leithinis
swamp of L.
See Leanish.

Bogach na Fala
swamp of the blood
This is a historical name of a place nowadays known as Bogach. The G specific fala is the gen. of fuil, f, ‘blood’. The boggy area the place-name describes may have been used for bleeding cattle. See Bogach.

Bogh’ic Gille Pheadair
sunken rock of the son of Gille Pheadair
1865 Bovich il a Vhetir, 1901 Bovick-il-a-Vhetur
Alias: Peter Rock
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaigh.

Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh
sunken rock of the bay
G bogha, m, a loan from ON boði, m, ‘reef’.

Bogh’ a’ Chaitpein
sunken rock of the captain
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaigh.

Bogh’ a’ Chaolais Bhàin
sunken rock of C.
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaigh and An Caolais Bàin.

Bogh’ a’ Chléirich
sunken rock of the clergyman
1865 Bo na Clerich, 1901 Bo' na Cleirich / Clerk's Rock
A minister is supposed to have been shot at this point. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ a’ Churaich**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of the wicker boat*
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ a’ Mhill**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of the knoll*
One of the fishing-marks for this reef is likely to be Meall Mòr, located in the south-east of Hellisay. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ Áird a’ Chaolais**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of A.*
1865 Ard Caolas (breaker)
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Aird a’ Chaolais.

**Bogh’ an t-Suidheachain**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of S.*
Suidheachain, the house at Vaslain, serves as a fishing mark. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Suidheachan.

**Bogh’ an Taigh Ghil**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of the white house*
Taigh Geal is the G name for Eoligarry House. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ an Tairbh**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of the bull*
1874 Bull’s Rock
Alias: Am Bogha Carach, Sgeir an Tairbh
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ an Tairbh**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of the bull*
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ an Turcaich**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of the turk*
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ Eachainn**
*Hector’s sunken rock*
Alias: Am Bogha Tàmh
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogh’ Eilean na Coille**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of E.*
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Eilean na Coille.

**Bogh’ Rubh’ a’ Chàrnain**
\[&bog LGBT \] *sunken rock of R.*
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Rubh' a' Chàrnain.

**Bogha Árnamul**
\[\text{[bò 'áɾnəməl]}\]
\[\text{NL542829} \quad 260 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**small sunken rock of A.**
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Árnamul.

**Bogha Beag Chliaid**
\[\text{[bò 'bèk 'xliai'd]}\]
\[\text{NF667053} \quad 231 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**small sunken rock of C.**

*Alias: Am Bogha Beag*

See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Clet.

**Bogha Beag na Carraige**
\[\text{[bò 'bèknə 'karkə̆]}\]
\[\text{NL622979} \quad 247 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**small sunken rock of the fishing rock**

See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

**Bogha Beag Orosaigh**
\[\text{[bò 'bèknə 'orə-əsə̆]}\]
\[\text{NL641970} \quad 247 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**small sunken rock of O.**

See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Orosay.

**Bogha Beinn Chliaid**
\[\text{[bò 'bèin 'xliai'd]}\]
\[\text{NF751017} \quad 231 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**sunken rock of B.**

See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Ben Cliaid.

**Bogha Beul a' Bhàigh**
\[\text{[bò 'bùlə 'văɬ]}\]
\[\text{NF736017} \quad 231 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**sunken rock of B.**

See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Beul a' Bhàigh.

**Bogha Bheannachan**
\[\text{[bò 'və̆nəkə̆n]}\]
\[\text{NL644956} \quad 247 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**sunken rock of blessings**

As this reef is a dangerous place for boats the inspiration for the choice of generic may have been taken from a sailor blessing himself in order to circumnavigate this rock safely. See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

**Bogha Bheannachan**
\[\text{[bò 'və̆nəkə̆n]}\]
\[\text{NF755014} \quad 231 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{AD}\]

1874 Bo Beannachan

*Alias: Beatson's Shoal*

"The name on the English chart is Dixon's Rock, but that was just a corruption of the man who took it down." Neil MacNeil. The OS location of this name at NF756025 is wrong, as is Bo Bheannachan, the OS spelling. See Bogha Bheannachan (above), see Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

**Bogha Chavalier**
\[\text{[bò 'kəvaliər]}\]
\[\text{NF725028} \quad 231 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**sunken rock of the 'Cavalier'**

The cargo boat *Cavalier* once hit this rock but did not sink. See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

**Bogha Chigein a Deas**
\[\text{[bò 'çigənə 'dəes]}\]
\[\text{NL617866} \quad 260 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]

**southern seal reef**

*Alias: Bogha Chigein Mór*

Dwelly (1901:See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

**Bogha Chigein an Ear**
\[\text{[bò 'çigənə 'nəər]}\]
\[\text{NL618873} \quad 260 \quad \text{U} \quad \text{OR}\]
eastern scat reef
Alias: Bogha Chigein Beag
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Chigein Beag
small scat reef
Alias: Bogha Chigein an Ear
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Chigein Mòr
large scat reef
Alias: Bogha Chigein a Deas
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Dòrbhair
sunken rock of the drover
An alternative location is a NF726105. See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Druim Slàinte
sunken rock of the ridge of salvation
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Dubh an Dùin
black sunken rock of the fort
Alias: Twin Rocks, Am Bogha Dubh
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Glaic Mheallt'
sunken rock of the deceptive hollow
Alias: Am Bogha Ruadh
Bogha Glaic Mheallt' is the Bruernish usage. The Northbay usage is Am Bogha Ruadh. Mheallt is the gen. case of G mealladh, 'seduction', 'deception'. See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and see Glac Mheallt'.

Bogha Holisgeir
sunken rock of H.
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh and Holisgeir.

Bogha Leathainn
broad sunken rock
1865 Bo Leahan
Alias: Bogha Ruadh a-muigh
See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Mhic Doonan
Doonan's son's sunken rock
1865 Bovich Dhunan
Alias: A' Chaigionnach
Ronald Black suggests Doonan to be an Irish name. See Bogh' a' Bhàigh.

Bogha Mòr Chliaid
[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL618873 260 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL617866 260 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NF743043 231 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NF760025 231 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL541819 260 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NF734026 231 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL625981 247 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL620982 247 U AD

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL614983 247 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL614983 247 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NL614983 247 U OR

[\(\text{\text{bogha mo\'r chliaid}}\)
NF666054 231 U OR
big sunken rock of C.
Alias: Am Bogha Mór
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh and Cleat.

Bogha na Cloiche Mòire
sunken rock of the large stone
1874 Bo na clach more
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh.

Bogha na Cuidhe Mhùir
sunken rock of the large enclosure
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh. G cuidhe, f, a loan from ON kví, f, ‘enclosure’.

Bogha na Drifter
sunken rock of the ‘Drifter’
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh.

Bogha na h-Áirde
sunken rock of the headland
1901 Bo’ na Ard.

Bogha na h-Éiginn
sunken rock of the crisis / danger / disaster
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh.

Bogha na h-Enterprise
sunken rock of the ‘Enterprise’
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh.

Bogha na h-Uamha Bige
sunken rock of U.
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh and An Uamh Bheag.

Bogha na h-Urchrach
sunken rock of the (length of a) bow-shot or gun-shot
The dictionary lists urchair (gen. here urchrach) with the possible translations ‘sudden movement’, ‘shot’ and ‘cast’ (Dwelly, 1901:998). It is likely to indicate some sort of measurement. See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh and see Bogha nan Gunnachan.

Bogha na Lice
sunken rock of the flagstone
1865 Bo na Lichte
See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh.

Bogha na Scadán
sunken rock of the ‘Scadán’
The specific is the name of a boat and sounds like the Irish word for herring, scadán. It is likely to have designated an Irish boat. See Bogh’ a’ Bhaìgh.

Bogha na Seòlaid
sunken rock of the passage for vessels
Dwelly (1901:808) lists a number of different meanings for G seolaid, f, such as ‘pier’, ‘haven’, ‘passage for vessels’, ‘anchorage’, ‘harbour’ and ‘fairway in the sea’. As Bogha na Seolaid is located at the entrance to Castle Bay, the above mentioned translation ‘reef of the passage for vessels’ appears to be the most suitable interpretation. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha na Sgeire Ghlaise**

sunken rock of the grey-green skerry

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh. G sgeir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, ‘skerry’.

**Bogha na St. Margaret**

sunken rock of the ‘St. Margaret’

The ‘St. Margaret’ is a ship. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha nan Gunnachan**

sunken rock of the guns

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh. G gunna, m + f, is a loan from MEng. gunne, ‘gun’. See Bogh’ na h-Urchrach.

**Bogha nan Laogh**

sunken rock of the calves

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha nan Sgeirean Beaga**

sunken rock of the small skerries

1874 Bo Sgeiran Beg

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh. G sgeir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, ‘skerry’.

**Bogha nan Sgeirean Móra**

sunken rock of the big skerries

1874 Bo Sgeiran Mora

Alias: Glassgeir

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh. See Bogh’ nan Sgeirean Beaga.

**Bogha nan Treigeil**

sunken rock of the treacles

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha nan Trosg**

sunken rock of the cod

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh. G trosg, m, a loan from ON þurskr, m, ‘cod-fish’.

**Bogha Néill an Tàilleir**

sunken rock of Neil (son of) the tailor

Alias: Sgeir Néill an Tàilleir, Sgeirean Sloc Ghleannsàicb

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh. G tàillear, m, a loan from Eng. tailor.

**Bogha Ruadh a-muigh**

outer red sunken rock

Alias: Bogha Leathainn

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.
**Bogha Ruadh a-staigh**
inner red sunken rock
Alias: Holisgeir, Sgeir Holisgeir
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Rubha Bhuidhe**
sunken rock of R.
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Rubha Dubh**
sunken rock of R.
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Sgòr na Còrcaich**
reef of S.
This name describes a fishing mark. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Sgòr na Còrcaich.

**Bogha Shnagaras**
sunken rock of S.
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Snagaras.

**Bogha Sloc an Rathaid**
sunken rock of S.
A combination of G bogha, m, from ON booi, m, ‘reef’, G sloc, m, ‘gully’ and G rathad, m, a loan from MEng. roade, ‘road’.

**Bogha Sloc na h-Ighne**
sunken rock of S.
See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Sloc na h-Ighne.

**Bogha Taigh Bean Dhanaidh**
sunken rock of the house of Danaidh’s wife
The location of the house of Danaidh’s wife could not be established. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Taigh Dhòmlmaill na Caise**
sunken rock of Impatient Donald’s house
The location of Impatient Donald’s house is uncertain. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Taigh Èoin**
sunken rock of Jonathan’s house
It is not possible to trace who Jonathan was and where his house was located. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Tana**
shallow sunken rock
1874 Bo Tanna
A combination of G bogha, ‘sunken rock’ from ON boði and the G adj. tana, ‘thin’, ‘shallow’.

**Bogha Teampaill**
sunken rock of the temple
This reef is possibly shaped like a temple. G teampull, m, related to Lat. templum, ‘temple’, ‘church’. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Bogha Washington**

sunken rock of Washington

The specific may have derived from a boat called ‘Washington’. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh.

**Boghannan an Rubha Phabaich**

sunken rocks of R.

This place consists of two reefs of which one is located at the NGR indicated. The second reef is marked at NL615871. See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and Rubha Phabbach.

**Boghannan Dearg’ a’ Churachain**

the red sunken rocks of the wicker-boat shaped rock

Alias: Na Boghannan Dearga, Sgeirean Dearga

**Boghannan na Tràigh Tuath**

sunken rocks of T.

See Bogh’ a’ Bhàigh and An Traigh Tuath.

**Bonnach Dhòmhnaill**

Donald’s bannock

Alias: Bonnach Fhionnlaigh

G bonnach, m, related to Sco. ‘bannock’, founded on Lat. panicum, ‘bread’.

**Bonnach Fhionnlaigh**

Finlay’s bannock

Alias: Bonnach Dhòmhnaill

See Bonnach Dhòmhnaill.

**Bonnet Rock**

1874 -

**Borarain**

This name is also known in the lenited version A’ Mhorarain. As no further information on the nature of the feature was available, the derivation of the name remains uncertain. See Bun Bhorarain.

**Borve**

fortified, high-lying village

The historical entries from 1825-28 are extracted from the Register of Sasines. See 1825 (375), 1827 (629), (669) and 1828 (788). ON borg, f, ‘fortified place’

**Borve Point**

point of B.

1823 Ardbhuiirve, 1865 Ardbhuiirve

Alias: Aird Bhuirgh

John MacNeil uses the G name, ‘Gob Aird Buirgh’, for this place. See Borve.
Bothag an Tairbh
*hut of the bull*
Alias: Taigh an Tairbh, A' Bhlianaig Ghorm
G both, m, related to Eng. booth and ON buð, f, 'hut', 'dwelling'.

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bothag an Tairbh</td>
<td>[ˈboːˌakən ˈðœɾəv]</td>
<td>NF725016 231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>See Bothag an Tairbh.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bothag Ruairidh Iain
*Roderick (of) John's hut*
See Bothag an Tairbh.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bothag Ruairidh Iain</td>
<td>[ˈboːˌak ˈruəɾi ˈiaiN]</td>
<td>NL646979 247 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>See Bothag an Tairbh.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Bràigh Allathasdail
*hill of A.*
G bràigh also means 'throat' or 'upper chest'. See Allasdale.

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<tr>
<td>Bràigh Allathasdail</td>
<td>[ˌbraː ˈaɫa-əsdəl]</td>
<td>NF674026 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>See Allasdale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bretadale
*steep valley*
The specific is a derivation of ON brattr, 'steep', and fits perfectly to the geographical layout of the place.

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<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bretadale</td>
<td>[ˈbɾetadal]</td>
<td>NL626990 247 S</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td>The specific is a derivation of ON brattr, 'steep', and fits perfectly to the geographical layout of the place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brevig
*broad bay*
1823 Breivig, 1826 Breveg, 1874 Breivig
ON breiðr, ‘broad’, ON vikr, f, ‘bay’.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brevig</td>
<td>[ˈbraːvɪk]</td>
<td>NL690980 247 S</td>
<td>OS*</td>
<td>See Brevig.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brevig Bay
*bay of B.*
See Brevig.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brevig Bay</td>
<td>[ˌbraːvɪk 'beɪ]</td>
<td>NL696985 247 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td>See Brevig.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bruach Ailein
*Allan's bank / hillside*

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruach Ailein</td>
<td>[ˈbruəx ˈelɛn]</td>
<td>NF649004 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>See Brevig.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bruach Allathasdail
*bank of A.*
1654 Allasdel/ Alloidel brugh
See Allasdale.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruach Allathasdail</td>
<td>[ˈbruəx ˈaɫa-əsdəl]</td>
<td>NF656032 231 R</td>
<td>OR*</td>
<td>See Allasdale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bruach Bearnasdale
*bank of ?*
1823 Rurnasdale
A combination of G bruach, f, ‘bank’, possibly the ON personal name for males Bjørn and ON dalr, m, ‘valley’. Bearnasdale is not known as a primary name among the local population.

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<tr>
<td>Bruach Bearnasdale</td>
<td>[ˈbruəx ˈbeəɾnəsdəl]</td>
<td>NF647019 231 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
<td>See Allasdale.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Bruach Chialla
*bank of C.*
See Chiall.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruach Chialla</td>
<td>[ˈbruə ˈʃialə]</td>
<td>NF708066 231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>See Chiall.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Bruach Hamhsdail
*bank of A.*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruach Hamhsdail</td>
<td>[ˈbruəx ˈhausdəl]</td>
<td>NL632954 247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>See Allasdale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The name designates a steep hill side. Hamhsdal is possibly derived from ON hauss, m, 'knoll', 'skull' and ON dalr, m, 'valley', meaning 'knoll valley'.

**Bruch nam Bràithrean**

*bank of the brothers*

Alias: Fiteag Mhòr

Here G bràithrean has the meaning 'twin rocks'.

**Bruernish**

*bridge headland*

1806 Bruthirnish, 1823 Bruernish

ON brú, f, gen. case sg. + pl. brúar, 'bridge', ON nes, n, 'headland'.

**Bruernish Point**

*point of B.*

See Bruernish.

**Bruthach nam Marbh**

*hillside of the dead*

The name designates a hillside which was possibly named after the coffin-carriers who used to have a rest here. (See OS Object Name Book, 1878.)

**Buaile na h-Áirde**

*enclosure of the hill*

The OS Object Name Books mention the site of a shepherd's hut and several ruins of houses at this location.

**Bun an t-Sruth**

*foot of the current*

1874 Bun Strue

**Bun Bhorarain**

*foot of B.*

The spelling is doubtful. See Borarain.

**Bun na h-Aibhne**

*foot of the river*
Bun na h-Aibhnich may be a more appropriate rendering of the pronunciation.

**Bun na h-Aibhne**
*foot of the river*

[Bun na h-Aibhne](#) NL669981 247 W OR

**Burial Ground**
1865 Cemetery

[Burial Ground](#) NL552801 260 O OS*

**Burial Ground**

[Burial Ground](#) NL565833 260 O OS

**Burial Ground**

[Burial Ground](#) NL633944 247 O OS

**Burial Ground**
1823 Burying Place

[Burial Ground](#) NF647018 231 O OS*

**Buthagan Joy**
*Joy’s small potato pits*

[Buthagan Joy](#) NL652995 247 F OR

Buthag is Barra G for ‘potato pit’. Joy is probably the woman’s name.

**Cabhlaigearraidh**
*herb garden*

[Cabhlaigearraidh](#) NL676986 247 F OR

The generic is derived from ON gerði, n, ‘enclosure’, ‘fenced field’. The specific tends to be interpreted as either Kali, an ON personal name, or as the ON adj. kald, ‘cold’ (see MacLean, 1997:21). In this case it is more likely to be derived from ON kál, n, a ‘species of nutritious herb’.

**Cachalaith nan Sgoilearan**
*gate of the scholars / pupils*

[Cachalaith nan Sgoilearan](#) NF661036 231 O OR

G sgoilear, m, related to Lat. schola, hence Eng. school.

**Cadha’ an Easbaig**
*pass of the bishop*

[Cadha’ an Easbaig](#) NF681025 231 R OR

**Cadha Mór**
*big pass*

[Cadha Mór](#) NL665997 247 R OS

**Cadha na h-Imprich**
*pass of the flitting*

[Cadha na h-Imprich](#) NL640982 247 R OR

**Cadha na h-Imprich**
*pass of the flitting*

[Cadha na h-Imprich](#) NF633001 231 R OR

**Cadha na h-Imprich**
*pass of the flitting*

[Cadha na h-Imprich](#) NF711022 231 R OR

Niall MacPherson tells that this location was said to be haunted. People who travelled on this route on stormy nights would occasionally call in at the house of the Coddy, Niall MacPherson’s father, and ask to be accompanied to the top of the pass.
Cadha na Muice
*pass of the pig*
[k‘a-ana ‘muickɔ] NF754048 231 R OR

Cairn
Sco. cairn, 'stone mound'.
[k‘ɔrn] NF652015 231 O OS

Cairn
Sco. cairn, 'stone mound'.
[k‘ɔrn] NF672017 231 O OS

Cairn
Sco. cairn, 'stone mound'.
[k‘ɔrn] NF701106 216 O OS

Cairn Galtar
*cairn of the boar*
[k‘ɔrn ‘ɡaltar] NL640915 247 R OS

Sco. cairn, 'stone mound'. ON galti, m, 'male pig'. The place-name 'Galten' is in Norway common for mountain and island names.

Cairns
Sco. cairn, 'stone mound'.
[k‘ɔrnɔs] NL618869 260 O OS

Cairns
Sco. cairn, 'stone mound'.
[k‘ɔrnɔs] NF733095 231 O OS

Calf of Muldoanich
Alias: An Laogh
See Muldoanich.

Caolas a’ Bhoga Mara
*sound of the sunken rock in the sea (?)*
[k‘ɔлас ‘vo̞marɔs] NF746022 231 W OR*

1794a Flodday Sound, 1845 -

Caolas a’ Bhogh’ Ruaidh
*sound of the B.*
[k‘ɔлас ‘vo ‘ruaj] NL620981 247 W OR

See Am Bogha Ruadh.

Caolas a’ Bhristidh Ràmh
*sound of the breaking of oars*
[k‘ɔлас ‘virifŋ ‘rʌϊː] NF733004 231 W OR

Alternatively the name may be translated as the 'sound where oars are broken'.

Caolas a’ Chleit
*sound of the rock*
[k‘ɔлас ‘xleθŋ] NL645972 247 W OR

G cleit, f, a loan from ON klettr, m, 'rock', 'rocky hill'.

Caolas a’ Chleit
*sound of the rock*
[k‘ɔлас ‘xleθŋ] NL704986 247 W OR

See Caolas a’ Chleit.

Caolas a’ Churachain
*sound of the wicker boat*
[k‘ɔлас ‘xuraxain] NL741997 247 W OR
Caolas a' Mhiriceil  
*sound of M.*  
See A' Mhiriceil.

Caolas an Doirlinn  
*sound of the headland*

Caolas an Eich  
*sound of the horse*

Caolas an Eilein  
*sound of the island*

G eilean, m, a loan from ON eyland, 'island'.

Caolas an Eilein  
*sound of the island*

See Caolas an Eilein.

Caolas an Laoigh  
*sound of the calf*

Caolas an Rubha Dhuibh  
*sound of the R.*

See An Rubha Dubh.

Caolas Árnamul  
*sound of A.*

Alias: An Caolas a Tuath  
See Árnamul.

Caolas Bank  
*bank of C.*

1865 -  
See Caolis. Eng. bank, 'shallow'.

Caolas Beag Shnuasamul  
*small sound of S.*

Alias: Caolas Mheadhoin  
See Snuasamul.

Caolas Bhioraghasdail  
*sound of B.*

Alias: Caolas Bhiruaslam  
See Sgeir Bhioraghasdail.

Caolas Bhiruaslam  
*sound of B.*

Alias: Caolas Bhioraghasdail  
See Biruaslam.

Caolas Bogha na Lice  
*sound of B.*

Alias: Caolas 'boha 'l'ickeal'  
See Bogha na Lice.
sound of B.
See Bogha na Lice.

Caolas Eilean a’ Ghamhna
sound of E.
See Eilean a’ Ghamhna.

Caolas Eilean nan Creachann
sound of E.
See Eilean nan Creachann.

Caolas Eilean nan Eun
sound of E.
See Eilean nan Eun.

Caolas Eilean nan Eun Beaga
sound of E.
See Eilean nan Eun Beaga.

Caolas Eilean nan Eun Móra
sound of E.
See Eilean nan Eun Móra.

Caolas Eilein Bhig
sound of E.
See An t-Eilean Beag.

Caolas Eilein Sheumais
sound of E.
See Eilean Sheumais.

Caolas Fhuaigh
sound of F.
See Fuiay.

Caolas Garbh Lingeigh
sound of G.
See Garbh Lingay.

Caolas Heilem
sound of H.
See Heilem.

Caolas Holisgeir
sound of H.
See Holisgeir.

Caolas Lamalum

[kˈɬɪːəs, ɬeɬˈɛnə gaʊnə] NF755048 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs, ɬeɬˈɛnə ɡrıɡraxən] NF734030 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs, ɬeɬˈɛnə niːən] NL607963 247 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs ɬeɬˈɛnə niːən bɛkə] NF646048 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs ɬeɬˈɛnə niːən moːɪɾə] NF647049 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs, ɬeɬˈɛn 'vɪk] NL654920 247 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs 'ɛɬ ˈɛn hɛmiʃ] NF741031 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs ɬuɪəl] NF737028 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs ɡərəv 'ɬɪnɡei] NF750034 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs 'heɪələm] NF735006 231 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs 'həlɪfˈkər] NL626941 247 W OR

[kˈɬɪːəs 'ləmələm] NF728032 231 W OR
sound of L.
See Lamalum.

Caolas Lingeigh Fhada
sound of L.
See Lingay-Fhada.

Caolas Mheadhoin
middle sound
Alias: Caolas Beag Shnuasamul

Caolas Mór Shnuasamul
big sound of S.
Alias: Caolas Shnuasamul, Caolas a-muigh
See Snuasimul.

Caolas na h-Adhaire
sound of the horn

Caolas na Sgeire
sound of the skerry
G sgeir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, 'skerry'.

Caolas na Sgeire Duibhe
sound of the black skerry
Alias: An Caolas a-staigh
An alternative location for this name is at NGR NL687971. See An Sgeir Dhubh.

Caolas nan Langan
sound of ling
Malcolm MacNeil locates this name at NL681944.

Caolas nan Learg
sound of the sloping shores
An alternative meaning for the specific is 'rain geese' being perhaps black-throated divers. See McDonald, 1958:161.

Caolas Orosaigh
sound of O.
See Orosay.

Caolas Orosaigh
sound of O.
There are two bridges leading to Orosay at NL666973 and NL667974. They were built during the time the island was used as a base for curing herring. See Orosay.

Caolas Sgeir a' Chlaidheimh
sound of S.
1823 Skerachluive
See Sgeir a' Chlaidheimh.
Caolas Sgeir a’ Chlaidheimh
sound of S.
See Sgeir a’ Chlaidheimh.

Caolas Sgeir Ghadhalum
sound of S.
See Sgeir Ghadhalum.

Caolas Sgeir nam Bàirnichean
sound of the skerry of barnacles
See Barnacle Rock.

Caolas Shnagaras
sound of S.
1874 Caolas Snagara
See Snagaras.

Caolas Shnuasamul
sound of S.
Alias: An Caolas a-muigh, Caolas Mór Shnuasamul
See Snuasimul.

Caolas Shòlom
sound of S.
See Solon Beag.

Caolas Uibhisteach
sound of Uist
Alias: Sound of Barra
Depending on the perspective this sound changes its name from Sound of Barra for Uist people to Caolas Uibhisteach, ‘sound of Uist’, for Barra residents.

Caolis
sound
1794a Kilis, 1794b Kyles, 1805 Kyles, 1823 Caolis, 1828 Kylis

Caragrich Island
island of the brindled fishing rock
1823 Ellencharagrich, 1901 Eilean Carraig
Locals call this place the G version of the name, Eilean Charraig Riabhaich. Presumably from G carraig, ‘fishing rock’ and G riabhach, ‘brindled’, ‘streaked’.

Caragrich Point
1823 Caragrich
See Caragrich Island.

Carasdan
reed + ?
Alias: Na Seisge
See Carasdan.
Carasdan  
[ˈkarəsdən]  
NL573842 260 V OR
reed +  ?
Alias: Carasdan bho Thuath
The first element of this name corresponds to ON kjarr, n, 'reed' or 'thicket'. The second part can not be satisfactorily explained. Another name for this area is Na Seisge, G pl. of seasg, 'reeds'.

Carasdan bho Thuath  
[ˈkarəsdən vo hoʊ]  
NL573842 260 R OR
reed +  ? of the north
1901 Carraston North
Alias: Carasdan
This name is likely to correspond to Carasdan in south Mingulay and may be regarded as its northern equivalent. See Carasdan.

Càrn a' Ghille  
[kərənəˈɡɪlə]  
NF662026 231 O OR
cairn of the boy

Càrn na h-Ighne  
[kərənə həɪŋə]  
NF683001 231 O OR
cairn of the girl
A long time ago a young girl died at this place.

Càrn Rubh' MhicFhearchair  
[kərən ru̞ biɪk ˈkrefəɾ]  
NF749023 231 O OR
cairn of R.
See Rubh' MhicFhearchair.

Carnach  
[kərənətʃ]  
NL646914 247 R OS
stony place
Alias: A' Bheinn Bhiorach

Carnach  
[kərənətʃ]  
NF765047 231 R OS
stony place

Càrnan  
[kərənən]  
NF726010 231 O OR
little cairn

Càrnan  
[kərənən]  
NF727012 231 O OR
little cairn

Càrnan  
[kərənən]  
NF730016 231 O OR
little cairn

Càrnan  
[kərənən]  
NL553828 260 R OS*
little cairn
1823 Beinacharrn, 1865 Beinichorn

Carnoch Cottage  
[kərənəx kətɪdʒ]  
NF658028 231 S OS6*
cottage of the stony ground

Carraig a' Bhodaich  
[kərərikəˈvədɪk]  
NF714018 231 R OR
fishing rock of the old man
Carraig a' Bhodaigein [k'ariko 'vətɪgən] NL656975 247 R OR
cod-fish fishing rock
Alias: Carraig an Ring

Carraig a' Chait [k'ariko 'χar\/it] NF650007 231 R OR
fishing rock of the cat

Carraig a' Ghobha Bhig [k'ariko ,ɡə 'vɪk] NF706033 231 R OR
fishing rock of the small blacksmith

Carraig an Döbhraid [k'ariko 'dɔ:Ran] NF653030 231 R OR
fishing rock of the otter

Carraig an Ring [k'ariko 'rɪŋ] NL656975 247 R OR
fishing rock of the ring
Alias: Carraig a' Bhodaigein
The specific ring is of Eng. origin.

Carraig an Rodain [k'ariko 'ro:dan] NF724025 231 R OR
fishing rock of the rat
G rodan or radan, m, a loan from MEng. raton, ‘rat’.

Carraig an Rodain [k'ariko 'ro:dan] NL702987 247 R OR
fishing rock of the rat
See Carraig an Rodain.

Carraig an t-Sagairt [k'ariko 't'aɡəst] NL654974 247 R OR
fishing rock of the priest

Carraig an t-Sreap [k'arikoN 't'reɪp] NF718014 231 R OR
fishing rock of the climb

Carraig an t-Sruth [k'arikoN 'druθ] NL623978 247 R OR
fishing rock of the current

Carraig an Tailleir [k'ariko 'dailɪər] NL703986 247 R OR
fishing rock of the tailor
G taillear, m, a loan from Eng. tailor.

Carraig Bheag Rob [k'arik ,vək 'rɔb] NF712019 231 R OR
Rob's small fishing rock

Carraig Bilibibi [k'arik ,bil'i:bibi] NL569820 260 R OR
Alias: Creag Bilibibish
An alternative version is Creag Bilibibish. This place is known for a hole in the rock through which the water shoots with pressure into the air like a geyser. The second element of the name is obscure. However, Ian A. Fraser collected ‘Bratabilidh’, a name for a chasm, in Ness, Lewis (see Coates, 1990:88). There may be a connection with the first element of Biulacraig.
Carraig Chaluim Bhig
 туристский рок Малкольма
 NL655980 247 R OR
 Little Malcolm's fishing rock

Carraig Caolas Sgeir a' Chlaidheim
 туристский рок C.
 NL650046 231 R OR
 See Caolas Sgeir a' Chlaidheim.

Carraig Choinnich
 туристский рок Кеннета
 NL65979 247 R OR
 Kenneth's fishing rock

Carraig Dhòbhhrain
 туристский рок дельфина
 NF653046 231 R OR
 fishing rock of the otter

Carraig Dhùghaill
 туристский рок Дугалла
 NL614968 247 R OR
 Dougall's fishing rock

Carraig Fhionnlaigh
 туристский рок Финли
 NL62936 247 R OR
 Finlay's fishing rock

Carraig Fhlodaigh
 туристский рок Флодаха
 NL622936 247 R OR
 fishing rock of F.
 Alias: Carraig Fhlodaigh
 See Flodday.

Carraig Guail
 туристский рок угля
 NF717034 231 R OR
 fishing rock of coal

Carraig Holisgeir
 туристский рок Голисгейра
 NL624983 247 R OR
 fishing rock of H.
 See Holisgeir.

Carraig Iain
 туристский рок Иана
 NL645999 247 R OR
 John's fishing rock

Carraig Iain 'ic Eòin
 туристский рок Иана (сын Йона) Джонэна
 NF699095 231 R OR
 John (son of) Jonathan's fishing rock

Carraig na Cille
 туристский рок церкви
 NL665955 247 R OR
 fishing rock of the church
 G cill, f, a loan from Lat. cella, 'cell', 'chapel'.

Carraig na Cloiche Mòire
 туристский рок больших камней
 NL650974 247 R OR
 fishing rock of the large stone
 The boulder was a popular place for rock fishing. It also served as a landmark for the long line fishing in the bay.

Carraig na Cuidhe Bige
 туристский рок Куди Байги
 NL652974 247 R OR
 fishing rock of the C.
 G cuidhe, f, a loan from ON kví, f, 'enclosure'.

The boulder was a popular place for rock fishing. It also served as a landmark for the long line fishing in the bay.
Carraig na h-Easgainn  
*fishing rock of the eel*

Carraig na Lice Sleamhainn  
*fishing rock of L.*

Carraig na Sgūdagh  
*fishing rock of the dirty water (?)*

Carraig na Sròine  
*fishing rock of the promontory*

Carraig na Staidhre  
*fishing rock of the stair*
This is a low-lying fishing rock.

Carraig nam Bodach  
*fishing rock of the old men*

Carraig nam Borghach  
*fishing rock of the people from Borve*
See Borve.

Carraig nan Carbhanach  
*fishing rock of the breams*

Carraig nan Carbhanach  
*fishing rock of the breams*

Carraig nan Coinneanach  
*fishing rock of the rabbits*
G coinean, m, a loan from MEng. cunin, ‘rabbit’, ‘coney’.

Carraig nan Ginnna  
*fishing rock of the stirks*

Carraig Sloc nan Coinneanach  
*fishing rock of the gully of rabbits*
G coinean, m, a loan from MEng. cunin, ‘rabbit’, ‘coney’.

Carraig Sloc na Mòna  
*fishing rock of S.*
See Sloc na Mòna.

Carraig Sloc nan Calman  
*fishing rock of S.*
See Sloc nan Calman.
### Carraig Thréísibhig

**fishing rock of T.**
A similar sounding name is located on the isle of Vatersay (NL624957). See Tresivick.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carraig Thricebhig</td>
<td>[k'arik 'ri:sivik]</td>
<td>NL624957</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Carrish

**reed peninsula**

1874 Charish

The derivation is uncertain. The name may contain the ON element kjarr, n, 'reed' and ON nes, 'peninsula'. Its elements may have undergone assimilation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrish</td>
<td>[karif]</td>
<td>NF765039</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Castle Bay

1854 Castle Bay, 1865 -

Alias: Kisimul Bay

There is some confusion over the right terminology for this place. Initially it was called Kisimul Bay but later on became Castle Bay. It is possible that the Admiralty in their search for 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' in 1746 called this place Watersea Bay and Watersay Bay but it is not entirely certain as there is Watersay Bay closely located between the north-eastern extremity and the south-eastern extremity of Vatersay. (See section 8.2). For references to Watersea Bay and Watersay Bay see Campbell of Mamore Papers, National Library of Scotland, MS 3733, pp. 410, 411, 416. This information was given to me by Ruairidh Halford-MacLeod to whom I am grateful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castle Bay</td>
<td>['kaslbe:]</td>
<td>NL660976</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cat Rock

1874 -

This primary name is likely to designate the peninsula with Dùn Mingulay in its centre. The name may derive from ON kattr, m, ‘cat’ and ON ey, f, ‘island’, ‘peninsula’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat Rock</td>
<td>['ka h t 'rok]</td>
<td>NF745070</td>
<td>231 I</td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Catarsaigh

*peninsula of the cat*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catarsaigh</td>
<td>['k'a h t asëi]</td>
<td>NL544822</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Caul

*fish trap*

From Sco. caul, ‘weir’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caul</td>
<td>[kaul]</td>
<td>NF725020</td>
<td>231 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cave

*fish trap*

From Sco. caul, ‘weir’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cave</td>
<td>[ke:v]</td>
<td>NL548837</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OS</td>
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</table>

### Cave

*fish trap*

From Sco. caul, ‘weir’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cave</td>
<td>[ke:v]</td>
<td>NL606895</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ceann a’ Mhinisteir  
*point of the minister*

A minister’s head allegedly was washed ashore at this place. He was recognised by the collar which he still wore around his neck. G ministear, m, a loan from Lat. minister, ‘servant’, here ‘minister’.

Ceann Bált  
*point of fringe of grass*

Dwelly lists bált, m, for ‘border’ or ‘belt’ (Dwelly, 1901:64).

Ceann Crotach  
*humped point*

Ceann na Feans  
*point of the fence*

The specific is a loan from English.

Ceann na Tràigh  
*top of the beach*

Ceann nan Leac  
*point of the flagstones*

Ceann nan Leac  
*point of the flagstones*

Ceann Sgèlat  
*slate point*

Sgèlat, m, a loan from MEng. sclat, ‘slate’.

Ceap a’ Pholasmain  
*cap of the policeman*

The specific is the gaelicized form of Eng. ‘policeman’.

Centre Sand  

Alias: An Tràigh Bheag

This place-name corresponds to West Sand and North Sand.

Ceum na Gualainn  
*path of the shoulder*

Chambered Cairn  
*Sco. cairn, ‘stone mound’.

Chapel  

Chiall  

1825 Keil, 1827 Kiel, 1823 Kiall

The meaning is uncertain.
Chlogall

Both meaning and pronunciation are uncertain. The last two letters of this name may have been misinterpreted from an original name 'Clogaid', G, 'helmet', 'cone', 'pyramid' or 'headpiece of a stack of corn'. This would correspond with the nearby skerries of Sgeir a' Chlogaid, 'skerry of the headpiece' which may be a misinterpretation of the 1901 entry Sgeir a Togall, 'skerry of the making of sheaves of corn'.

Cill' Anndrais

A reliable informant located Cill' Anndrais on Uinessan. The OS map shows the antiquity Cille Bhrianain at the same location. G cill, f, a loan from Lat. cella, 'chapel'.

Cille Bharra Remains

See Kilbar.

Cille Bhrianain

Alias: Cill' Anndrais
See Cill' Anndrais.

Cille Bhride

"The name is applied to the site of an ancient chapel and graveyard. The graveyard is now disused and near to the shepherd's house. No information can be gained as to the date of its erection or when it became a ruin. The chapel was dedicated to St. Bridget and is said to have stood in the middle of the graveyard and of which now no traces remain." OS Object Name Book

Chimney

This chimney was part of the glass factory which used to be located just behind Northbay church in Bayherivagh (Northbay). It must have been visible from a distance and served as orientation mark.

Ciste na Clithe

Ciste na Clithe is a path which runs along the entire coastline between Cleat and Suidheachan. It used to be a shortcut for people travelling between Cleat and Eoligarry. Locally the name is occasionally translated as 'coffin of the cliff', and is associated with the coffin carriers who when transporting bodies to the Kilbar graveyard, avoided 4 miles of detour by taking this way as opposed to the route via Northbay. G cist, f, is a loan from Lat. cista, 'chest', 'coffin'. However, in an onomastic context a derivation from ON kista, f, 'pass', 'narrowing' is more appropriate. (See Cox, 1987, II:63 and see Rygh, Norske Gaardnavne, V:335.)
Clach a’ Bhealaich  
stone of the pass

Clach a’ Bhealaich  
stone of the pass

Clach a’ Ghiomaich  
stone of the lobster

Clach an t-Sruth  
stone of the current

Clach an Tairbh  
stone of the bull

Clach an Tollain  
stone of the small hole

Clach Ceum Suidhe na Mòna  
stone of the path of the peal seal

Clach Chrosgalaid  
stone + ?
An alternative name is Creag Chrosgalaid. The second element possibly indicates some kind of crossing.

Clach Eagach  
serrated stone

Clach Mhòr Fhionnlaigh  
Finlay’s big stone

Clach Mhòr Ghrianain  
big stone of G.
See Grean.

Clach Mhòr Lèan’ an Eich  
big stone of L.
See Lèan’ an Eich.

Clach Mhòr nan Gleannan  
bright rock of the little valleys
“This is a large ice-carried boulder on the eastern shoulder of Ben Erival. It is about 30 feet long, 20 wide and 18 feet high.” OS Object Name Book. Legend has it that once the stone rolls downhill, Barra will be doomed.

Clach Mhòr nan Liughannan  
big stone of the lythe
Clach na Farspaig
*stone of the black backed seagull*
G farspag, f, a loan from ON arspag, ‘greater black-backed seagull’.

Clach na Sgotha
*stone of the boat*

Clach nan Càrnach
*stone of the stony fields*

Clach Sgiord
*stone of the squirt*
Locals used to split the fish on top of this rock and spread it out to dry.

Clach Úrnaigh
*stone of the prayer*

Clach Urth
*stone of the rocky slope*
A combination of G clach, ‘stone’, and ON urð, f, ‘rocky slope’.

Clachan Corrach
*sleep rocky place*

Clachan Garbh
*rough stony place*

Clachan Pharry
*Parry's stones*
During the clearances a number of locals were forced to enter a ship leaving for Canada. The factor of the MacNeil, Mr. Parry, put down slabs to ease access to the boat.

Cladach a’ Mhaoraich
*shellfish coast*
Joseph Sinclair states that this name extends to the mainland of Mingulay.

Cladach Sgiobasdail
*coast of S.*
See Skipisdale.

Cladh Bhrianain
*St. Brendan’s graveyard*

Cleat
*rocky eminence*
1823 Cliade
G cleit, f, a loan from ON klettr, m, ‘rock’, ‘cliff’.

Cleit a’ Chaolais
*rocky eminence of the sound*
Alias: A’ Chleit
See Cleat.

Cleit an Sgairbh
rocky eminence of the cormorant
See Cleat.

Cleit Bhiruashum
rocky eminence of B.
See Cleat and Biruashum.

Cletta
rocky eminence
1823 Cletta
See Cleat.

Chuain
pasture / meadow

Cnap a' Choilich
little hill of the grouse
G cnap, m, a loan from ON knappr, m, ‘knob’, ‘lump’.

Cnoc a' Bhruthaich
hill of the peat bank
Cnoc a' Charnaich
hill of the stony ground
This name corresponds with Carnoch Cottage which probably was named after this hill.

Cnoc a' Chloibair
hill of the shepherd
Jonathan MacNeil (see bibliography, tape section) locates this name at NF711021. G cliobair, m, a loan from Eng. ‘keeper’ in the meaning of ‘shepherd’.

Cnoc a' Chonaistg
gorse hill

Cnoc a' Chonaistg
gorse hill

Cnoc a' Chroinn
hill of the plough

Cnoc a' Chrochaire
hill of the hangman
G crochaire, ‘hangman’, has the additional meaning of ‘villain’, ‘somebody who deserves to be hanged’.

Cnoc a' Gheoidh
goose hill
1823 Knockagheoi
Cnoc Áirigh Eòin
hill of Jonathan's shelter

Cnoc an Fhithich
hill of the raven

Cnoc an Roinich
fern hill

Cnoc an Stidheair
hill of the?
A combination of G cnoc, m, ‘knoll’ and an element of unknown meaning.

Cnoc an Tairbh
hill of the bull

Cnoc Chiall
hill of C.
1823 Knockhiall
See Chiall.

Cnoc Eilean na Cuiseig
hill of the E.
Jonathan MacNeil and Mary Liz MacKinnon locate this place at NF711023. See Eilean na Cuiseig.

Cnoc Fhraoich
heather hill
In conversation the English form of this name is occasionally used.

Cnoc Fhraoich Beag
small heather hill

Cnoc Gadhalum
hill + ?
1813 Knockghathalam
The specific is very likely to be of ON origin.

Cnoc Ghobhar
goats' hill

Cnoc Héigeo
hill of ?
The specific may be related to G séige, ‘bent grass’. See Bàgh Héigeo.

Cnoc Mór Dhrolum
big hill of D.
See Drolum.

Cnoc na Brataich

A flag was raised on this hill to announce the arrival of herring-shoals. Those among the temporary curers who lived on the west side of Barra only had to make their way to Beul an Fheadain from which the flag was visible to find out whether their work was required. If it was, the flag would be raised. This simple measure prevented west coast people from walking all the way to Ardveenish in vain.

Cnoc na Féille
_hill of the market_

Cnoc na Féille
_hill of the market_
_Alias: An Aird Ghlas_

Cnoc na Gaoithe
_wind hill_

_Cnoc na Horgh
_hill of H._
_See Horough._

Cnoc na Leapa
_hill of the bed_

Cnoc na Mòna
_peat hill_

Cnoc na Mòna
_peat hill_
_c.1818 Knocnamona_

Cnoc na Sgratha
_hill of the turf_

Cnoc na Sgratha
_hill of the turf_

Cnoc na Sléibhe
_hill of the moor_
_Further meanings of G slìabh are ‘mountain of first magnitude’ and ‘mountain grass’._

Cnoc nan Cam-alltan
_hill of C._
_See Na Cam-alltan._

Cnoc nan Caorach
_hill of the sheep_
1823 Knocknacorach
Alias: Upper Bruernish

Cnoc nan Curran
*hill of the carrots*

Cnoc nan Laogh
*hill of the calves*

Cnoc nan Luch
*hill of the mice*

Cnoc nan Steàrnan
*hill of the terns*

NF707016 is a possible alternative location.

Cnoc nan Stiùbhartach
*hill of the Stewarts*

Cnoc nan Uan
*hill of the lambs*

Cnoc Tuath
*north hill*

Cnoc Thormaid
*Norman’s hill*

Cnocan Dubha
*black hills*

Cnocan Corrach
*rough hills*

Coarg
The Gazetteer

There is hardly any information on this name. It occurs on Sharbau’s estate plan and is unknown among local inhabitants.

Coastguard Lookout

Coille Chriochan
*boundary forest*

Coire Clann Néill
*Clan Neil’s hollow*
Alias: Coireachan ‘ic Néill

Coire Corraich
*angry (?) hollow*

Coireachan ‘ic Néill

MacNeil's kettle stand
Alias: Coire Clann Néill
Four or five large stones forming a circle are said to have been the hearth for the MacNeil of Barra. The size of the kettle to fit on these stones is a metaphor for the grand lifestyle of the MacNeil of Barra.

Colla
nound
Alias: Eilean na Coille
ON köllr, m, 'round top'.

Colla
nound
See Colla.

Comharradh a' Phuirt
mark of the harbour
G port, m, a loan from Lat. portus, 'harbour', 'port'.

Comharradh nan Lòabag
mark of the flounders

Cora-Bheinn
pointed hill
1823 Coravein

Cordale
? + valley
1764 Cordale, 1823 Cordail
The second element is derived from ON dalr, m, 'valley'. The meaning of the first element is obscure.

Cordale Beag
small C.
1874 Cordal Beg
The first element of this name remains obscure. See Cordale.

Cordale Beag Bay
bay of small C.
1901 Cordel Beg Bay
See Cordale Beag.

Cordale Mòr
big C.
1874 Cordal Mor
This is possibly the site of an earlier settlement. See Cordale.

Cordale Mòr Bay
bay of big C.
1901 Cordal More Bay
See Cordale Mòr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>ML</th>
<th>SH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cordale Beag</td>
<td>[k'ɔrdal 'bæk]</td>
<td>NF730076</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small C.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1874 Cordal Beg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first element of this name remains obscure. See Cordale.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornaig Bay</td>
<td>[k'ɔrnɛk 'bɛ:]</td>
<td>NL636967</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corn bay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Ba Chornraig, 1865 Bagh Cornaig</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A combination of ON korn, n, 'corn' and ON vík, f, 'bay'. All locals call this place Bàgh Chòrnaig.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corran Bán</td>
<td>[k'ɔran 'ba:n]</td>
<td>NF708104</td>
<td>216 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
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<tr>
<td>white sickle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Corrunbane, 1874 Corrun Bane</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A name for a fishing ground.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotan an Laoigh</td>
<td>[k'ɔnɛtən 'lui]</td>
<td>NF669008</td>
<td>231 E</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fold of the calf</td>
<td>See Cotan Bellag.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catan Beileig</td>
<td>[k'ɔntən 'ba:lək]</td>
<td>NL652980</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellag's fold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G cotan, m, a loan from Eng. fold, related to Eng. cottage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotan Mór Néill Eòin</td>
<td>[k'ɔntən ˈmɔr ˈneil]</td>
<td>NF710013</td>
<td>231 E</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotan nan Laogh</td>
<td>[k'ɔntən ˈlæv]</td>
<td>NF697053</td>
<td>231 E</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fold of the calves</td>
<td>See Cotan Bellag.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craigigeo</td>
<td></td>
<td>NL556807</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Craigikeo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibly a combination of ON krák, 'crow' and ON gjá, 'gully'.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Craigston</td>
<td>[k'rek'stɔn]</td>
<td>NF660014</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>settlement of the stone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1654 Balnacarrig, 1807 Craigstown, 1823 Balnacraig</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Baile na Creige</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. is a combination of Sco. craig 'rock' and OE tun, 'farm'. Its G equivalent is Baile na Creige.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crannag</td>
<td>[k'rænæk]</td>
<td>NF705048</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fortified island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810 Cranack, 1823 Cragnag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creag</td>
<td>[k'rek]</td>
<td>NL608880</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rock</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1910 Craig

Creag 'icCeallaig Àrd
MacKellaig's high rock
1823 Cregichelig
MacKellaig was on the run and hid at this rock which screened him from view from above and from below.

Creag 'icCeallaig Ìseal
MacKellaig's low rock
See Creag 'icCeallaig Àrd.

Creag a’ Bhainne
rock of the milk
Nan MacKinnon locates this name at NL626972.

Creag a’ Bharra
summit rock

Creag a’ Chlamhain
rock of the buzzard
Alias: Creag na Cuckoo

Creag a’ Chroinn
rock of the plough
Alias: A’ Creag Mhòr
1823 Creagachruin
G crann, m, has a number of meanings such as ‘plough’, ‘tree’, ‘beam’, ‘lot’, ‘risk’ (see Dwelly, 1901:260).

Creag a’ Ghobha
rock of the smith

Creag an Airgid
rock of the silver

Creag an Airgid
rock of the silver
Alias: Creag an Òir

Creag an Airgid a Deas
southern rock of the silver
In this name the specific may stand for a silvery coloured granite. Lachlan MacLean (Lachy John) calls this place Creag an Airgid.

Creag an Daoimein
diamond rock
1823 Craigandiemen
G daoimean, m, is a loan from Eng. diamond. This rock is shaped like a diamond.

Creag an Flithich

raven’s rock
1901 Bein na Scape
The historical form of Bein na Scape originates from Sharbau’s estate plan drawn in 1901.
The specific of this name may refer to the old name of Vatersay Village An Scar·p.

Creag an Laoigh
rock of the calf
Alias: Creag na h-Iolaire

Creag an Loch
rock of the lake

Creag an Nuaill
rock of the lamentation/praise

Creag an Óir
rock of the gold
Alias: Creag an Airgid

Creag an Park
rock of the enclosure
The name has undergone partial anglicisation and what was no doubt formerly known as
Creag na Pàirce is now Creag an Park.

Creag an Rubha
rock of the point

Creag an t-Silidh
dripping rock
1823 Creganuille, 1824 Creagantille
G sileadh is the genitive case of ‘sileadh’, ‘dripping’ (Dwelly, 1901:839). G sileadh has the
additional meanings of ‘rain’ and ‘shower’. See section 2.6.5.4.

Creag an t-Siucair
rock of the sugar
G siúcar, m, a loan from MEng. sugre, ‘sugar’.

Creag an t-Srutha
rock of the current

Creag an Tombaca
rock of the tobacco
The specific is related to Eng. tobacco.

Creag Bearraidh Uisge
rock of the watershed
G bearadh is a ‘mountain ridge’ (see Dwelly, 1901:84).

Creag Dhearg
red rock
Alias: A’ Chreag Ruadh
John MacLeod calls this place A' Chreag Ruadh. Joseph Sinclair and Donald MacNeil locate Creag Dhèarg 300 m further north-east.

Creag Dhòmhaill Ruaidh
rock of Red Donald

Creag Faochaig
winkle rock

Creag Fìannaig
crow rock

Creag Ghrobaig
little tooth-shaped rock

Creag Gòraig

The informant mentioned that Gòrag means 'kelpie', a 'female supernatural figure' who may have been seen at this rock. Dwelly (1901:517) lists 'foolish woman', 'young she-crow', 'sheaf of corn standing upright and isolated on a field in harvest', 'female scare-crow'.

Creag Iain Dhùinn
rock of Brown John

Creag Labhar
speaking rock

Creag Labhar
speaking rock

This place is located at Ciste na Clithe, the old coffin carriers' route to Eoligarry. "One day when a procession passed, the man in the coffin spoke and said that the rock would fall one day on a MacNeil woman. Hence its name." Flora Boyd.

Creag Mhòr
big rock
Alias: Creag Mhòr Shanndraigh

Creag Mhòr
big rock

Creag Mhòr
big rock
1865 Craigmor, 1901 Craigvore

Creag Mhòr an Eilein
big rock of the island
Alias: A’ Chreag Mhòr, Meall Mòr

Creag Mhòr na Brataich
big rock of the flag

Creag Mhòr Shanndraigh
big rock of S.
Alias: Creag Mhór
See Sandray.

Creag na Croise
rock of the cross
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'kɾoːʃ] NL660986 247 R OR

Creag na Cuckoo
rock of the cuckoo
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'kukːuː] NF707018 231 R OR
Alias: Creag a' Chlannain
The specific occurs in the Eng. form and not as expected in G.

Creag na Culaidh
boat rock / rock of the vestments
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'kulaːj] NF724023 231 R OR
Legend has it that the G culaidh was associated with a priest's vestments and therefore this stone is said to have served as a place for services during the reformation when catholics were prevented from open worship. G culaidh also means boat. Either derivation is possible.

Creag na h-Eidhne
rock of the ivy
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'hɛiːn] NF744024 231 R OR

Creag na h-Ighne
rock of the girl
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'hiːnə] NL644991 247 R OR
A girl fell and died here.

Creag na h-Iolaire
rock of the eagle
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'hɪləɾi] NL665997 247 R OR
Alias: Creag an Laoigh
Roderick MacNeil locates this place-name at NL652994.

Creag na h-Iolaire
rock of the eagle
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'hɪləɾi] NL666997 247 R OR

Creag na h-Iolaire
rock of the eagle
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'hɪləɾi] NL691937 247 R OS*
1865 Eagles' Craig

Creag na h-Ób
rock of the enclosed bay
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'ɔxb] NF708017 231 R OR
See Ben Obe. Micheil Iain MacKinnon locates this place-name at NF706021.

Creag nam Muc
rock of the pigs
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'mʊxk] NF669032 231 R OR

Creag nan Galais
rock of the braces
[k'ɾeːk'nən 'ɡaləs] NF729008 231 R OR

Creag nan Lòn
rock of the water puddles
[k'ɾeːk'nə 'lɔːn] NL656978 247 R OR

Creag Risebig
[k'ɾeːk 'ɾɪʃbɪk] NF731019 231 R OR
The second element is uncertain. It may be a primary name consisting of ON hrís, n, 'bent grass' and ON vîk, f, 'bay'.

**Creag Spîric**

Pinnacle rock

[k'ręk 'spîrek]  NF690000  231 R  OR

**Creag Spîric Ìséal**

Lower pinnacle rock

[k'ręk 'spîrek 'i:stå]  NL690999  247 R  OR

See Creag Spîric.

**Creag Taigh Lachlainn**

Rock of Lachlan's house

[k'ręk 'térieur 'lacklean]  NF708004  231 R  OR

**Creagan Cuidhe**

Little rock of Murdoch's enclosure

A combination of G creag, f, 'rock', G cuidhe, f, from ON kvi, f, 'enclosure' and the G personal name Murdoch.

[k'regan 'kviə 'vruxi]  NF656008  231 R  OR

**Creagan Gorm**

A little blue rock

1823 Cregangarm

[k'regan 'gə-rəm]  NF687048  231 R  ML

**Creagan Móra**

Large rocks

1823 Creganmore

The three summits of An Sgûmban a Tuath, An Sgûmban Meadhoin and An Sgûmban an Ear are called Creagan Móra.

[k'regan 'mo:ɾ5]  NL662995  247 R  ML

**Creagan na Cheàrdaich**

Little rock of the smithy

[k'regana 'çeàrstic]  NF658013  231 R  OR

**Creagan Roinich**

Rocky place of fern

[k'regan 'ɾəníç]  NL653984  247 R  OR

**Crimacal**

[k'rìməkəl]  NL611917  247  OR

Alternative versions of this name are Grimacal and Brimacal. This name remains completely obscure.

**Criochan**

[‘k’ríoxan]  NL687989  247 S  CR

1838 Criachan

**Crois an t-Suidheachain**

Cross of the seat

[k'ròfə N'dvəjəxan]  NL566828  260 R  OS6

"This name applies to a small spot with some trace of what appears to have been a building and is traditionally believed to have been a place of worship erected by a disciple of St. Columba. A few stones only are remaining." OS Object Name Book.
Croit Iseabail  
Isabel’s croft
G croit, f, from Eng. croft. Iseabal was the name of Calum Mhicheil’s grandmother who had her croft here.

Cruach a’ Phoileasmain  
stack of the policeman
The specific is a loan from Eng. ‘policeman’.

Cruach na h-Aibhne  
stack of the river
1823 -

Crubanstal Rock  
rock of C.
1874 -
Crubanstal is a historic form of Crubisdale of which the specific is obscure. See Crubisdale.

Crubisdale  
[‘k’rupisdal]  
1823 Crubidale, 1878 Crubisdale
This may be the site of an earlier settlement. The OS Object Name Book refers to a number of ruins at this site. See Crubisdale.

Cuaraidh Mhiclain  
quarry of the son of Grey John
G cuaraidh is a loan from Eng. quarry.

Cuaraidh nan Saileach  
quarry of the people from Kintail
See Cuaraidh Mhiclain Léitheadh.

Cuialachbeg  
small hidden enclosure
1823 Cuialachveg, 1865 Cuilech Bheag, 1901 Cuilech Beg
See Cuidhe Fhalaich.

Cuialachmore  
big hidden enclosure
1823 Cuialachvore
Alias: A’ Bheinn Bheag, Beinn na Cuidhe Fhalaiche
See Cuidhe Fhalaich.

Cuidhe an t-Sruth  
enclosure of the current

See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Bheag a’ Bhuntata [k’ui ,vēko ‘maNdD̃tō] NF640002 231 E OR small fold of the potatoes
This name is a primary name and is extracted from Lag Cuidhe Bheag a’ Bhuntata. See A’ Chuidhe. G buntata, m, a loan from Eng. potato.

Cuidhe Chorsdail [k’ui ‘xɔsdal] NF655000 231 E OR enclosure of cross valley
This name may hint at a primary settlement called Corsdale. There is no other evidence of the existence of a place called Corsdale. The name is a combination of G cuidhe, f, a loan from ON kví, f, ‘enclosure’, ON kross, m, ‘cross’ and ON dalr, m, ‘valley’.

Cuidhe Dhòmhnaill Eòin [k’ui ‘r̃-a’e’auin] NL561806 260 E OR enclosure of Donald (of) Jonathan
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Eòin Néill Bhig [k’ui e’auin ṇa’ë’vik] NF726020 231 E OR enclosure of Jonathan (of) Little Neil
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Flalaich [k’ui ‘aḷax] NL625990 247 E OR hidden enclosure
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Gha’dalum [k’ui ‘ga-a’lêm] NL650940 247 E OR enclosure of ?
The specific is likely to be Norse. It was not possible to establish its meaning.

Cuidhe Gharraidh Eòin [k’uiyara’i e’auin] NF670036 231 E OR enclosure of Jonathan’s field
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Mhurchaidh [k’uia’vuruxi] NF656008 231 E OR Murdoch’s enclosure
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Néill Iagain [k’ui ‘Nēl’ia’gān] NF721026 231 E OR enclosure of Neil (son of) John
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidhe Roinich [k’ui ‘ر̣ni̊c] NF730019 231 E OR enclosure of the fern
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuidheachan an Dùin [k’ui̯a’xanən ‘dū:n] NF661034 231 E OR little enclosure of the fort
See A’ Chuidhe.

Cuier [k’uiər] NL637947 247 S OS* enclosure
Borgstrøm sees a connection between the church in Cuier and the graveyard. Furthermore, Ben Cuier in Vatersay is located in proximity to a burial-ground. Borgstrøm suggests that Cuier may have been derived from ON kirkja, f, ‘church’, or possibly ON kirkjugår, ‘graveyard’, and not from ON kví (Campbell, 1936:295).

Cûil ‘ic Ladhmainn
[Lamont’s neuk]

Cûil a’ Bhàigh
[neuk of the bay]

G bàgh, m, related to ON vágr, f, ‘bay’.

Cûil a’ Bhaile
[neuk of the village]

This primary name is related to Sgeirean Cûil a’ Bhaile.

Cûil a’ Ghàraidh
[neuk of the dyke]

This used to be the back of a wall that was built as a boundary for the common grazing or a field. G gàraidh, m, a loan from ON garðr, m, ‘dyke’, ‘wall’.

Cûil an Dùn
[neuk of the fortification]

Cûil Bhaldie
[Baldie’s neuk]

Baldie is the abbreviated form of Archibald.

Cûil Cinn
[back of the head dyke]

This is land outside the allocated ground.

Cûil Dhùghaill
[Dougall’s neuk]

Cûil Leatramain
[Leatraman’s neuk]

G cûil means ‘neuk’. The semantics of this name are uncertain. The specific is related to G leatrom, in the further sense of ‘pregnancy’. G leatroman or leatraman is a still-born child or dead baby. Ronald Black suggests that a woman or a girl had a child there and abandoned it.

Cûil Mhurchaidh
[Murdoch’s neuk]

Cûil na Buaile
[neuk of the enclosure]
Cùil na Horgh
neuk of H.
See Horough.

Cùil nan Eun
neuk of the birds

Cùilean Taigh a' Mhàil
little neuk of T.
See Taigh a' Mhàil.

Cuiveg Point
point of the small enclosure
1865 Gronish beg
See A' Chuidh.

Culnamuck
neuk of the pigs

Curachan
rock formation shaped like a wicker-boat
1865 -

Dam
G dam, m, a loan from Eng. clam.

Dam

Dam

Dâm Phônags
Phônags's dam
‘Phônags' is the nickname of Seumas MacDonald on whose croft a little pool was located.
G dâm, m, a loan from Eng. dam.

Decca Station
dëcka 'ste:jn]

Doc an Diver
dôkxkən 'dai:va]
This place is located in the interior and describes a deep bog. The semantics of this name are obscure. Ian A. Fraser suspects this name to be a fairly modern creation.

Doirlinn
promontory

Doirlinn an Dùin
promontory of the fortification

Doirlinn Head
(head of the) promontory
1865 -
Douglas Point  [.daglis 'point]  NL554844  260 R  SH
Rubha Sluic is the contemporary name of this location.

Drumingen  ['drumingon]  NL552830  260 R  OR
Alias: Druim an Aonaich
The meaning of this name is obscure.

Drochaid 'ic Bhiocair  [.drochait'ic 'vikor]  NF704034  231 O  OR
MacVicar’s bridge

Drochaid a' Bhléiceir  [.drochait'a 'vekor]  NL667983  247 O  OR
bridge of the baker
The specific is a G borrowing of the Eng. word ‘baker’.

Drochaid a' Bhoidich  [.drochait' voidic]  NF722024  231 O  OR
Boyd’s bridge

Drochaid Bàgh Chòrnaig  [.drochait' ba 'cornik]  NL631968  247 O  OR
bridge of B.
See Cornaig Bay.

Drochaid Cheann Tangabhail  [.drochait' xeun'taognval]  NL657987  247 O  OR
bridge of C.
See Kentangaval.

Drochaid Ghunamul  [.drochait' yunamul]  NL548824  260 O  OR
bridge of G.
See Natural Arch and Gunamul.

Drochaid nan Coineanach  [.drochait'na xonjen5x]  NF710038  231 O  OR
bridge of the rabbits
G coinean, m, a loan from MEng. cunin, ‘rabbit’, ‘coney’.

Drochaid nan Sàileach  [.drochait' sail5x]  NF709018  231 O  OR
bridge of the people from Kintail

Drolum  ['drolum]  NF726021  231 E  OR
The ON element troll, ‘troll’, ‘demon’, ‘supernatural being’, is often found in Norwegian mountain names. The generic may either be a derivation from an inversion of ON múli, m, ‘headland’ or from holmr, m, ‘island’. Drolum is a peninsula. Its name may possibly be translated as ‘fairy peninsula (island)’.

Druideal  ['druidal]  NF674040  231 S  CR
1806 Druidal
This name occurs frequently as a settlement name in the Craigston Register, mostly spelt Druidal. The meaning of D. is obscure. There is a Druidale on the Isle of Man (NGR SC3688) and a Druidsdale in Grampian (NGR NO8481) which may contain a related specific.

Druim a' Charraigl  [.druim'xari]  NL685997  247 R  OR*
ridge of the standing stone
1901 Drim Carragh

Druim an Aonaich  ridge of the flat-topped height
Alias: Drimingan
This place, also known as Drimingan, is located at the edge of Biulacraig. It is uncertain whether Aonach, the ‘flat-topped height’, describes the cliff or the nearest mountain to it, Carnan, which is the highest point of Mingulay.

Druim an Sgeilp  ridge / cliff of the shelf
1823 Drumascailp

Druim an t-Sruth  ridge of the current

Druim an Tobair  ridge of the well

Druim Feola  ridge of the flesh

Druim na Creige  ridge of the rock

Druim na Criche  ridge of the boundary

Druim na Mucose  ridge of the pig

Druim nan Caorach  ridge of the sheep

Druim nan Cruach  ridge of the peat stacks

Druisger Mhór  The meaning of the first element is obscure. The remaining elements are G sgeir, from ON sker, ‘skerry’, and G mhór, the feminine adjectival form of G mór, ‘big’.

Duarry Burn  burn of the black shieling
1878 Stapaig Burn
The OS Object Name Book refers to this stream as Stapaig Burn. G stapag is a dish prepared with milk, oatmeal, cream and whisky. Duarry Burn is a combination of G dubh, ‘dark’, G áirigh, f, and Sco. burn, ‘stream’.

Dúbhcharraig  black fishing rock
Dubhsgeir
black skerry
Alias: Sgeir Dubh
G sgeir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, 'skerry', 'rock surrounded by water'.

Dùn
fortification
1823 Dun of Bernera

Dun
fortification
1823 Dunvatersay

Dun
fortification

Dùn
fortification
Alias: Dùn Ailig

Dùn a’ Bharpa
fortification of the memorial cairn
1823 Dunvarpa
G barpa is ‘a cairn in memory of the dead’ (Dwelly, 1901:70). The word is ON in origin.

Dùn a’ Bhogaich
fortification of B.
The OS call this place Dun. It is located opposite the township of Bogach, but not on Bogach territory. See Bogach.

Dùn a’ Chaolis
fortification of C.
1823 Dunacholish, 1865 Dun a Caolas
See Caolis.

Dùn Ailig
Alick’s fortification
Alias: Dùn
Ailig is possibly a personal name.

Dùn Allathasdail
fortification of A.
Alias: Dùn Cuier
See Allasdale.

Dùn an t-Sléibh
fort of the hillslope
1823 Dunantelve
Dùn Bàn
*white fortification*
1823 Dunban

Dùn Bluff
1865 -
Alias: Dun Mingulay
This name appears on only one historical record and is unknown amongst locals. "If ‘bluff’ is limited to Admiralty use (which it is in this case) it’s a topographic term for a 'headland', mostly used in North America for prominent inland cliff-faces. The Admiralty use probably stemmed from the use of ‘bluff’ during Canadian coastal surveys, as it is not widely found in Britain.” Ian A. Fraser.

Dùn Briste
*broken fortification*
1823 Dunbrista

Dùn Chlif
*fortification of the cliff*
Alias: Dùn Ruadh
The specific is derived from ON klif, n, 'cliff', 'mountain'.

Dùn Cuier
*fortification of C.*
Alias: Dùn Allathasdail
See Cuier.

Dùn Eachaimh
*Hector's fortification*

Dùn MhicLeoid
*MacLeod’s fortification*
1901 St. Clair’s Castle
“The tower was built by a MacLean, Iain Garbh, and he was the son of Mor nan Ceann. He came to Barra with her, for what reason I don’t know. They lived at first in Castle Kismul and then he built that castle for himself there. The island is artificial.” Roderick MacNeil. There was no explanation why the tower was called after MacLeod and not after MacLean, who built it.

Dùn Mingulay
*fortification of M.*
1823 Dun Mhinulay
Alias: Dun Bluff
See Mingulay.

Dùn na Cille
*fortification of the church*

Dùn Scurrival
*
Dùnan Ruadh
red little fort
Alias: Dùn Chlif

Dùnan Ruadh
red little fort

Dùnan Ruadh
red little fort
1874 Dun Ruag, 1901 Dun Ruadh

Dunes

Dunes

Dunes

Dunes

Dunes

Dunes

Dunhalindvay
1823 -
The first part of the name may be derived from G dùn, fort. The middle part may be related to Hàllainn as in Cnoc Hàllainn, the burial ground in South Uist. The last part of the name may represent the lenited form of G bàgh from ON vík, ‘bay’.

Eadar an Dà Bheinn
between the two mountains
Alias: Bealach an Dà-Bheinn
One of the few names containing a preposition.

Earsary
Eric’s shieling
1823 Ersary, 1828 Earsarie
The 1828 entry originates from the Register of Sasines, 1828 (788). A combination of ON Eiríkr and G áirigh, f, ‘shieling’. The personal name Eric is mentioned as Eiríkr (m) in Rygh (1901:62).

Eilean a’ Ceud
island of the one hundred
G eilean, m, a loan from ON eyland, corresponding to ON øy, f, ‘island’. The specific may indicate some sort of measurement; possibly the amount of animals the island’s vegetation supported.
Eilean a' Ghamhna
island of the stirk
1823 Ellenaghaana, 1823 Ellennaghaana, 1874 Stirk Island, 1901 Stirk Point
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean a' Mhàil
island of the rent
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Ailein
Allan's island
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Ailig
Alick's island
Alias: Sgeir na Cloiche
Donald Sinclair locates this place at NF718031. See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean an t-Seannsair
Chanter's island
See Eilean a' Ceud. 'Chanter' was the nickname of the man who used to tie up his boat at this location.

Eilean Beag Rubha na h-Acarsaid
small island of the anchorage
Alias: Eilean Rainich
See Eilean a' Ceud and Rubha na h-Acarsaid.

Eilean Bheanais
island of the straight headland
1823 Ellenvaihinish, 1901 Eilean Vaihinish
See Eilean a' Ceud and Bannish in Mingulay.

Eilean Carraig Bhreun
island of C.
See Eilean a' Ceud and A' Charraig Bhreun.

Eilean Ceann na Tràigh
island at C.
See Eilean a' Ceud and Ceann na Tràigh.

Eilean Dallaig
island of dog-fish
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Dallaig
island of dog-fish
See Eilean a' Ceud.
Eilean Dhonnchaídh
Duncan's island
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Dhùghaill Phàdraig
Dougall (son of) Patrick's island
Alias: Na h-Eileanan, Na h-Eileanan Glasa
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Leathann
broad island
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Loisgte
burnt island
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean MhicFhraing
Rankin's island
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean Mór
big island
1823 Ellenmore, 1846 -, 1865 Eileanmore
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean na Caileiche
island of the old woman
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean na Cartach
island of the water-lily
1823 Ellenacartach
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean na Clàrsaich
island of the harp
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean na Coille
island of the vegetation
1823 Ellenacoilla, 1874 Ea coille
Alias: Colla
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean na Craoi bh
island of the tree
Alias: Eilean nan Rodan, Eilean nan Gèadh, An t-Eilean Beag, Statue Island
See Eilean a' Ceud.

Eilean na Cùiseig

island of the long grass
Alias: Eilean nan Rodan
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean na Cuiseig
island of the long grass
One informant located Eilean na Cuiseig on land at the south end of Bogach. See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean na h-aon Chaorach
island of the one sheep
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nam Bluebells
island of the bluebells
Alias: Bluebell Island
See Eilean a’ Ceud. The specific is English.

Eilean nan Creachann
island of the clams
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nan Eun
island of the birds
Alias: Sgeir Bhioraghasdail
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nan Eun Beaga
island of the little birds
1823 Ellenanianbeg
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nan Eun Móra
island of the big birds
1654 Ylen nan Neen, 1823 Ellenanianmore
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nan Gèadh
island of the geese
Alias: Eilean nan Rodan, Eilean na Craciobh, An t-Eilean Beag, Statue Island
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nan Lion
island of nets
1901 Net Island
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean nan Rodan
island of the rats
See Eilean a’ Ceud. G rodan or radan, m, a loan from MEng. raton, ‘rat’.
Eilean nan Rodan  
*island of the rats*

This name may have its origin that the local population wished the rats to be as far away from the village as possible. The name may have been chosen to encourage rats to go there instead of anywhere else.

**Eilean nan Rodan**

*island of the rats*

Alias: Eilean na Cuiseig

**Eilean nan Rodan**

*island of the rats*

Alias: Eilean nan Gèadh, Eilean na Craoibh, An t-Eilean Beag, Statue Island

**Eilean nan Rodan**

*island of the rats*

See Eilean a’ Ceud. G rodan or radan, m, a loan from MEng. raton, ‘rat’.

**Eilean nan Rodan**

*island of the rats*

Alias: An t-Eilean Beag, An t-Eilean Dubh

**Eilean nan Rodan**

*island of the rats*

Alias: An t-Eilean Dubh

**Eilean nan Seasgachan**

*island of the dry cows*

G seasgach means ‘cows giving no milk’. See Eilean a’ Ceud.

**Eilean nan Taighean**

*island of the houses*

1874 Eilean na Leghin See Eilean a’ Ceud.

**Eilean nan Tunnag**

*island of the ducks*

See Eilean a’ Ceud.

**Eilean Risebig**

*island of brushwood bay*

1823 Ellenrushibrick See Eilean a’ Ceud and Creag Risebig.

**Eilean Roinich**

*fern island*

Alias: Eilean Beag Rubha na h-Acarsaid See Eilean a’ Ceud.

**Eilean Sheumais**

*island of James*
1874 James Island
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eilean Vialish
[el’EN ‘viːnɪʃ] NF714086 231 I OS*
Island of the isthmus of the headland (?)
1823 Ellenviallish, 1874 Vialish Island
Local informants corrected the OS entry to Eilean Vianish. The sounds of /l/ and /n/ are occasionally interchanged. The specific may be a combination of ON eið, ‘isthmus’ and ON nes, ‘headland’. The map shows that at low tide Eilean Vianish is connected with Traigh Scurivial and the isthmus in question may be the narrow strip of land between Ben Scurivial and the hill on which Dùn Scurivial is located.

Eileanan Choinnich
[el’EN ‘kɔnɪç] NL708994 247 I OR
Kenneth’s islands
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Eoligarry
[ɛ’ːlɪɡərɪ] NF704077 231 S OS*
Oli’s enclosure
1654 Olabery, 1820 Eoligary, 1822 Oligarry, 1823 Eolsgary
According to Borgstrøm (Campbell, 1936:294) the first element of this name cannot be derived from the ON personal name Olafr, as this would require the possessive ‘s’ in its composition. The names Olafr and Olfr can easily be mixed up with the ON personal name Oli which was used in both Norway and Iceland after 1300. In combination with a generic these personal names do not require an ‘s’ to indicate ownership. Likewise the specific of this name may also be related to Aulvir, Auilr or Ólfr. The second element is G gearraidh, m, from ON gerði, n, ‘enclosure’, ‘fenced or hedged field’, a popular ON generic for a farm with fertile soil.

Eoligarry House
[ɛ’ːlɪɡərɪ ‘haus] NF703077 231 S ML
1823 Eoligary House, 1865 Eoligary House
Alias: An Taigh Geal, An Taigh Mòr
See Eoligarry.

Eoligarry Jetty
[ɛ’ːlɪɡərɪ ‘dʒeti] NF714076 231 O OS
See Eoligarry.

Eorisdale
[ɛ’ːɔːrisdəl] NL643941 247 S OS*
Valley of the sand island
1823 Eorsdale, 1878 Eolisdale
Possibly a combination of ON eyrr, f, ‘sand island at the mouth of a river’ and ON dair, m, ‘valley’.”Applies to a small district formerly cultivated on the south-east side of Vatersay Island.” OS Object Name Book.

Eron
NL650937 247 I SH
The pronunciation of this name is unknown. It looks like G earrann, a common word meaning ‘share’, ‘portion’ or ‘section of land’. The name originates from Sharbau’s estate plan drawn in 1901 and designates a rock in the sea south of Vatersay.

Factory
[’faktərɪ] NF694056 231 S OS
Factory
This name designates the former shell grit factory, which used to process the cockle-shells of the nearby Traigh Mhòr. Since the protection law for the cockle-layers has been tightened, partially to maintain a hard enough landing strip on the shore, the factory has closed. The house was initially built by Sir Compton Mackenzie who called it ‘Suidheachan’. The building has been restored and now is a guest house.
Fang an Loch
sheep pen of the loch

Fang na Creige
sheep pen of the rock

Fang na Lice
sheep pen of the flagstone

Feans
fence
This fence was built to protect cattle from falling into Sloc Freumh.

Féith 'icDhonnchaidh
bog stream of the son of Duncan

Féith na Cailliche
bog stream of the old woman

Fiaray
white harbour
1549 Feray, 1654 Fara, 1695 Fiaray, 1764 Feala, 1823 Fiaray I., 1848 Fiarra I., 1865 Fiaray
ON ey, f, ‘island’, is preceeded by an obscure specific.

Fionnphort
white harbour
1823 Fionaphort
G port, m, a loan from Lat. portus, ‘harbour’, ‘port’.

Fish House
large border
Alias: Bruach nam Bràithrean
G fiteag describes ‘a place where sand and grass meet’. It is close to the shore.

Fleetwood
Fleetwood is the name of a ship which used to anchor at Vatersay Bay. Its name was transferred from the ship to an area close by.

Flodaigh Bheag
small F.
Alias: Flodaigh Mheadhonach, Flodaigh Ghainmheineach
See Flodday.

Flodaigh Ghainmheineach
sandy F.
Alias: Flodaigh Mheadhonach, Flodaigh Bheag
See Flodday.
Flodaigh Mheadhonach [ˈflətəi ˈmʰədho:nɑx] NL611920 247 I OR
middle F.
Alias: Flodaigh Bheag, Flodaigh Ghainmheineach
See Flodday.

Flodaigh Mhór [ˈflətəi ˈmoːr] NL612924 247 I OR
big F.
See Flodday.

Flodday [ˈflətəi] NL607921 247 I OS*
floating / fleet island
1549 Fladay, 1654 Fladda, 1794b Fladda I., 1823 Flodday
Borgstrøm suggests two possible meanings for this name: ‘Fleet island’ (Heggstad, 1930:168), and ‘floating island’ (Heggstad, 1930:167), (Campbell, 1936:290). Eysteinsson derives this name, which also applies to an island off Harris, from the ON adj. flat, ‘flat’, and points out that the highest peak on this island is 21 m high. Although the islands called Flodday in the Barra group are generally twice as high, they still are relatively flat in comparison with their surrounding isles, so Eysteinsson’s translation appears the most likely. (See Eysteinsson, 1992:14).

Flodday [ˈflətəi] NF752023 231 I OS*
floating / fleet island
1549 Fladay, 1654 Fladda, 1764 Flodday, 1794b Flatta, 1823 Flodday, 1824 Fladda, 1848 Flata I., 1854 Fladda, 1865 Flodday
See Flodday.

Fort [ˈfɔrt] NL609963 247 A OS

Fraoch Eilean [ˈfrɔx ˈel̪ɛn] NF719033 231 I OR
heather island
See Eilean a’ Ceud.

Fuaran na Horgh [ˌfuərənəˈhɔɾo̞ːɣ] NF704039 231 W OR
fountain of H.
See Horough.

Fuday [ˈfʊdɛi] NF734085 231 I OS*
outside island
1549 Fuday, 1654 Fuda, 1764 - , 1794 I. Fudia, 1823 Fuday, 1824 Fudia, 1846 Fuday, 1848 Fuday I. 1854 Fuda, 1865 Fuday
Borgstrøm interprets this name as ‘outside island’ deriving the specific from the ON adj. út, ‘out’ and indicating that in G the fricative /f/ is occasionally added to words with an initial vowel (see Campbell, 1936:290) However, this island is not isolated and from a land based perspective there are islands further out in the sea. Only from a boat navigator’s point of view when approaching or leaving the main entrance to the sheltered harbour of Northbay would this choice of name make sense.
Fuiay  
1549 Hay, 1654 Viia, 1764 Fuiay, 1794b Wya I., 1819 Fuiadh, 1823 Fuiay, 1824 Wia, 1854 Uidhay, 1874 Fuiay  
*bird island*

A combination of ON fugl, ‘bird’ and ON øy, ‘island’.

Gaiseabhal  
1813 Gasbhal  
*goose mountain*

The derivation from ON gas, f, ‘goose’, seems to be more appropriate to the environment than OR. gas for ‘thicket’, ‘twig’, ‘shoot’ as there is no sign of vegetation. The generic originates from ON fjall, n, ‘mountain’. The place is said to have been inhabited at one time. See Gasaval.

Gara Cruaidh  
Alias: An Curach  
The OS form gara is likely to be derived from ON gerði, n, ‘enclosure’, ‘fenced or hedged field’.

Gàradh Bhruairnis  
1826 Garbruernish  
*dyke of B.*

Gàradh Droma  
*ridge dyke*

This wall prevented sheep and cattle from entering the hilly area around Am Meall.

Gàradh Leatham  
*broad / wide dyke*

A combination of G gàradh, m, a loan from ON gerðr, ‘dyke’, ‘wall’, ‘mound’. See Bruernish.

Garbh Lingay  
*broad heather island*

1549 Garnlanga, 1654 Garulinga, 1823 Garlinga, 1824 Longa, 1874 Rough Lingay, 1987 Garbh Lingay  
G garbh, adj., ‘rough’, ‘broad’, ON lyng, n, ‘heather’, ON øy, f, ‘island’. The translation of this name is ‘broad heather island’ as it contrasts with its neighbour Lingay-Fhada, ‘long heather island’.

Gariemore  
*big dyke*

1826 Garriemore  
A combination of G gàradh from ON garðr, m, ‘dyke’, ‘wall’, and the G adj. mór, ‘big’.

Garrygall  
*white dyke*

A combination of G gàradh from ON garðr, m, ‘dyke’ and the G adj. geal, ‘white’.
Gasaval

1823 Gashivalvore
See Gaiseabhal.

Geadhail Luachrach

risky field
This name is related to Garieluachrach.

Gearraidh an t-Sealastair

enclosure of the iris
G gearraidh, a loan from ON gerdi, n, ‘enclosure’, ‘fenced field’, ‘garden’.

Gearraidh Luachrach

enclosure of the common rush
1823 Garieluachrach, 1878 Garaluachrach
This name occurs frequently in the Craigston Register but is no longer in use. It is also mentioned in the OS Object Name Book.

Gearraidh nan Caimbeulach

the Campbells’ enclosure
See Gearraidh an t-Sealastair.

Geata a’ Phuinnd

gate of the pound
See An Geata Geal. G punnd, m, ‘fold’ is a loan from Eng. pound and designates a place for impounding stray animals.

Geata Dhrolum

gate of D.
See An Geata Geal and Drolum.

Geata Leabaidh Dhòmhnail Mhurchaidh

gate of L.
See An Geata Geal and Leabaidh Dhòmhnail Mhurchaidh.

Geata na Beinneadh

gate of the mountain
See An Geata Geal.

Geata na h-Aibhne Ruaidh

gate of A.
See An Geata Geal and An Abhainn Ruadh.

Geirum Beag

If the first element was related to the ON male personal name ‘Geirr’, then it would require an s-genitive. Another possible meaning is ‘goat island’, deriving from ON geit. However, the loss of the /t/ cannot be satisfactorily explained. The generic is based on ON holmr, m, ‘island’. The meaning remains uncertain.
Geirum Mór [ˈɡɪɾum ˈmɔr] NL548812 260 I OS*
1654 Gerum, 1823 Gharum, 1865 Horse I.
Alias: Horse Island
See Geirum Beag.

Geo Frois [ˈɡjoː ˈfrɔːj] NF644020 231 W OS
gully of the shower
A combination of G geòðha, m, a loan from ON gjá, f, 'gully' and frois, the gen. case of G frás, f, 'shower', 'seed'.

Geodhachan [ˈɡjoːdɔʃəxn] NL564818 260 W OS*
place of gullies
1823 Geochan, 1865 Greoachan, 1901 Geohan
See An Geóðha. The OS location of this name at NL568819 is incorrect. The NGR given here is the corrected entry.

Gighay [ˈɡiːɾailiation] NF765048 231 I OS*
Gyða's island
1549 Gighay, 1794 Giga, 1823 Gighay, 1824 Gigha, 1845 Gighay, 1846 Gigha I., 1848 Giga I., 1854 Gigha, 1865 Gighay
Henderson suggests 'god island' as a possible meaning (Henderson, 1910:63), but also provides an alternative based on the ON personal name Gyða. Borgstrøm, however, anticipating that Henderson meant the Christian God, emphasizes that before 1000 A.D. the Norwegians were pagan (Campbell, 1936:290), so a derivation from a personal name seems more likely.

Gilinish [ˈɡiliniʃ] NL554814 260 R OR
cleft headland
A combination of ON gig, n, 'cleft' and ON nes, n, 'headland'

Glac na Buidhe [ˈɡl̩əikə ˈvœid̩] NL683978 247 R OS*
hollow of yellow
1823 Glacknabuie, 1865 Glach na Buidhe, 1901 Glachnabui
Possibly some yellow dye could be obtained from this place.

Glăic a' Bhainne [ˈɡl̩ăiŋkə ˈvœŋjœ] NL703996 247 R OR
hollow of the milk

Glăic a' Bhealaich [ˈɡl̩ăiŋkə ˈvealœx] NF672018 231 R OR
hollow of the pass

Glăic a' Bhòcaín [ˈɡl̩ăiŋkə ˈvœkœxn] NF740027 231 R OR
hollow of the ghost
A variation of this name is Glac nam Bocan as given by Jonathan MacNeil.

Glăic a' Chragain Mhòir [ˈɡl̩ăiŋkə ˈkɾəːgin ˈvo:ɾ] NF698048 231 R ML
hollow of the big rocky place
1823 Glaickachraganvore

Glăic a' Ghunna [ˈɡl̩ăiŋkə ˈyœn3] NF705023 231 R OR
hollow of the gun
G gunna, m + f, is a loan from MEng. gunne, 'gun'.

**Glaic a’ Mhuileann**
hollow of the mill

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkə ˈvul.ˈiŋ] NF662032 231 R OS

**Glaic an Daimh**
hollow of the bullock

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkə ˈtəːv] NF731010 231 R OR

**Glaic an Daimh**
hollow of the bullock

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkə ˈtəːv] NL686998 247 R OR

**Glaic an Dithein**
hollow of the daisy

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkə ˈdɨːjən] NL695992 247 R OR

**Glaic an Dróibh**
hollow of the drove of cattle

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.ək ˈdɾoːi] NF664016 231 R OR

**Glaic an t-Sleintean**
hollow of the tintel

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkə ˈdɨːnʃən] NL627984 247 R OR

**Glaic an t-Srutha**
hollow of the current

An Sruth is a coastal feature.

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkə ˈtuː.ˈruː] NL655978 247 R OR

**Glaic Bàgh nam Feusgan**
hollow of B.

See Bàgh nam Feusgan.

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkʰ ˈbʰa:nə ˈfʰuːsːɡən] NF710035 231 R OR

**Glaic Mheallt’**
hollow of deception

G meallt is an old gen. form of mealladh, 'deception', 'seduction'. See Bogha Glaic Mheallt’.

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.ək ˈvələt] NF736026 231 R OR

**Glaic Mhurchaidh Ruaidh**
hollow of Red Murdoch

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.ək ˈvərəxi ˈruːə] NF652000 231 R OR

**Glaic na Bà Ruaidh**
hollow of the red cow

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkʰnə ˈbaː ˈruːə] NF731011 231 R OR

**Glaic na Gaoithe**
hollow of the wind

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkʰnə ˈɡɔiːt] NF699009 231 R OR

**Glaic na Mòna**
hollow of the peat

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkʰnə ˈmɔnə] NF719027 231 R OR

**Glaic na Sgeine**
hollow of the knife

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkʰnə ˈskənə] NL626945 247 R OR

**Glaic nam Basadairean**
hollow of the overgrown holes

Fr. Allan McDonald describes G basadair as 'a hole in soft ground covered by moss with water running underneath'. Sheep and cattle are often lost in these places (McDonald, 1958:39).

[ŋ.ˈtaɪ.əkʰnəm ˈba:sədəɾən] NL636978 247 R OR
**Glaic nam Basadairean**
*hollow of the overgrown holes*

1823 Glacknaneach, 1878 Glac nan Each

The 1823 form shows that in origin we are dealing with Glaic na Chòinnich, 'hollow of the moss'. The shortening of /χonič/ to /χonič/ must be due to a misunderstanding.

**Glaic nam Bocan**
*hollow of the little billy-goats*

1823 Glacknaneach, 1878 Glac nan Each

**Glaic nan Each**
*hollow of the horses*

1823 Glacknaneach, 1878 Glac nan Each

**Glaic-choimmich**
*Kenneth's hollow*

1823 Glacknaconich

The 1823 form shows that in origin we are dealing with Glaic na Chòinnich, 'hollow of the moss'. The shortening of /χonič/ to /χonič/ must be due to a misunderstanding.

**Glaseilean**
*grey-green island*

1823 Glashellan

A combination of the G adj. glas, 'grey-green', and G eilean, m, a loan from ON eyland, related to øy, f, 'island'.

**Glassgeir**
*grey-green sunken rock*

1823 Glassker

Alias: Bogha nan Sgeirean Móra
G gseir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, 'skerry'.

**Gleann Beag**
*little valley*

1823 Glenbeg

**Gleann Chraobhlag**
*valley of the small bushes*

John Archibald MacDonald locates this place-name at NF702012.

**Gleann Dorchu**
*dark valley*

1823 Glendorach

**Gleann na Cailliche**
*valley of the old woman*

**Gleann-Mór**
*big valley*

**Glen Bretadale**
*steep (?) valley*

1823 Glenbrecuidale

The second part of the name is a combination of the ON adj. brattr, 'steep' and ON dalr, m, 'valley', which matches the geographical layout of the place. The letter 'c' in the historic form, however, points at a possible relation with the Skye place-name Bracadale.
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<td>See Glaseilean.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gob an Rubha</td>
<td>[gop 'ru]</td>
<td>NF665050</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point of the headland</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gob an Rubha Ghlas</td>
<td>[gop 'ru 'glas]</td>
<td>NL651974</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point of R.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Rubha Glas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gob an Rubha Léitheadh</td>
<td>[gopan 'ru 'leha]</td>
<td>NF718012</td>
<td>231 R</td>
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<td>point of the R.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See An Rubha Liath.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gob an Rubha Mhóir</td>
<td>[gopan 'ru 'mor]</td>
<td>NL700978</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point of the R.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Rubha Mór.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gob an t-Seóir</td>
<td>[gopan 'joir]</td>
<td>NF725022</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point of the shore</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seor is the gaelicized version of Eng. shore. “‘Shore’, that’s what it means. It is just a recent building that was there. That is just another place where they brought in the boats alongside the shore. And they did not cure herring there, but they cured fish. Salted ling. And they dried it on the rock.” Donald Lawrence MacNeil.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gob Chiall</td>
<td>[gop 'ci:al]</td>
<td>NF709065</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point of C.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Chiall.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gob Dhroolom</td>
<td>[gop 'yroolom]</td>
<td>NF726022</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point of D.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Drolum.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Gazetteer

Gob Èosaig
Joe's point

Gob Ghoiridh
godfrey's point
Godfrey used to be a popular name in medieval times. Godred Crovan c.1050 was King of the Isle of Man.

Gob Hòraid
point of H.
See Bàgh Hòraid.

Gob Leithinis
point of L.
See Leanish.

Gob na Beinne
point of the mountain
This primary name is related to Sloc Gob na Beinne. The mountain in question is Beinn Bheag in Vatersay.

Gob na Creige
point of the rock

Gob na Cuidhe Duibhe
point of the dark enclosure
See A' Chuidh' Dhubh.

Gob Orosaigh
point of O.
See Orosay.

Gob Port na Cille
point of P.
1901 Port na Kill.
See Port na Cille.

Gob Ruairidh Iain Mhóir
point of Roderick (son of) Big John

Gob Rubha na h-Acarsaid
point of R.
See Rubha na h-Acairseid.

Gob Sgurabhail
point of S.
This name is located further north east than the OS entry Scurrival Point. See Scurrival.

Gob Sheumais Annaig
point of James of Anna
The point was named after James MacNeil who used to tie up his boat there.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>Foot</th>
<th>OS*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Goirtean 'ic an t-Saoir</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃənɪcən t'ʃɔɾ]</td>
<td>NL645925</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacIntyre's field</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Goirtean 'ic Phail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goirtean 'ic Eachairn</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃənɪcən ˈɛʃən]</td>
<td>NL689944</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field of Hector's son</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goirtean 'ic Phaile</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃənɪcən ˈʃaɪl]</td>
<td>NL645925</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacPhail's field</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Goirtean 'ic an t-Saoir</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goirtean a Tuath</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃənə tˈuːn]</td>
<td>NF707011</td>
<td>231 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>northern enclosure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goirtean Echnan</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃən ˈɛχən]</td>
<td>NF727007</td>
<td>231 E</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hector's enclosure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goirtean Ìain</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃən ˈiːn]</td>
<td>NF714038</td>
<td>231 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>John's enclosure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goirtean Moir a' Ghlinne</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃən ˈmɔrə ˈɡlin]</td>
<td>NL669986</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>big field of the valley</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Goirtean na Lice</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃənə ˈlɪkələ]</td>
<td>NL676998</td>
<td>247 F</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field of the flagstone</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goirtein</td>
<td>[ˈɡɔːɾtʃən]</td>
<td>NL635982</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OS*</td>
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<tr>
<td>enclosure</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1764 Gorten</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>G goirtean, m, related to Lat. hortus and Eng. garden.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graveyard</td>
<td>[ˈɡrɛvəˌʃərd]</td>
<td>NF763048</td>
<td>231 O</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grean</td>
<td>[ˈɡriən]</td>
<td>NF672037</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1764 Green, 1806-, 1806 North Green, 1807 South Green, 1827 Grin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>This name may be derived either from OIr. grían, 'sun', meaning 'sunny spot', or from the ON adj. grøenn, 'green', meaning 'green spot'.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greanamul</td>
<td>[ˈɡriənəmul]</td>
<td>NL620898</td>
<td>260 I</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green island</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1549 Gigaran?, 1654 Grialum, 1794b Creanmul, 1823 Grianimull, 1854 Grianimul, 1865 Grianameal, 1945 Greanamul</td>
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<tr>
<td>In this name the first element is likely to be derived from ON grøenn, 'green'. The generic originates in ON múli, m, 'headland', 'large rock, surrounded by the sea'.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greanamul</td>
<td>[ˈɡriənəmul]</td>
<td>NF735055</td>
<td>231 I</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green island</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1823 Grainumull, 1865 Grianameal, 1874-, 1933-, 1945 Greanamul
See Greanamul.

**Green Island**
1865 -, 1878 Eilean Uaine
Alias: Arnamul, An t-Eilean Uaine

**Greian Head**
*point of the sunny eminence*
1823 Ard Ghrinn, 1865 Greian Head
Alias: Gob Àird Ghrinn
See Grean.

**Greian Head Cottage**
cottage of G.
See Grean.

**Greàtal**
gravel mound
Alias: An Craobhan
A combination of ON grj6t, n, ‘gravel’, ‘stone’, and ON hóll, f, ‘mound’.

**Greàtal**
gravel mound
1823 Greotas
A variation of this name, Na Greotan, is given for NGR NL593869. It is likely to apply to the same place. ON grj6t, n, ‘gravel’, is a popular element in Norwegian place-names. See Greàtal. See also Stemshaug, 1976:133)

**Grianan**
See Grean.

**Grianan**
1865 Grianan
See Grean.

**Gronais Beag**
small G.
1823 Gronishveg
See Gronish.

**Gronish**
1865 -
The generic derives from ON nes, f, ‘headland’. The specific may be related to either ON grôdr, m, ‘vegetation’, ON grof, ‘pit’, ‘deep sea’ or to the ON adj. gróf, ‘rough’.

**Gruagach**
*the maiden / the one with hair*
1823 -
Gruagach designates a sea rock. The hair in the above translation is certain to be a metaphor for seaweed. The OS location is wrong. The NGR here given has been handed down by reliable local informants.
Guala na h-Ighne  
*corner/shoulder of the girl*

Gualann Bheag  
*little shoulder*

Gualann Bhuidhe  
*yellow shoulder*
Malcolm MacKinnon locates this name at NF669007.

Guarsay  
*
1823 Gnursay, 1865 Gnursay Point
This name applies to the entire peninsula. The generic is derived from ON øy, f, ‘island’, and in this context means ‘peninsula’. The specific is obscure.

Guarsay Beag  
*small G.*
See Guarsay.

Guarsay Mór  
*big G.*
See Guarsay.

Gunamul  
*stick island (?)*
McDonald lists this name as Gonamul (McDonald, 1958:288). The name may be derived from ON gandr, m, for ‘stick’ and ON múl, m, ‘sturdy rock surrounded by sea’.

Gunnairigh  
*Gunnar’s shieling*
A combination of the ON personal name for males Gunnarr and Gáirigh, f, ‘shieling’.

Halaman Bay  
*half moon bay*
This place-name is likely to include a strongly contracted version of ON half-manadhr, m, ‘half moon’. See Traigh na Halman.

Halaman Skerry  
*half moon skerry*
1823 Skernahalaman
Alias: Sgeir na Halman
See Halaman Bay.

Halfway House  
*Later property of the Hatcher family, this house marks the exact midpoint of the journey between Bruernish and Castlebay and was therefore called ‘Halfway House’ by the Bruernish people.*

Hamhsdal  
*skull / round mountain valley*
This name occurs in the secondary name Bruach Hamhsdail but is not used on its own. The generic may derive from ON hauss designating a 'mountain top' or a 'skull shaped rock'. Its prime location on the fertile island of Vatersay would support this argument.

**Hanisgeir**

['hunifk'er']

1823 Harstivall, 1901 Harstavall

*Cox lists Thanasgeir, a cluster of seven skerries in Lewis* (see Cox, 1987 II:225, and Oftedal, 1976:28). A combination of ON hani, m, ‘cockerel’ and ON sker, n, ‘skerry’.

**Harbour**

['harbor']

1823 Heavall, 1865 Bein Eaval

*Although Borgstrøm emphasizes that he does not consider the derivation from ON adj. har, ‘high’, as certain (see Campbell, 1936:292), the name describes the highest mountain in the Barra group and would match this designation.*

**Hartaval**

['he;jə$val']

1823 Harstivall

*Here the OS spelling and the local pronunciation differ remarkably. More credibility should be given to local oral sources. Cox (1987 II:227) lists Theastabhal, a derivation from ON Heistafjall with ON hestr, m, ‘horse’, and ON fjall, n, ‘mountain’.*

**Heaval**

['he:əval']

1823 Heavall, 1865 Bein Eaval

*Although Borgstrøm emphasizes that he does not consider the derivation from ON adj. har, ‘high’, as certain (see Campbell, 1936:292), the name describes the highest mountain in the Barra group and would match this designation.*

**Hecla**

['he:i,k'ɔ:lɔː']

1823 Faihlum, 1874 Heailam

*This name appears to be directly imported from Iceland where Hecla is the name of a high mountain. It contains the ON adj. hár, ‘high’ and ON klettr, m, ‘mountain’. The MacLean map of 1823 indicates the existence of Heclavég and Heclavore.*

**Heclanish**

['he:lanif']

1823 Toraynish, 1901 Tora Vinish

*The name may derive from the ON male personal name Helge or from the ON adj. heilagr, ‘holy’. A third possibility is a derivation from the ON adj. hei³, ‘well’, ‘complete’, ‘lucky’. The generic stems from ON nes, n, ‘headland’. There are places called Helgenes and Helnes in Norway.*
Heishival Beag  
small mountain of the horses  
1823 Heishivalleg
According to local inhabitants the OS located this feature incorrectly at NGR NL636961. The correct NGR is NL641962. The name is likely to be a derivation from ON Heistafjall with ON hestr, m, 'horse', and ON fjall, n, 'mountain'.

Heishival Mór  
large mountain of the horses  
1823 Heishivalvore
This place-name has been both misspelt and mispositioned by the OS at N625964. The correct form is given in the NGR field. For derivation see Heishival Bheag.

Heisker  
flagstone skerry
1654 Heyskyra, 1846 Heisker, 1865 Hesker
Alias: Outer Heisker, Sgeir nan Ròn
The name is probably derived from ON hella, f, 'flagstone' and ON sker, n, 'skerry'. Cox's derivation of Theisgeir from ON heið (Cox, 1987:227) is not applicable, as this skerry has neither heather nor peat, nor any other obvious signs of vegetation.

Hellisay  
cave island
1549 Hettesay, 1654 Hildesay, 1764 Hellisay, 1794a Keillesay, 1794b Hellesa, 1806 Helesay, 1824 Hellesa, 1845 Hellisay, 1848 Hetesay I., 1854 Helesa, 1865 Hellisay
There are a number of caves on the island, so a derivation from ON hellir, m, 'caves' and ON øy, f, 'island' is almost certain.

Higgins Cottage  
This house used to be the summer residence of Peggy Angus who was one of the leading figures in the Arts and Crafts movement.

Hilibric  
slope of ?
The generic is derived from ON brekka, f, 'slope'. The specific remains opaque. Father Allan McDonald, however, identifies a hill called Hilibrick on Mingulay possibly located at the south side of the village. (See appendix A, name 101).

Himalisgeir  
skerry of ?
1823 Himilisker
A variation is Himelasgeir. Marwick lists Himera Geo in Orkney and relates it to G iomaire, m, 'ridge' or 'field'. The generic is derived from ON sker, n, 'skerry'. The derivation of the specific remains uncertain.

Hintish Bay  
The first part of this name remains obscure.
Alias: Bágh Chàrais
small hill
1901 Hoe Beg
See The Hoe.

Holisgeir ['holis̄kœr] NL625981 247 I OR
skerry of ?
Alias: Sgeir Holisgeir, Bogh a Ruadh a-staigh
It is uncertain whether the specific contains ON höll, f, ‘mound’ or an ON personal name. The generic is ON sker, n, ‘island’.

Hornish ['hornif] NF734097 231 R OS
corner headland
1901 Ru Horish
A combination of ON horn, n, ‘corner’ and ON nes, n, ‘headland’. There is a place called Hornnes in Norway (see Rygh, 1898:57).

Hornish Rocks ['hornif 'raks] NF727092 231 R AD
rocks of H.
1874 -
See Hornish.

Horough [no 'horav] NL657970 247 S OS
pile of stones
This name derives from ON hœgr, m, ‘pile of stones’, usually indicating an important site of heathen worship (Rygh, 1898:58).

Horse Island ['hœrs ailænd] NL548812 260 I AD
Alias: Geirum Mör

Hotel [ho'tel] NF649007 231 S OS

Huilish Beg ['hu:lif 'bœk] NL623937 247 R OS
small + ?
The name may be a derivaton from ON höll, m, ‘mound’ and ON nes, n, ‘headland’ and have undergone the process of assimilation. The derivation is not certain.

Huilish More ['hu:lif 'moœr] NL620948 247 R OS
big + ?
The name may be a derivaton from ON höll, m, ‘mound’ and ON nes, n, ‘headland’ and have undergone the process of assimilation. The derivation is not certain.

Huilish Point ['hu:lif 'point] NL617950 247 R OS*
point of H.
1823 Stronascaiba, 1901 Hailishoove
The historical form of Hailishoove was first recorded in 1823 as Haillishoove. It is not certain whether Huilish Point and Hailishoove are located on the same site. Hailishoove is listed in appendix A name 78 where its approximate location is shown. See Huilish Beg.

Humula ['humulœ] NL652908 247 R OR
pebbly beach
Humula originates from ON hömull, m, ‘layer of pebbles’ or ‘beach stone’. The ‘a’ in the final position cannot be accounted for.
**Inner Heisker**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inner flagstone skerry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901 Inner Hesker</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Alias: Na Dubh Sgeirean

Borgstrøm derives the name from ON hellu-sker, 'flagstone skerry' (Campbell, 1936:294). Sommerfelt finds this derivation improbable. Cox lists the name Theisker which he derives from ON heio, f, 'heath' and sker, n, 'skerry'. Arne Kruse emphasizes that skerries in the ON sense of the word do not show any signs of vegetation. The meaning 'flagstone skerry' appears to be the most likely choice.

**Inner Oitir Mhór**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inner large sandbank</th>
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<tr>
<td>1874 Inner Otter Vore</td>
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</table>

**Innis Bhan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>white meadow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**Innisgeir**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>harbour skerry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1865 Innisgeir</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possibly a derivation from ON höfn, f, 'harbour', and ON sker, n, 'skerry'. See discussion on Ainnsgeir (Cox, 1987:3).

**Iodhlann Mór a' Mhaoir**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>big enclosure of the ground officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Iodhlann Seasaidh a' Chaolais**

| enclosure of Jessie of the Sound |

**Iomaire a' Phuill Mòna**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rig of the peat moss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Iomaire Mhór**

| big rig of land |

**Iron Hut**

| rig of land |

**Jetty**

| [¿'teti] |

**Jetty**

| [¿'teti] |

**Jetty**

| [¿'teti] |

**Jetty**

| [¿'teti] |

**Jetty**

<p>| [¿'teti] |</p>
<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jetty</td>
<td>[ˈdʒeti]</td>
<td>NL694986</td>
<td>247 O</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jetty</td>
<td>[ˈdʒeti]</td>
<td>NF706031</td>
<td>231 O</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentangaval</td>
<td>[kˈɛn ˈtangəval]</td>
<td>NL656988</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentangaval</td>
<td><em>head of the mountain of the promontory</em></td>
<td>1805 Kentanguall, 1901 Kentangual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentangaval</td>
<td>A combination of G ceann, m, ‘top’, ‘end’, ‘point’, ON tangi, m, ‘promontory’ and ON fjall, n, ‘mountain’. Kentangaval consists of a number of small settlement areas which a local lists as Cnoc Flhaoich (Heather Hill), An Goirtean Buidhe and Kinloch.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keromadal</td>
<td>[ˈkɛrʊmədal]</td>
<td>NL566798</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keromadal</td>
<td>The first two syllables of this name look like the G land measurement ceathramh, ‘quarter’.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerr Patch</td>
<td>[ˈkɛr ˈpatʃ]</td>
<td>NL651930</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilbar</td>
<td>[ˈkɪlˌbɑɹ]</td>
<td>NF704075</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>AD*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilbar</td>
<td><em>church of St. Finnbarr</em></td>
<td>1549 Kilbare, 1564 Kilbarra, 1695 Kilbarr village, 1794a Kilbar, 1805 Kilbarra, 1824 Kilbar, 1846 Kilbar, 1848 Kilbart, 1865 Kilbar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilbar</td>
<td>As the other old names for chapels in Barra are associated with saints, it is likely that this name, too, is dedicated to a saint (for more information on St. Finnbarr see Macquarrie, 1989:29).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinloch</td>
<td>[ˈkɪnˌloʊx]</td>
<td>NL651994</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinloch</td>
<td><em>head of the loch</em></td>
<td>1826 Kenloch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul</td>
<td>[ˈkɪsəmʊl] also [ˈkɪʃmʊl]</td>
<td>NL665979</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul</td>
<td><em>rock of the small bay</em></td>
<td>1549 Kiselnin, 1695 Kisimul</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul</td>
<td>The specific is unlikely to derive from the ON personal name Kisi which Lind (1915) classifies as a manipulated medieval name. Allan McDonald (1903) provides the essential clue by giving Ciasmul as an alternative spelling which leads to the derivation from ON kjóss, m, ‘small bay’ and ON múli, m, ‘headland’, here ‘sea-rock’. Kisimul provides an accurate geographic setting for this derivation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul Bay</td>
<td>[ˈkɪʃmʊl ˈbeɪ]</td>
<td>NL664977</td>
<td>247 A</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul Bay</td>
<td><em>bay of K.</em></td>
<td>1823 Kiessimul Bay</td>
<td>Alias: Castle Bay</td>
<td>See Kisimul.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul Castle</td>
<td>[ˈkɪʃmʊl ˈkɑsl]</td>
<td>NL665979</td>
<td>247 A</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisimul Castle</td>
<td><em>castle of K.</em></td>
<td>1654 Chastel Kyslum, 1794b Castle Chisamil, 1823 Kiessimull Castle, 1845 Kisimul Castle, 1846 Kiessimul Castle, 1848 Chisamul Castle, 1865 Chisamul Castle, 1887 Kiessimul Castle</td>
<td>Alias: A’ Steinn</td>
<td>See Kisimul.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Knock Noddinull

Noddimull

hill of the headland of the sign

1823 Knockodinill

The first element is the anglicized version of G čnoc, m, ‘hill’ or ‘eminence’. The second element may correspond to ON nótí, m, ‘sign’, ‘mark’ and ON múl, m, ‘large headland’, ‘rock’. The derivation of the embedded primary name is uncertain.

Lag a’ Choin Duibh

hollow of the black dog

Lag a’ Choire

hollow of the kettle

Nan MacKinnon locates this place-name at NL627967.

Lag an Fheidh

hollow of the deer

Lag an Fheoir

hollow of the hay

Lag an Fhliodh

chickweed hollow

Lag Cuidhe Bheag a’ Bhuntata

hollow of the small enclosure of the potatoes

See Cuidhe Bheag a’ Bhuntata.

Lag Dhaoimean

Diamond’s hollow

‘Diamond’ was the name of a horse belonging to the MacKinnons of Scurrival. G daoimean, m, is a loan from Eng. diamond.

Lag nan Cnáimh

hollow of the bones

Lag nan Laogh

hollow of the calves

This primary name is related to Tobar Lag nan Laogh.

Lag Rosie

hollow of Rosie

Rosie was the name of a horse.

Lagdruiseach

chickweed hollow
The specific perhaps derives from the G adj. driseach, ‘thorny’. This name designates the northern part of what is nowadays known as Castlebay.

Làimhbrid
landing-place
G làimhbrid, f, a loan from ON hlað-hamarr, ‘slope rock’, describing a ‘landing-place’. Dwelly lists also the alternative spelling lamraig.

Làimhbrid
landing-place
1823 Portantrumpian
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid
landing-place
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid a’ Ghiomaich
landing-place of the lobster
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid Ailig Bhig
Small Alec’s landing-place
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid an Dògaidh
landing-place of the docking
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid an Sgàdaidh
landing-place of the herring
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid Cille Bharra
landing-place of C.
See Làimhbrid and See Kilbar.

Làimhbrid Eoghaíonn Néill
Jonathan (of) Neil’s landing-place
See Làimhbrid.

Làimhbrid Floddaigh
landing-place of F.
See Làimhbrid and Flodday.

Làimhbrid Holisgeir

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Làimhrig Iomhair
Ivor’s landing-place
See Làimhrig.

Làimhrig Mhaoil Domhnaich
landing-place of M.
See Làimhrig and Muldoanich.

Làimhrig na Craobhhe
landing-place of the tree
See Làimhrig.

Làimhrig na Mòna
landing-place of the peat
See Làimhrig.

Làimhrig na Mòna
landing-place of the peat
See Làimhrig.

Làimhrig na Sgotha
landing-place of the skiff
See Làimhrig. G sgoth, m, a loan from ON skúta, f, ‘skiff’, ‘boat’.

Làimhrig nam Bràthan
landing-place of the quern-stones
Local tradition has it that the MacNeil of Barra found out that his kinfolk were using their own mill to grind corn, instead of paying money to use his mill. Infuriated, he destroyed their mill and rolled the mill-stones into the sea. See Làimhrig.

Làimhrig nam Buntàta
landing-place of the potatoes
See Làimhrig. G buntàta, m, is related to Eng. potato.

Làimhrig nam Mart
landing-place of the cows
1865 Cattle Point
See Làimhrig. This was the place the cows traditionally landed after having swum across the Sound of Vatersay. The causeway put an end to that practice.

Làimhrig Pheadair Ruairidh
Peter (of) Roderick’s landing-place
See Làimhrig.

Lamalùm
lamb island
1654 -, 1823 Ellendmore, 1874 Lamalum
A combination ON lamb, n, ‘lamb’ and ON holmr, m, ‘island’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Northness</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamalum Beag</td>
<td>lamalum 'bëk'</td>
<td>NF728030</td>
<td>231 I</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Lamalum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landing Place</td>
<td>landiŋ ‚ple₃</td>
<td>NL556807</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 -, 1865 -</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landing Place</td>
<td>landiŋ ‚ple₃</td>
<td>NL610873</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landing Place</td>
<td>landiŋ ‚ple₃</td>
<td>NL567828</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 -, 1865 -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lani sh</td>
<td></td>
<td>NL602833</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pronunciation of this name is uncertain. It corresponds with Srôn Lithinis located at its north end.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Northness</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaba nan Aigheann</td>
<td></td>
<td>NL564794</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>OS6''*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifer’s bed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865 Heifer’s Bed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Heifer’s Bed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pronunciation points towards the possible form Leabaidh nan Èiginn, ‘bed of the disasters’. The place is located at the steep and dangerous southern coast of Berneray.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Northness</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leabaidh ‘ic a Phi</td>
<td>le₃hπic₃kə 'fi₃</td>
<td>NL564839</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacPhee’s bed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leabaidh Dhòmhnaill</td>
<td>le₃hπpa₃ ,r5-æl’vræxi</td>
<td>NF699000</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mhurchaidh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald (of) Murdoch’s bed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leabaidh MhicIain</td>
<td>le₃hπic₃k ‘i:iain</td>
<td>NF697085</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston’s bed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leabaidh na Béiste Duibhe</td>
<td>le₃hπana₃ ,beʃʃja 'duj5</td>
<td>NL648976</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bed of the otter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leabaidh na Ceastaig</td>
<td>le₃hπana₃ ,kæʃtak</td>
<td>NF667036</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bed of the little sheep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leabaidh nan Corra</td>
<td>le₃hπana₃ ,ŋɔR₃</td>
<td>NL656975</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bed of the herons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leac a’ Chroigein</td>
<td>le₃xka₃ 'xɾɡain</td>
<td>NL676992</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flagstone of the little earthen dish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leac an Dosain</td>
<td>le₃xka₃ ‘dosain</td>
<td>NF650046</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flagstone of the little bush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alias: Na Leacan Dubha

Leac an Dùin Bhriste
flagstone of the broken fort
See Dùn Briste.

Leac an Langaich
flagstone of the common guillemot

Leac Domaidh
Dominic’s flagstone

Leac Móir Uidhistich
flagstone of Morag from Uist

Leac na Fala
flagstone of the cliff
The specific is related to G palla, a loan from ON pallr, m, ‘ledge’, ‘cliff’ as the place is located at the cliff of the northern shore of Berneray. Therefore a translation as ‘flagstone of the blood’ is unlikely.

Leac na Guala
flagstone of the shoulder

Leac Naisg
flagstone of N.
See Nask.

Leac nan Dòrn
flagstone of the fists

Leac nan Leannan
flagstone of the lovers

Leac nan Seòlan
flagstone of the sails

Leac Réidh
smooth flagstone

Leac Shleamhainn
slippery flagstone

Leac Shleamhainn
slippery flagstone

Leac Slètta
flagstone of the plain
A combination of G leac, f, ‘flagstone’ and ON slètta, f, ‘level piece of ground’. See Bay Sletta.
Leac Uaine  
*green flagstone*

1823 Leackuaina

Leàrn’ a’ Chàilein  
*meadow of the seedling*

Leàrn’ a’ Mhin-Flèoir  
*meadow of smooth grass*

Leàrn’ a’ Ministeir  
*meadow of the minister*

G ministear, m, a loan from Lat. minister, ‘servant’, here ‘minister’.

Leàrn’ an Eich  
*meadow of the horse*

A variation of this name is Leàrn’ nan Each.

Leàrn’ na Cuilce  
*meadow of reeds*

1823 Leananacuilchd

Leàna Bean Iain  
*meadow of John’s wife*

Bean Iain was also known as Mrs. Ferguson.

Leàna Beinn Sgiodair  
*meadow of the mountain of the puddle*

Leàna Horgh  
*meadow of H.*

See Horough.

Leàna Mhicheil Fhionnlaigh  
*Michael (of) Finlay’s meadow*

Leàna Mhóir  
*large meadow*

Leàna na h-Eisgin  
*The correct G gen. form of Eng. ‘eel’ is ‘easgann’. Mairi Liz MacKinnon points out that the entry on the 1823 Maclean map should be translated as ‘meadow of reeds’, representing Leàna nan Seasgan(n) from G seasg, gen. case seisge and that the OS interpretation is based on a grammatical error.*

Leàna Shiar  
*west meadow*
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4  Leana Rochain

[.L'iana 'ir:xan]  NL650976  247 F  OR.

Rochan’s meadow

‘Rochan’ is likely to be a personal name.

Leanish

[.'laenif]  NL701989  247 S  OS*

shelter headland

1823 Laibmish, 1833 Lainish, 1901 Luibmish

The generic is ON nes, n, ‘headland’. A number of interpretation attempts have been made for the specific. The ON adj. lang, ‘long’, appears unlikely as there are longer headlands in the area. Borgstrøm suggests ON loegir, m, ‘the sea’, for ‘headland with an anchoring place’ (Campbell, 1936:291). A geographically possible derivation is from ON hlið, f, ‘hill slope’. Cox suggests ‘shelter point’ from ON hlið, f, (Cox, 1987: 209) which is geographically correct and appears to be most likely.

Leathad Beag Cúil

[.Lre-o-t 'hek ,k'u:la'gari]  NL648984  247 R  OR

a’ Gharaidh

little slope of the back of the dyke

See Cúil a’ Gharaidh.

Leathad na Cailliche

[.Lre-o-tna 'kali:ca]  NL691990  247 O  OR

slope of the old woman

Leathad na Faire Móire

[.Lre-o-tna .fere 'mo:r5]  NF687021  231 R  OR

slope of the good prospect

Leathad nan Sithean

[.Lre-o-tnan 'fian]  NL555839  260 O  OR

slope of the fairy hills

Ledaig

[.'le:qak]  NL669979  247 S  OS

little slope

Ledaig is the diminutive form of G leathad, m, ‘slope’.

Leehinish

[.'l'i-inif]  NL651902  247 R  OS*

shelter headland

1823 Lechinish

Alias: Sròn Litheinis

See Leanish.

Leigemul

[.'le:qemul]  NL665975  247 I  OS*

? + island

1865 Legumul, 1901 Legumol

The first element is obscure, probably ON. The second element is a derivation from ON múli, m, ‘headland’, or here ‘rock surrounded by water’.

Leirval

[.'le:o:val]  NL670998  247 R  OR

The name may derive from ON leirr, m, ‘clay’ and ON fjall, n, ‘mountain’. However, Henderson interprets the almost similar sounding name Laiaval in Uist as ‘law field’, from ON laga and ON vóllr. The geography of the place does not provide a straightforward solution. There is a hill adjoined by a large, high-lying plain.
Lianamul [‘L’iañamul] NL549837 260 I OS*

1695 Linmull, 1823 Lianimull, 1901 North Green Island
The first element is obscure. The second element is a derivation from ON múlí, m, ‘headland’ or here ‘rock surrounded by water’.

Liarach Taigh nan Sàileach [LI’i’arax ‘tajnan ‘sailx] NF710019 231 OR
The first element is uncertain. Taigh nan Sàileach means ‘the house of the people from Kintail’.

Light House [‘lait ,haus] NL548802 260 S AD

Lighthouse Bay [‘lait ,haus ‘be:] NL550800 260 W AD

Limheinis shelter headland [‘livøñif] NF650015 231 R OR
See Leanais. Although located on an exposed part of the west coast, L. provides shelter for Tràigh Chaise.

Lingay [‘L’iñgei] NL603897 260 I OS*
heather island

1549 Lingay, 1654 Linga, 1764 Lingay, 1794b Linga I., 1823 Lingay, 1824 Longa, 1846 Lingay, 1848 Linga, 1854 -, 1865 Lingay
A combination of ON lyng, n, ‘heather’ and ON øy, f, ‘island’.

Lingay-Fhada [‘L’iñgei ‘ad:] NF731037 231 I OS*
long heather island

1654 Linga ad, 1901 Long Lingay

Little England [‘litl ‘iñglænd] NF726014 231 S OR
Alias: Bruernish
There used to be many English-owned holiday homes in Bruernish and because of this the area acquired the nickname Little England.

Loch a’ Mhulinn Bhig [Ləxə ‘vul’iN ‘vik] NL675995 247 W OR
lake of the little mill
There is no sign of a loch on the OS map at this location.

Loch an Ail [Ləxən ‘a:j] NF716014 231 W OS*
lake of the rock (?)
1823 Ln an ail, 1874 Loch an Aill

Loch an Dùin [Ləxən ‘dú:n] NF694032 231 W OS
lake of the fort

Loch an Dùin [Ləxən ‘dú:n] NF696034 231 S CR
lake of the fort
1823 Loch an Duine, 1824 Lochanbunn

**Loch an Eas Dhuibh**
*lake of the dark waterfall*
Alias: Loch MhicLeod, An Loch Mór, Loch Tangusdale, Loch St. Clair

**Loch an Eich Uisge**
*lake of the kelpie*

**Loch an Fheoir**
*lake of hay*
Loch an Fheoir is a grass loch in summer.

**Loch an Rubha**
*lake of the point*
Alias: Loch nan Lilies, Loch Scotageary, Loch nan Flurachan

**Loch Beag Phuaidh**
*little sea loch of F.*
This inlet appears to be tidal. See Fuiay.

**Loch Beag na Doirlinn**
*little lake of the isthmus*

**Loch Bean Iain**
*lake of John's wife*

**Loch Bheinn an Lochain**
*lake of B.*
See Beinn an Lochan.

**Loch Cuilce**
*lake of reeds*
1823 Loch Cuilka

**Loch Dhòmhnaill a’ Bhhealaich**
*lake of Donald of the pass*

**Loch MhicLeodaid**
*MacLeod’s lake*
Alias: Loch St. Clair, Loch Tangusdale, Loch an Eas Dhuibhe, An Loch Mór

**Loch Mhicheil Fhionnlaigh**
*lake of Michael (of) Finlay*

**Loch na Beinne Bige**
*lake of the little mountain*

**Loch na Cuirce**
*lake of the reeds*
1823 Lochnacuilchd
Alias: Loch Shanndraigh

Loch na Doirilinn
*lake of the isthmus*
Alias: An Loch Beag

Loch na h-Iglme Baine
*lake of the fair-haired girl*
Alias: Loch na h-Iglme Ruaidhe, Loch nic Ruaidhe

Loch na h-Iglme Ruaidhe
*lake of the red-haired girl*
1823 Ln Nieinenirnaigh
Alias: Loch na h-Iglme Baine, Loch nic Ruaidhe

Loch na h-Ob
*lake of the enclosed bay*
Alias: Loch Obe, Loch nan Sàileach
1901 Loch na Obb
The OS form is *Loch Obe*, but locals always pronounce the name as *Loch na h-Ob*. The name is a combination of G loch, 'lake' and ON hópr, m, 'enclosed bay'.

Loch na Fadhlainn Àrd
*high lake of the isthmus*
1874 Seagulls High Loch
See Lochan na Faoileann.

Loch na Fadhlainn Íseal
*low lake of the isthmus*
1874 Seagulls Low Loch
See Lochan na Faoileann.

Loch nan Fluraichean
*lake of the flowers*
Alias: Loch an Rubha, Loch Scotageary, Loch nan Lilies

Loch nan Lilies
*lake of the lilies*
Alias: Loch an Rubha, Loch Scotageary, Loch nan Fluraichean
The specific is a loan from Eng. lily.

Loch nan Sàileach
*lake of the people from Kintail*
Alias: Loch na h-Ob, Loch Obe

Loch nic Ruaidhe
*lake of Nic Ruaidh*
1901 Loch Nidnanuig
Alias: Loch na h-Iglme Ruaidhe, Loch na h-Iglme Baine
There is a story about a red-haired girl who lived at this place and fell in love with the son of the MacNeil of Barra. When she becomes pregnant she and her lover escape by boat and are said to have settled on Colonsay.
Loch Obe
*lake of the enclosed bay*
Alias: Loch na h-Òb, Loch nan Sàileach
See Loch na h-Òb.

Loch Phàdraig
*Patrick’s lake*

Loch Phèigi
*Peggy’s lake*

Loch Scotageary
*lake of S.*
1874 Loch Scotigarrie
Alias: Loch an Rubha, Loch nan Lilies, Loch nan Flùraichean
See Scotagearraidh.

Loch Shanndraigh
*lake of S.*
Alias: Loch na Cuilce
See Sandray.

Loch St. Clair
*St. Clair’s lake*
Alias: Loch MhicLèoid, Loch Tangusdale, Loch an Eas Dhuibhe, Loch Mòr
The name Loch St. Clair was an invention of a Victorian novelist which found its way onto the OS maps. This is one of the rare instances where the OS lists two alternative names for the same feature.

Loch Tangusdale
*lake of T.*
Alias: Loch St. Clair, Loch MhicLèoid, Loch an Eas Dhuibhe, An Loch Mòr
This is one of the rare instances where the OS lists two alternative names for the same feature. See Tangusdale.

Loch Uisge
*lake of the fresh water*
1823 Loch Nisk

Lochan na Cartach
*little lake of the waterlily*
Cox translates cartach as ‘waterlily’ (see Cox, 1987, name 2226).

Lochan na Faoileann
*lakes of the ford*
1823 Loch na Faolín
Locals distinguish between Loch na Fadhlaínn Àrd and Loch na Fadhlaínn Íseal. G faoileann means ‘common seagull’, ‘mew’. However, a derivation from ON vaöill, m, ‘ford’, seems onomastically more appropriate, and the G name may have developed as a result of folk-etymology or a misinterpretation on the part of the map-maker. Dwelly lists fadhail, f, with the meaning of ‘ford’ which suits the geographical setting perfectly as there is a little ford between the two lochs. See Loch na Fadhlaínn Àrd.
Loimbo Breaker
(breaker) of the reef of barrenness (?)
1901 Lonubo Breaker
The first element is likely to be a combination of G luime, f, ‘barrenness’, ‘nakedness’ and G bogha, m, a loan from ON boði, m, ‘reef’.

Lón an t-Srutha
pool of the current

Lón Mór
big pool

Lón nan Lèabag
pool of the flounders

Lón nan Tunnag
pool of the ducks

Lot 'icAsgaill
MacAskill’s share
This name possibly designates a part of the rocky shore which MacAskill used for fowling.

Lot Mhóir Tom na Beinne
big share of T.
See Tom na Beinne.

Lower Bruernish
lower B.
Alias: Rubha Chàrnain
See Bruernish.

Lub’ a’ Bhoidich
Boyd’s pool / marsh

Luba Ghoiridh
Godfrey’s pool / marsh

Machair Pendicle
plain of the detached land
Pendicle describes a detached portion of land on an estate.

Machair Shanndraigh
plain of S.
See Sandray.

Machaire Bhuirgh
plain of B.
Alias: Sligeanach
See Borve.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Transcription</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>AD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maclean's Point</td>
<td>[.məklənəns 'pɔint]</td>
<td>NL568804</td>
<td>260 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865 -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: An Rodha, Rubha MhicillEathain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacPhee's Hill</td>
<td>[.məkˈfiːs 'hɪl]</td>
<td>NL565841</td>
<td>260 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901 Bein McPhee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddasdale</td>
<td>[.ˈmadasdəl]</td>
<td>NF737092</td>
<td>231 S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Maddasdale, 1878 Modasdale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This may be the site of an earlier settlement. The meaning of the first element is uncertain, possibly ON. The second element may either derive from ON dalr, m, 'valley' or ON stódoll, m, 'milking place'.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manse</td>
<td>[.məns]</td>
<td>NF668036</td>
<td>231 S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Màs a' Mhill</td>
<td>[.məsə 'vil]</td>
<td>NL653942</td>
<td>247 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back of the hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Màs an Rubha</td>
<td>[.məsə 'ruʃ]</td>
<td>NF717003</td>
<td>231 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back of the point</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Màs Flodáigh</td>
<td>[.məs 'lədəʃ]</td>
<td>NF756020</td>
<td>231 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back of F.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Flodday.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Màs Flùaigh</td>
<td>[.məs 'həɾjəʃ]</td>
<td>NF742020</td>
<td>231 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back of F.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Fuiay.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Màs na h-Àird</td>
<td>[.məsə 'həɾdəɾə]</td>
<td>NL569852</td>
<td>260 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back of the hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This name describes the entire adjacent coastline.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Màs na h-Iodhlainn</td>
<td>[.məsə 'hɪlən]</td>
<td>NF723024</td>
<td>231 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back of the enclosure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This place was used for stacking hay for the winter. The stacks were secured for the winter and would then be used for feeding cattle.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason's Point</td>
<td>[.məsənə 'pɔint]</td>
<td>NF710001</td>
<td>231 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874 Mason's Point</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Meall nam Bùth.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mast</td>
<td>[.məst]</td>
<td>NF710016</td>
<td>231 O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This name is English and indicates the site of a mast.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadhon a' Ghlinne</td>
<td>[.mi-ənə 'ɡlinə]</td>
<td>NL671984</td>
<td>247 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>middle of the valley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mealbhach</td>
<td>[.mələ'bəx]</td>
<td>NF700067</td>
<td>231 R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sandy hillocks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McDonald suggests Mealathaich and Mealbhaich as possible variations on spelling. The name describes a stretch of machair with bent-covered hillocks much frequented by rabbits. (McDonald, 1958:176)

**Meall an Laoigh**

*knoll of the calf*

1823 Meallanlagigh, 1874 Calf Lump

**Meall Meadhonach**

*middle knoll*

This name was entered in the OS Object Name Book but never placed on a map.

**Meall Mór**

*big knoll*

1823 Meallmore, 1874 Meal More

Alias: A’ Chreag Mhór, Creag Mhór an Eilein

**Meall na h-Eille**

*knoll of the precipice / advantage / flock (?)*

1823 Meallnaheilla

Dwelly’s translation of the specific is taken from Armstrong’s dictionary of Perthshire Gaelic and therefore may not be appropriate in a Western Isles context. There may be a connection with G fioll, a ‘market’. Being located on the shore of the small and only for a short period inhabited island of Fuia the location itself is unlikely to have been the site of a market or fair. It may, however, have been the point from which cattle or sheep were loaded onto boats to be taken to the nearest market. The OS Object Name Book refers to this site as Meall an Leaig and states that the meaning of this name is obscure.

**Meall nam Buth**

*hill of the booths*

Alias: Mason’s Point

Meall nam Buthanan is given by Roderick MacPherson. The specific G biBh is a loan from Eng. booth and ON buð, ‘booth’, ‘tent’.

**Melast**

*sea-links stead*

Henderson’s derivation of Melasta from ON meðar, m, ‘sea-links’ and ON staðir, m, ‘settlement’ (see Henderson, 1910:346) is suitable in this geographic context.
Mill

mill

['mil]  NL640925 247 S  OR

Mill

mill

1865 -

['mil]  NL565802 260 S  AD

Mill

mill

1823 -

['mil]  NF697032 231 S  ML

Mingulay

big island

1549 Megaly, 1654 Megala, 1695 Micklay, 1764 Mingula, 1794a Mingalay, 1794b Mingalla I., 1805 Mingalay, 1824 Mingala, 1845 Mingalay, 1846 Mingulay, 1848 Mingulay, 1854 Mingala, 1865 Mingulay

Borgström suggests Mi'ulaidh for G spelling and Mikiley for ON. He translates the name as 'big isle' for ON mikil, 'big', which later was weakened to /g/. The /u/ sound cannot be accounted for so that the meaning is not entirely certain. The generic originates from ON øy, f, 'island'. Mingulay is the largest and highest of the islands south of Barra.

Míרך Point

Alias: Rubh' a' Mhorbhuile

['míรกəkəl ,pəint]  NL685943 247 R  AD

Missionary Croft

['miʃnəri kroft]  NF710027 231 S  OR

Nowadays the Heathbank Hotel, a conversion of a former church, is located on the grounds of the Missionary Croft.

Mòinteach Bhoile

moorland of B.

['mòistencia 'vələnəhədə̆x]  NF711015 231 V  OR

See Ba' Mòinteach

Bodach

Mol an t-Suidhechain

shingly beach of the sitting place

[.mələn'duiəxəin]  NF687056 231 R  OR

See Mol Bheag Orosaigh.

Mol Bheag Orosaigh

little shingly beach of O.

[.məl,vək 'ɔrə-osə̆i]  NL642971 247 R  OR

G mol, f, is a loan from ON mol, f, 'gravel bed'. For derivation of Orosaigh see Orosay.

Mol Bheag Rubha Ghlas

little shingly beach of the grey-green point

[.məl,vək ,ruə 'yləs]  NL651974 247 R  OR

See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Rubha Glas.

Mol Chliaid

shingly beach of C.

[.mələ'xliət]  NF666049 231 R  OR

See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Cleat.
Mol an Dion  
*shingly beach of shelter*
See Mol Bheag Orosaidh.

Mol Fhloidaigh  
*shingly beach of Flodday*
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Flodday.

Mol Mór  
*big shingly beach*
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Flodday.

Mol nam Faochag  
*shingly beach of the whelks*
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh.

Mol nam Faochag  
*shingly beach of the whelks*
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh.

Mol Orosaigh  
*shingly beach of *O*.
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Orosay.

Mol Risebig  
*shingly beach of brushwood bay*
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Creag Risebig.

Mol Sgurabhail  
*shingly beach of *S*.
Alias: Bágh nan Clach, Stony Bay
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Scurrival.

Mol Threisibhig  
*shingly beach of *T*.
See Mol Bheag Orosaigh and Tresivick.

Monument  
[*'mjanjumant*]  
NL662982  247 R  OR

Mud Rock  
[*'mad _ræk*]  
NF730004  231 I  AD

Muileann Dhòmhnaill  
*Donald's mill*
This is a primary name and forms part of Abhainn Muilleann Dhomhnuill.

Muldoanich  
*headland of the Lord*
1549 Scarpnamutt, 1654 Scarpa, 1794a Muldonich or Deer Island, 1823 Muldoanich, 1824 Mul Donich, 1848 Muldonish, 1854 Muldonich, 1865 Muldoanich I.
This name is a combination of G maol, 'the tonsured one' or 'headland' and Dòmhnach, 'the Lord', from Dominicus. Maol Dòmhnach, anglicized Ludovic, was a relatively common personal name in its own right. Maol offered a pun which made it suitable for such a land mass. This name was first recorded in 1794, before that it carried the probably ON name Scarpa or Scarpnamutt. It is possible that its young religious name is a euphemism for this large sea-rock which is rather a nuisance than a blessing.

Mullach a' Charnain
[top of the stony ground]
NF764049 231 R OS

Mullach a' Lusgan
[top/ hillock of the ?]
One informant thought lusgan to be some kind of plant. See G lus in McDonald, 1958:170 and see G loisgean, m, 'pimpernel', 'poor man's weather-glass', 'burnet' in Dwelly, 1901:597.

Mullach a' Mhiriceil
[top of M.]
See A' Mhiriceil.

Mullach Àird Ghirinn
[top of A.]
See Greian Head.

Mullach an Rathaid
[top of the road]
Alias: Mullach Bhruairnis
G rathad, m, from M Eng. roacle, 'road'.

Mullach Bhruairnis
[top of B.]
Alias: Mullach an Rathaid
See Bruernish.

Mullach Cadha na h-Imprich
[top of C.]
See Cadha na h-Imprich.

Mullach Fhùaigh
[top of F.]
See Fuiay.

Mullach Leithinis
[top of L.]
See Leanish.

Mullach Neachel
[top of ?]
1878 Mullach Nadia
The 1878 form of this name and its contemporary version are obscure. It is possible that the name may have originated from Mullach an Fhiacaill, or in its old G form Mullach an Fhiacla, meaning 'tooth-shaped top' with the 1878 entry misread Mullach Naclia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>OS Location</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mullach Rumich</td>
<td>top of the quagmire</td>
<td>NL564799</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Boghannan Dearga</td>
<td>the red sunken rocks</td>
<td>NL748996</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Bràithrean</td>
<td>the brothers</td>
<td>NF674014</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Caignichean Dubha</td>
<td>the black rough mountain passes</td>
<td>NL551833</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Caisteil Bheaga</td>
<td>the little castles</td>
<td>NL625994</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Cam-alltan</td>
<td>the crooked burns</td>
<td>NL695989</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Caolais Bheaga</td>
<td>the little sounds</td>
<td>NF733030</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Cireanan</td>
<td>the cock's combs</td>
<td>NL554798</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Coirichean</td>
<td>the corries</td>
<td>NF684002</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Creagan Móra</td>
<td>the big rocks</td>
<td>NF728009</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Dubh Sgeirean</td>
<td>the black skerries</td>
<td>NL585867</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Geòdhachan</td>
<td>the gullies</td>
<td>NL564818</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The OS location of Geòdhachan is incorrect. See An Geòdha.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gazetteer Entry</th>
<th>Reference Coordinates</th>
<th>Reference Page</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Na Gleannain, the little glens</td>
<td>NF702047</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>Na Gleannain has been extracted from the secondary name Clach Mhór nan Gleannan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Árd Gheannairean, the high long wedges</td>
<td>NL550805</td>
<td>260 R OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːrd ˈɡeənˌnən]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Aonaichean, the flat-topped heights</td>
<td>NF653051</td>
<td>231 R OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːniːn]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan, the islands</td>
<td>NF719030</td>
<td>231 I OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːlanən]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Na h-Eileanan Glasa, Eilean Dhùghaill Phàdraig</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>G eilean, m, a loan from ON eylancl, related to ON øy, f, ‘island’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan Dubha, the black islands</td>
<td>NF726029</td>
<td>231 I OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːlanən ˈdjuː̯]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Black Islands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Na h-Eileanan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan Fùideach, the islands of Fuday</td>
<td>NF760040</td>
<td>231 I OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːlanən ˈfuː̯dax]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A collective term for Gighay and Hellisay. Possibly these islands were (re-)settled by people from Fuday. See Na h-Eileanan and Fuday.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan Glasa, the grey-green islands</td>
<td>NF719030</td>
<td>231 I OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːlanən ˈɡlas5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Eilean Dhùghaill Phàdraig, Na h-Eileanan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Na h-Eileanan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan Glasa, the grey-green islands</td>
<td>NF710046</td>
<td>231 I OR</td>
<td>[nə 'həːlanən ˈɡlas5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: An t-Eilean Glas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Na h-Eileanan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Hillearn, the eagles (?)</td>
<td>NF663035</td>
<td>231 R OR</td>
<td>[nə 'hɪlərn]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This name may be connected with G Na h-Iolairean.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Horgh, the cairn / heap of stones</td>
<td>NF704040</td>
<td>231 R OR</td>
<td>[nə 'hɔː rɔ̯]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a patch greener than the rest of the hill. See Horough.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Lárách Bàine, the white mare</td>
<td>NL571840</td>
<td>260 R OR</td>
<td>[nə ˈl-repeat ˈbəːɪ̯]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This name is evidence that some forms are part of a genitive construction. Na Lárách Bàine here in a gen. sg. is likely to have been part of a longer name such as for example Ceann na Láirreach Bàine. If transformed into a form in nom. case the name would become An Láir Bhàn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Na Latha-Lin  

*the layered mountain side*

Na Latha-Lin is part of Biulacraig and is likely to derive from ON hlað, n, 'something stacked or layered' and ON (h)lein, f, 'mountain side' coinciding with the present geographical conditions.

Na Leacan Dubha  

*the black flagstones*

Alias: Leac an Dosain

Na Leacan Dubha  

*the black flagstones*

Na Ludagain  

Alias: Sheader Rocks, An Sgeir Dhubh

McDonald mentions the name Ludagain but gives no further explanations (McDonald, 1958:169). According to Dwelly this name would have to be translated as 'little fingers'.

Na Muileannan  

*the mills*

Na Muileannan  

*the mills*

Na Stéige  

*bent grass (?)*

Na Sgeirean  

*the skerries*

Alias: Sgeirean Cúil a' Bhaile

G sgeir, f, a loan from ON sker, n, 'skerry'.

Na Sgeirean Beaga  

*the little skerries*

See Na Sgeirean.

Na Sgeirean Carach  

*the deceiving skerries*

1901 Sgeir a' Charach

Alias: Am Bogha Dubh

See Na Sgeirean.

Na Sgeirean Dearga  

*the red skerries*

Alias: Na Boghannan Dearga, Boghannan Dearg' a' Churachain

See Na Sgeirean.

Na Sgeirean Dubha  

*the black skerries*

See Na Sgeirean.
Na Sgūdan  
the clusters
This place was generally used as a meeting place. See An Sgūdag.

Na Sgurragan  
the sharp-pointed hills
G sgūr, m, a loan from ON skør, f, 'steep or sharp-pointed hill'.

Na Sgurragan Móra  
the big steep hills
See Na Sgurragan.

Na Sgurragan  
the sharp-pointed hills
See Na Sgurragan.

Na Slocan Dubha  
the black gullies
Malcolm MacAulay locates this place-name east of Srón Lithinis.

Na Sluic  
the gullies
Alias: Slocan Guarsay

Na Tobhtaichean  
the ruins
See An Tobhta.

Na Tobhtaichean  
the ruins

Na Tobhtaichean  
the ruins

Na Tobhtaichean Ruadh  
the red ruins

Nask  
narrow passage
1764 -, 1806 -, 1834 Naske
This settlement name is probably derived from ON naskardo, 'cleft' or 'two mountains meeting'. Nask is located in the extension of the narrow valley between Beinn an Lochain and the unnamed hill at the top of Rubha Mòr and therefore would suit the description.

Natural Arch  
See Drochaid Ghunamul.

Natural Arch  
According to locals this arch collapsed in the 1970s.
Natural Arch ['natfəl 'ɔrəf] NL624997 247 R OS

Nead an Duibheinich [niːdən ˈduːnənæks] NL544820 260 R OR

Nest of the blackbird
G nead, m, related to Lat. nidus and Eng. nest.

Nead Feannaig [niːd ˈfænək] NL643977 247 O OR

Nest of the crow

Night Bay [ˈnæt ˈbeː] NL550832 260 W AD

1865 -
Alias: Bàgh na h-Aoineig

Nisam Point [ˈniːsəm ˈpaʊnt] NL574799 260 R OS*

Bottom point
1865 -
Also known as Nisam. This may be a variation of ON nið, n, 'bottom', or niðum in the dative pl. Indeed, Nisam is a low-lying part of Berneray, “composed entirely of bare, flattish rocks” (OS Object Name Books), and forms a strong contrast to the high cliffs at the lighthouse. There is a place called Nidarholm in Norway.

North Bay [ˈnɔrθˈbeː] NF728025 231 W OS*

1794a Tirivah, 1794b Ba Hiravah, 1824 Ba Hiravah, 1845 Bayhierava, 1848 Ba Hiravah, 1854 Tirivee bay, 1874 North Harbour, 1901 North Harbour, 1945 North Bay

Ruairidh Halford-MacLeod points out that the entrance to what is nowadays known as North Bay was mentioned in the ships’ log books of HMS Baltimore and HMS Furnace where it was referred to as Flodday Bay. Both ships were used by the Admiralty in the chase of ‘Bonnie Prince Charlie’. The log books are held in the Public Record Office at Kew / London (HMS Baltimore ADM/51/80, HMS Furnace ADM/51/379). I am grateful to Mr. Halford-MacLeod for this contribution.

North Sand NL636939 247 R SH

Alias: An Tràigh a Deas
This name corresponds to West Sand and Centre Sand.

Northbay [ˈnɔrθˈbeː] NF707030 231 S OR

See North Bay.

Northbay House [ˈnɔrθbe ˈhaus] NF707020 231 S OR

Northbay House used to be a primary school but has been converted into a guest house. Like nearby Cadha na h-Imprich, ‘pass of the flitting’, it is said to be haunted.

Northbay Inn [ˈnɔrθbe ˈɪn] NF702033 231 S OS*

1874 Inn
This public house no longer exists.

Obe River [ˈoʊp ˈrivər] NF699021 231 W OS

River of the enclosed bay
See Ben Obe.

Oitir a’ Bhàigh [ˈoɪtəɾə ˈvɑːɡ] NL645966 247 W OR
sand bank of the bay
Alias: An Oitir
G bàgh, m, a loan from ON vágr, m, ‘bay’.

Oitir Mhóir  
big sand bank
1794a Ottirvore, 1794b Otervore, 1823 Ottervore, 1845 Ottirvore, 1846 Ottervore, 1854 Ottir-vore, 1865 Outer Otter Vore, 1945 Outer Oitir More, 1987 Outer Oitir Mhór

Oitir na Cailliche  
sand bank of the old woman
1874 Otter na Cailleach
See story in section 5.3.

Oitir na Gréine  
sand bank of the sun

Oitir Sgiúrtaig  
sand bank of little boat bay
G oitir describes a ‘shallow bank in the sea’. The second part may be related to the Norwegian place-name Skuteviken (see Sandnes, 1976:286) from skúta, f, ‘little boat’ and vik, f, ‘bay’. This derivation would make onomastic sense as the bay is suitable for boats but due to its shallows only for small ones.

Old Graveyard  
[‘old ‘gre:v jard]  
NF656030 231 O OR

Old Hospital  
[‘old ‘hospit]  
NL679988 247 S OR

Old Inn  
[‘old ‘in]  
NF703033 231 S OR

Old Post Office  
[‘old ‘post’fis]  
The Old Post Office was built in 1922.

Old Shielings  
[‘old ‘jilings]  
NF683049 231 S OS

Old Village Cleat  
[‘old ‘vil[i]g ‘k’li:at]  
NF669049 231 S OR

Local informants say that this was the location of the Old Village.

Old Woman’s Rock  
[‘old ,wumans ‘ræk]  
NF716094 231 R AD

1874 -

Orosay  
ebbtide island
1654 Orosay, 1823 Oronsay
A combination of ON örf, f, ‘ebb tide’ (see Heggstad, 1930:511) and ON øy, f, ‘island’ for ‘tidal island’. Borgstrøm lists G Oró’osaidh, with a hiatus on the second ‘o’ (see Campbell, 1936:290). Orosay and Oronsay occur frequently in the Western Isles, Norway and Iceland. There are four places called Orosay in the Barra group alone.
Orosay
ebb tide island
1764 Ornsay, 1823 Ornsay, 1865 - See Orosay.

Orosay
ebb tide island
1823 Ornsay, 1874 Oransay See Orosay.

Orosay
ebb tide island
1549 Orvansay, 1764 Oronsay, 1823 Oronsay See Orosay.

Outer Heisker
outer H.
1901 Outer Hesker
Alias: Heisker, Sgeir nan Rón
See Inner Heisker.

Pabbay
hermit’s island
1549 Pabay, 1695 Pabbay, 1764 Pabay, 1794b I. Pabba, 1807 Pabbay, 1824 Pabba, 1845 Pabbay, 1848 Pabbay I.
A combination of ON papi, m, ‘hermit’ and ON oy, f, ‘island’.

Pàirc Beul a’ Chaolais
enclosure of B.
G pairc, f, a loan from MEng. parrok, ‘park’. See Beul a’ Chaolais.

Pàirc a’ Chreagain
enclosed field of the little rock
See Pàirc Beul a’ Chaolais.

Pàirc a’ Mheadhoin
middle enclosed field
See Pàirc Beul a’ Chaolais.

Pàirc an Fheoir
enclosed field of hay
See Pàirc Beul a’ Chaolais.

Pàirc Màiri Mòireadh
enclosed field of Mary daughter of Marian
See Pàirc Beul a’ Chaolais.

Pendicle
detached part of an estate
Sco. pendicle has the meaning of ‘a small piece of land attached to a larger one’.
Perfume Factory ['perfjum 'faktori] NL652996 247 S OR
Although now closed, the building still serves as a landmark.

Phall’ a’ Mhuilt ['fálva 'vult] NL570822 260 R OR
Cliff/fold of the weather
The generic is derived from ON pallr, m, ‘ledge’, ‘cliff’. G fál, m, ‘pen-fold for stray cattle or sheep’, may be ruled out as an alternative interpretation of the generic, as the location at a steep cliff is unsuitable for landing boats to load or unload sheep, and is too exposed to the elements.

Phalla Bheag Iagain ['fálva 'vēk 'iagan 'ruari] NL652983 247 R OR
Ruairidh
Iagain (son of) Roderick’s small cliff
ON pallr, m, ‘ledge’, ‘cliff’.

Phalla na Clóimhe ['fálana 'kljɔjɔ] NL649978 247 E OR
Pen of the wool
An alternative location is NL667987. In this context the generic of this name is likely to originate from G fál, ‘pen’.

Phalla na Druide ['fálana 'drut'] NF696008 231 E OR
Cliff/pen of the starling
ON pallr, m, ‘ledge’, ‘cliff’, or G fál, ‘pen’. Starlings often congregate in places where sheep have been enclosed.

Phalla nan Sreang ['fálalan 'ʃtræŋ] NF707011 231 R OR
Cliff of the ropes
See A’ Phalla Bhàn.

Pier ['piər] NF717032 231 W OS

Pier
1865 Landing Slip

Pillar ['pɪlər] NL684962 247 O OS

Poll an Dùdain ['pɔlən 'dʊdən] NL655914 247 W OR
Pool of the fine powdered seaweed
The generic is derived from ON pollr, m, ‘little round bay with narrow access’ (see McDonald: 1958:107).

Poll an t-Sil ['pɔlən 'ʃɪl] NL555808 260 W OR
Pool of the sprat / seed

Poll Fhloidaigh ['pɔləfi'lɔdə] NL615923 247 W OR
Pool of F.
See Flodday.

Poll Hiargebig ['pɔlə 'ʃiəɾɡbɪk] NL649902 247 W OR
Pool of ? + bay
The second element is obscure. ON vík, f, means 'bay'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Grid Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poll Linggeigh</td>
<td>pool of L.</td>
<td>[p'ɔelingei]</td>
<td>NL607896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Lingay.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poll nam Faochag</td>
<td>pool of the winkles</td>
<td>[p'ɔna fɔxak]</td>
<td>NL648939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1823 Poullnafaochag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poll nan Leac</td>
<td>pool of the flagstones</td>
<td>[p'ɔnæ læk]</td>
<td>NF725080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1874 Poul Leac</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a Deas</td>
<td>south port</td>
<td>[poileis]</td>
<td>NL658957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alias: Port Deas an Uidhe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Bhàta</td>
<td>port of the boat</td>
<td>[p'ɔsta va:htɔ]</td>
<td>NL632968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Bhàta</td>
<td>port of the boat</td>
<td>[p'ɔsta va:htɔ]</td>
<td>NL919972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Bhuailte</td>
<td>port of the hut</td>
<td>[poile va:ultja]</td>
<td>NL687974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Chùbair</td>
<td>port of the cooper</td>
<td>[poile 'kupar]</td>
<td>NF706031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Mhaide</td>
<td>port of the driftwood</td>
<td>[poile 'va:de]</td>
<td>NL702986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Mhaoir</td>
<td>port of the ground officer</td>
<td>[poile 'va:t]</td>
<td>NL654985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port a' Schooner</td>
<td>port of the schooner</td>
<td>[p'ɔsta 'sku:nar]</td>
<td>NL657985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Àirigh Chàidh</td>
<td>port of Caidh’s shieling (?)</td>
<td>[poile .a:ti 'xa:p]</td>
<td>NL646976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Allt Eathasdail</td>
<td>port of A.</td>
<td>[poile 'a:lt 'e:asdai]</td>
<td>NL641976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Allt Eathasdail.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port an Dùin</td>
<td>port of the fort</td>
<td>[poile 'dù:n]</td>
<td>NL668982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port an Dùin Bhàin</td>
<td>port of D.</td>
<td>[poile 'nu:n 'vàn]</td>
<td>NF633004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See Dun Bàn.

**Port an Duine** [ˌpɔːtə n̥ˈd̪uɪn̥] NL677972 247 W OR
*port of the man*
Maybe an unidentified body was washed ashore at this place.

1823 Port an Duine, 1834 Phortduine
See Port an Duine.

**Port an Lodain** [ˌpɔːtə ˈloðə̆n̥] NF702094 231 W OS*
*port of little pool/bog/marsh*
1823 Porta-loden, 1874 Port a Lodden
G lodan is the diminutive of lod, ‘bog’, ‘puddle’.

1823 Porta-loden, 1874 Port a Lodden
G lodan is the diminutive of lod, ‘bog’, ‘puddle’.

**Port an Rubha** [ˌpɔːtə ˈɾū̝ hə] NF717005 231 W OR
*port of the point*
Alias: Port Mòr Más an Rubha, Am Port Mòr

**Port an t-Sealastair** [ˌpɔːtən̥ ˈseɪlə̆st̪aɪr] NL704993 247 W OR
*port of the iris*
John MacIntyre locates this name at NL704988, Roderick Buchanan at NL703987.

**Port an t-Sealastair** [ˌpɔːtən̥ ˈseɪlə̆st̪aɪr] NL657981 247 W OR
*port of the iris*

**Port an t-Seór** [ˌpɔːtən̥ ˈʃər̝̄ r̝̄] NF726022 231 W OR
*shore port*
Seòr is the gaelicized version of E 'shore'.

**Port Beag Glaic Choinnich** [ˌpɔːt ˌbeːg ˌɡlaɪk ˈkoʊɪnɪk̪] NL674972 247 W OR
*little port of G.*
See Glaic-choinnich.

**Port Bhreibhig** [ˌpɔːt ˈvɾɛ\ˌvɪk̪] NL694987 247 W OR
*port of B.*
See Brevig.

**Port Bula nam Faochag** [ˌpɔːt ˌbulənəm t̪ɐt̪ˈʃæk̪] NF731007 231 W OR
*port of the bowl of winkles*
G bula, m, is an old-fashioned word for ‘bowl’ (see Dwelly, 1901:141). There may be a relation to ON pollr, ‘deep pool’. See Poll nam Faochag.

**Port Caol** [ˌpɔːt ˈk̪ ˈɔl̪] NF647022 231 W OS
*narrow port*

**Port Chal** [ˌpɔːtə ˈʃæl̪] NL654985 247 W OR
*Cal’s port*
Cal is the nickname of Malcolm MacNeil’s father.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>OR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Port Chaluim Bhig, Little Malcolm’s port</td>
<td>[pɔʃt əkaɪm vɪk]</td>
<td>NL654981</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Choinnich, Kenneth’s port</td>
<td>[pɔʃt ˈkʰoɪnɪʃ]</td>
<td>NL655986</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Cùile Dhùghaill, port of Dougal’s corner</td>
<td>[pɔʃt kʰuǐlə ˈrˠuəl]</td>
<td>NF654045</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Deas an Uidhe, south port of the isthmus</td>
<td>[pɔʃt ˈd̪es oɲuɪs]</td>
<td>NL658957</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Dhòmhnàill Chailein, Donald (son of) Colin’s port</td>
<td>[pɔʃt d̪oɪnəlˈʎəɪlən]</td>
<td>NL668982</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Dhòmhnàill Bhig, port of Donald of Little Donald</td>
<td>[pɔʃt d̪oɪnəlˈʎəɪləvɪk]</td>
<td>NL654984</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Dhòmhnàill, Fhionnlaigh, port of Donald of Finlay</td>
<td>[pɔʃt d̪oɪnəlˈʎəɪləjʊnəl]</td>
<td>NF734011</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Don, Don’s port, Port Taigh a’ Mhàil</td>
<td>[pɔʃt ˈd̪on]</td>
<td>NL654983</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Eachainn, Hector’s port</td>
<td>[pɔʃt jεˈxan]</td>
<td>NF716016</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Ecka, port of Ecka</td>
<td>[pʰɔʃt ˈɛkə]</td>
<td>NL654984</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Eoghainn ‘ic an Leàgh, Hugh Livingstone’s port</td>
<td>[pɔʃt eˈuɪniɲtʃə laɪ]</td>
<td>NF717016</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Fhionnlaigh, Finlay’s port</td>
<td>[pɔʃt ˈjuɪnəl]</td>
<td>NL654984</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Hotch, port of Hotch</td>
<td>[pʰɔʃt ˈhotʃ]</td>
<td>NL656986</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Iagan an Dot, ‘Hotch’ is a nickname.</td>
<td>[pɔʃt əkənən d̪ət]</td>
<td>NL656986</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jagan (son of) Dot's port

Port Jagan Néill
alias: Port Sheumaidh

Port Laman
Laman's harbour

Port Mór Màs an Rubha
big port of M.
alias: Port an Rubha, Am Port Mór
see Màs an Rubha.

Port na Carraighe
port of the fishing rock

Port na Cille
harbour of the chapel
1823 Portnakilla
G cill, f, a loan from Lat. cella, 'cell', 'chapel'.

Port na Clement
port of the 'Clement'
The 'Clement' was a ship.

Port na Cuidhe Bige
port of the little enclosure
G cuidhe, f, a loan from ON kví, f, 'enclosure'.

Port na Glen Sannox
port of the 'Glen Sannox'
The 'Glen Sannox' was a ship.

Port na h-Aibhne
port of the river

Port na h-Áirde
port of the promontory

Port na h-Uidhe
port of the isthmus
see Uidh.

Port na Láireach
harbour of the mare
"This name had something to do with the people cleared from Fuday. They landed over there in Port na Láireach and they had a horse and all their possessions in the boat." Neil MacNeil
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port Name</th>
<th>Phonetic</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Port na Lice</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈlʲɪskə]</td>
<td>NF637007</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the flagstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port na Mná</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈmɾɔːl]</td>
<td>NF717011</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The body of a woman was washed ashore at this place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port na Queen</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈkwɨːn]</td>
<td>NF724021</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the Queen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'Queen' was the name of a ship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port na Sgotha</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈskəx]</td>
<td>NF666050</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>G sgoth, m, a loan from ON skúta, f, 'skiff', 'boat'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port na Teileagraf</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈtɛləgraf]</td>
<td>NL687974</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>port of the telegraph (cable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>G teileagraf is a borrowing from Eng. telegraph.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port nam Marbh</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈmorav]</td>
<td>NL662981</td>
<td>247 W OS6**</td>
<td>harbour of the dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1823 Portnamura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port nan Eun</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈnɪːʃən]</td>
<td>NF752020</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port nan Eun</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈnɪːʃən]</td>
<td>NF707043</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port nan Eun</td>
<td>[pʰəʃna ˈnɪːʃən]</td>
<td>NF657041</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>port of the birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Nill</td>
<td>[pʰəʃt ˈniːl]</td>
<td>NF721028</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td>Neil's port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Nill Mhurchaidh</td>
<td>[pʰəʃt ˈniːl ˈvuruxi]</td>
<td>NL657987</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>port of Neil (of) Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Nill Sheumais</td>
<td>[pʰəʃt ˈniːl ˈhe:mis]</td>
<td>NL657984</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>port of Neil (of) James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Phàdraig</td>
<td>[pʰəʃt ˈfədrik]</td>
<td>NF726019</td>
<td>231 W AD</td>
<td>Patrick's port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1874 Port Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Phassel</td>
<td>[pʰəʃt ˈʃəsəl]</td>
<td>NL654980</td>
<td>247 W OR</td>
<td>port of Passel</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>'Passel' was the nickname for Angus MacKinnon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Raghnaill Mhóir</td>
<td>[pʰəʃt ɾəʃəlˈvɔːr]</td>
<td>NF715018</td>
<td>231 W OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Big Ronald's port

Port Ruairidh Iain Mhóir
port of Roderick of Big John
[pːəˈriːt̪ ˈraʊri ˈaɪən ˈvoːr]  
NF717009 231 W OR

Port Ruairidh Néill Ruaidh
port of Roderick of red-haired Neil
[pːəˈriːt̪ ˈraʊri ˈnɛːl ˈruːə]  
NL657982 247 W OR

Port Sheumaidh
Jamie's port
Alias: Port Iagan Néill
[pːəˈhɛmi]  
NL656987 247 W OR

Port Sheumais Annag
port of James (of) Anna
[pːəˈhɛmiʃ ˈənək]  
NL654980 247 W OR

Port Taigh a’ Mhàil
port of T.  
Alias: Port Don  
See Taigh a’ Mhàil.
[pːəˈt̪ə ˈvaːl]  
NL654983 247 W OR

Presbytery
[presbiˈtɛri]  
NF708031 231 S OS

Queen Victoria Rock
[ˈkwɪn ˈvɪktəri ˈrɒk]  
NF694033 231 R OR

Raon nan Eireannach
field of the Irishmen
[Rən nən ˌɛrənənæk]  
NF653017 231 F OR

Rathad Gleann Dorchá
road of the dark valley
[ˈræt̪ ˈɡlən ˈdɔːrək]  
NF700021 231 O OR

Réidh Phlodaigh
level ground, plain of F.  
See Flodday.
[ˈɾiːd̪ ˈlɔːd̪əj]  
NF749019 231 R OR

Rhue
promontory
[ˈruː]  
NL668982 247 R OS

Alias: Rubha nam Boc, Glenlots

Riaginnull
1823 -  
The generic is derived from ON múlí, m, ‘headland’. The specific is not identified.  
NL634938 247 R ML

Roc Eachainn Mhóir
Big Hector's sunken, tangle-grown rock
[ˈrɔk ˈɛkənən ˈvoːr]  
NL730991 247 U OR

Rosinish
headland of the horse  
1823 Ruroshinish, 1846 Ruroshinish
[ˈrəʃəniʃ]  
NL615872 260 R OS*
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Alias: Rubha Pabach
A combination of ON hrosr, n, 'horse' and ON nes, n, 'headland'.

Rosscraig  
[\textit{R\textasciitilde{}sk\textasciitilde{}rek'}]  
\textit{rock of Ross}  
Alias: Creag an Rosaich  
A lighthouse from Mull fell over this cliff which was then named after him.

Ru' Liath House  
NF708005 231 S SH  
Only three houses in Barra carry names that made their way onto maps. In contrast to Eoligarry House and Vatersay House to which there are various references, Ru' Liath House is mentioned only on Sharbau's estate plan. As no pronunciation of this name was available, it is uncertain whether Sharbau's entry is correct. There is Rubha Liath, the 'grey headland' close by. However, the house is not located on the headland but further inland close to the settlement Ruleos and could possibly be 'Ruleos House'. As Dwelly (1901:587) lists G leus, m, 'flame', 'light', 'fir-candle', 'torch used at night' for the specific, 'Ruleos House' may alternatively be translated as 'house at beacon point', or, taking it even a step further, have been the house in which a light burned at night to ease navigation.

Ru-Fear-Vatersay  
\textit{promontory of the tacksman of Vatersay}  
1865 Ru na Vatersay  
Alias: An Rubha Dubh

Ruadh-Phort  
\textit{red port}  
1874 Red Port

Rubh' a' Bhoidich  
\textit{Boyd's promontory}

Rubh' a' Chaoalais  
\textit{promontory of the strait}  
1874 Ru Caolais

Rubh' a' Charaidh  
\textit{promontory of the fish-trap}

Rubh' a' Chàrnain  
\textit{promontory of the stony ground}  
1823 Ruchaman

Rubh' a' Mhoraire  
\textit{promontory of Marcus / the laird}  
Alias: Rubha Chliaid, Rubha Shandaidh  
The name contains the nickname of the man who used to live in the house closest to the point. His nickname refers to his employer of whom he spoke so frequently that locals eventually called him by his employer's name.

Rubh' a' Mhorbhule  
\textit{promontory of the miracle}
Alias: Miracal Point
Ronald Black suggests the correct spelling as Rubha na Miorbhaile.

**Rubh’ Àir’ na Craobhaig**  
[.Ru açína k’tá:vak]  
**promontory of the shieling of the little tree**  
Alias: Rubh’ Àirigh nan Cruach

**Rubh’ Àird nan Capall**  
[.Rú açínda ighb:pëf]  
**promontory of A.**  
1823 Airdnacaple  
See Ard nan Capuill.

**Rubh’ Àirigh Laogh**  
[.Rú aRi la:Nf]  
**promontory of the height of the calf / calves**  
1865 Ru Ardloigh  
Alias: Rubha Beàrlais

**Rubh’ Àirigh Éoin**  
[.Rú açí eauIN]  
**promontory of Jonathan’s shieling**

**Rubh’ Àirigh nan Cruach**  
[.Ru açéina ‘kruax]  
**promontory of the shieling of the stacks**  
Alias: Rubh’ Àr’ na Craobhaig

**Rubh’ Alainis**  
[.Ru açáinIs]  
**promontory of A.**  
1823 Rullanish, 1865 -  
Alias: Allanish  
The OS use the simplex form Allanish. See Allanish.

**Rubh’ an Aiseig**  
[.Rú aNafik]  
**promontory of the ferry**  
1874 Ferry Point, 1878 Rudh’ na Aiseig, 1901 Ferry Point

**Rubh’ an Droma**  
[.Rúan ˈdruma]  
**promontory of the ridge**  
1823 Ruandrana, 1901 Ru’ Andraná

**Rubh’ an Eich**  
[.Rú aç ‘Në]  
**promontory of the horse**

**Rubh’ an Éireannaich**  
[.Rú aç ‘e:ranNïc]  
**promontory of the Irishman**

**Rubh’ an Fheudail**  
[.Rú aç ‘jedaL]  
**promontory of the cattle**  
1874 Cattle Point

**Rubh’ an Iolla**  
[.Rú aç ‘ioLa]  
**promontory of the fishing rock (?)**
G iolla has the meaning of ‘fishing-rock covered at high tide’ and ‘sight’, ‘view’. As this place-name is located on low-lying ground the meaning of fishing-rock appeared more appropriate.

**Rubh' an t-Sacaidh**
loading point

_G[.ruən 't'axki]_ NL633925 247 R OR

**Rubh' an t-Sealastair**
_promontory of the iris_

_G[.ruən 'dgeləsdr]_ NL657981 247 R OR

**Rubh' an t-Seana Bhalla**
_promontory of the old village_ 1874 Old Wall Point

_NF747042 231 R OS*_

**Rubh' an t-Sith**
_peace point_ 1865 Peace Point

_NL567805 260 R OS*_

**Rubh' an t-Sluic**
_promontory of the gully_

_NL558844 260 R OR_

**Rubh' an Todhair**
_promontory of the seaweed_

_NL667981 247 R OR_

**Rubh' Árnamul**
_promontory of A._

 See Arnamul.

_NL548828 260 R OR_

**Rubh' MhicFhearchair**
_MacFarquhar's promontory_

This primary name was extracted from Càrn Rubh' MhicFhearchair.

_NF749023 231 R OR_

**Rubh' na h-Urchrach**
_promontory of the bow-shot_

_G urchrach also means 'cast', 'throw' and 'projectile'._

_NF715018 231 R OR_

**Rubha Bheanais**
_promontory of the straight headland_

_Alias: Bannish, Wedding Point_ See Bannish.

_NL548819 260 R OR_

**Rubha Bheannachan**
_promontory of B._

 See Am Beannachan.

_NL644958 247 R OR_

**Rubha Bheàrlais**
_promontory of?_

_Alias: Rubh' Aird-Laogh_ John Allan MacNeil locates this place-name at NL629721. The second element occurs also in the versions of Varnish and Vialish.

_NL617971 247 R OR_

**Rubha Brinigeo**

_NL615959 247 R SH_
The only source for this name is Sharbau’s estate plan from 1901. Both the meaning of the specific and the pronunciation of the name are uncertain.

**Rubha Carraig nan Coineannach**
*promontory of the fishing rock of the rabbits*
G coineanach, m, a loan from MEng. cunin, ‘rabbit’, ‘coney’.

**Rubha Carraig-Chrom**
*promontory of the sloping fishing rock*
1874 Ru Carraig Crom

**Rubha Chailein**
*Colin’s promontory*

**Rubha Chàr ais**
*promontory of C.*
See Carrish.

**Rubha Chàrnain**
*promontory of the stony ground*
1865 Ru Carnan
The OS wrongly located this place name wrongly at NL684969. The above mentioned NGR is correct.

**Rubha Chàrnain**
*promontory of the stony ground*

**Rubha Chàrnain**
*promontory of the stony ground*
1823 Rucharna, 1874 Ru Carnan
Alias: Lower Bruernish
Rubha Chàrnain is the collective term for Lower Bruernish.

**Rubha Chlàr a**
*promontory of the ‘Clara’*
The ‘Clara’ was a boat.

**Rubha Chliaid**
*promontory of C.*
Alias: Rubha Shandaidh, Rubh’ a’ Mhoraire
See Cleat.

**Rubha Chordail**
*promontory of C.*
1823 Ruchordale
See Cordale.

**Rubha Dhòmhnaill**
*Donald’s promontory*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gazetteer Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Grid Reference</th>
<th>Sheet</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rubha Dhonnaig</td>
<td>Ruaird 'cNak</td>
<td>NF718042</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>ML</td>
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<tr>
<td>promontory of ?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1823 Ruardonna</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Rubha Fada</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The specific may possibly be</td>
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<td>associated with G donnag, f,</td>
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<tr>
<td>'large kind of cockle' or 'hosefish'</td>
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<tr>
<td>(see Dwelly, 1901:352) or</td>
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<tr>
<td>possibly with G donnach 'shellfish in sand, thick shelled like clam'</td>
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<td>(see McDonald, 1953:102) as the</td>
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<td>place is located on the south side</td>
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<tr>
<td>of the Tràigh Mhòr. Less likely</td>
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<tr>
<td>are derivations from 'brown cow'</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Armstrong's Gaelic Dictionary,</td>
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<tr>
<td>quoted in Dwelly) or 'brown-</td>
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<td>haired woman' (Highland Society's</td>
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<td>Dwelly).</td>
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<td>Rubha Domhain</td>
<td>Ru-ogvan</td>
<td>NL573837</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
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<td>steep promontory</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1865 Steep Point</td>
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<td>Rubha Eilean nan Lethein</td>
<td>Ru-el'ena'Lein</td>
<td>NF734005</td>
<td>231 R</td>
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<td>promontory of E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>See Eilean nan Leighein.</td>
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<td>Rubha Fada</td>
<td>Ru-fad3</td>
<td>NF718042</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
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<td>long promontory</td>
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<td>1823 Rufada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Rubha Dhonnaig</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Rubha Ghralish</td>
<td>Ru-ogralif</td>
<td>NL562793</td>
<td>260 R</td>
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<td>hostile (?) promontory</td>
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<tr>
<td>G rubha, m, 'promontory' is</td>
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<tr>
<td>combined with possibly the ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>adj. graligr 'hostile'. The third</td>
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<td>element may be ON nes, n,</td>
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<td>'headland'.</td>
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<td>Rubha Ghunadail</td>
<td>Ru-ogunadol</td>
<td>NL661961</td>
<td>247 R</td>
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<td>promontory of G.</td>
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<td>1823 Rughunidal</td>
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<tr>
<td>G rubha, m, 'promontory' is</td>
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<tr>
<td>combined with an unknown element</td>
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<td>followed by the gaelicized form of</td>
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<td>ON dalr, m, 'valley'. The obscure</td>
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<td>element may be derived from the ON</td>
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<td>m personal name Hundi.</td>
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<td>Rubha Glas</td>
<td>Ru-'glas</td>
<td>NL654974</td>
<td>247 R</td>
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<tr>
<td>grey-green promontory</td>
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<tr>
<td>1805 Ru Glass, 1901 Ru Glass</td>
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<td>Rubha Greotach</td>
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<td>NL589871</td>
<td>260 R</td>
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<td>gravelly promontory</td>
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<td>1901 Rubh' na Greod</td>
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<td>The specific originates from ON</td>
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<td>grjot, n, 'gravel'.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubha Heilinis</td>
<td>Ru-ohaellanif</td>
<td>NL633935</td>
<td>247 R</td>
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<td>promontory of H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>See Heillanish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubha Holisgeir</td>
<td>Ru-oholis'ker</td>
<td>NL625983</td>
<td>247 R</td>
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<tr>
<td>promontory of H.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
See Holisgeir.

Rubha Hornish
promontory of H.
1823 Ardvuran, 1874 Ru Hornish, 1878 Hornish
See Hornish.

Rubha Leathann
broad promontory

Rubha Liath
grey-blue promontory

Rubha Liath
grey-blue promontory
1874 Grey Point

Rubha Liath
grey-blue promontory
1823 Rulia

Rubha Mhadasdail
promontory of M.
See Maddasdale.

Rubha Mhicheil
promontory of Michael
1865 Michael Point, 1874 Michaels Point

Rubha MhicThomaidh
Thomson's promontory

Rubha Mór
big promontory
1865 Ru Mor

Rubha na Lydia
promontory of the ‘Lydia’

Rubha na Cailliche
promontory of the old woman

Rubha na Feadaig
promontory of the plover
1823 Runafedaig

Rubha na Feannaig
promontory of the crow

Rubha na h-Acairseid
promontory of the anchorage
1823 Runackersit, 1874 Harbour Point
See An Acarsaid.

**Rubha na h-Áirigh**
*promontory of the shieling*
1823 Runaharie

**Rubha na h-Uamh**
*promontory of the cave*

**Rubha na h-Uamh**
*promontory of the cave*
Annie and Archibald MacKinnon locate this place-name at NF760032.

**Rubha na h-Uamh Bige**
*promontory of the little cave*

**Rubha na h-Urchrach**
*promontory of the bow-shot*

**Rubha na Maighdein**
*promontory of the maiden*
1874 Maiden Point, 1901 Maidens Point
Jonathan MacNeil and Ronald MacKinnon locate this promontory at NF744018. G maighdean, f, a loan from MEng. magden, 'maiden'.

**Rubha na Mòna**
*promontory of the peat*

**Rubha na Muireart**
*promontory of the height of the sea*
1823 Runamurat, 1865 Ru na Mhuireart
Alternatively it is possible that the specific is muilgheartach/muireardach, the 'sea hag', the goddess figure who dominates the sea and who is celebrated in the Ossianic Duan na Muilgheartaich. See Dwelly, 1901:679.

**Rubha na Tobhtaig**
*promontory of the little ruin*
1878 Rudh' nan Tobhtag, 1878 Tota Point
See An Tobhta.

**Rubha nam Basadairean**
*promontory of the holes in soft ground*
1823 Runambasaderan, 1874 Ru Basidearin, 1878 Basadearn Point
Jonathan MacNeil locates this name at NF750047.

**Rubha nam Boc**
*promontory of the bucks*
Alias: Rhue, Glenlots

**Rubha nam Marbh**
*promontory of the peat*
promontory of the dead
1823 Runamarbh

Rubha nan Carraig
promontory of the fishing rocks
1901 Ru' na Carig
John Allan MacNeil gives a slightly different location at NL622958.

Rubha nan Druidean
promontory of the starlings
A possible alternative location is NF723023.

Rubha nan Eun
promontory of the birds
1823 Runachragamull, 1874 Birds Point

Rubha nan Sléibh
promontory of the moorland

Rubha nan Spáinteach
promontory of the Spaniards

Rubha Pabach
Pabbay point
Alias: Rosinish
This place is located on Pabbay. See Pabbay.

Rubha Phabach
point of the Pabbay men (?)
1823 Ard Phabach
Alias: Aird Pabbach
This place is located on Sandray facing Pabbay. It may have been the landing-place of the Pabbay men. See Pabbay.

Rubha Port a' Bhuailte
promontory of P.
1823 Ruportvualt
See Port a' Bhuailte.

Rubha Port an Duine
promontory of P.
See Port an Duine.

Rubha Roinich
promontory of the fern

Rubha Shandaidh
Alexander's promontory
Alias: Rubha Chliaid, Rubh' a' Mhoraire

Rubha Shiader

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**promontory of S.**
1823 Ruhiaider, 1901 Ru’ Iar
See Shreader.

**Rubha Slétta**
*promontory of the plain*
Alias: Rubha Shunna
A combination of G rubha, m, ‘promontory’ and ON slétta, f, ‘plain’, ‘level area’.

**Rubha Sluic**
*promontory of the gully*
1901 Douglas Point

**Rubha Taigh a’ Mhàil**
*promontory of T.*
See Taigh a’ Mhàil.

**Rubha Shunna**
*promontory + ?*
Alias: Rubha Slétta
The meaning of the specific is obscure.

**Ruins of church**

**Ruleos**
*beacon point*
1823 Rulies, 1828 Ruelias

**Sago Point**
This name is a historic form found on H. Sharbau’s estate plan from 1901.

**Saltinish**
*salt headland*
1823 Saltnis
A combination of ON salt, n, ‘salt’, and ON nes, n, ‘headland’.

**Sanderling**
*as a house name, this is likely to be a recent creation, and may not be derived from ON sandr, m, ‘sand’.*

**Sandray**
*sand island*
1549 Sanderay, 1654 Sandrera, 1764 Sandera, 1794a Sanderay, 1794b Sandera, 1823 Sandray, 1824 Sandera, 1845 Sanderay, 1846 Saundray, 1848 Sanderay, 1854 Sandera, 1865 Saundray
Borgström dismisses the idea of translating this name as ‘sand island’ since this form would require an ‘s’-genitive. He suggests ON sand-rif(a)-ey, ‘island of the sand reefs’ (Campbell, 1936:290). However, a derivation from the pl. form of ON sandar, ‘the sands’ and ON øy, f, ‘island’ is possible and would result in this short form as a result of contraction.
Scalavaslan
rock of V.
1823 Scalavaslan
Sharbau’s estate plan from 1901 locates Scallvaslan at the shore and indicates the site of a hill called Scala at the above NGR. See Vaslain.

School
[‘sku:l] NF657019 231 S OS
School
[‘sku:l] NL660985 247 S OS
School
[‘sku:l] NL696991 247 S OS
School House
[‘sku:l ,haus] NL636955 247 S OS

Scotagearraidh
[‘sk<::>htdgaRi] NF711004 231 S OR
This settlement is said to have been cleared within 24 hours. The generic is derived from ON gerōi, n, ‘enclosure’, ‘fenced field’, ‘garden’. The specific, however, is uncertain. It may be derived from G sgot, m, ‘small farm’ or ‘small flock’, which combined with the above generic results in ‘enclosure of the small flock’ or ‘enclosure of the small farm’. And, indeed, this area used to be settled. Nevertheless the word order with the generic in final position points at an ON specific. Heggstad (1930:610) lists the ON noun skot, n, ‘projectile’, ‘shot’. Eysteinsson derives the specific of the Harris place-name Scotasay from ON skot, ‘neuk’, ‘corner’, which would also apply to the location of this name. There is a place called Skotet in Stordal, Norway, (see Rygh, Norske Gaardnavne 13) which is located on a high projecting promontory. Scotagearraidh, too, is located on a high-lying headland. As all interpretations would be suitable it remains unclear which is the correct one.

Scurrival
[‘skv~ivaL] NF700092 231 S OR
1825 Skervall, 1827 Skirvall, 1829 Skirval
Borgstrøm derives this name from the ON Skaga-rif-fjall (Borgstrøm, 1937: 292), ‘hill near the reef of the promontory’. According to him the name may have undergone strong contraction. A descriptive name for this important shipping mark appears logical. However, there is the ON name Skorri, which in its genitive case becomes Skorra resulting in the possible translation ‘Skorri’s hill’. A third interpretation hints at a link with ON skor, f, ‘prominent hill’, which Scurrival indeed describes. A fourth possible interpretation is to derive the specific from ON skor, f, ‘cleft’, of which ON skora is the genitive pl., which would translate as ‘hill of the clefts’, which, too, would make sense in this context. (See Eysteinsson, 1992:14.)

Scurrival Point
[‘skurival’point] NF694096 231 R OS
point of S.
Gob Scuireabhal, the G translation of Scurrival Point, is the name locally used for this place. See Scurrival.

Seal Bay
[‘si:l ,bei:] NF655040 231 W OR
Alias: Am Bāgh, Bāgh nan Rōn

Seann ‘Arigh
[‘ʃən ’ə:ri] NL657999 247 F OR
old shieling
Seann Fhaing
old fold
Alias: An Gearraidh Ùr

Séige
bent grass (?)

Seuthar a' Chrochaire
chair of the hangman
Seuthar is the gaelicized form of Eng. chair.

Seuthar an Fhuamhaire
the giant's chair
See Seuthar a' Chrochaire.

Sgeir 'ic an Léigh
Livingstone's skerry
1865 Sg. Nick-a-ne, 1901 Sgeirnickane

Sgeir 'ic Sheòrais
skerry of the son of George

Sgeir 'IcillEathain
MacLean's skerry
1865 Sgeir Vichalea
Alias: The Perch, Sgeir Feannaig, Am Botch

Sgeir 'ic Phàil
MacPhail's skerry

Sgeir a Tuath
north skerry

Sgeir a' Bhàigh
skerry of the bay

Sgeir a' Bhoiler
skerry of the boiler
Alias: Sgeir Onorach, Sgeir a' Phòla
The specific is English.

Sgeir a' Chaolais Dheirg
skerry of the red sound

Sgeir a' Chidh'
skerry of the quay
G cidhe, m, is a loan from Eng. quay.

Sgeir a' Chirein
skerry of the cock's comb
Alias: Sgeir an t-Salainn, Bird Rock, Na Creanan
Sgeir a' Chlaidheimh
skerry of the sword
1823 Skerachlaimh
[sk'ærəˌˈχlɛdɪm] NL650937 247 I ML

Sgeir a' Chlaidheimh
skerry of the sword
[sk'ærəˌˈχlɛdɪm] NF767040 231 I OR.

Sgeir a' Chlaidheimh
skerry of the sword
[sk'ærəˌˈχlɛdɪm] NF650045 231 I OR.

Sgeir a' Chlogaid
skerry of the helmet
1823 Skerachlagait, 1901 Sgeir a' Togall
The location of Sgeir a' Chlogaid as indicated by the OS is incorrect. The NGR given above describes the correct position of this place-name. Dwelly (1901:211) describes G clogaid, f, as 'helmet', 'headpiece', 'pyramid' and 'headpiece of a stack of corn'.
[sk'ærəˌˈχlɛgæt] NL650936 247 I ML

Sgeir a' Gheòidh
skerry of the goose
1874 Goose Rocks, 1901 Goose Rock
[sk'ærəˌˈχ longitudinal] NF743081 231 I OR*

Sgeir a' Lydia
skerry of the 'Lydia'
'Lydia' was the name of a ship that was wrecked at this point.
[sk'ærəˌˈlɪdia] NF653035 231 I OR.

Sgeir a' Mhiriceil
skerry of A.
Alias: Sgeir an t-Sil
See A' Mhiriceil.
[sk'ærəˌˈvirɪkəl] NF736013 231 I OR.

Sgeir a' Mhùin
urinating skerry
It is possible that the waves wash over this rock creating a sound as if someone was urinating.
[sk'ærəˌˈvʊin] NL648959 247 I OR.

Sgeir a' Phòla
skerry of the pole
Alias: Sgeir Onorach, Sgeir a Bhoiler
G pòla is an adaptation from Eng. pole.
[sk'ærəˌˈfɔlə] NF717031 231 I OR.

Sgeir an Deasaich
skerry of the southerner
G deasach is a term for a person from the Firth of Clyde.
[sk'ærəˌˈdeesə] NF715043 231 I OR.

Sgeir an Donais
skerry of the devil
[sk'ærəˌˈdənɪs] NL658955 247 I OR.

Sgeir an Eich
skerry of the horse
[sk'ærəˌˈeɪʃ] NF731030 231 I OR.

Sgeir an Eilein Mhùir
[sk'ærəˌˈeɪlən ˈmoʊr] NL656907 247 I OR.

skerry of E.
See Eilean Mór.

Sgeir an Fhaing
skerry of the fold
[sk'ær̩ə ˈnæəj]  
NL637975 247 I  OR

Sgeir an Fhéidh
skerry of the deer
1823 Skeraneigh, 1874 Deer Rock
Alias: Am Bogha Tàmh
[sk'ær̩ə ˈɲeːj]  
NL715999 247 I  ML

Sgeir an Fhuil
skerry of ??
At one time seals were slaughtered on this skerry. The OS name, Sgeir Fiaclach Mór, for this location is wrong. If the name was translated as 'skerry of the blood', its correct G form would be Sgeir na Fala as the gen. case of G fuil, 'blood' is fala. The phonetics, however, indicating a long vowel /u:/ make a derivation from f(h)uil impossible. A derivation from G ubhal, m, 'apple', is phonetically possible but from a semantic point of view rather doubtful as the place is far too exposed to have any kind of tree grow there.
[sk'ær̩ə ˈnʊ̃l̩]  
NL736998 247 I  OR

Sgeir an t-Salainn
salt skerry
Alias: Bird Rock, Sgeir a' Chirein, Na Creanan
[sk'ær̩ən ˈtəːlən]  
NL552798 260 I  OR

Sgeir an t-Salainn
salt skerry
1823 Skerant, 1901 Sgeir Antallin
The 1823 entry shows only the first part of this place-name, the specific has been forgotten.
[sk'ær̩ən ˈtəːlən]  
NL601882 260 T  ML

Sgeir an t-Sil
skerry of the seed / sprats
Alias: Sgeir a' Mhiriceil
[sk'ær̩ən ˈʃiːl̩]  
NF736013 231 I  OR

Sgeir an t-Srutha
skerry of the current
[sk'ær̩ən ˈʃruː]  
NL656979 247 I  OR

Sgeir an Tairbh
skerry of the bull
1823 Skerantairbh
Alias: Bogh' an Tairbh, Am Bogha Carach
[sk'ær̩ən ˈtʰɾəɾ̩]  
NF743054 231 I  ML

Sgeir Bheag Horgh
little skerry of H.
See Borough.
[sk'ær̩ə ˌvɛk ˈhoɾəɾ̩]  
NL662980 247 I  OR

Sgeir Bheag na h-Áirde
little skerry of the promontory
[sk'ær̩ə ˌvɛk na ʰaɾdəɾ̩]  
NL576798 260 I  OR

Sgeir Bhioraghhasdail
skerry of (?) Bjørn's milking-place
Alias: Eilean nan Eun
[sk'ær̩ə ˈvʊɾəɾ̩hʌsdaɪl]  
NL606964 247 I  OR
ON sker, n, 'skerry', here in its G version is maybe followed by the ON personal name Bjørn and ON stóull, m, 'milking-place'.

Sgeir Choinnich  
*Kenneth's skerry*  

ON sker, n, 'skerry', here in its G version is followed by the ON personal name Bjørn and ON stóull, m, 'milking-place'.

Sgeir Choinnich  
*Kenneth's skerry*  

ON sker, n, 'skerry', here in its G version is followed by the ON personal name Bjørn and ON stóull, m, 'milking-place'.

Sgeir Chrisnain  
*Christopher's skerry*  

1865 Christopher's Rock

Sgeir Claunn MhicEoghamn  
*skerry of Clan MacEwan*  

Sgeir Dallaig  
*skerry of the dog-fish*  

Sgeir Dhonnhchaithd  
*Duncan's skerry*  

Sgeir Dubh  
*black skerry*  

1865 Dubh Sgeir, 1901 Du Sgeir  
Alias: Dubhsgeir

Sgeir Eahainn Cheàrdaich  
*Hector Sinclair's skerry*  

Sgeir Earnais  
*1901 Sgeir Herlis  
skerry of the eagle promontory*  

ON sker, n, 'skerry', here in G word order is followed by ON ǫrn, m, 'eagle' and ON nes, n, 'promontory'.

Sgeir Feannaig  
*skerry of the crow*  

Alias: Sgeir 'IcillEathain, The Perch, Am Botch

Sgeir Feannaig  
*skerry of the crow*  

Sgeir Feannaig  
*skerry of the crow*  

Sgeir Feannaig  
*skerry of the crow*  

Alias: A' Chlach G hailmhineach

Sgeir Fhaochag  

ON sker, n, 'skerry', here in its G version is maybe followed by the ON personal name Bjørn and ON stóull, m, 'milking-place'.

Sgeir Fhaochag  

ON sker, n, 'skerry', here in its G version is maybe followed by the ON personal name Bjørn and ON stóull, m, 'milking-place'.
skerry of the whelks

Sgeir Floddaigh  
[sk'ёр 'lόdαil]  
NL614928  247 I  OR

Sgeir Fiaclach Beag  
[sk'ёр 'iak'λαγ 'vēk]  
NL733996  247 I  OS*

Sgeir Fiaclach Mór  
[sk'ёр 'iak'λαγ 'vο:ר]  
NL732994  247 I  OS*

Sgeir Ghadalum  
[sk'ёр 'gα-αλυμ]  
NL650938  247 I  ML

Sgeir Ghas Rubha Chàrnain  
[sk'ёр 'γλασ 'yρολυμ]  
NF728022  231 I  OR

Sgeir Ghlas Dhrolum  
[sk'ёр 'γλασ 'yρολυμ]  
NF724027  231 I  OR

Sgeir Ghas Holisgeir  
[sk'ёр 'holiʃ'κε:ɾ]  
NL625981  247 I  OR

Sgeir Honish  
[sk'ёр 'hόνиʃ]  
NL657954  247 I  AD

In its AD spelling the specific appears to be of ON origin with the second element derived from ON nes, 'headland'. As there is no further evidence of a headland with this name close by on the Isle of Vatersay, the specific could alternatively be an anglicized spelling of G donas, gen. case donais, 'devil', 'harm', 'bad luck', acting as an adjective. This would result in the translated form of 'the bloody rock', possibly designating a rock that was of nuisance to the locals. With so little evidence it is difficult to establish the correct semantics.
Sgeir Iain Cheaird
skerry of John the smith

Sgeir Leechinish
skerry of L.
1823 Skerlechinish, 1865 - See Leanish.

Sgeir Liath
grey-blue skerry
1654 Skyr lia

Sgeir Liath
grey-blue skerry
1823 Skerlia, 1901 Sgarbh

Sgeir Liath a Deas
grey-blue skerry of the south
Alias: Sgeir Liath Fhlodaigh

Sgeir Liath a Deas
grey-blue skerry of the south

Sgeir Liath a Tuath
grey-blue skerry of the north
Alias: Sgeir Liath Fhlodaigh

Sgeir Liath a Tuath
grey-blue skerry of the north
The skerry is attached to Rubha Rainich.

Sgeir Liath a’ Ghobha
grey-blue skerry of the blacksmith

Sgeir Liath Fhlodaigh
grey-blue skerry of F.
1874 Grey Point
Alias: Sgeir Liath a Deas
See Flodday.

Sgeir Lingeigh
skerry of L.
See Lingay-fhada.

Sgeir Meall na Hoe
skerry of the hill of the height
1874 -
The primary name Meall na Hoe is not specified in the chart of 1865. Its location remains uncertain.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>OS Grid Ref</th>
<th>OS Edition</th>
<th>Notes and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir MhicFhearchair</td>
<td>[sk'er'ίčk 'traxar]</td>
<td>NF712038</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Mhògag</td>
<td>[sk'er' 'vīgak]</td>
<td>NF735042</td>
<td>AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Mhòr</td>
<td>[sk'er' 'vo:r]</td>
<td>NL567797</td>
<td>OS*</td>
<td>big skerry 1874 Skervore, 1865 Sgeirmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Mhòr</td>
<td>[sk'er' 'vo:r]</td>
<td>NF710048</td>
<td>OS*</td>
<td>big skerry 1823 Skarvore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Mhòr Lingieigh Fhada</td>
<td>[sk'er' 'vo:r 'l'īnjei 'ad5]</td>
<td>NF726040</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>big skerry of L. See Lingay-Fhada.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Mhòr Tràigh Chragain</td>
<td>[sk'er' 'vo:r 't'ra:j 'xragain]</td>
<td>NF717068</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>big skerry of the rocky beach Alias: An Sgeir Mhòr See An Tràigh Chragain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Mollachdag</td>
<td>[sk'er' molakxag]</td>
<td>NF649051</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>cursed skerry Fr. Allan McDonald mentions this place-name (1958). An alternative version is the plural form, Sgeirean Mollachdag. This name appears in Canna and in South Uist, too. The specific G mallachd, f, is a loan from Lat. maledictio, 'curse'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir na Cloiche</td>
<td>[sk'er'na 'k'loicə]</td>
<td>NF715028</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>skerry of the stone Alias: Eilean Ailig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir na Cloiche</td>
<td>[sk'er'na 'k'loicə]</td>
<td>NF717045</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>skerry of the stone Alias: Sgeir nan Clachan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir na Cuidhe</td>
<td>[sk'er'na 'k'uíə]</td>
<td>NF658038</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>skerry of the enclosure See A' Chuidhe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir na Doirlinn</td>
<td>[sk'er'na 'dɔɾlɨn]</td>
<td>NF651030</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>skerry of the headland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Gazetteer

Sgeir na Feannaig
skerry of the crow
1823 Skernfeanaig
Alias: An Comharradh

Sgeir na Friens
skerry of the 'Friens'
'Friens' was the name of a ship that collided with the skerry which now carries its name. The spelling of the specific is uncertain.

Sgeir na Gobhair
skerry of the goat

Sgeir na Hulk
skerry of the coaling hulk
A big wooden boat was used as a coaling hulk. The specific is English.

Sgeir na Luinge
skerry of the ship

Sgeir na Mnà
skerry of the woman

Sgeir na Muice
skerry of the pig
1865 Muck Reef
Alias: A' Mhuc

Sgeir na Tràigh Tuath
skerry of T.
See Tràigh Tuath.

Sgeir na Tríthinn
trinity skerry
1865 Sg na Treanne
The skerry is not marked on the map. There is Sgeir an Tríthinn (in Loch Torridon) which consists of three humps (see Dwelly, 1901:971). The specific 'trinity' links this name with other proto-religious names for dangerous rocks.

Sgeir nam Faochag
skerry of the whelks
Alias: Sgeir nan Caorach

Sgeir nan Caorach
sheep skerry
Alias: Sgeir nam Faochag

Sgeir nan Caorach
skerry of the sheep
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Reference 1</th>
<th>Reference 2</th>
<th>Reference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Clachan</td>
<td>skerry of the stones</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'n]</td>
<td>NF717045</td>
<td>231 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sgeir na Cloiché</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Cruach</td>
<td>skerry of the stacks</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'n]</td>
<td>NF708039</td>
<td>231 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Cudaigean</td>
<td>skerry of the cuddies</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'kudigô]</td>
<td>NL694988</td>
<td>247 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuddies are immature coal fish. The skerry is not marked on the map.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Each</td>
<td>skerry of the horses</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'næx]</td>
<td>NL707997</td>
<td>247 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Uibhein</td>
<td>skerry of the eggs</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'nuian]</td>
<td>NL577851</td>
<td>260 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878 Egg Island, 1878 Sgeir na Uibhean, 1901 Egg Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Ròn</td>
<td>skerry of the seals</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'rò:n]</td>
<td>NL651964</td>
<td>247 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865 Sg na Rhon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir nan Ròn</td>
<td>skerry of the seals</td>
<td>[sk'ær'na 'rò:n]</td>
<td>NL573867</td>
<td>260 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Outer Heisker, Heisker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Néill an Tàilleir</td>
<td>skerry of Neil (son of) the tailor</td>
<td>[sk'ær'neil an 'tòil'air]</td>
<td>NL590876</td>
<td>260 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Bogha Néill an Tàilleir, Sgeirean Sloc Ghleansaich G tàillear, m, a loan from Eng. tailor.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Noddimull</td>
<td>skerry of N.</td>
<td>[sk'ær'nòdimul]</td>
<td>NL631911</td>
<td>247 T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823 Sgerodimull, 1865 -</td>
<td>See Noddimul in Knock Noddimul. The 1823 spelling suggests that the derivation of Noddimul is uncertain.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Onorach</td>
<td>distinguished / honest rock</td>
<td>[sk'ær'onorax]</td>
<td>NF717031</td>
<td>231 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sgeir a’ Phòla, Sgeir a’ Bhoiler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Remmish</td>
<td>skerry + ?</td>
<td>[sk'ær'remif]</td>
<td>NL558814</td>
<td>260 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The OS maps do not mark a skerry at this location. The second element is obscure.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Rife</td>
<td>cleft skerry</td>
<td>[sk'ær'reifo]</td>
<td>NL704987</td>
<td>247 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The specific is derived from ON rif, n, 'cleft'. There is a place called Rive in Aaremark and a place called Reve in Klepp, both in Norway.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir Robert</td>
<td></td>
<td>[sk'ær'reobart]</td>
<td>NL654981</td>
<td>247 I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Robert's skerry
The skerry is named after Robert Shearer who was stabbed to death in Edinburgh.

Sgeir Sheòrais
*George's skerry*

Sgeir Shnuasaimail
*skerry of S.*
Alias: Sgeir Smugaidean
See Snuasimul.

Sgeir Sloc nan Calman
*skerry of S.*

Sgeir Smugaidean
*skerry of spits*
Alias: Sgeir Shnuasaimail
The second element may describe the action of the waves when they hit the skerry.

Sgeire Chojak
*Kojak's skerry*
'Kojak' is a nickname.

Sgeirean Bàgh Chòrnaig
*skerries of B.*
See Cornaig Bay.

Sgeirean Bean a' Mhinisteir
*skerries of the wife of the minister*
G ministear is a loan from Lat. minister, 'servant', here 'minister'.

Sgeirean Cùil a' Bhaile
*skerries of C.*
Alias: Na Sgeirean
See Cùil a' Bhaile.

Sgeirean Fiaclach
*toothed skerries*
1865 Fhiacail, 1901 Sgeir Fhiacail

Sgeirean Más a' Mhill
*skerries of M.*
1865 Sg. Masameall, 1901 Sgeir Masameall
Local crofters identify the OS entry of Masamuile in this location as wrong. The correct location of Más a' Mhill is on the south-east end of Vatersay. See Más a' Mhill.

Sgeirean Phattie
*Pattie's skerries*
'Pattie' is a nickname.

Sgeirean Sloc Ghleansaich
skerries of S.
Alias: Sgeir Néill an Táiileir, Bogha Néill an Táiileir
See Sloc Glansich.

Sgeirislum  
*island of the skerry*
1654 Skyrreslum, 1823 Skerislum, 1874 Sgeirislum
A combination of ON sker, n, 'skerry' and ON holmr, m, 'small island'. This is a common name in Norway.

Sgor 'ic Cumhais  
*MacCuish's cleft*
Likely to be named after Sandy MacCuish's grandfather. G *sgór*, m, is related to ON *skrór*, f, 'ledge'.

Sgor a' Chait  
*cleft of the cat*
Alias: An Sgor Buidhe
Sgor a' Chait is the younger name of this place.

Sgor a' Chait  
*cleft of the cat*

Sgor a' Mhinisteir  
*cleft of the minister*

Sgor Dallaig  
*cleft of the dog-fish*

Sgor Galla Iain  
*cleft of Iain's bitch*
A bitch went into this cleft for rabbits but never appeared again.

Sgor na Còrcaich  
*cleft of the hemp*

Sgor nan Calman  
*cleft of the pigeons*

Sgor nan Gamhn' Árd  
*high cleft of the calves*

Sgor nan Gamhn' Íseal  
*low cleft of the stirks*

Sgutag a' Ghreusaiche  
*the cobbler's?*

It is difficult to establish the correct semantics for the generic. A relation to Eysteinsson's Harris place-name Scotasay from ON *skot*, 'neuk', 'corner', [skʰʰtasai] (see Eysteinson, 1992:16) is unlikely due to the different vowel lengths of the letter /u/. Ronald Black suggests a derivation from Dwelly's *sgud*, 'dirty water', 'foul drops', possibly naming a 'small well or spring of water - the kind of water supply more suitable for a cat than a human being'. During my fieldwork I gained the impression that sgutag was used for some kind of relief feature.
Sgùtag Iain Òig

Young John’s?
For possible derivation of sgotag see Sgotag a’ Ghreusaiche.

Sgùtagan a’ Chait

the cat’s?
For possible derivation of sgotag see Sgotag a’ Ghreusaiche.

Sgùmban an Fheidh

summit of the deer

G sgùmban, ‘top of hillock or hill’ is listed in McDonald, 1958:217. An Sgùmban is also a place-name in Eriskay where it describes a round and prominent summit.

Sgùmban an Langain

summit of the deer’s roaring

Sgùmban nan Eun

summit of the birds

Sgùmban nan Eun

summit of the birds

Sheader

settlement
1901 Sheidiar
From ON setr, n, ‘dwelling place’, ‘farm’. In Norway there is the distinction between setr, ‘dwelling place’ and setr, ‘shieling’. In Barra these two can not be distinguished by phonological means only. The geographical location, however, is likely to provide vital clues. For full discussion of the two elements see Nicolaisen, 1976:90f.

Sheader Rocks

rocks of S.
1901 Sheidera Rocks
Alias: An Sgeir Dhubh, Na Ludagain
See Sheader.

Sheandale

old valley
The generic is derived from ON dalr, m, ‘valley’.

Sheep Fold

Sheep Fold

Sheep Fold

Sheep Fold

Sheep Pen
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Sheep Pens  ['Ji:p ,pens]  NF674025  231 E  OS
Sheep Pens  ['Ji:p ,pens]  NF679010  231 E  OS
Sheep Pens  ['Ji:p ,pens]  NF697036  231 E  OS
Sheep Wash  ['Ji:p ,wøf]  NL646995  247 E  OS
Sheep Wash  ['Ji:p ,wøf]  NF649009  231 E  OS
Sheep Wash  ['Ji:p ,wøf]  NL651921  247 E  OS
Sheep Wash  ['Ji:p ,wøf]  NL681987  247 E  OS
Sheep Wash  ['Ji:p ,wøf]  NF679010  231 E  OS

Shelter Rock  1865 -
Alias: An Sgeir Bheag

Site of chapel  NL568804  260 A  OS*
"No traces of it remain, and its dedicatory name is unknown. There is also a place of burial here which is enclosed by a stone wall, which is now, however, seldom used." OS Object Name Book.

Site of plane crash  NL638960  247 O  OR
On the 12th of May 1944 a Catalina Flying boat, based in Oban, hit the slope of Heishival Mhór in Vatersay and crashed. Three passengers were killed, six survived. Some of the debris can still be seen from the road.

Skallary  ['sk'ala:rɪ]  NL695995  247 S  OS*
Skollí's shieling
1823 Scallary, 1825 Scallarigh
A hybrid of ON personal name, m, Skollí, and G airigh, f, 'shieling'.

Skate Point  ['ske:t 'point]  NL545803  260 R  OS*
1865 Barra Head
Barra and Vatersay fishermen use the Gaelic name, Tom a' Sgaite, for this location.

Skip  ['sk'ip]  NL684962  247 l  OR*
1654 The Skyp, 1865 Sgeir a Scape, 1901 Sgeir a Skape
This name designates a small rock in the sea at the entrance to Castle Bay. The name appears on early charts. It is likely to be derived from ON.

Skipisdale  ['sk'ipisdal]  NL561817  260 R  OS*
valley of ships
1865 Skipisdle
Alias: Cladach Sgiobasdail
The OS location of this name appears to be wrong at NL556818. The NGR given here is based on Joseph Sinclair's and D.D. Campbell's notes. The name is probably derived from ON skip, n, 'boat' and ON dalr, m, 'valley'.

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Slaughterhouse  [slɔːˈtɑrˌhɔʊs]  NF709004  231 S  OR
This building is now used as a storage facility.

Sleeping Indian  [ˈsliːpiŋ ˈɪndiən]  NF740025  231 R  OR
Alias: Bodach Fhlaigh

Sligeanach  [ˈslɪɡənəx]  NF652017  231 F  OS
Alias: Machaire Bhuirgh
Sligeanach is usually a hill term. Here, in a coastal location it designates a small mound which looks like an upturned shell or boat.

Sloc a’ Bhadain  [slɔxkə ˈvədəın]  NL651921  247 W  OR
*gully of the little grove*  G badan, m, ‘little grove’. One informant mentioned ‘mare’ as a possible alternative meaning.

Sloc a’ Bhâta  [slɔxkə ˈvədʒə]  NF720009  231 W  OS
1874 Stick Pit  
Alias: Sloc a’ Mhaide  
It is very likely that the OS erroneously placed a grave accent on the generic, thus lengthening its vowel quantity. As a consequence, the meaning changed from Sloc a’ Bhata, ‘gully of the stick’, which corresponds to the historical form Stick Pit from 1874, to the new creation Sloc a’ Bhâta, ‘gully of the boat’. What was meant was ‘driftwood’, see Sloc a’ Mhaide.

Sloc a’ Bhòcain  [slɔxkə ˈvəkəxkain]  NL571845  260 W  OR
*gully of the ghost*

Sloc a’ Chirein  [slɔxkə ˈtʃiːrən]  NL654944  247 W  OR
*serrated gully*

Sloc a’ Chirein  [slɔxkə ˈtʃiːrən]  NL648947  247 W  OR
*serrated gully*

Sloc a’ Chirein  [slɔxkə ˈtʃiːrən]  NL620946  247 W  OS
*serrated gully*

Sloc a’ Chloagaid  [slɔxkə ˈkloʊɡət]  NL553799  260 W  ML
*gully of the helmet*  
1823 Slochdachlogat  
Alias: Sloc na Sealbhaig

Sloc a’ Churaich  [slɔxkə ˈkʊriːʃ]  NF655024  231 W  OS6"
*gully of the wicker-boat*

Sloc a’ Ghamhna  [slɔxkə ˈɡau̯nə]  NL620946  247 W  ML
*gully of the stirk*  
1823 Slockaughana

Sloc a’ Ghreusaiche  [slɔxkə ˈɡriəsəʃə]  NF696074  231 W  OR
*gully of the shoemaker/cobbler-fish*  
Alias: Sloc Iagan na h-Aibhne
Sloc a' Ghnail  
*gully of the coal*  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'g\text{h}n\text{a}l\]  
NL642957 247 W OR

Sloc a' Mhaide  
*gully of the driftwood*  
1874 Stick Pit  
Alias: Sloc a' Bhàta  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'v\text{a}d\text{h}\text{a}\]  
NF721009 231 W AD

Sloc a' Mhoraire  
*gully of the laird*  
Moraire, 'lord' or 'laird', was the nickname of Sandy MacCuish's father.  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'v\text{o}r\text{r}\text{a}r\text{a}\]  
NF678052 231 W OR

Sloc a' Mhurain  
*gully of the bent grass*  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'v\text{u}r\text{a}i\text{n}\]  
NL571834 260 W OR

Sloc Abhainn nam Ban  
*gully of A.*  
See Abhainn nam Ban.  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ '\text{a}\text{\ddot{u}}\text{-}\text{n}\text{a}m \ '\text{b}an\]  
NF683053 231 W OR

Sloc Allt a’ Mhuilinn  
*gully of A.*  
See Allt a’ Mhuilinn.  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ '\text{a}\text{\ddot{u}}lt\text{a} \ 'v\text{u}l\text{'i}n\]  
NF755038 231 W OR

Sloc an Amadain  
*gully of the fool*  
“During the clearances when they were chasing people out of that area there was a fellow that went into hiding between these rocks. And he was a simpleton so to speak, but one wonders whether he was a simpleton really, because he was the only one who got away.” Neil MacNeil  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'n\text{a}m\text{a}d\text{a}n\]  
NF724023 231 W OR

Sloc an Aon Eich  
*gully of the one horse*  
1823 Slockanaoneich  
Only one horse could go down at a time to transport seaweed.  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'd\text{\ddot{a}}\text{\text{\acute{n}}}\text{\text{\ddot{a}}}\text{\text{\acute{n}}}\]  
NF699096 231 W ML

Sloc an Daimh  
*gully of the bullock*  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'd\text{\ddot{a}}\text{\text{\acute{n}}}\text{\text{\acute{n}}}\]  
NF666048 231 W OR

Sloc an Dòbhrain  
*gully of the otter*  
Alias: Sloc an Dòmh-Choin  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'd\text{\ddot{a}}\text{\text{\acute{o}}}\text{\text{\acute{r}}}\text{\text{\acute{n}}}\]  
NF708018 231 W OR

Sloc an Dòmh-Choin  
*gully of the otter*  
Alias: Sloc an Dòbhrain  
G domh-chû in gen. case domh-choin is alternative word for ‘otter’.  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a} \ 'd\text{\ddot{a}}\text{\text{\acute{m}}} \ '\text{x}\text{o}i\text{n}\]  
NF708018 231 W OR

Sloc an Dùilisg  
*gully of the dulse*  
Dulse is a tender seaweed.  
\[slo\text{x}k\text{a}n \ 'd\text{\ddot{u}l}\text{\text{\acute{i}}}f\text{\text{\acute{k}}}\]  
NF753037 231 W OR
Sloc an Eich

*gully of the horse*

A horse fell into the gully and was killed.

Sloc an Eísg

*fish gully*

Alias: Sloc Grisivick, An Sloc Mór

Sloc an Fhithich

*gully of the raven*

Alias: Sloc an Tairbh

Sloc an Iarainn

*gully of the iron*

Alias: Sloc Feannaig

Sloc an Ime

*gully of the butter*

1865 Heifer’s Bed

Sloc an Isein

*gully of the fledgling*

Sloc an Rathaid

*gully of the road*

There is some confusion over the correct location of this place. G rathad, m, is derived from MEng. roade, ‘road’.

Sloc an Rodain

*gully of the rat*

This name may be the same as the one located at NL619958 given by Joseph Sinclair and D. D. Campbell.

G rodan or radan, m, a loan from MEng. raton, ‘rat’.

Sloc an Rodain

*gully of the rat*

See Sloc an Rodain.

Sloc an Rubha

*gully of the promontory*

Sloc an Sgadain

*gully of the herring*

Sloc an Sgadain

*gully of the herring*
Sloe an Sgairbh
_gully of the cormorant_

Sloe an Sgiùrdain
_gully of the squirt of water_
The name is likely to derive from G sgiùrdan, ‘syringe’, ‘water-gun’, ‘purgative’, referring to a squirt of water to be found here.

Sloe an t-Sabhail
_gully of the barn_
Alias: Sloc na h-Àirde, Sloc Rubh’ Àird nan Capall

Sloe an t-Saoir
_the carpenter’s gully_

Sloe an t-Sealastair
_gully of the iris_

Sloe an Tairbh
_gully of the bull_
Alias: An Sloc Dubh

Sloe an Tairbh
_gully of the bull_
Alias: Sloc an Phithich 1874 Bull Pit

Sloe an Teine
_fire gully_

Sloe an Todhair
_seaweed gully_
Todhar is a kind of seaweed specifically used for fertilizer. Malcolm MacNeil locates this place-name at NL630916.

Sloe an Todhair
_seaweed gully_

Sloc an Tuill
_gully of the hole_

Sloc an Uisge
_freshwater gully_

Sloc an Uisge
_freshwater gully_
1823 Slockanuish Alias: Sloc Glansich

Sloc an Uisge
_freshwater gully_
Sloc Beag nan Calman
little gully of pigeons
Alias: Sloc nan Calman

Sloc Bheàrlais
1823 Slockvearlish
The generic is derived from G sloe, m, 'gully'. The meaning of the remaining part of the name is uncertain.

Sloc Ceit
Kate's gully
The correct location is uncertain. D. D. Campbell places the same name at NL617980.

Sloc Ceann a' Ghàrraidh
gully of the head of the dyke

Sloc Chailein
gully of Colin
Alias: An Sloc Gorm, Sloc Néill Chailein

Sloc Chalman
gully of pigeons
Alias: An Sloc Gorm

Sloc Chiasigeo
gully of the small bay
A combination of G sloe, m, 'gully', ON kjoss, 'small bay', and ON gja, f, 'gully'.

Sloc Chremisgeo
gully of ?
1823 Slockchremiskeo, 1865 Slochk chremis Geo, 1901 Slochd chremis Geo
Donald MacNeil relocates this place-name to where Geodhachan is marked on the OS map. The OS location for Sloc Chremisgeo is wrong. The first element is G sloe, m, 'gully'. The second element remains obscure. The third element is derived from ON gjá, f, 'gully'.

Sloc Cuigeo
gully of the enclosure
1823 Slockhe-inego
G sloe, m, 'gully' combined with ON kví, f, 'enclosure' and of ON gjá, f, 'gully'. The 1823 form is likely to be based on a reading mistake. It may originate from the form Stockchuiego which rather nicely corresponds to the form of the toponame.

Sloc Dallaig
gully of the dog-fish

Sloc Dhùmhaill
Tuathanach
gully of Donald the Farmer
A Uistman fell into this gully which consequently was named after him. It is not known whether he survived his accident.
Sloc Dhòmhnaill  
'ic Dhòmhnaill  
gully of Donald MacDonald

Sloc Dubh an Dùine  
black gully of the fortification  
The OS spelling is incorrect. It should be Sloc Dubh an Dùin to mark the proximity of Dùn Mingulay.

Sloc Dubh Orosaigh  
black gully of O.  
See Orosay.

Sloc Feannaig  
gully of the crow  
Alias: Sloc an larainn

Sloc Feannaig a-muigh  
outer gully of the crow

Sloc Feannaig a-staigh  
inner gully of the crow

Sloc Fhionnaghal  
Flora's gully

Sloc Freumh  
gully of tree roots

Sloc Ghadhalum  
gully of ?  
The specific is probably of ON origin. See Cuidhe Ghadhalum and Sgeir Ghadhalum.

Sloc Ghunamul  
gully of G.  
See Gunamul.

Sloc Gille Ruaidh  
gully of 'The Red Boy'  
'The Red Boy' is the name of a sea rock just north of Mingulay.

Sloc Glamarigeo  
gully of ?  
1823 Slockghlamerika  
This gully is situated at the particularly steep and indented southern coastline of Pabbay. For possible derivations see Sloc Lamarigeo.

Sloc Glansich  
Alias: Sloc an Uisge  
The OS Object Name Book mentions that a man called Glensig fell over the cliff and drowned at this point. Glensig may be a nickname meaning 'the shiny one'. This name corresponds to the name Sgeirean Sloe Ghleansaich which was collected from an oral source.
Sloc Gob na Beinne  
gully of G.  
See Gob na Beinne.
[.slók ˈɡɔnə ˈbe:nə] NL614969 247 W OR

Sloc Gorm Leithinis  
blue gully of L.  
Alias: An Sloc Gorm  
See Leanish.
[.slók ˈɡɔrm ˈlɛ:nɪʃ] NL701992 247 W OR

Sloc Granda  
grim gully
[.slók ˈɡranda] NL597822 260 W OS

Sloc Greiligëo  
? + gully  
Alias: Sloc Hiasigeo  
G sloe, m, ‘gully’, combined with a word of unknown meaning and ON gjá, f, ‘gully’.
[.slók ˈɡrɛliɡjə] NL560793 260 W OS

Sloc Grisivick  
gully of pigs  
1823 Slockghrieskeo, 1901 Slockghriesgeo  
Alias: An Sloc Mór, Sloc an Ėisg  
G sloe, m, ‘gully’, combined with ON gríss, m, ‘young pig’, and ON vík, f, ‘bay’.
[.slók ˈɡriʃəvik] NL622939 247 W OS*

Sloc Gunasay  
[.slók ˈɡunasə] NL567831 260 W OR
The second element may be derived from the ON personal name Gunnarr and ON øy, f, ‘island’. According to Rygh (1898:88) ON øy may also designate a ‘level piece of ground with vegetation’ which it does in this case.

Sloc Heisegeo  
[.slók ˈheːʃəghi] NL550819 260 W OS*  
1823 Slochdheishgeo  
The long vowel /eː/ in the specific may be broken into a diphthong which suggests a possible link with the specific of the following name, Sloc Hiasigeo. It is possible that Heisegeo, too, is based on ON kjoss, ‘little bay’ and ON gjá, ‘gully’. See Bàgh Heisegeo.

Sloc Hiasigeo  
gully of the little bay  
Alias: Sloc Greiligëo  
A combination of G sloe, ‘gully’ and the ON elements kjoss, ‘little bay’ and gjá, ‘gully’.
[.slók ˈhiasigiɡ] NL560794 260 W OR

Sloc Hòraid Beag  
See Bàgh Hòraid.
[.slók ˈɦɔːrət ˈbɛk] NL696974 247 W OR

Sloc Hòraid Mór  
See Bàgh Hòraid.
[.slók ˈɦɔːrət ˈmɔr] NL695973 247 W OR

Sloc Iagan na h-Aibhne  
gully of Ilagan of the River  
Alias: Sloc a’ Ghreusaiche
[.slók ˈiɡənə ˈhainjɪ] NF696074 231 W OR

Sloc Lamarigeo  
[.slók ˈlamarigjə] NL574836 260 W ML
The specific of this tautological name may be interpreted in two different ways. The second element may either be a combination of ON hlað, 'layer', ON hamarr, 'steep hillside', and ON gjá, 'gully', resulting in a possible translation 'gully of the layered steep hillside' and in its combination of ON hlað and hamarr be related to G lámhrig, 'landing-place'. Located at the steep and indented western coast of Mingulay, this gully is embedded in high cliffs but is almost certainly unsuitable for use as a landing-place. Alternatively the specific may derive from ONhrafn, m, 'raven' as in Eysteinsson's Ramerigeo (see Eysteinsson, 1992:35). He traces ONhrafn back to hrman according to the morphological rule after which n becomes r after m. Eysteinsson mentions places in the Western and Northern Isles which are called 'raven gully' such as Ramaingea (see MacAulay, 1972:333), Ramnago (see Jakob Jakobsen, 'The Dialect and Place-Names of Shetland', Two Popular Lectures, 1897, p. 98.) and Hrafnagja which appears at least twice in Iceland (see Eysteinsson, 1992:36). The change from the initial sound /r/ to /l/ is common in certain parts of the Western Isles and would support the second derivation. See Sloe Glamarigeo.

Sloc Mås-bachd
\textit{gully of the bottom-shaped bog}

Sloc Mhàrtuin
\textit{Martin's gully}

Sloc Mhicheill
\textit{Michael's gully}

Sloc Mòr nan Calman
\textit{big gully of pigeons}
\textit{Alias: Sloc nan Calman}

Sloc na Bà
\textit{gully of the cow}

Ronald MacDonald (see bibliography, tape section) and Malcolm MacNeil locate this name at NL698977.

Sloc na Béiste
\textit{gully of the beast}
\textit{G biast, gen. case bêiste, f, a loan from Lat. bestia, 'monster'.}

Sloc na Cailliche
\textit{gully of the old woman}

Sloc na Càrnach
\textit{gully of the stony ground}

Sloc na Carraga
\textit{gully of the fishing rock}

Sloc na Cloiche
\textit{gully of the stone}
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Sloc na Creadh

Sloc na Creadh

Sloc na Croise

Sloc na Gobhair

Sloc na Goibhre

As opposed to Sloc na Gobhair, Sloc na Goibhre is the historically correct form.

Sloc na h-Àirde

Alias: Sloc Rubh' Àird nan Capall, Sloc an t-Sabhail

Sloc na h-Ighne

Sloc na h-Ighne

This is a primary name is extracted from Bogha Sloc na h-Ighinn.

Sloc na h-Iolaire

1823 Slocknahulona (?), 1901 Slochnahulona
Sharbau's 1901 historic form is merely a copy of MacLean's uncertain 1823 name and therefore cannot be regarded as a reliable source. Sloc na h-Iolaire is located at the bottom of Creag na h-Iolaire in Muldoanich.

Sloc na Laire

Sloc na Láraich

Sloc na Mòna

Sloc na Mòna

Sloc na Muice

1823 Stocknamucka, 1901 Sloch na Muicha
Alias: Sloc Slétta
There is some confusion as to the correct name of this chasm. Apparently the name given in the alias field is not alternative, but a competing name. Malcolm MacNeil and Joseph Sinclair call this place Sloc Slétta.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Reference 1</th>
<th>Reference 2</th>
<th>Reference 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sloe na Sealbhaig</td>
<td>[sləʊkə nə ʃələvək]</td>
<td>NL557844</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
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<tr>
<td>gully of the common sorrel</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc an Rathaid</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is some confusion as to the correct location of this place-name. D. D. Campbell locates it at NL555843.</td>
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<td>Sloe na Sealbhaig</td>
<td>[sləʊkə nə ʃələvək]</td>
<td>NL553799</td>
<td>260 W</td>
<td>OS</td>
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<td>gully of the common sorrel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc a' Chlogaid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloe na Teileagraf</td>
<td>[sləʊkə ˈteɡələfr]</td>
<td>NL686974</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gully of the telegraph cable</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>G teileagraf is a loan from Eng. telegraph. The telegraph connection was established in 1884.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloe nan Frangach</td>
<td>[sləʊkə nə frəŋɡəx]</td>
<td>NF651050</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gully of the Frenchmen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1823 Slocknafrangach</td>
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<td>Sloe nan Calman</td>
<td>[sləʊkə nə ˈŋəɡəlamən]</td>
<td>NL613962</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>gully of pigeons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc Mór nan Calman</td>
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<td>NL614960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alias: Sloc Beag nan Calman</td>
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<td>[sləʊkə nə ˈŋəɡəlamən]</td>
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<td>[sləʊkə nə ˈŋəɡəlamən]</td>
<td>NL699977</td>
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<td>This primary name is related to Sgeir Sloe na Calman.</td>
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<td>Sloe nan Calman</td>
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<td>NL688933</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>ML</td>
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<tr>
<td>gully of pigeons</td>
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<tr>
<td>1823 Slocknacalaman, 1901 Slochnacalaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloe nan Cléibh</td>
<td>[sləʊkə ˈŋlɛlv]</td>
<td>NF664048</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>gully of creels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloe nan Con</td>
<td>[sləʊkə ˈŋɡɔn]</td>
<td>NL617969</td>
<td>247 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>gully of dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloe nan Con</td>
<td>[sləʊkə ˈŋɡɔn]</td>
<td>NF633005</td>
<td>231 W</td>
<td>OR</td>
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gully of dogs

Sloc nan Con
*gully of dogs*

Sloc nan Dreasag
*gully of little brambles*
Alias: Sloc Ratcliff

Sloc nan Each
*gully of the horses*

Sloc nan Gallan
*gully of the branches*

Sloc nan Gamhna
*gully of the striks*

Sloc nan Iasgairean
*gully of the fishermen*
1901 Slockniaskorin
The toponame has been reconstructed from the 1901 form and is not certain.

Sloc nan Ron
*gully of the seals*
1823 Slocknaroan

Sloc nan Sgarbh
*gully of the cormorants*

Sloc nan Sul
*gully of the eyes*

Sloc Neill Chailein
*gully of Neil (son of) Colin*
Alias: An Sloc Gorm, Sloc Chailein
Sloc Neill Chailein is Nask usage, An Sloc Gorm is Caolis usage.

Sloc NicillEathain
*gully of MacLean's daughter*

Sloc Phabaigh
*gully of P.*
See Pabbay.

Sloc Pheadair
*Peter's gully*

Sloc Pheadair
*Peter's gully*
The Gazetteer

Sloc Ràsaidh
Alias: An Gèodha Beag
The generic is G and means gully. The spelling of the specific is extremely doubtful. Its meaning is obscure.

Sloc Ratcliff
Alias: Sloc nan Dreasag
Mrs. Ratcliff used to own the house beside the gully.

Sloc Rubh’ Àird nan Capall
Alias: Sloc na h-Àirde, Sloc an t-Sabhail
See Rubh’ Àird nan Capall.

Sloc Rubha Léitheadh
See Rubha Liath.

Sloc Slétta
Alias: Sloc an Rathaid
There is some confusion as to the correct location of this place-name. The name is a combination of G sloc, m, ‘gully’ and ON slétta, f, ‘plain’.

Sloc Slétta
Alias: Sloc na Muice
See Sloc Slétta.

Sloc Thréisibhig
Alias: Tresivick
See Tresivick.

Sloc Veacligeo
1823 Slochvaelikeo
G sloc, m, and ON gjá, f, both mean ‘gully’. The remaining part of the name cannot be explained.

Slocan Guarsay
Alias: Na Sluic
See Guarsay.

Slugaide
 gorge

Snagaras
 sound of the headland
1823 Snagarass, 1874 Snagara
A combination of ON snage, m, ‘headland’, ‘point’ and ON rás, f, ‘run of water’. As S. is land-based the name may have been given to a water feature in its vicinity.

**Snuasimul**

*rock of the turning*

1823

Alternatively Snuasmul (McDonald, 1958:288). A combination of ON snua, n, ‘turning’, and ON múli, m, ‘rock’.

**Solaicridh**

1823 Solicui

Possible derivations are from ON sól, f, ‘sun’ and ON krikr, m, ‘neuk’, ‘corner’, meaning the ‘sunny corner’. If based on a G origin the first part may be derived from G solaidh, m, ‘broken food’, ‘whelk’, ‘bait’ which was thrown in the sea to attract fish. The second part remains obscure. Allan McDonald (1903:433) lists the name Oracri whose generic may be related to the above name.

**Solon Beag**

*big sheep island*

1823 Solumveg, 1865 Solonbeg

Locals pronounce the generic with a labial /m/ instead of the nasal /n/. ON saúða, m, ‘sheep’, ON holmr, m, ‘island’.

**Solon Mór**

*small sheep island*

1823 Solumvore

See Solon Beag.

**Sonimull**

1823 Sonimull

Heggstad (1930:637) lists Sóni as personal name for males. The generic is derived from ON múli, m, ‘headland’.

**Sörn Coir’ Fhinn**

*hearth of Finn’s kettle*

G sörn also means ‘kiln for drying corn’.

**Sotan**

Sotan designates a slope in the interior of Barra. The meaning is obscure.

**Sound of Barra**

*sound of B.*

Alias: Caolas Uibhisteach

Eng. sound is related to ON sund, n.

**Sound of Berneray**

*sound of B.*

1823 -

See Berneray.
Sound of Fiaray
sound of F.
1865 -
Margaret Forbes gives the G version of this name, Caolas Fiarach. See Fiaray.

Sound of Fuday
sound of F.
1865 Fuday Sound
See Fuday.

Sound of Hellisay
sound of H.
1865 Sound of Hellisay
See Hellisay.

Sound of Mingulay
sound of M.
1823 -, 1865 -
See Mingulay.

Sound of Orosay
sound of O.
1874 Sound of Oronsay
See Orosay.

Sound of Pabbay
sound of P.
1823 -, 1848 -
See Pabbay.

Sound of Sandray
sound of S.
1865 Sandray Sound
See Sandray.

Sound of Vatersay
sound of V.
1848 Sound of Watersay, 1823 Caolisbeg, 1865 Vatersay Sound
See Vatersay.

Speedish
The meaning is obscure.

Spòg an Deamhain
paw of the devil
It is said that the devil left his footprint on this rock.

Sròn a' Chruimpain
C.'s nose
1823 Strachumpain
Alias: An t-Sròn
The specific may be a personal name.

**Srón a’ Mhill**  
*promontory of the hill*  
[.strənə ‘vili]  
NL653946  247 R  OR

**Sròn Ailein**  
*Allan’s promontory*  
[.strənælain]  
NF706042  231 R  OR

**Sròn an Dùin**  
*promontory of the fort*  
1865 Stron Dun  
[.strənə ‘Ndù:n]  
NL543819  260 R  OS*

**Sròn an Iasgair**  
*promontory of the fisherman*  
[.strənə ‘Niasgər]  
NL609926  247 R  OR

**Sròn an Rubha**  
*promontory of the point*  
[.strənən ‘ru5]  
NL618868  260 R  OR

**Sròn an t-Sithein**  
*promontory of A.*  
See An Sthhean.  
[.strənən ‘tfi:dn]  
NF650002  231 R  OR

**Sròn an t-Suidhe Dhualaich**  
*promontory of seaweed-covered seat*  
Alias: Sròn Guarsaigh  
Suidhe na Clòimhe, ‘seat of the wool’, is located in the vicinity.  
[.strənən t’uiə ‘gù:səlʃ]  
NL549844  260 R  OR

**Sròn Bheag an t-Srutha**  
*little promontory of the current*  
[.strənən’vekən ‘t’ru:]  
NL589871  260 R  OR

**Sròn Bheanais**  
*nose of the straight headland*  
See Bannish.  
[.strənən ‘vænif]  
NL686932  247 R  OR

**Sròn Chiasigeo**  
*promontory of C.*  
See Sloc Hiasigeo.  
[.strənən ‘giasigjo]  
NL552840  260 R  OR

**Sròn Guarsaigh**  
*promontory of G.*  
Alias: Sròn an t-Suidhe Dhualaich  
See Guarsay.  
[.strənən ‘gursəi]  
NL549844  260 R  OR

**Sròn Hisgeir**  
*promontory of H.*  
The last element of the name is derived from ON sker, n, ‘skerry’. See Heisker.  
[.strənən ‘bifker]  
NL572834  260 R  OR

**Sròn Lithheinis**  
*promontory of L.*  
Alias: Leehinish  
See Leehinish.  
[.strənən ‘li-inif]  
NL651902  247 R  OR
Sròn Lithinis

promontory of L.
The first vowel in Lithinis is pronounced with a hiatus /ii/. See Leehinish.

Sròn na Doirlinn

promontory of the headland

Sròn na h-Àirde

promontory of the height

Sròn Queen Victoria

nose of Queen Victoria
Alias: Queen Victoria Rock

Sruth a’ Bhàigh Bhig

the stream/current of the small bay
Alias: An Sruth
Locals refer to this place in its shortened version as An Sruth.

Sruth a’ Ghearraidh

stream / current of the enclosure
A combination of G sruth, ‘stream’, and G gearraidh, a loan from ON gerði, n, ‘enclosure’. The enclosure related to is Gara Cruaidh in Allasdale.

Sruth Bealach a’ Pluinnnd

stream of B.
G punt, m, ‘fold’, is a loan from Eng. pound. See Bealach a’ Pluinnnd.

Sruth Glaic a’ Bhealaich

stream of the hollow of the pass

Sruthan a’ Ghille Ruaidh

stream of the red boy
The specific is listed under its Eng. translation The Red Boy.

Sruthan an t-Sàile Mhóire

current of the open sea
This current leads from Bàgh Beag into the open sea.

Sruthan Bhrodie

stream of Brodie

Sruthan Màiri Ruairidh

stream of Mary of Roderick

Sruthan Nesbitt

Nesbitt’s stream

Sruthan Pheadair

Peter’s stream
Alias: Abhainn Luireag Phaitir

**Sruthan Ruadh**

*red stream*

Sruthan Ruadh runs through Kinloch and feeds into Loch Tangusdale.

**St. Clair’s Castle**

OS: Dùn MhicLeòid

This name is a historic form of Dùn MhicLeòid. For more information see Dùn MhicLeòid.

**St. Columba’s Chapel**

Even in 1877 when the OS undertook their survey, the site of St. Columba’s chapel could no longer be clearly identified.

**Stalla an Eich Bhaín**

*sea-rock of the white horse*

Sea-rock, m, a loan from ON stallr, m, ‘shelf on which another thing is placed’.

**Standing Stones**

H. Sharbau’s estate plan marks this site as ‘Warrior’s Grave’.

**Steisean Anderson**

*Anderson’s curing station*

**Steisean Bremner**

*Bremner’s curing station*

**Steisean Cormick**

*Cormick’s curing station*

**Steisean Dhòmhnaill Bhig**

*Little Donald’s curing station*

**Steisean Dunbar**

*Dunbar’s curing station*

**Steisean Gunny**

*Gunny’s curing station*

**Steisean Jenkins**

*Jenkins’s curing station*

**Steisean MacIvor**

*MacIvor’s curing station*

**Steisean Mitchell**

*Mitchell’s curing station*

**Steisean Pierre**

*Pierre’s curing station*
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Pierre's curing station

Stéisean Sinclair and Buchan curing station of Sinclair and Buchan

Stéisean Wood Wood’s curing station

Stéisean WS and S curing station of WS and S

Statue Statue Island

Steallag a’ Chúbair small torrent of the cooper

Steapagan a’ Bhodachain little steps of the old man

Steir Steallag a’ Chubair

Still Stob a’ Bhodaich fence posts of the old man

Stony Bay Stony Bay

Store House Store House

Stoung Beag Stoung Beag
little mast
Derived from ON støng, f. ‘mast’, this element is popular in Norway for islands and penin­
sulas either as generic or as specific (see Rygh, 1898:80).

Stoung Mór
big mast
The OS location of this place-name is wrong. See Stoung Beag.

Struth Cùil na Muic
stream of pig’s back

Stupid Street
Locally the name is sometimes abbreviated to ‘Stupid’. Three or four temporary houses,
thatched cottages, were built in a row. They looked so odd that their occupants nicknamed
the place Stupid Street.

Suidhe na Clòïmhe
seat of the wool
See Sròn an t-Suidhe Dhualaich.

Suidheachan
seats

Sumula
pebbly beach
1823 Sumulum
See Humula.

Sunnais Bheag
small southern promontory
A combination of ON sunn, adj., ‘south’ and ON nes, n, ‘headland’.

Sunnais Mhór
big southern promontory
See Sunnais Bheag.

Symbol Stone

Tabernish
headland of the peninsula
1823-
G tairbeart, f. ‘isthmus’, ‘peninsula’ and ON nes, n, ‘headland’. Cox lists three names in­
cluding the OIr. element tairbeart (see Cox, 1987:169).

Taigh a’ Bhell
house of the bell
The generic is taken from Eng. bell.

Taigh a’ Bhòcain
house of the ghost
This house is said to have been built on the grave of two sailors and therefore is haunted. Its roof collapsed in the late 1990s.
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**Taigh a’ Bhodaich**

*house of the old man*

[T’əja ‘vədɪç] NF713016 231 S OR

**Taigh a’ Mhàil**

*house of the rent*

Alias: Tobht’ a’ Mhàil, Taigh an Dà Mhàil

[T’əja ‘vən] NL654983 247 S OR

**Taigh an Dà Mhàil**

*house of the two rents*

Alias: Tobht’ a’ Mhàil, Taigh a’ Mhàil

[T’əjan ‘da ‘vən] NL654983 247 S OR

Taigh a’ Mhàil or Taigh an Dà Mhàil was the house where the rent collector lived. Some people called it Taigh an Dà Mhàil as the rent was collected twice a year.

**Taigh an Daoimein**

*house of Diamond*

Alias: Taigh Cacelti

‘Diamond’ is a nickname.

[T’əja ‘dəimən] NF711017 231 S OR

**Taigh an Tairbh**

*house of the bull*

Alias: Bothag an Tairbh, A’ Bhlianag Ghorm

[T’əjan ‘dərəv] NF725016 231 E OR

**Taigh Bhodaich nam Poe**

*house of the man of the sacks*

[T’əj ‘vədiŋnəm ‘pərək] NL644989 247 S OR

**Taigh Cacelti**

*house of Cacelti*

Alias: Taigh an Daoimein

Cacelti is a nickname.

[T’əj ‘kəkelti] NF711017 231 S OR

**Taigh Choinnich**

*Kenneth’s house*

[T’əj ‘kəiNiç] NF715015 231 S OR

**Taigh Eaton**

*Eaton’s house*

It is not known whether Eaton was a nickname or possibly the name of an English family in Barra.

[T’əj ‘iːtən] NF709005 231 S OR

**Taigh Fheurchair Mhóir**

*Big Farghar’s house*

[T’əj ‘fərəkər ‘vər] NF712017 231 S OR

**Taigh Floraidh Ulag**

*house of Flora (of) William*

[T’əj ‘flɔri ‘ulak] NF714014 231 S OR

**Taigh fo Thalamh**

*house under the earth*

[T’əj fo ‘θələm] NF723018 231 S OR
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Taigh fo Thalamh
house under the earth
Alias: Tigh Talamhanta

Gillespie's house

Lachlann's house
This primary name is extracted from Creag Taigh Lachlainn.

Gillespie

Taigh nan Eilean
house of the islands
See An t-Eilean Beag.

Sàileach
house of the people from Kintail

Ruairidh Ruaidh
Red Roderick's house
Alias: Taigh Scalda

Scalda's house
Alias: Taigh Ruairidh Ruaidh
Roderick MacLennan remembers this house being called Taigh Ruairidh Ruaidh. It is now a museum.

Sheòrais Eachainn
George (of) Hector's house

Stòir
store house

Tangasdale
valley of the promontory
1695 Tangstill, 1794b Tangestal, 1805-, 1823 Tangusdale, 1825 Tangestill, 1848 Tangusdale
ON tangi, m, ‘headland’ and ON dalr, m, ‘valley’. Borgstrøm derives the generic from ON stępull, m, ‘milking-place’. However, Tangasdale also fulfils the geographic requirements of a valley.

Taobh a' Bháigh
side of the bay
See Am Bàgh.

Stòir
store house

Taobh an Iar
west side
Taobh Chatarsaigh
side of C.
See Catarsaigh.

Taobhan Beag
little side
Alias: An Taobh Beag

Tar Rock
1874 -

Tea Rooms
Alias: Na Creagan Móra
This name designates an accumulation of stones. The MacNeils of Rubha Chàrnain used to have picnics at this place.

The Aird
the mountain

The Banks
the banks

The Croig
1901 Crog
This place is also called Cròic or A’ Chròic. Dwelly (1901:276) lists ‘deer’s antler’, ‘rage’, ‘difficulty’. Ronald Black adds that this element is common in place-names meaning a ‘lumpy rock’ or ‘rocky place’ that is surrounded by heaped-up vegetation. The idea of the heaped-up crown is what it has in common with ‘deer’s antler’. An alternative meaning could be obtained from ON krókr, ‘bend’. This conforms with the geographic conditions of the curved mountain ridge. Kroken is a popular settlement name in Norway. (See Rygh, NG12:47)

The Faing
the enclosure

The Glebe
the glebe

The Glen
the valley
1823 Glen

The Green

The Hoe
the hill
1823 Hoemore
Alias: An t-Aonach Pabach
From ON haugr, m, ‘hill’.

The Lagoon
the lagoon

The Lamb’s Footprints  [ðə lambsˈfʊtprɪnts]  NF680051  231 R  OR
The Maclean manuscript number 8233 lists Leac Luirg, ‘flagstone of the footprint’, as an alternative version. Spòg an Deamhain, ‘the devil’s paw’, is in the same area.

The Perch  [ðəˈpɜːrf]  NL645951  247 I  OR
Alias: Sgeir 'IcillEathain, Sgeir Feannaig, Am Botch

The Red Boy  [ðə ˈred ˈbɔɪ]  NL566851  260 I  OS*
1823 Gillachanruagh
Alias: Na Gillean Ruadh
The translation for the 1823 entry is ‘little red boy’. The OS list this name in singular. In conversation the form Na Gillean Ruadh is used, the diminutive seemingly having been misunderstood as a plural form.

The Square  [ðəˈskwɛɾ]  NL631944  247 O  OR

The Square  [ðəˈskwɛɾ]  NL703078  231 O  OR

The Stoung  [ðəˈstɔŋ]  NL623958  247 R  OR
See Stoung Beag and Stoung Mór.

Tigh Talamhanta  [ˈtʃiː tələməntə]  NF676033  231 A  OS
Alias: Taigh fo Thalamh

Tobar a’ Chadha  [təˈpəɾə ˈʃədə]  NF682047  231 W  OR
well of the pass

Tobar a’ Chnuic  [təˈpəɾə ˈkɾiːʃk]  NF717033  231 W  OR
well of the hill

Tobar a’ Mhachaire  [təˈpəɾə ˈvəɾˈkɛɾə]  NF658013  231 W  OR
well of the fertile plain

Tobar a’ Mhoil  [təˈpəɾə ˈvoʊl]  NF695080  231 W  OR
pebbly beach well
As the specific is f, the correct form should be Tobar na Moil(e) or Mola. See A’ Mhol.

Tobar a’ Mhuilinn  [təˈpəɾə ˈvʊlˈɪn]  NF663035  231 W  OR
well of the mill

Tobar Ailein  [təˈpəɾə ˈeɪlən]  NF715011  231 W  OR
Allan’s well
Alias: Tobar Ailein ‘Illeasbaig

Tobar Ailein ‘Illeasbaig  [təˈpəɾə ˈeɪlən ˌɪlˈɛspɪ]  NF715011  231 W  OR
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Allan (son of) Archibald's well
Alias: Tobar Ailein

Tobar Ailig
Ailig's well
Alias: Tobar MhicRath

Tobar an Dúghallaich
MacDougall's well

Tobar an Fluarain
well of the spring

Tobar an Rosaich
Ross's well

Tobar an Sgàthain
well of the mirror

Tobar Aonghais
Angus's well

Tobar Bhannanaich
Buchanan's well

Tobar Bharra
St. Barr's well
1695 Well of Kilbarr, 1764 St. Barr's well
Possibly the saint's name has been assimilated to the name of the island.

Tobar Chaigearraidh
well of ? enclosure
A combination of G tobar, 'well', an unknown element and G gearraidh, a loan from ON gerði, 'fenced field', 'enclosure'.

Tobar Chailein
Colin's well

Tobar Chaluhn Cille
St. Columba's well
This place is frequented as one of the stations of the cross.

Tobar de Glen
de Glen's well
The de Glens were a French family on whose ground the well was located.

Tobar Dhuggain
Father Duggan's well

Tobar Druim na Criche
well of D.
See Druim na Criche.

**Tobar Eòin Néill Bhig**
well of Jonathan of little Neil

[tˈoːr ˈeːuin ˈnɛil ˈvik]  
NF724018 231 W  OR

**Tobar Fhionnlaigh**
Finlay’s well

[tˈoːr ˈjuːlai]  
NL653985 247 W  OR

**Tobar Fogain**
Fogan’s well
‘Fogan’ is a nickname.

[tˈoːr ˈfogain]  
NF669031 231 W  OR

**Tobar Fuaran Iain**
well of Ian (son of) Sorley’s spring

[tˈoːr ˈfuəran ˈiːn ˈheil]  
NF723017 231 W  OR

**Tobar Glaic na Mòna**
well of G.
See Glaic na Mòna.

[tˈoːr ˈɡlaiknə ˈmoñə]  
NF720027 231 W  OR

**Tobar Iain Shomhairle**
Iain (son of) Sorley’s well

[tˈoːr ˈiːn ˈheil]  
NF714017 231 W  OR

**Tobar Iarainn**
iron well

[tˈoːr ˈiərən]  
NF715034 231 W  OR

**Tobar Lag nan Laogh**
well of L.
See Lag nan Laogh.

[tˈoːr ˈlaknən ˈla:ɡ]  
NL693994 247 W  OR

**Tobar Lèan’ an Eich**
well of L.
See Lèan’ an Eich.

[tˈoːr ˈliən ˈneɡ]  
NL662959 247 W  OR

**Tobar MhicRath**
Macle’s well
Alias: Tobar Ailig

[tˈoːr ˈriək ˈro]  
NF719029 231 W  OR

**Tobar MhicUaraig**
Kennedy’s well

[tˈoːr ˈriək ˈuːriːk]  
NL641959 247 W  OR

**Tobar Mhicheil na h-Aibhne**
well of Michael of the River

[tˈoːr ˌviələnə ˈheinə]  
NF663015 231 W  OR

**Tobar Mór Ghiogail**
Marian (daughter of) Gregor’s well

[tˈoːr ˌmo ˈɡriɡai]  
NF657018 231 W  OR

**Tobar na Bà**
well of the cow

[tˈoːrənə ˈba]  
NF697074 231 W  OR

**Tobar na Cuidhe**

[tˈoːrənə ˈkwi]  
NL674984 247 W  OR
well of the enclosure
See A' Chuidhe.

**Tobar na Morrach**  
toράɾna 'mɔɾax] NF662034 231 W OR
*Morrison’s well (?), the Murrays’ well*

**Tobar na Slàinte**  
toɾáɾna 'slànntʃɛ] NF666045 231 W OR
*wel]l of good health*

**Tobar na Square**  
toɾáɾna 'skweɪ] NL630944 247 W OR
*well of the square*
The specific is English.

**Tobar nam Bodach**  
toɾáɾnɔm 'bɔدا] NF716016 231 W OR
*well of the old men*

**Tobar nan Ceann**  
toɾáɾnɔn 'ɲɛɲn] NF731078 231 W OR
*well of the heads*

**Tobar nan Coineanach**  
toɾáɾnɔn 'ɲɔɲɛnɔx] NF709037 231 W OR
*well of the rabbits*
*G coineanach, m, a loan from MEng. cunin, ‘rabbit’, ‘coney’.

**Tobar nan Luch**  
toɾáɾnɔnl 'lʊx] NF662033 231 W OR
*well of the mice*

**Tobar Nead Choileach**  
toɾáɾ ɲ'it 'x'slʃajo NL693990 247 W OR
*well of the nest of the g]rouse*

**Tobar Peigi na Cùile**  
toɾáɾ ,peɲiɲ 'kʊiʃ] NL697994 247 W OR
*well of Peggy of the Neuk*

**Tobar Sgurabhail**  
toɾáɾ 'skʉɾiʃal] NF698093 231 W OR
*well of S.*
See Scurrival.

**Tobar Shandaidh Apel**  
toɾáɾ ɲ'ɑndi 'ɑpəɬ] NF722021 231 W OR
*Sandy Apel’s well*
Sandy Apel, received his nickname due to a letter from South Uist which addressed him as John MacKinnon, Able Seaman.

**Tobht’ a’ Ghreusaiche**  
[təbət’a ˈɡriːsaɪʃə] NF703021 231 S CR
*ruin of the shoemaker*
1814 Tobhtaghirisadh
H. Sharbau’s estate plan of 1901 shows an unnamed house at this site.

**Tobht’ Ailein**  
[təbət’ aɪˈlaɪn] NF704033 231 S OR
*Allan’s ruin*

**Tobht’ Ailein**  
[təbət’ aɪˈlaɪn] NF713011 231 S OR
*Allan’s ruin*
A possible alternative location is NF715002.

Tobht' Annag Eòin  [t'òht' ,áNak e'auin]  NF715010  231 S  OR
ruin of Anna of Jonathan

Tobhta Bean Dhòmhnaill  [t'òhta ,bèn 'r3-àl]  NF714014  231 S  OR
ruin of Donald's wife

Tobhta Bhuller  [t'òhta 'vulàr]  NF714013  231 S  OR
Buller's ruin
Alias: Tobhta Roddy Mhicheil
Sir Redvers Buller was the name of a general in the Boer War. At the turn of the century the name became a popular by-name for people with heavy moustaches.

Tobhta Chattiona  [t'òhta ,xà'�rìanhs]  NF672039  231 S  OR
Catherine's ruin

Tobhta Dhòmhnaill 'ic Mhurch 'c Fhionnaigh  [t'òhta ,r3-àtìc ,vù'riç]  NL653994  247 S  OR
ju:la]  ruin of Donald son of Murdoch of Finlay

Tobhta Dhòmhnaill  [t'òhta ,r3-àl,rs-àl'vóïr]  NF713015  231 S  OR
Raghnaill Mhóir
ruin of Donald son of Big Ronald
This ruin lies north of Tobhta Raghnaill Dhùghaill.

Tobhta Dhòmhnaill  [t'òhta ,r3-àl'ruàri]  NF712019  231 S  OR
Ruairidh
ruin of Donald (of) Roderick

Tobhta Drisach  [t'òhta 'dri:fa]  NL669982  247 S  CR
thorny ruin
1813 Tota Dhrisach
Drisach is the G adj. for 'thorny'. It is closely related to dris, f, 'brambles'.

Tobhta Floraidh Chaluim  [t'òhta ,flòRi 'xàlùm]  NF711016  231 S  OR
ruin of Flora daughter of Malcolm

Tobhta Fogain  [t'òhta 'fogain]  NF669030  231 S  OR
Fogan's ruin
'Fogan' is a nickname.

Tobhta Mhosach  [t'òhta 'v3s3x]  NL641978  247 S  OR
filthy ruin

Tobhta na h-Eireig  [t'òhta, na'he'ri]  NF667008  231 S  OR
ruin of the pullet

Tobhta nam Mealbhachan  [t'òhta na'mealaxhàn]  NF696070  231 S  OR
ruin of the little sandy hillocks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>OS Location</th>
<th>ST Location</th>
<th>OS Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobhata Necky</td>
<td>[t'oht'ə 'néki]</td>
<td>NL638956</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhata Raghnaill Dhúghaill</td>
<td>[t'oht'ə rag-a-ulu-ul]</td>
<td>NF713015</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhata Raonaid</td>
<td>[t'oht'ə 'rə:nət']</td>
<td>NF714012</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhata Roddy Mhìcheil</td>
<td>[t'oht'ə rodii v'içəl]</td>
<td>NF714013</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhata Ruaid</td>
<td>[t'oht'ə ruːdək]</td>
<td>NL647963</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhata Scan</td>
<td>[t'oht'ə 'sk'an]</td>
<td>NF714015</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhtaichean Dhòmhnàill</td>
<td>[t'ohtic; diə'miːʃəl]</td>
<td>NL622962</td>
<td>247 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhtaichean Iain</td>
<td>[t'ohtic; a:iə:nək]</td>
<td>NF682041</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobhtaichean na h-Àirigh</td>
<td>[t'ohtic; na ha:ɾi]</td>
<td>NF756045</td>
<td>231 S</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toll na Béiste</td>
<td>[τ'aula ʰeːs'tjo]</td>
<td>NF728021</td>
<td>231 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom a' Bhata</td>
<td>[t'aumə va'btə]</td>
<td>NL631914</td>
<td>247 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom a' Mhaide</td>
<td>[t'aumə va'ʤə]</td>
<td>NL554833</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom a' Reithane</td>
<td>[t'aumə re'θən]</td>
<td>NL569848</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom an Rùtain</td>
<td>[t'aumə 'rùdan]</td>
<td>NL572852</td>
<td>260 R</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tom an Rùtain, 'knoll of the ram', corresponds with Tom a' Reithean, 'knoll of the young ram'. G rùta, m, a loan from ON hrútr, m, 'ram'.

Tom na Beinne
round knoll of the mountain
This is a primary name extracted from Lot Mhòr Tom na Beinne.

Tor Gormlaig
hillock of the blue flagstone
1823 Torgormhulach, 1878 Tòrr Gormlach

Tràigh a Deas Shanndraigh
south beach of Sandray
Alias: An Tràigh a Deas
See Sandray.

Tràigh a’ Bhàigh
beach of the bay
See Am Bàgh.

Tràigh a’ Ghoirtein
beach of the garden
See Goirtein.

Tràigh a’ Mhealairt
beach of M.
See Mealast.

Tràigh Allathasdail
beach of A.
Alias: Tràigh na Cuidhe
See Allasdale.

Tràigh Bhàn
white beach
1874 White Sand Bay
Alias: Tràigh Mhadasdail

Tràigh Bheag Dhrolum
little beach of D.
See Drolum.

Tràigh Chaise
cheese beach

Tràigh Charaigrich
beach of the brindled rock
See Caragrich Island.

Tràigh Chliaid

4 The Gazetteer

beach of C.
1901 Bomore Strand
The historic form from 1901 is unknown to locals. The primary name Am Bogha Mór which forms part of this name is located to the north of the village and is still in use. See Cleat.

Tràigh Chordail Mór
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{xordal}\,\text{`mör}\]
NF739083 231 R OR

See Cordale Mòr.

Tràigh Cille-bhara
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{kili} \,\text{`vār3}\]
NF711066 231 R OS*

1874 Kilbar Strand
See Kilbar.

Tràigh Eais
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{eāis}\]
NF693068 231 R OS*

1823 Traillhaish, 1874 West Strand, 1878 Traigh Uais, 1901 West Strand
A combination of G tràigh, f, ‘beach’ and maybe ON eyrr, f, ‘sand island’. T. is the second largest beach on Barra.

Tràigh Eòrasdail
\[t\'ra\,\text{eòrisdal}\]
NL648940 247 R OR


Tràigh Hamara
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{`hamara}\]
NF655026 231 R OS

ON hamarr, m, ‘steep rock’, ‘steep hillside’.

Tràigh Mhadasdail
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{`vadasdail}\]
NF736095 231 R OR

Alias: Tràigh Bhàn
See Maddasdale.

Tràigh Mhóir
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{`voir}\]
NF702057 231 R OS*

1549 Trayrmore, 1764 Craymore of Kilbarra, 1823 Traivore, 1865 Trigh Vore

Tràigh na Bigeil
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{na}\,\text{`bigal}\]
NF765045 231 R OR

beach of the chirping

Tràigh na Cuidhe
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{na}\,\text{`kuiś}\]
NF657037 231 R OR

beach of the fold
Alias: Tràigh Allathasdail
See A’ Chuidhe.

Tràigh na Halman
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{na}\,\text{`halman}\]
NF649004 231 R OR

half-moon beach
Alias: Tràigh Thangasdail
See Halman Bay.

Tràigh na Reill
\[t\'ra:j\,\text{na}\,\text{Rei}\]
NF728085 231 R OS*

beach of the stars
1823 Trainareill, 1874 Trigh na Real
The star is used as a metaphor for brightness. Indeed, the sandy beaches of the Hebrides
have an intense brightness.

Tràigh Orosaigh
[ˈ traːj ˈ orə-səi]
beach of O.
See Orosay.

Tràigh Phabaigh
[ˈ traːj ˈ faːpˈ ei]
beach of P.
See Pabbay.

Tràigh Scurrival
[ˈ traːj ˈ skuːrɪval]
beach of S.
1823 Traiscurrival, 1874 Trigh Scurrival
See Scurrival.

Tràigh Shanndraigh
[ˈ traːj ˈ haundɾei]
beach of S.
Alias: An Tràigh Bheag
See Sandray.

Tràigh Siar
[ˈ traːj ˈʃiər]
west beach
1823 Trailhui

Tràigh Thangasdail
[ˈ traːj ˈ hæŋɡəsdæl]
beach of T.
Alias: Tràigh na Halman
See Tangasdale.

Tràigh Tuath
[ˈ traːj ˈ tuːʃ]
north beach

Tràigh Vialish
[ˈ traːj ˈ vialiʃ]
beach + ?
1878 Traigh Vanish
See Eilean Vialish.

Trallisker
[ˈ traːliskˈ erə]
1823 Traillisker, 1874 Trigh le Sgeir
The generic is derived from ON sker, n, ‘skerry’. The specific is uncertain. A derivation from
G traill, f, ‘tusk’ appears unlikely in this word order. However, there was no plausible match
with a word of ON origin.

Tresivick
[ˈ tɾeʃivik]
1865 Trasibeg Bay
The specific is likely to be derived from Nynorsk træsa, v, ‘to circulate restlessly’. There
is a Tresfjord in Norway (see Sandnes, 1976:320). The OS located this place incorrectly at
NL569797.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Twin Rocks</strong></td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>NL541819</td>
<td>AD</td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: Bogha Dubh an Dùin, Am Bogha Dubh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uaigh an Eich</strong></td>
<td>grave of the horse</td>
<td>NL649983</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uaigh na Cailliche</strong></td>
<td>grave of the old woman</td>
<td>NF717012</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uaigh na Cailliche</strong></td>
<td>grave of the old woman</td>
<td>NF698051</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uaighhean nan Spàinteach</strong></td>
<td>graves of the Spaniards</td>
<td>NF766042</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh 'icPhearsain</strong></td>
<td>MacPherson's cave</td>
<td>NL625995</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh an Òir</strong></td>
<td>cave of gold</td>
<td>NF675049</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh an Òir</strong></td>
<td>the cave of gold</td>
<td>NL682972</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh an t-Saighdeir</strong></td>
<td>cave of the soldier</td>
<td>NF703022</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G saighdear, m, a loan from MEng. soudiour, 'soldier'.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh Chliaid</strong></td>
<td>cave of C.</td>
<td>NF673049</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alias: An Uamh</td>
<td>See Cleat.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh Dùn Sgurabhail</strong></td>
<td>cave of D.</td>
<td>NF695079</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878 Uamh an Duin</td>
<td>The OS mark a cave at this location. See Dùn Scurivail.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh Ghunamul</strong></td>
<td>cave of G.</td>
<td>NL548824</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Gunamul.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uamh MhicAilein</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>NL653974</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**MacAllan's cave**

**Uamh Mór a' Charaidh**  
[ˌuːŋ,mo:rə ˈxaɾi]  
NL630984 247 R  OR

*big cave of the fish-trap (?)*

Ronald Black suggests that since uamh and cairidh are both nouns of f gender we may be dealing with ‘the cave of Marian of the fish-trap’.

**Uamh na Carraige Bàine**  
[ˌuː̃̃nə, ˈkarikə ˈbɔːnjə]  
NL572848 260 R  OR

*cave of the white fishing rock*

(This cave was Ian MacPherson’s first hiding place after having deserted from the army. The constables apparently came over Heatherhill. He came along Horough, and they followed him with dogs. He saved himself by jumping across An Sruth.” Malcolm MacNeil. See A' Chuidhe.

**Uamh na Cuidhe Bige**  
[ˌuː̃̃nə, kuia ˈbikə]  
NL651974 247 R  OR

*cave of the little fold*

**Uamh nan Calman**  
[ˌuːnə, ˈŋɔləmən]  
NF652049 231 R  ML

*cave of the pigeons*

1823 Unacalaman

**Údrathad Port na Mnà**  
[ˌuxtra-ət, poʃtə ˈmroː]  
NF716012 231 O  OR

*common road to P.*

See An Údrathad and Port na Mnà.

**Uidh**  
[ˌuːj]  
NL653960 247 S  OS*

*isthmus, ford*

1823 Uiehead, 1833 Uigh, 1836 Aoidh, 1851 Uie

G uidh, f, a loan from ON eið, f, ‘isthmus’, ‘neck of land’.

**Unessan**  
[ˌunxesən]  
NL665956 247 T  OS*

*isthmus of the small waterfall*

1823 Vieinssen, 1865 Unessan

A combination of G guidh, f, a loan from ON eið, f, ‘isthmus’, ‘neck of land’ and the diminutive form of G eas, m, ‘waterfall’.

**Úlabrac**  
[ˌuːlabrəxk]  
NF640007 231 R  OR

*slope of the wolf*

A combination of ON ulfr, m, ‘wolf’ and ON brekka, f, ‘slope’. This name refers to a point or a fishing rock.

**Upper Bruernish**  
[ˌapər ˈbruənəʃ]  
NF725019 231 S  OR

*upper B.*

Alias: Cnoc nan Caorach

See Bruernish.

**Usborne’s Well**  
[ˌəsboʊns ˈwel]  
NL562804 260 W  OS*

1865 -

"This name is given to a small spring well, now almost closed, and in dry weather quite dry, which is situated near the northern side of Eilean Bernera. It was dug by and named after one of Captain Otter’s men, when making a nautical survey of this island.” OS Object Name Book.
Vasgeir

? + skerry
Alias: Leac Vasgeir
The meaning of the first syllable is obscure.

Vaslain

water land
A combination of ON vatn, n, 'water', here in gen. case and ON land, n, 'piece of land'.

Vatersay

1549 Wattersay, 1695 Vattersay, 1764 Vatersay, 1794a Watersay, 1824 Vatersa, 1845 Watersay, 1846 Vatersay, 1848 Watersay I., 1854 Watersa, 1865 Vatersay Island
A derivation from ON vatn, n, 'water' seems almost impossible as this word combined with a generic would have been 'Vatsay' in ON. The specific may be related to ON veðr, n, 'weather side' as much of the coastline is exposed to the westerly winds. However, a connection to ON vaðill, m, 'ford', may also be possible as the northern and the southern half of the island are connected by a thin neck of land. The generic is derived from ON øy, f, 'island'.

Vatersay Bay

Alias: Am Bàgh

Vatersay House

Alias: An Scarp

Vatersay Village

Alias: An Scarp

Vialish Rocks

rocks of the isthmus of the headland (?)
Local informants corrected the OS entry of Eilean Vialish to Eilean Vianish. This sound change may also apply to the above name.

Warrior's Grave

The OS list 'standing stones' at this site.

Wedding Point

Alias: Bannish, Rubha Bheanais

West Sand

Alias: An t-Suil Ghalmhineach
West Sand corresponds to Centre Sand and North Sand close by.
5 Naming Intention

The system of grouping place-names after their specifics, as developed by Stewart, will form the basis for discussion of the naming intention behind the place-names of Barra. Based on ten categories, the system helps to classify the naming pattern in a given territory and also allows for borderline cases. Stewart established the following groups:\(^{130}\)

1. Descriptive names
2. Associative names
3. Incident-names
4. Possessive names
5. Commemorative names
6. Commendatory names
7. Folk-etymologies
8. Manufactured names
9. Mistake-names
10. Shift-names

5.1 Descriptive Names

5.1.1 Sensory

Names occurring in this group reference either colour, size, shape, material, sound, touch, smell or taste.

5.1.1.1 Visual

Colours

Nearly all names containing colours as specifics are of Gaelic (G) origin. The perception of colour amongst Celtic people differs immensely from that of English, Scandinavian or central European peoples. In Gaelic the hues of natural features may be described more precisely through the wider range of terms available. In the following list all colours occurring as part of place-names will be translated, analysed and illustrated with examples from Barra toponymics.

Dubh

'black', 'dark', 'sad', 'disastrous', 'wicked', 'dark-haired'

_Dubh_ is the most popular colour and occurs in 59 names, of which 53 are primary names. It covers a wide range of both coastal and interior features and is productive in names such as _An Abhainn Dhubh, Am Bogha Dhubh, An Druim Dhubh, A’ Ghlaic Dhubh, An Lón Dhubh, A’ Phàirc Dhubh, An Sgeir Dhubh_ and others. The

\(^{130}\)See G. R. Stewart, 1975:86.
most widespread combination is *An Rubha Dubh*, ‘the black promontory’, which occurs seven times.

**Ruadh**

‘red’, ‘brown’, ‘red-haired’[^31], ‘orange’, occupies a range of spectrum from ‘deep yellow’ through ‘orange’ to ‘russet’[^32]

Due to its large coverage this adjective is often used in combination with water-related features such as *An Abhainn Ruadh*, *An t-Allt Ruadh*, *An Tobar Ruadh* and *An Sguid Ruadh*, with man-made structures like *Dùnan Ruadh* and *Na Tobhtaichean Ruadh*, and with general description of the land as in *An Tir Ruadh*, *A’ Chreag Ruadh*, *A’ Chùil Ruadh*, *An Sithean Ruadh* and *Am Bota Ruadh*.

The adjective *ruadh* occurs in 29 primary names with *Am Bogha Ruadh*, ‘red reef’, its most frequent combination.

**Dearg**

covers a spectrum from ‘pink’ to ‘purple’

This word is also used synonymously for blood and wound and is associated with fire. It is part of only six primary names and is mainly used with water-based places. Examples including this element are *Am Bogha Dearg*, *An Cladach Dearg*, *Na Sgeirean Dearga* and *An Caolas Dearg*.

**Liath**

‘pale’, ‘silver-grey’, ‘pale blue’, ‘lilac’

This colour is used for describing skerries, coastal rocks and promontories and produces names like *A’ Phalla Liath*, *A’ Chreag Liath*, *An Sgeir Liath* and *An Rubha Liath*. It occurs in eleven primary names.

**Bàn**

‘off-white’, ‘pale’, ‘fair-haired’

This specific is used with a wide spectrum of generics covering coastal names such as *Bàgh Bàn*, *A’ Charruig Bhan*, *An Cladach Bàn*, *Am Port Bàn*, *Tràigh Bhàn*, water-features like *An Abhainn Bhàn*, *An Caolas Bàn* and *An Sruthan Bàn*, and rocks such as *An Sgòr Bàn* and *A’ Chlach Bhàn*. The adjective *bàn* is part of 20 primary names.

**Geal**

‘bright’, ‘brilliant’, ‘white’

Only four names include Gaelic *geal* as a specific and all of them are land-based. There are the man-made features *An Geata Geal*, *An Goirtean Geal* and *An Taigh Geal*, and the coastal feature *An Uidh Gheal*.

[^31]: See E. Dwelly, 1901:773.
Glas
'grey', 'ashen', 'pale green'
As part of names for skerries, headlands and promontories, the adjective glas is used in eleven primary names. Examples include An t-Eilean Glas, Rubha Glas, An Àird Ghlas and A' Chuidh' Ghlas.

Gorm
'blue', 'emerald', 'green of healthy growing grass and leaves', 'colour of smoke', 'colour of black, polished surfaces'
Fourteen place-names contain the specific gorm. Half of them are land-based and half of them are water-based, with An Sloc Gorm the most popular combination.

Uaine
'yellow–green', 'green', 'between glas and gorm'
Uaine occurs in only four names and only in combination with two different generics. There is one place called Am Bealach Uaine and three places including An Leac Uaine.

Fionn 'fair', 'creamy–coloured', 'pale', 'lilac'
Fionnphort on Gighay is the only name with this specific. It may be translated as 'white harbour' as there is a corresponding Ruadh-Phort in the vicinity. However, it is possible that Fionnphort is a transferred name from the Isle of Iona.

Buidhe 'yellow', 'golden'
This colour is found in names such as A' Bhuaile Buidhe, A' Phalla Buidhe, Glac na Buidhe, An Goirtean Buidhe, Am Meall Buidhe, Gualainn Buidhe, An t-Sròn Buidhe and An Tom Buidhe. Buidhe may be used as adjective or noun and occurs in 14 primary names. It describes mainly rocks, clefts, hills and other interior features.

5.1.1.2 Size
Approximately 7% of all place-names collected in the Barra group are characterised by a specific indicating size. Apart from the ON name Mingulay, 'big island', the only two specifics involved are mór, meaning 'big', and beag, meaning 'small', both of G origin. They are easily combined with a number of G generics and form names such as A' Bheinn Bheag, A' Charrraig Bheag and Am Port Mór.

\[\text{This is the OS spelling.}\]
The most popular name in this group is *A’ Charaig Mhór*, occurring five times\(^{134}\) and in another three cases with additional specifics: *Creag Mhór Shanndraigh*, *Creag Mhór an Eilein* and *Creag Mhór na Brataich*.

The simplicity involved in the naming process has led to a wide distribution of these two specifics. Sometimes additional information is required in order to distinguish one place from another one with the same name.\(^ {135}\) In Barra we find *Sgeir Mhór na Horgh*, *Cnoc Mór Dhrolum* and *Port Beag Glaic Choinnich*, where in each case the use of a further specifying feature in the vicinity puts these names in the borderline region between the descriptive and associative classifications.

Although the three mountains called *A’ Bheinn Mhór* have corresponding opposites in another three mountains called *A’ Bheinn Bheag*, this is not the case for all features. The Barra group hosts three places named *An t-Eilean Mór* but five that are named *An t-Eilean Beag*. Likewise there are four locations called *An Cnoc Mór* but none called *An Cnoc Beag*. This implies that the intention of contrast is occasionally overruled by other and stronger naming motivations. There appears to be a given standard within the user group where a name composed with a specific indicating size does not necessarily require a contrasting opposite. This implies that *An t-Eilean Beag*, ‘the small island’, can survive onomastically without its larger brother.

The adjectives *mór* and *beag* are not restricted to only G generics, but may also be found combined with ON primary names resulting in place-names like *Flodaigh Mhór* or *Flodaigh Bheag*.

### 5.1.1.3 Shape

Although names describing the shape of a feature are rare in comparison to the amount of size- or colour-related names, they are highly distinctive. Examples of this group are:

- *Na Latha-Lin* ‘the layered slope’
- *Bannish* ‘straight headland’
- *Glen Bretadale* ‘steep valley’
- *Na Cam-alltan* ‘the crooked burns’

\(^{134}\)This number includes the OS version of this name, *Creag Mhór*.

\(^{135}\)As discussed in the second chapter.
5.1.1.4 Material

The most common material on Barra is stone and this is reflected in its place-names. There is *An Taigh Chlach*, ‘the stone house’, *An Torr Chlach*, ‘the stony round hillock’ and *An t-Eilean Creagach*, ‘the rocky island’. Other materials are less often reflected in names. Examples are *A’ Chreag Ghainmheineach*, ‘the sandy fishing rock’, *An Sloc Gainmheineach*, ‘the sandy gully’, and *Rubha Greotach*, the ‘gravelly promontory’. This group is very small.

5.1.1.5 Hearing

In contrast to the overwhelming number of visually inspired place-names, only few names contain sound-related specifics. There is *Am Bogha Tàinmh*, ‘the quiet reef’, and *Creag Labhar*, ‘speaking rock’. The name *Sgeir a’ Mhuin*, ‘urinating skerry’ is likely to describe the sound of the waves rushing over the rock.

5.1.1.6 Touch

Only three place-names were found to illustrate this group. There is *An Càrn Garbh*, ‘the rough cairn’, *An Tràigh Gharbh*, ‘the rough beach’, and *Gara Cruaidh*, the ‘hard enclosure’.

5.1.1.7 Smell / Taste

Only one primary name included an adjective pointing at smell: *À Charraig Bhreun*, the ‘stinking fishing rock’. It is repeated in the secondary name *Eilean Carraig Bhreun*.

5.1.2 Relative Location

Specifics indicating relative location may be divided into five groups: the vertical, the horizontal, compass directions, chronology, and a special group in which the specifics correspond to the location of parts of the human body.

**Vertical**

In the group emphasising vertical distinction there are names such as
5 Naming Intention

A' Phàirc ārd 'the high enclosure'
Pàirc a' Mheadhoin 'the middle enclosure'
A' Phàirc Ìseal 'the low enclosure'
Upper Bruernish
Lower Bruernish

The contrasting elements indicate a higher or lower and, occasionally, a middle position. G ārd, 'high', and G Ìseal, 'low', are the most often used specifics in this group. Names indicating relative vertical location without having a counterpart were Taigh fo Thalamh, the 'house under ground', and A' Chorrairigh, the 'lofty shieling'.

Horizontal

In this group the G specifics a-muigh for 'outer' and a-staigh for 'inner' dominate. As in the group of vertical relative location there are also examples of names indicating a middle position. There is An Caolas a-muigh, Caolas Mheadhoin and An Caolas a-staigh, the 'outer', 'middle' and 'inner sound'. However, the more widespread usage is to contrast just the inner and the outer location. Although G specifics are most frequent, there are examples of English elements, such as Inner Heisker and Outer Heisker. The ON name Fuday, possibly meaning 'outside island', has no corresponding 'inner' name, but there are islands which are located closer to mainland Barra to act as an inner reference point.

Chronology

The contrasting specifics in this group are restricted to 'old' and 'new' and produce place-names such as An Seann Chidh', 'the old pier', An Seanna Bhail, 'the old village', and A' Chachaleith Ùr, 'the new gate'. There are also English examples in this group such as Old Graveyard, Old Shielings or the Old Inn. This group shows an even distribution of English and Gaelic names.

Compass points

Compass directions are popular specifics to indicate relative direction. In the Barra group there are An Tràigh Tuath, 'the north beach', An Tràigh a Deas, 'the south beach', Bogha Chigein a Deas, 'southern lump-shaped reef', and Bogha Chigein an Ear, 'eastern lump-shaped reef'. The example of Bogha Chigein illustrates that not necessarily opposite directions of the compass such as north and south, or east and west, are required. In the group of An Sgùmban a Tuath, 'the northern summit' and An Sgùmban an Ear, 'the eastern summit' there is an additional corresponding summit, An Sgùmban Meadhoin, in the middle location.
Names in this group can also be composed without having an explicit counterpart. The name *North Bay* was probably formed because it is located north of *Castle Bay*, and despite the fact that there are bays in the Barra group further north than *North Bay*.

**Relative location after parts of human body**

Here the specifics involved correspond to the location of parts of the human body such as Gaelic *ceann* ‘head’, *beul* ‘mouth’, *druim* ‘ridge/back’, *màs* ‘hip/buttock’, and *bun* ‘foot’. This efficient way of naming is reflected in the following examples:

- *Druim na Muice* ‘back/ridge of the pig’
- *Druim na Creige* ‘back/ridge of the rock’
- *Sròn an Rubha* ‘nose/point of the promontory’
- *Sròn an Dùin* ‘nose/point of the fort’
- *Kinloch* ‘head/top of the lake’
- *Ceann na Tràigh* ‘head/top of the beach’
- *Beul a’ Bhàigh* ‘mouth of the bay’
- *Beul na Creige* ‘mouth of the rock’

Specifics in this group are always combined with generics that could also occur as simplex names. These so-called ‘inverted clusters’ have changing specifics instead of generics. Although most names in this group are Gaelic, there are two place-names with English generics, *Greian Head* and *Barra Head*.

**5.1.3 Special Knowledge**

Generally, intellectual names which require some special knowledge are very rare. It is difficult to assess whether there are any place-names at all on Barra that would fall into this category. Three names are unusual enough to possibly qualify. In *Tobar Iarainn*, ‘iron well’, and in *Sloc an Iarainn*, ‘the iron gully’, it is not certain whether the namer knew about a higher iron content in the water, whether the names were given because of a rusty colour of the water, or because of an iron ship wreck. The name *Loch St. Clair*, an alternative name for the loch known variously as *Loch Tangusdale*, *Loch an Eas Dhubh*, *An Loch Mòr* and *Loch Mhic Leòid*, first appeared in a Victorian novel set in Barra.

**5.1.4 Metaphorical**

Metaphors are found in a number of place-names. On Fuiay there is *Bonnach Fhionnlaigh*, ‘Finlay’s bannock’, a large round rock which looks like a huge cake.
Figure 5.16: Metaphorical Naming: Bonach Fhionnlaigh

Sgeir a’ Chlaidheimh, ‘sword skerry’, is a frequently used name for little islands that, with one pointed side, appear to cut the sea like a sword. The Sleeping Indian designates the silhouette of a mountain ridge on Fuiay, which resembles the torso of a Native American lying on his back and is a fairly recent name creation.

5.1.5 Subjective

Sgeir Onorach, ‘honest, distinguished skerry’, and Sloc Granda, the ‘grim gully’, serve as examples of this class, although nothing is known about the namers or the reasons for their choice.

5.1.6 Negative or Ironic

Negative names are rare in Barra. Sgeir Mollachdag, the ‘cursed skerry’, is a dangerous group of rocks located at the north side of Greian Head. Rubha Ghralish, possibly meaning ‘hostile headland’, lies at the south side of Berneray. There is Stupid Street, which has already been mentioned, a more humorous than ironic name as it was assigned to the location by its own inhabitants.
5.1.7 Hortatory

A hortatory name designates a location where a particular act should be performed. *Snuasimul*, the 'rock of the turning', is a skerry which needs to be circumnavigated by boats wanting to pass the eastern shore of Vatersay.

5.2 Associative Names

A place may be named after associations which only that place has, and which distinguish it from other places carrying the same generic in that area. The class of associative names may be divided into six sub-categories:

**Animals**

*Sgeir nan Caorach*  ‘sheep skerry’
*Sloc an Éisg*  ‘fish gully’
*Creag na h-Iolaire*  ‘rock of the eagle’

The animals included in this group are those that one would normally expect in this particular location. They point at husbandry, fishing and general observations of nature and should not be confused with names which refer to animals in unusual locations, which hint at accidents or loss.

**Plants**

*Port an t-Sealastair*  ‘harbour of the iris’
*Cuidhe Roinich*  ‘fern enclosure’
*A'ird a’ Mhurain*  ‘promontory of the bent-grass’

As Barra’s appearance is dominated by rocks, any kind of vegetation is happily commented on in place-names.

**User group**

*A'irigh nan Treothasach*  ‘shieling of the East coast people’
*Eilean an t-Seannsair*  ‘Chanter’s island’
*Sloc Pheadair*  ‘Peter’s gully’
Names occurring in this category refer to people who are associated with a place because they frequently make use of its facilities. *Eilean an t-Scannsair*, for example, is the place where a man nicknamed ‘Chanter’ used to tie up his boat. Special care should be taken in order not to mistake mere association for ownership.

**Use**

*Glac a’ Bhainne*  
‘hollow of the milk’

*Sloc na Mòna*  
‘peat gully’

*Goirtean Èòrna*  
‘barley field’

The above names refer to activities performed at the specific location, such as milking the cows in *Glac a’ Bhainne*, loading peat into boats at *Sloc na Mòna*, and cultivating barley at *Goirtean Èòrna*.

**Figure 5.17: Abhainn a’ Mhuilinn**
Inclusion of Place

*Druim na Criche*  
‘ridge of the boundary’

*Bàgh a’ Chnuic Mhóir*  
‘bay of the large hill’

*Gob Chiall*  
‘point of Ciall’

The association of a place with another one lying close-by is a popular naming pattern. If used frequently in combination with one particular specific it can result in name clusters, which form a separate category in the shift-name classification.

Buildings

*Leac an Dùin Bhriste*  
‘flagstone of the broken fort’

*Bogha Taigh Eòin*  
‘reef of Jonathan’s house’

Names associated with buildings are rare. Reefs are occasionally named after houses which happen to serve as reference points.

5.3 Incident–names

Incident names are usually connected with a humorous or dubious story intended to increase the credibility of the place-name. Names in this group are closely related to associative names and commemorative names and form about 5% of Barra’s place-names.

In the case of *Oitir na Cailliehe*, ‘sand-bank of the old woman’, legend has it that an old woman who lived on Fuiay was without fire. In order to light her stove she had to walk across the beach to Fuday to her nearest neighbour. She managed across and obtained fire but on her way back was caught by the incoming tide and drowned.

The name *Sloc an Amadain*, ‘gully of the fool’, in Bruernish is associated with the following anecdote:

“At the time of the clearances when they were chasing people out of that area there was a fellow that went into hiding in between these rocks. And he was a simpleton so to speak. But one wonders whether he was a simpleton, really, because he was the only one who got away. And that’s why it is called *Sloc an Amadain*.“\(^\text{136}\)

\(^\text{136}\) The story was told by Neil MacNeil (Neil Handie) of Bruernish.
Taigh a' Bhòcain, the 'ghost house', in Earsary was built very close to the shore. It is said that at night mysterious lights used to be seen, representing the souls of the two sailors on whose graves this house was located.\footnote{The house was removed after storm damage in 1998/99.}

The most well known incident name on Barra is Leac nan Leannan, the 'flag stone of the lovers', on the Cleat coastline. Here two underaged lovers are said to have escaped their followers on horseback. Approaching the rocks at the cliff, the horse slipped and the lovers and the horse died.\footnote{This story is told in varying versions.}

Incident names also include names whose specific would not normally be associated with a particular location such as Sloc na Goibhre, the 'gully of the goat', probably suggesting an accident during which a goat fell into the sea. This group of names also includes incidents of supernatural nature such as Loch an Eich Uisge, the 'lake of the kelpie', which is located in the neighbourhood of Airigh na h-Aon Oidhche, 'shieling of the one night'. This place was said to be haunted so that no one dared to stay longer than one night. In Scottish folktales kelpie lakes and haunted shielings are often situated close to each other.

Names of boats which grounded without sinking were important enough to find their way into place-names. Examples of this group are: Bogha na St. Margaret, 'reef of the St. Margaret', Bogha na Scadaun, 'reef of the Scadaun', and Rubha na Lydia, 'promontory of the Lydia'.

5.4 Possessive Names

Although many Barra place-names contain personal names as specifics, only a limited number of them qualify as real possessive names. In this study, ownership has been expanded to tenancy and includes deserted houses, ruins, other structures on the croft, the croft itself and curing stations which also used to be leased. Curing stations were predominantly located along the coastline of Castle Bay. Their names are usually composed of the generic 'station' and the name of the leaseholder or the lease holding company, resulting in names such as Stéisean MacIvor, Stéisean Sinclair & Buchan, and the more abstract Stéisean WS & S.

Names of houses are only listed if the property has been vacated permanently and as such falls into the category of a ruin. These names usually consist of the G generic taigh 'house', tobhta 'ruin', or bothag 'hut', followed by either the christian name or the nickname of the owner. Less often an abstract name such as G bodach, 'old man', or the owner's surname are used.
Other permanent or semi-permanent constructions such as mills, enclosures, pens, and fenced fields have been included in this group if their specific is a personal name. Only 69 place-names collected in the Barra group fall into the group of possessive names.

5.5 Commemorative Names

Commemorative names are given in order to honour a person or to help memorise a special event. The naming process involved is a conscious one.

Despite the fact that a large amount of place-names in Barra contain personal names, names formed in order to commemorate people are relatively few in number. The place-name *Càrn na h-lighne*, 'cairn of the girl', is a reminder of the death in the hills of a little girl to whose memory a cairn was raised. The same naming pattern may be observed in *Càrn a’ Ghille*, 'cairn of the boy', in Allasdale, where a small boy walked away from home into the hills while rescue teams searched for him at the shore. Later he was found dead on this very rock.

It is apparent that while the incidents are remembered, the names of the people involved are no longer known. They are simply remembered in abstract form as 'the boy' and 'the girl'.

Name transfer is another reflective naming process which produces commemorative names. The most outstanding example is the name *Hecla*, 'high mountain', which designates a high mountain in Iceland. It is reused in Mingulay where it is assigned to the third highest hill. There are more names which have counterparts in Norway, but they often coincide with the actual physical shape of the place they describe so that they have to be classified as descriptive rather than commemorative names.

Place-names including saints' names and other general terms such as ‘trinity’ or ‘friendship’ may be found in Barra, too, though only on a small scale. There is the ancient site of a chapel in Vatersay known as *Cille Bhrianain*, 'St. Brendan's cell', with the parallel name *Cill' Anndrais*, 'St. Andrew’s cell'. In North Barra we find *Cille Bharra*, which is assigned to St. Barr.

139 See subsection 2.5.3.
Figure 5.18: Disused burial ground at Borve Point

Names of ship-wrecks also classify as commemorative names. Shipping accidents remain of major interest to the islanders and the sites are well remembered.

This is not only due to the fact that ship-wrecks meant driftwood and in some cases salvage of the cargo. There were seafarers in most families and people could relate to the horror and distress a disaster at sea could bring to the community, as was the case with the sinking of the *Annie Jane* in 1853 when about 350 passengers and crew drowned. Although in some cases the wreck was removed or disappeared altogether, the name of the ship without any additional generics remained the name for the site. There are the sites of the *Empire Homer, Baron Ardrossan* and *Maple Branch* at the south side of Sandray. The *Ben Bheula* was an Aberdeen boat which got into distress off Vatersay and was saved by the *Cyelse*, only for the *Cyelse* then to sink.\(^{140}\) In northwestern waters there are the sites of the *Brigade*, the *Degens* and the *Gurse* at the eastern shore, and the *Samuel Dexter* west of Scurrival.

### 5.6 Commentatory Names

Names which fall into this group are consciously given in order to create a positive effect on an area which may be renowned for its dangerous or hostile features.

\(^{140}\)I am grateful to Michael MacKinnon of Caolas in Vatersay for providing this information.
Figure 5.19: Jonathan MacNeil, Ardveenish, with part of the Gurse

Figure 5.20: Michael MacKinnou, Scurrival, with an ashtray from the Samuel Dexter
Within this group of names the intention of the namer may be driven by superstition or simply to express hopes and desires.

In Barra the number of names which fall into this group is very small. A dangerous sunken rock in the Leanish area carries the name *Am Bogha Coir*, ‘the friendly reef’. The exposed west coast of Sandray offers *An Camus Gasd*, ‘the beautiful bay’, and *A’ Chùil Ghasd*, ‘the beautiful corner’, hardly more sheltered than *An Camus Gasd*. With the name *Tobar na Slàinte*, ‘well of good health’, it is difficult to establish whether the water of the well did have healing qualities, or whether the namer tried to make his fellow islanders believe that it had.

5.7 Folk—etymologies

Folk—etymologies are discussed in section 2.6.5.4.

5.8 Manufactured Names

Blend-names, abbreviations of names, names formed from visual symbols or from company names are entirely lacking on Barra. On the contrary, the largest employer on the island, the fish company *Barratlantic*, composed its name by combining two place-names.

5.9 Mistake—names

Historical records are the best source for tracing mistake—names. These names occur accidentally as a result of misconception of meaning, mainly in areas of language contact. They coincide with the unsuccessful attempt to press a name into a recognised standard of spelling.

The situation of language contact in Barra was discussed in section 1.3. Except, possibly, for MacLean in 1823, none of the cartographers of the Barra group were native Gaelic speakers, so plenty of mistakes would have to be expected. However, considering the amount of data handled during the collection this is not the case. The Gaelic and Old Norse names must have appeared so alien to their ears, that the cartographers attempted only to note them as closely as possible to the Gaelic pronunciation without trying to interpret them. Some place-names were
translated into English and back into Gaelic\textsuperscript{141} in both OS maps and Admiralty charts, but again, relatively few mistakes occurred.

One mistake which may certainly be put down to an error in copying or interpretation was made in connection with a microtoponymic in the northwestern part of Barra. A meadow which MacLean identified as \textit{Liananashesgan}, 'small meadow of the reeds'\textsuperscript{142} nowadays appears on OS maps as \textit{Leana na h-Eisgin}, 'small meadow of the eel'.\textsuperscript{143}

5.10 Shift–names

This group of names was introduced in section 2.5.1. Name transfer of the specific only, resulting in a name cluster, may be observed in a few places on Barra. Examples are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abhainn Dhrolum</th>
<th>Bogha Holisgeir</th>
<th>Bay Sletta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cnoc Mór Dhrolum</td>
<td>Caolas Holisgeir</td>
<td>Leac Slétta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geata Dhrolum</td>
<td>Carraig Holisgeir</td>
<td>Rubha Slétta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gob Dhrolum</td>
<td>Làimhrig Holisgeir</td>
<td>Sloc Slétta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tràigh Bheag Dhrolum</td>
<td>Rubha Holisgeir</td>
<td>Beinn Slétta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In all cases of name clustering the repeated element is an already existing name. In 80\% of the collected names this existing name is still actively used. Stewart’s theory that shift–naming flourished with names of unknown meaning\textsuperscript{144} has to be modified for the names in the Barra group. One third of the elements used as specifics in name shifting were of known meaning to most locals. However, name clusters are not a dominant characteristic of the nomenclature of Barra. Making generalisations is risky and may be misleading if, as in this case, the amount of examples involved is relatively small.

5.11 Naming Intention: Summary

Analysis of naming intention shows that association is the stongest naming motivation within Barra’s place–names, with more than 45\% of all names falling\textsuperscript{141} This was likely to be influenced by company politics in the mapping agencies.\textsuperscript{142} This historical form is listed in the gazetteer under its current name \textit{Leana na h-Eisgin}.\textsuperscript{143} This mistake was brought to my attention by Māiri Liz and Ken MacKinnon of Bolnabodach.\textsuperscript{144} See G. R. Stewart, 1975:158.
into this category. It is followed by the group of descriptive names, which also includes simplex names. Within the group of descriptive names the strongest naming intention was the use of senses with almost 20%, mainly focussing on colour and size. The association of relative location applied to 4.5% of names, and metaphorical use to 2%. Naming intention motivated by any of the other sub-categories of descriptive names, such as specialist knowledge, subjective reasoning, negative/ironic or hortatory naming, produced only a few names. Incident names rank at 5.5% and possession is indicated in 3%. There are few examples for the remaining categories of commemorative names, commendatory names and folk-etymologies, only two obvious mistake-names and no manufactured names.

The naming intention apparent in the place-names of Barra may be characterised as traditional. The namers commented on what they saw, and they created further names by associating unnamed features with already named places in the area. A few names include compass directions to establish a relative location. It is not surprising in a community renowned for its story telling that one in twenty names is an incident name, usually connected with a story.

Despite the fact that many names contain personal-names, relatively few qualify as possessive. This may be a consequence of the communal nature of the clan system, based as it was on sharing possessions rather than individually accumulating them. However, it is striking that so few names contain saints’ names, considering that the island has been a catholic stronghold for centuries.

Barra’s place-names are versatile, but straightforward, without any trace of eccentricity on behalf of the namers.
6 Syntax

Only semantically transparent names can be considered in analysis of name structure. In the Barra group 92% of the collected names fall into this category. The remaining 8% of names of unknown or partly unknown meaning are not analysed. Note, however, that the percentage breakdown of the analysis is expressed relative to the total of all collected names, including those of unknown meaning.

The detailed classification system for G names as developed by Cox has been modified to suit the needs of this analysis. A number of sub-categories relevant to G names have been combined into one without violating Cox's basic layout. Additionally, classes to match the structural needs of E and ON names have been established. In contrast to Cox's analysis, where ON names are treated as exonomine units, this study evaluates ON names in the same way as G names and splits them into their separate components. This change will have an influence when comparing the place-names of Barra with the place-names of Lewis. However, an attempt has been made to adhere as closely as possible to Cox's layout to allow for comparison of Lewis and Barra place-names. There is a difference of terminology used by Cox and Nicolaisen. In Nicolaisen's approach simple names consist merely of the generic. The addition of any specific to a simple name immediately transforms it into a compound name. Complex-names, formed from a free base with the aid of a suffix, do not, as far as Nicolaisen is concerned, occur in Lewis place-names. Cox evaluates terms differently. He considers Watson's terminology, with which Nicolaisen's structure roughly corresponds, inadequate and rearranges the material to form new groups. Nicolaisen's system is straightforward. However, in order to simplify comparison between Barra place-names and Lewis place-names, this thesis uses the system developed by Cox.

The following four main groups of names form the core of the syntax analysis.

1. Simple names (SN)
2. Complex-names (CN)
3. Complex-names including personal names (CNPN)
4. Names with prepositions (PrN)

The elements involved are abbreviated as follows: adj. (adjective), art. (article), n (noun), PN (personal name) and pc (participle construction).

6.1 Simple-names

The simple-name is either a simplex name or a simple noun phrase. As the use of the definite article in front position is not compulsory in names of G origin, names with articles are treated the same as names without. Parentheses enclose elements which are optional. The mere combination of different elements is indicated by the sign x, whilst a closer link is indicated by the sign +. In the analysis, the following six sub-groups of simple-names have been identified:

Structure of Simple-Names

| SN1   | (art. +) n               |
| SN2   | (art. +) n + adj.        |
| SN3   | (art. +) n + adj. + adj. |
| SN4   | (art. +) adj. + n        |
| SN5   | (art. +) adj. + n + adj. |
| SN6   | pc + n                  |

SN1: (art. +) n

| Mill | Laimhrig ‘landing-place’ | Uidh ‘ford’ |
| Pier | Dùn ‘fortification’     | Colla ‘mound’ |
| Manse| Slugaide ‘gorge’         | Cuier ‘enclosure’ |
| The Glebe | Am Meall ‘the hill’    | The Stoung ‘the mast’ |
| The Banks | Na Gleannain ‘the valleys’ | The Hoe ‘the eminence’ |
| The Lagoon | Na Tobhtaichean ‘the ruins’ |  |

SN2: \((\text{art. } +) \text{n } + \text{adj.}\)

- **Dùn Briste** ‘broken fort’
- **Garrygall** ‘white dyke’
- **Taobhan Beag** ‘small side’

\[A'Bheinn Mhòr\] ‘the big mountain’
\[A'Phàirc Árd\] ‘the high enclosure’
\[An Leac Uaine\] ‘the green flagstone’

SN3: \((\text{art. } +) \text{n } + \text{adj. } + \text{adj.}\)

- **Sgeir Fiachlach Mòr** ‘large toothed skerry’
- **Sgeir Liath a Tuath** ‘northern grey–blue skerry’
- **Bogha Ruadh a-muigh** ‘outer red reef’

SN4: \((\text{art. } +) \text{adj.} + \text{n}, (\text{art. } +) \text{n } + \text{n}\)

\(\text{(art. } +) \text{n } + \text{n}\)

- **Castle Bay**
- **Statue Island**
- **Mud Rock**

\[\text{Ceann Sglèat}\] ‘slate point’
\[\text{Fraoch Eilean}\] ‘heather island’
\[\text{Goirtean Eòrna}\] ‘barley field’

\(\text{(art. } +) \text{adj. } + \text{n}\)

- **Old Hospital**
- **Black Islands**

\[\text{Fionnphort}\] ‘white port’
\[\text{Cora-Bheinn}\] ‘pointed hill’
\[\text{Bretadale}\] ‘steep valley’
\[\text{Heaval}\] ‘high hill’

SN5: \((\text{art. } +) \text{adj.} + \text{n } + \text{adj.}\)

- **Sunais Mhòr** ‘big southern headland’
- **Sunais Bheag** ‘small southern headland’
- **Inner Oitir Mhòr** ‘inner large bank’

SN6: \(\text{pc } + \text{n}\)

- **Sleeping Indian**
- **Standing Stones**

Three sub-categories dominate in the group of simple-names. The largest group with 16% of all names is SN2, which combines nouns and adjectives. The second
Figure 6.21: Distribution of Simple–Names

largest group is SN1, simplex–names, at 11%. SN4 represents the combination of adjective and noun, and forms a significant part of the corpus with 4%. This group consists mainly of names of English origin. In its constellation of elements SN4 is an inversion of SN2.

Groups SN3 and SN5 have more complicated structures and for that reason are likely to have been composed considerably less often. Finally, the combination of a participle construction and a noun, as categorised by group SN6, is a fairly young construction pattern. The combination of the entries in S3, S5 and S6 accounts for less than 1% of all collected names.

6.2 Complex–names

The class of complex–names (CN) is divided into three main groups: primary complex–names, secondary complex–names and tertiary complex–names, consisting of two, three and four simplesces respectively.\textsuperscript{151} The main difference between simple–names and complex–names is the genitival relationship of the nouns in the complex class.

\textsuperscript{151}See. R. A. V. Cox, 1987:40.
6.2.1 Primary Complex-names

Primary complex-names (CN1) occur in several varieties and may include articles and adjectives. The most common combinations are listed below.\textsuperscript{152}

Structure of Primary Complex-Names

\begin{align*}
\text{CN1a} & \quad n \times n \\
\text{CN1b} & \quad n \times \text{art.} + n \\
\text{CN1c} & \quad n \times \text{adj.} + n \\
\text{CN1d} & \quad n + \text{adj.} \times \text{art.} + n \\
\text{CN1e} & \quad \text{adj.} + n \times n \\
\text{CN1f} & \quad n \times \text{art.} + n + \text{adj.}
\end{align*}

Examples of the various classes of primary complex-names are:

\textbf{CN1a: $n \times n$}

- \textit{Tresivick} ‘bay of the current’
- \textit{Úlabrac} ‘slope of the wolf’
- \textit{Craigston} ‘settlement of the stone’

\textbf{CN1b: $n \times \text{art.} + n$}

- \textit{Sloc a’ Mhaide} ‘gully of the driftwood’
- \textit{Carraig na Cille} ‘fishing-rock of the church’
- \textit{Sgùmban nan Eun} ‘summit of the birds’

\textbf{CN1c: $n \times \text{adj.} + n$}

- \textit{Abhainn Bhréibhig} ‘river of the broad bay’
- \textit{Ben Vaslain} ‘mountain of the wet land’
- \textit{Dùn Mingulay} ‘fortification of the (?) big island’

\textbf{CN1d: $n + \text{adj.} \times \text{art.} + n$}

- \textit{Sgeir Bheag na h-Aird} ‘small skerry of the promontory’
- \textit{Sloc Beag nan Calman} ‘little gully of the pigeons’

\textsuperscript{152}\textit{See. R. A. V. Cox, 1987:41.}
6.2.2 Secondary Complex-names

CN2: n + n + (art.) + n

Secondary complex-names are less common than primary complex-names. They form 7% of all collected place-names.

Pàirc Beul a’ Chaolais
‘enclosure of the opening of the sound’

Sruth Bealach a’ Phuinnd
‘stream of the pass of the sheep dip’

Bight Caolas na h-Adhairc
‘little bay of the sound of the horn’

Bogha Árnamul
‘sunken reef of the rock of eagles’

Cladach Sgiobasdail
‘shore of the valley of ships’

Creag Risebik
‘rock of the brushwood bay’

Kisimul Castle
‘castle of the rock of the small bay’

Greian Head Cottage
‘cottage of the point of the sunny spot’

6.2.3 Tertiary Complex-names

CN3: n + n + n (+ art.) + n

Clach Ceum Suidhe na Mòna
‘stone of the path of the peat seat’

Carraig Caolas Sgeir a’ Chlaidheimh
‘fishing rock of the sound of the sword skerry’

Sloc Rubh’ Áird nan Capall
‘gully of the promontory of the hill of the mares’

The analysis of complex-names shows that primary complex-names are most common in this group, accounting for nearly 39% of the total nomenclature of Barra. Within the primary complex-names, the combination of n x art. + n occurs most frequently. Secondary complex-names account for 7% of collected names, and tertiary names for almost 1%. 
It is not surprising that the more sophisticated multi-noun constructions of CN3 and CN2 occur less frequently than the simpler structures of CN1. CN3 feeds on CN2, which in turn feeds on CN1. Moreover, secondary and, in particular, tertiary complex-names require of the namer a detailed knowledge of the incorporated features. In accordance with COX's observations in Lewis, the maximum number of combined simplexes in any place-name in the Barra group did not exceed four.\textsuperscript{152}

6.3 Complex-names Containing Personal Names

Because they are so numerous, a separate class is created to describe place-names containing personal names. The term personal name (PN) includes christian names, nicknames, patronymics, surnames and names indicating profession. This study uses COX's seven main groups (CNPN1–CNPN7)\textsuperscript{153}, and adds three further groups to allow classification according to the position of the personal name within the place-name. The three additional groups are designated CNPN8–CNPN10.

\textsuperscript{152}I. A. Fraser knows of complex-names in Lewis in which five simplexes are combined.

\textsuperscript{153}R. A. V. Cox, 1987:51ff.
Structure of Complex–Names containing Personal Names

**CNPN1**: \( n \times PN \)

In this group, place–names containing a personal name, i.e. christian name, patronymic, surname, nickname or a profession–name, are combined with a noun.

\( n \times \) christian name

- Taigh Lachlainn
- Tobht' Ailein
- Sgeir Choinnich

\( n \times \) patronymic/ surname

- Tobhta Bean Dhòmhnaill
- Uamh 'icPhearsain
- Stéisean Pierre

\( n + \) nickname

- Taigh Cacelti
- Eilean an t-Seannsair
- Tobar Shandaidh Apel

\( n + \) profession name

- Bogach an Tailleir
- Tobht' a' Ghreusaiche
- Bishop's Isles

‘Lachlan’s house’

‘Allan’s ruin’

‘Kenneth’s skerry’

‘ruin of Donald’s wife’

‘MacPherson’s cave’

‘Pierre’s curing station’

‘Cacelti’s house’

‘Chanter’s island’

‘Sandy Apbell’s well’

‘the tailor’s swamp’

‘the cobbler’s ruin’
CNPN2: \( n \times \text{PN} + \text{adj} \)

*Creag 'icCeallaig Árd* ‘MacKellaig’s high rock’

CNPN3: \( n \times n \times \text{PN} \)

*Caolas Èilein Sheumais* ‘sound of James’s island’
*Bàgh Rubha Pheadair* ‘bay of Peter’s promontory’
*Chnoc Airigh Èoin* ‘hill of Jonathan’s shieling’

CNPN4: \( n \times n \times \text{PN} + \text{adj} \)

CNPN5: \( n \times n \times n \times \text{PN} \)

None of the collected place-names matched sub-classes CNPN4 or CNPN5.

CNPN6: \( n + \text{adj} \times \text{PN} \)

*Carraig Bheag Rob* ‘Rob’s small fishing-rock’
*Clach Mhòr Phionnlaigh* ‘Finlay’s big stone’
*Cotan Mór Néill Èoin* ‘fold of Marian (daughter of) Neil (son of) Jonathan’

CNPN7: \( n + \text{adj} \times n \times \text{PN} \)

*Port Beag Glaic Choinnich* ‘little port of Kenneth’s hollow’

CNPN8: \( n \times \text{PN} \times n \)

*Beinn Ghuinairigh* ‘mountain of Gunnar’s shieling’

CNPN9: \( n + \text{adj} \times \text{PN} \times n \)

*Ben Bheg Eoligarry* ‘small mountain of Qivir’s (?) enclosure’

CNPN10: \( \text{PN} \times n \)

*Earsary* ‘Eric’s shieling’
*Rosscraig* ‘cliff of Ross’

With 14% of the total nomenclature, complex-names containing personal names
form a sizeable group. The overwhelming majority of these place-names fall into sub-category CNPN1, the remaining sub-categories combining to account for little more than 1% of the total nomenclature.

6.4 Names with Prepositions

There are few place-names including prepositions. As emphasized by Cox, they represent an old stratum of names.\textsuperscript{154}

Only four place-names including a preposition were identified in the Barra group:

- \textit{Taigh fo Thalamh} 'house under the ground' (twice)
- \textit{Carasdan bho Thuath} 'reed + ? + of the north'
- \textit{Eadar an Dà Bheinn} 'between the two hills'

6.5 Summary

The largest name-type group on Barra is that of complex-names (47%). A further 14% of the total nomenclature is accounted for by the group of complex-names containing personal names. Simple-names make up 30% of the nomenclature of Barra. The low count of names including prepositions is not surprising as they

\textsuperscript{154}R. A. V. Cox, 1987:56.
are rare in Scottish toponymy. The remaining names (8%) contain elements of unknown origin, and for that reason are classed as unresolved.

The only other area in the Western Isles whose place-names syntax has been analysed in detail, is the area covered by the Carloway Registry (CR) in Lewis\textsuperscript{155}. Comparison of the structure of Barra and Lewis place-names\textsuperscript{156} shows the following results:

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{comparison.png}
\caption{Comparison: Structure of Place-Names in Barra and Lewis (CR)}
\end{figure}

In both Lewis and Barra simple-names cover just less than one third of the total nomenclature. Place-names containing prepositions do exist in both areas but they are few in number. Secondary complex-names account for similar proportions of the place-names, as do tertiary complex-names.

A striking difference lies in the distribution of primary complex-names. The proportion of primary complex-names is considerably higher in Lewis (55\%) than it is in Barra (almost 39\%).

A different picture emerges in the group of complex-names containing personal names. These account for 14\% of Barra names, but only 8\% of Lewis names. Detailed information on place-names including personal names, covering features

\textsuperscript{156}The material provided by R. A. V. Cox is restricted to the Carloway Registry at the west side of Lewis.
such as ruins and landing-places on Barra, was provided by only a few informants. Others disregarded these creations as too recent and therefore not eligible. Had it not been for these few individuals, who have taken a special interest in the place and in the people whose names are reflected in the place-names, the picture may have resembled more closely that of Lewis.

To sum up, most of Barra's place-names are primary complex-names or simple-names. There are more complex constructions, but these are few in number. There is a relatively high count of place-names containing personal names, reflecting the people's personal involvement in the place.
7 The Interaction of Languages

This chapter examines the degree of language contact in the nomenclature of Barra. The place-names of Barra may be divided into five categories:\textsuperscript{158}

- Pure Norse names
- Pure Gaelic names
- Names Gaelic in structure but containing elements of mixed origin
- English names
- Opaque names

A look at a map of Barra conveys the impression that most place-names are of ON origin. The names of all of the major islands around Barra contain ON elements and so does the majority of other place-names. The three highest mountains of the archipelago, Heaval, Hartaval and Hecla, retain a purely Norse character.

To find pure Gaelic names on the 1:25 000 OS map is a more difficult task, as most names appear to contain at least one element originating from either ON or from English. The settlement names Caolis, Balnabodach, Ardmhór and Kinloch are purely Gaelic, as are the names of some beaches and inlets, such as Tràigh Mhór, Bàgh Beag and Sloc a’ Chirein. A closer look at the interior reveals further pure Gaelic names. A number of fresh-water features, such as Allt nam Bodach, Loch na Cuilce, Loch Uisge, Abhainn a’ Ghlinne and Loch an Dùin, are unmistakably Gaelic. The same applies to names of several mountain passes and many smaller features, like points, hillocks and cavities, which have rarely before been mapped.

Place-names containing elements of mixed origin are plentiful in Barra. These include hills of second magnitude such as Ben Scurrival, Ben Eoligarry, Ben Erival, Heishival Mór, Cairn Galtar and The Hoe, and also straits like Sound of Berneray, Sound of Mingulay, Sound of Pabbay and larger bays. Points for nautical orientation, too, carry names of mixed origin. Examples of this group are Barra Head, Doirlinn Head, Borve Point, Bruernish Point and Scurrival Point.

English, too, has found its way into the place-names of Barra, not only on maps but also in everyday language. The two economic centres, Castlebay and Northbay, carry English names based on the names of the large natural harbours by which they are located.

\textsuperscript{158}See M. Oftedal, 1955:110f.
The remaining group of names, those whose meaning is partially or entirely opaque, forms 8% of Barra's nomenclature. Despite their uncertainty of meaning, these names have been included in the gazetteer as long as their location could be traced to a reasonable degree of certainty. However, there are further place-names, whose spelling, meaning and location remain uncertain. These names have not been included in the corpus, but are listed together with all available information in appendix B.

7.1 Language Contact

One way to assess the influence of the various languages involved, is to examine their frequency of occurrence within the geographic classes as introduced in the OS classification system. To achieve a clearer picture the OS system has been expanded to include terms related to islands, bays, beaches, freshwater features, relief terms (with an independent group for promontories), husbandry (including agriculture and fisheries), settlements and man-made constructions, and vegetation.

7.1.1 Rocks and Reefs

The most popular term for submerged rocks is bogha, the G form of ON bodi. In the Barra Isles alone there are more than 70 place-names in which bogha acts as generic. It occurs in combination with the names of ships which have struck them, as in Bogha Chavalier, 'reef of the 'Cavalier", Bogha na St. Margaret, 'reef of the 'St. Margaret"; and Bogha na h-Enterprise, 'reef of the 'Enterprise". In other cases, sunken rocks are named after their orientation marks on land, as in Bogh' an Taigh Ghil, 'reef of the white house', and in Bogha Taigh Eoin, 'reef of Jonathan’s house', and often they are just called after their colour. An Rochd Mhór, ‘the big fold’, contains the ON word hrukka, ‘fold’ or ‘wrinkle’, which designates a ‘large, sunken, tangle-grown rock’. In Barra this term occurs only once and covers a large area west of Muldoanich. The Eng. word shoal, ‘shallow’, as in Beatson’s Shoal, also occurs only once. On AD charts, approximately half of the names of sunken rocks have been translated into English, as in Bull’s Rock, Bonnet Rock and Old Woman’s Rock.

159 Uncertainty in location means failing to reach certainty level 3 (reliable to within a radius of 1 km) as defined in the SPND.
160 See section 4.1.7.
161 In this AD form the apostrophe indicating the possessive has been omitted.
162 See in the gazetteer under Bogh’ an Tairbh.
7.1.2 Islands

Sea-terminology accommodates generics such as ON øy, ‘island’, which is usually modified to -øy, and is part of the names of all of the major islands of the Barra group. ON holmr, usually modified to the form -um or -lum, is the term for a ‘medium-sized island’ which is large enough to provide grazing for a few animals, as emphasised by names like Lamalum, ‘island of the lambs’, and Solon Beag and Solon Mór, ‘small sheep island’ and ‘large sheep island’ respectively. The ON word múli, ‘headland’, is also used in Barra as a term for ‘sea rocks’, which vary not only in height but also in size. Arnamul, ‘eagle rock’, is the largest, even bigger than some holmr-islands and certainly the highest, measuring 121 m above sea-level. Lianamul, composed of an obscure element and múli, and Greanamul, ‘green rock’, are substantial lower-lying rocks. At the bottom end of the scale there is Leigemul just off Ledaig, and the most famous rock containing the element múli, Kisimul, ‘rock of the small bay’, which is just large enough to accommodate the castle. Kisimul has a parallel name in A’ Steinn from ON steinn, ‘prominent little island’, an element also found in other parts of the Western Isles and very popular in Norway.

A place-name element which describes features of a less variable size than does múli, is ON sker, borrowed into G in the form of sgeir. It is used for rocks or small islands which usually do not support cattle or sheep and in many cases are void of vegetation. Sgeir is a flexible loanword which occurs in combination with either G or ON specifics in either ON or G word order. Occasionally it is used in its anglicised form ‘skerry’. Examples of inverted word order include Glassgeir, ‘grey–green skerry’, and Dubhsgeir, ‘dark skerry’, a variation of the OS entry Sgeir Dubh. There are ON forms as in Holisgeir, which includes an obscure ON specific, but the most frequent creations contain G elements and the traditional G order of composition as in Sgeirean Mäs a’ Mhill, ‘skerries at the back of the hill’, Sgeir Shèòrais, ‘George’s skerry’, and Sgeir Dallaig, ‘skerry of the dog–fish’. Sgeir is a wide-spread generic in Barra’s nomenclature.

The most restricted term for an island is G laogh meaning ‘calf’ or ‘friend’. Islands called An Laogh are very small in size and always located immediately beside a very large island. In Barra there are only two islands with this name, one north of Muldoanich, and the other one north of Gighay.

7.1.3 Bays

This group includes all features related to salt-water, such as bays, inlets, channels and natural landing-places.
The most popular element is G bàgh, a loan from ON vágr, meaning ‘bay’. In the Western Isles it covers middle to good-sized features as in Bàgh a’ Deas, ‘south bay’, and Bàgh Siar, ‘west bay’. As stated previously, the most prominent bays, Bàgh a’ Chaisteil, ‘castle bay’, and Bàgh a Tuath, ‘north bay’, have parallel English forms.\textsuperscript{163} Despite the widespread use of the G loanword version, the ON original words vík and vágr have not disappeared from the nomenclature of the islands. ON vík, usually modified to –atíg or –vick, covers large to medium-sized round bays as in Brevig, ‘broad bay’, and Tresivick, ‘bay of the current’, while ON vágr is productive in Bàgh Huilavagh, ‘hill bay’, and Bàgh Hirivagh, ‘dry bay’. In contrast to the open, round shape of vík-features, ON vágr is applied to longer and narrower inlets.

The ON element hópr is used for sheltered bays with narrow access. In Barra there are two features that match the geographic requirements, but only Loch Òbe\textsuperscript{164} contains a form of hópr.

G poll, a loan from ON pollr, describes a ‘little bay’, almost a ‘pool’, and is part of place-names like Poll Lingeigh, ‘pool of the heather island’, Poll an t-Sil, ‘pool of the sprat/seed’, and Poll an Dudain, ‘pool of the fine-powdered seaweed’. The generic poll is part of six place-names.

Other elements describing some sort of bay, but occurring with very low frequency, are G camus as in An Camus Gasd’, ‘the beautiful bay’, and G cearcall, a loan from Lat. circum and related to Eng. circle.\textsuperscript{165} An Cearcall at the west side of Pabbay is a round, small bay in whose exact centre there is a rock. The Eng. name The Lagoon describes a shallow, sheltered bay between Hellisay and Gighay. Although The Lagoon includes various small inlets for which there are ON or G names, there is no other competing place-name for the entire bay. Another one-off name is Na Cireanan, ‘the cock’s combs’, a set of narrow inlets which, taken as a whole, resemble the shape of a cock’s comb.

ON gjá, modified to –geo or borrowed into G geodha, and G sloc cater for exactly the same kind of location, a ‘gully’, which is a long, narrow ravine and is a feature typical of the west coast of Barra and the southern satellites. With exception of a few place-names in Allan McDonald’s document of non-Gaelic place-names in Mingulay,\textsuperscript{166} the ON element no longer appears as a generic without being

\textsuperscript{163}In accordance with the guidelines of the SPND these names are listed under the mapped forms which happen to be English and not Gaelic. Reference to their Gaelic parallels is made in section 4.1.8.

\textsuperscript{164}This form represents the OS entry. Locals refer to this place as Loch na h-Ób.

\textsuperscript{165}This element is more commonly used with rock formations.

\textsuperscript{166}See A. McDonald, 1901–03 or see appendix B.
supplemented by the tautological G *sloc,*\textsuperscript{167} as in *Sloc Chiasigeo,* ‘gully of the small bay’, and *Sloc Cuigeo,* ‘gully of the enclosure’. G forms include *Sloc na Béiste,* ‘gully of the beast’, probably referring to a whale, *Sloc Granda,* ‘dirty gully’, and *Sloc an Eich,* ‘gully of the horse’.\textsuperscript{168}

The Barra Isles consist of a maze of channels and waterways. The straits between the largest islands appear as Eng. *sound,* related to ON *sund,* on the OS maps and the AD charts as in *Sound of Barra, Sound of Hellisay* and *Sound of Mingulay.* In spoken Gaelic, the names of these straits are replaced by G *caolais,* which caters not only for large but also smaller features such as *Caolas Eilean nan Eun,*

\textsuperscript{167}See section on tautologies.

\textsuperscript{168}For further discussion of *sloc* and *guí* see I. A. Fraser, 1978c:242.
Figure 7.26: The Lagoon between Hellisay and Gighay

‘sound of the birds’ island’, and *Caolas Bogha na Lice*, ‘sound of the skerry of the flagstone’.

G *sruth* is a narrow channel combining a sea–loch with the open sea, a feature which is often subject to strong tidal currents. Both *Loch Obe* and *Bàgh Beag* are connected to the sea by channels called *An Sruth*, which permit safe passage to boats at restricted times only.

Other than the Eng. loan *sound*, the only other ON term for a water–related passage is *rás*, as in *Snagaras*, ‘sound of the headland’.

Terms for landing–places include G *scölaid*, ‘harbour’ or ‘pier’, G *acarsaid*, a loan from ON *akkeris-sæti*, ‘anchorage place’, as in *Acarsaid Fhulaich*, ‘secret landing–place’, and the simplex form *An Acarsaid*, and the Eng. words *harbour* and *landing–place*. A frequently used generic is G *làimhrig*, a loan from ON *hlað-hamarr*, literally ‘slope rock’, which usually describes a site with steeply sloping rocks which permits direct boat access. *Làimhrig* does occur as a simplex name, but is more popular in combination with nearby features as in *Làimhrig Fhloidaigh*, ‘Flodday landing–place’, or compounded with the name of its most frequent user as in *Làimhrig Allig Bhig*, ‘Small Alec’s landing–place’. Its main usage is emphasised in *Làimhrig nam Mart*, ‘landing–place of the cows’, or in *Làimhrig na Mòna*,
‘landing-place of the peat’. The most frequent element used for landing-places is G port, a loan from Lat. portus and related to Eng. port. This element may be compounded with the name of its main user as in Port Chalt,¹⁶⁹ ‘Cal’s port’, with a name of a boat for which it provides shelter, with the names of nearby natural features, or with an adjective describing its colour or shape. In some areas where the geographic conditions provide both a sheltered deep landing-place and close location to settlements, as is the case in the Bàgh Beag area, place-names containing the generic port occurred particularly frequently, with up to five such names per 100 m².

¹⁶⁹ Cal is a nickname.
Both G and ON provide a rich terminology for coastal features such as sand-banks, beaches, and rocks at the shore.

The G shore terminology includes oitir as in Oitir Mhór, the ‘large sand–bank’, G cladach, usually used for a ‘rocky part of the shore’ as in Cladach a’ Mhaorruich, ‘shellfish coast’, and Cladach Sgiobasdail, ‘coast of Skipisdale’. Carraig is a very popular G term for ‘fishing–rocks’ and forms part of A’ Charrraig a–nuigh, ‘the outer fishing–rock’, and A’ Charrraig Ghainmheineach, ‘the sandy fishing–rock’. Carraig is most often combined with the name of its most regular visitor. Some fishing–rocks are easy to identify because of the little, round holes in the rock in which bait used to be prepared. Carraig is part of 52 primary names, but the number of places that were actively used as fishing–rocks and received names is probably much higher.

Figure 7.28: Fishing–rock

G morghan, as in Am Morghan, describes a ‘shingly beach’. The general term for a beach is G tràigh as in An Tràigh a Deas, ‘the southern beach’, Tràigh Mhór, ‘big beach’, and Tràigh a’ Bhàighe, ‘beach of the bay’. G has borrowed additional words for beaches from ON. The G mol from ON möl, ‘shingly beach’, is used more often than its G equivalent morghan. Examples in Barra include A’ Mhol, ‘the shingly
beach', *Mol Bheag Rubha Ghlas*, 'small shingly beach of the grey-green point', and *Mol nam Faochag*, 'shingly beach of the whelks'. Other loanwords include *G palla* from ON *pallr*, 'cliff' or 'ledge', as in *A' Phalla Bhàn*, 'white cliff', and *Phalla nan Sreang*, 'cliff of the ropes'. Another term for a coastal rock is *G stalla* as in *Stalla an Eich Bhàn*, 'sea–rock of the white horse'. It is a loanword from ON *stallr*, 'sea–rock' or 'shelf', but occurs less frequently than *palla*.

*G uidh*, borrowed from ON *eid*, describes an 'isthmus', a flat narrow piece of land between two straits. The Scandinavians often used these places as shortcuts by dragging their boats from one strait to the other across the narrow strip of land. In Barra this would not have been necessary as circumnavigation of the land would have taken less time. The Vatersay settlement *Uiddh* takes its name from the nearby isthmus, and *Traihiu*, an old form collected by MacLean in 1823 for what is nowadays known as *Tràigh Siar*, 'west beach', in Vatersay, is certain to contain the generic *uidh* as it links the rocky northern part of Vatersay with its rocky southern part by a narrow stretch of dunes. Other elements which were not borrowed but retain their ON forms are *ádl*, as in *A' Mhiriceil*, 'the dark stretch', indicating a dark stripe on the rocky shore, and *hpmmull* as in *Sumula*, designating a 'layer of pebbles' or 'pebbly beach'. Additionally there is ON *eyrr*, 'sand–bank' or 'gravel–bank', as in *Eorisdale*, and ON *mehr*, 'sea–stead', as in *Melast*.

The influence of English on coastal features is minimal. *Arch*, *bank* and *dunes* are terms which occur merely on maps and *Gob an t-Seòr*, 'point of the shore', remains the only coastal place-name to include a gaelicised element borrowed from English.

### 7.1.5 Promontories

Some of the elements in this group qualify as coastal features, too. There is *G leac*, 'ledge of rock' or more commonly 'flagstone', as in *An Leac Ruadh*, 'red flagstone', and the well-known *Leac nan Learnan*, 'the lovers' flagstone'. This element also features in *An Leacach*, 'the stony ground', which is used to describe sites in the interior. *G sròn* as in *Sròn an Iasgair*, 'fisherman's nose', and *Sròn an Duín*, 'promontory of the fort', are large rock reliefs and are used in both coastal and interior context.

The most often used *G* element for a large– to medium–sized promontory is *rubha* as in *Rubha Domhain*, 'steep promontory', *Rubh' an t-Sith*, 'peace point'. *Rubha* is the most popular *G* word for headlands and occurs as generic in 115 place-names of the Barra Isles. Far less productive is *G áird*, 'headland', 'height' as in *Áird Rubha Mór*, 'height of the large headland'. *G gob* refers to the extremity of
a promontory. Another G term for the ‘top’ or ‘point’ of a place is G ceann. This element is productive in Kentangaval, ‘point of the mountain of the headland’, and in Kinloch, ‘point of the loch’. G amhach as part of Amhach Rubha na h-Acarsaid, ‘neck of the point of the landing-place’, and dòirlinn, another term for an ‘isthmus’, are much rarer than the above mentioned elements.

Figure 7.29: Tràigh Hamara, looking towards Greian Head

On maps and charts the Eng. generics head and point are used for all locations which are important for navigation. There is Greian Head, Doirlinn Head, the most well-known Barra Head, Scurrival Point to the very north, Bruernish Point at the entrance to North Bay, and Skate Point just off Barra Head Lighthouse.

Three ON generics have been productive in this group. There is stòng as in Stòung Beag, ‘small peninsula’, and Stòung Mòr, ‘large peninsula’, both of which lie near Borve. ON mòli occurs as a term for a ‘headland’ in Gunamul. An ON element which operates on the same scale of importance and frequency as G rubha is ON nes, ‘headland’ or ‘promontory’. Place-name examples include Rosinish, ‘horse peninsula’, Bruernish, ‘bridge headland’, and Lechinish, ‘shelter headland’. Nes is the most extensively used ON element describing headlands.
7.1.6 Relief features

Relief features include mountains, hills, mounds, summits, ledges, slopes, rocks, valleys and hollows.

The highest mountains in Barra, Heaval, 'high mountain', and Hartaval, 'horse mountain', contain the ON generic fjall, which also occurs in Ben Tangaual, 'mountain of the headland', where it is supplemented by its G equivalent beinn. G beinn also occurs, of course, in purely G context as in the names A' Bheinn Mhór, 'the large mountain', and Beinn Mhartaimn, 'Martin's mountain'. In contrast to the ON element fjall, in the Western Isles often modified to -val, which only covers high mountains, G beinn caters for a wider range of sizes. G An t-Aonach Pabach, 'the Pabbay plateau', has the alias name The Hoe, a derivation of from ON høgr, 'hill'. The mountain name Na Sgurragan derives from G sgùrr, a loan from ON skgr, 'the sharp-pointed hills'. The G element tom describes a 'round knoll' and is represented in names like Tom a' Reithean, 'the young ram's knoll', and Tom na Beinne, 'round knoll of the mountain', both of which are high elevations.

G is the dominant language for names of medium-sized hills with common terms being meall, 'knoll' or 'mound', and cnoc, 'eminence' or 'hill'. Both elements are frequently used, examples being Cnoc an Tairbh, 'bull hill' and Am Meall Mór, 'the big knoll'. G tòrr is related to Lat. turris and has the meaning of 'hillock' as in Tor Gormlaig, 'hillock of the blue flagstone'. 'Fairy knoll' is the translation of G An Sìtheach, of which there are at least two in Barra.

Small elevations include terms like ON høll, 'mound', as in Greòtal, 'gravel mound', and G cnap/gnob, a loan from ON knappr, as in Cnap a' Choilich, 'mound of the grouse'. G bot means bank as in Am Bota Ruadh, 'the red peat bank'.

Mountain or hill tops are referred to with three G generics. Sgùmban is part of An Sgùmban a Tuath, 'the northern summit'. Uachdar in a place-names context means 'summit' or 'top', and in the Barra name An t-Uachdar designates the upper part of the township of Cleat. Mullach also has the meaning of 'top', 'hill' or 'summit' and occurs in the Bruernish place-name Mullach an Rathaid, 'top of the road'. In this group G mullach is the most frequently used term.

General terms for rocks G are clach, 'stone', G creag, 'rock', 'cliff' or 'hill', and G cleit, a loan from ON klettr, meaning 'rock', 'cliff' or 'sea-rock'. Standing stones carry G names like Am Bodach, 'the old man', and A' Chaileach, 'the old woman'. A rock named after its shape is G bonnach, a loan from Sco. 'bannock'. G carragh is the term for a pillar-shaped stone and G cärn describes a stone mound.
Slopes are designated by terms such as ON lein, 'mountain side', as in Na Latha-Lin, 'the layered mountain side'. ON brekka, 'slope', occurs in Úlabrac, 'slope of the wolf', and ON urð occurs in Clach Urth, 'stone of the rocky slope'. G generics for slopes include leathad, 'slope', as in An Leathad Cas, 'the steep slope', and bruach, which can also mean 'bank', as in Bruach Hamhsdail, 'slope/bank of Haussdel'. Bac is the gaelicised form of ON bakki, 'bank'.

G gualann describes the 'shoulder of a mountain' as in A' Ghuala' Mhòr, 'the big shoulder'. The most common G generic for a ridge is druim and forms part of Druim an t-Sruth, 'ridge of the current', and Druim na Criche, 'ridge of the boundary'.

With the exception of ON dalr, all terms for 'valley' are of G origin. Dalr is productive in the ON name Skipisdale, 'ship valley'. This element is used for large valleys and slopes and is a popular settlement generic. Its G equivalent is gleann, which in Barra, too, has become a settlement name. Bealach as in Bealach Dhuggain, 'Fr. Duggan's pass', describes a passage between two mountains and occurs frequently in Barra's nomenclature. G caigeann is a 'rough mountain pass', whereas the popular G element cadha is more like a 'wind channel'. Sgòr as in Sgòr a' Chait, 'cleft of the cat', describes a concavity in the rock, and glaic describes a 'hollow or shallow cut in a rock' as in Glaic an Daimh, 'hollow of the bullock'. G lag, coire, nead and sùil all designate kinds of concavities with uamh, 'cave', being the deepest.

7.1.7 Freshwater Features

Although elements from Eng., G and ON have been productive in naming freshwater features, it is G that has the most versatile vocabulary and dominates in this group.

There is G féith, 'vein', describing an underground stream as in Féith na Cailliche, 'old woman's vein', a place where sheep are easily lost. More common features are G sruthan meaning rivulet, allt meaning stream, and abhainn which translates as 'river'. These features, however, are much smaller than mainland Scotland features which have the same generics.

G eas, 'waterfall', occurred in the secondary name Loch an Eais Dhuibh, 'lake of the dark waterfall', but the location of the waterfall itself, could not be identified. All names for wells contain the G generic tobar which is usually compounded with the name of the person on whose croft it is located. Other wells are described in terms of colour, quality of water or general location. Examples include Tobar
Aonghais, 'Angus's well', Tobar na Slàinte, 'well of good health', and Tobar na Square, 'well of the square'. Up until and including their second edition, wells were indicated on the OS six-inch maps.

_Loch_ is the common G generic for 'lake' as in _Loch an Dùin_, 'lake of the fort', and in the Western Isles is also used for sea-locks as in _Loch Obe_.170 G caters for a wide range of smaller freshwater features such as _glumag_, 'deep pool' or 'muddy, wet area', _lub_, 'marshy ground', and _slugaid_ which describes a site of quicksand or a miry place as in _Slugaide_. _G poll_ is 'deep, stagnant water' or 'wet, miry meadow'. _G léig_, a 'marshy pool', is related to Lat. _linquo_ and Eng. loan. The G term _lón_, 'meadow', 'pond', 'water', deserves special attention as it has a parallel form in ON _lón_, which has a slightly different meaning, designating a 'deep, slow running stream'.171 In this group, generics from other languages are rare. The Sco. generic _burn_ occurs only once, in _Duarry Burn_, and the Eng. word _well_ appears only as part of _Usborne's Well_. ON _hlaupr_, which means 'run of water', is possibly part of the otherwise obscure name _Analepp an Ear_.

### 7.1.8 Husbandry and Agricultural Areas

Although G dominates in agricultural terminology, it has borrowed a few frequently used words from other languages. The generic in _Goirtean Èorna_, 'barley field', and _Goirtean Iain_, 'John's field', is based on Lat. 'hortus' and related to Eng. 'garden', and in G has a number of different meanings including 'little cornfield', 'enclosure', 'park', and 'small patch of arable land'. Other loanwords from Eng. are _G croit_, 'croft', as in _Croit Iseabail_, _G lot_, 'share' or 'part', from Eng. 'allotment', and _G pairc_, 'enclosed field', an obvious borrowing from Eng. 'park'. The Eng. term _pendicle_ describes a 'part of land that belongs to, but is detached from, a township'. The Eng. word _shieling_, a term for a 'temporary summer accommodation' used by shepherds, has been introduced by map-makers. Locals use the G equivalent _airigh_ as in _Àirigh Bun na Beinneadh_, 'shieling at the foot of the hill', _Earsary_, 'Eric's shieling' and _Skallary_, 'Skolli's shieling'. A 'milking-place' or 'enclosure' is called _buaile_ in G as in _Buaile na h-Airde_, 'enclosure of the promontory', and _A' Bhuaile Bhuidhe_, 'the yellow enclosure'. The ON term for a 'milking-place' is _stóull_, which in Norway is frequently used as settlement generic. In Barra it may occur in _Sgeir Bhioraghasdail_, possibly translated as 'skerry of Bjørn's milking-place'. There may be more examples in Barra, but the modified form of this generic, _–still_, can easily be mistaken for a combination of 's'-genitive and ON _dalr_, 'valley', which happens to follow a similar sound.

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170 The spelling reflects the OS entry. Locals pronounce this name as _Loch na h-Òb_.
pattern. Place-names in which *stóull* may have been productive were almost all located in valleys or at slopes, so that derivation from either *stóull* or *dalr* would have been possible.

A variety of terms are available for enclosures. There are Eng. *sheep wash, sheep pen* and *fold*, all mapped translations of older G names. G words include *iodhlaín*, 'corn-yard', 'enclosure' or 'circle', as in *Iodhlaín Mór a' Mhoair*, 'big enclosure of the ground officer', and *cotan* as in *Cotan an Laoigh*, 'fold of the calf'. Other G terms for enclosures are loanwords like *fang* from Sco. 'fank', *cuíd* from ON *kvi*, *gearraidh* from ON *gerði*, and *gàradh* from ON *garðr* which describes a 'dyke'. *Cuíd* and *gearraidh* are particularly popular elements of this group and occur in names like *A' Chuidh' Mhòr*, 'the big enclosure', *Cuidhe Bheag a' Bhuntata*, 'small fold of the potatoes' and *An Gearraidh Úr*, 'the new enclosure'. G *cachaileith* as in *A' Chachaileith Úr*, 'the new gate', and *A' Chachaileith Mhòr*, 'the big gate', are paralleled in G *geata*, a loan from Eng. 'gate', as in *An Geata Geal*, 'the white gate', and *An Geata Larainn*, 'the iron gate'.

There are a plenty of generics for describing rather neutral pieces of ground. A popular G term is *cùil* as in *Cùil a' Gharaidh*, 'neuk of the dyke'. G *réidh* as in *Réidh Fhloidaigh*, 'plain of the flat island', describes a 'meadow' or 'level piece of ground'. G *sliabh* indicates places of 'extended heath' or 'moorish ground'. Further G generics for level areas are *bogach*, 'swamp', as in the settlement name *Bogach, mòinteach*, 'moorland', as in the name *Mòinteach Bhal' nam Bodach*, *criathrach*, which is used for 'wilderness, swampy areas', and *machair* which describes an 'extensive, low-lying plain'. In addition to these G entries there are two ON generics. ON *land* forms part of *Vaslain*, 'wet land', a boggy area south of Suidheachan. In Norway, this generic is used as a settlement generic, and *Vaslain* too, according to the Craigston Register, used to be inhabited. The second generic is ON *slétta*, 'level piece of ground' as in the secondary name *Bay Sletta*.

### 7.1.9 Settlements and Man-made Constructions

A G settlement generic is *baile* which means 'village', as in *Baile na Creige*, 'settlement of the rock'.¹⁷³ *Taigh* is the general G term for a 'house' and is most often compounded with the personal name of its latest owner. *Tobhta*, a 'ruin' in G, is possibly related to ON *toft*, a 'clearing' or 'walls without roof', whereas *bùth*, 'bothy' has its roots in ON *bud*. *Caisteal* has been borrowed from Lat. *castellum*, a 'fort'. In Barra the general term for fortified places is G *dùn* as in *Dùn

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¹⁷²ON slétta is likely to have been a primary name and as such acted as a generic, however, in Barra it occurs as a specific only.

¹⁷³See Craigston in the gazetteer.
Briste, 'broken fort', and in Dùnan Ruadh, 'little red fort'. Another G term for a fortified place is crannag, which describes a partially natural and partially man-made island. There is a place called Crannag, north of Ardmhóir, and a fortified, artificial island is located in Loch Tangusdale and is the site of Dùn MhicLeòid, 'MacLeod's fort'. This island fulfills the requirements for a 'crannag' but remains nameless. An ON generic indicating settlement, but initially describing a 'fortified site', is borg from which Borve has taken its name. Horough is derived from ON horgr, 'pile of stones', and describes an important former site of pagan worship. Further ON settlement generics include staðir as in Melast, sætr as in Sheader, and bólstær, which has been productive in three names: An Garrabost, Husabost\textsuperscript{174} and Suinsibost.\textsuperscript{175}

Man-made constructions include G dám, a loan from Eng. 'dam', G ceidh from Eng. 'quay' and G tuaid, a borrowing from Sco. douket, a 'dove-cot'. During the last century map-makers placed a number of Eng. names on the map, including words such as factory, hospital, house, inn, mill, monument, pillar, post-office, school and station. Death, worship and church property are reflected in the Eng. terms cell, chapel, church, glebe, graveyard, manse and presbytery. G generics in this field are cill, 'cell', a loan from Lat. cella, as in Kilbar, and G uaih as in Uaigh na Cailliche, 'old woman's grave'.

Further evidence of human activity may be identified in terminology for traffic routes. G generics include ceum, 'path', as in Ceum na Gualainn, 'path of the shoulder', drochaid as in Drochaid nan Coineanach, 'the rabbits' bridge', Drochaid a' Bhéiceir, 'the baker's bridge', and Drochaid Bàgh Chòrnaig, 'bridge of the corn bay'. Additionally there is G rathad, related to MEng. roade, 'road', and G ãtrathad, which describes a path providing free access to common grazing or detached parts of a croft. This term is also related to MEng. roade and possibly to ON ut-reið, 'out travel'. Eng. terms include street, as in Stupid Street in Eoligarry, and square, of which there is one in Castlebay and one in the centre of Vatersay Village.\textsuperscript{176}

7.1.10 Vegetation

All generics in Barra's place-names describing kinds of vegetation are of G origin. There is coille, 'forest', as in the simplex form A' Choille and in the compound

\textsuperscript{174}This name is no longer actively used as a generic but occurs as part of the secondary name Abhainn Husabost. The settlement itself could not be located and therefore the name is not separately listed in the gazetteer.

\textsuperscript{175}See appendix A, name 114.

\textsuperscript{176}See in gazetteer under The Square.
Figure 7.30: Vatersay Village, formerly An Scarp

Figure 7.31: A’ Choille at An Tobar Ruadh
form *Coille Chriochan*, 'boundary forest'. In windswept Barra where there are hardly any trees or bushes, just a few trees are sufficient for an area to qualify as a 'coille'. The same applies to individual trees commemorated in place-names such as *A' Chraobh*, 'the tree', and *An Craobhan*, 'the little tree'. Further generics include *conasg*, 'gorse', and *seasg*, 'bog-reed'.

### 7.2 Tautologies

Tautologies are created when the meaning of the original generic is obscured and a further generic with the same meaning is added.

In Barra there are a number of tautological names based on well-known combinations such as *bàgh/bay – vík/vadgr, beinn – fjall, glen – dalr* and *sloc – gjá*. There are also a few less obvious constellations, such as *Caolas Shnagaras*, 'sound + sound of the headland', and *Ruroshinish*, a historical form of *Rosinish*, meaning 'headland + horse headland'.

Cox is correct in pointing out that it is irrelevant whether or not the lexical meaning of the original name is understood by the creators of the tautological form, as the original name functions as an onomastic unit. The question of why tautologies are formed in the first place leads us back to the second chapter and the process of name-creation. As discussed, words pass from a lexical level through an associative level, before eventually gaining onomastic meaning and becoming names. As long as the onomastic meaning of a name is strong, regardless of whether or not the name is transparent, its survival is guaranteed. But if it starts to weaken, the name is either replaced or lost altogether. In a tautological name the original name has weakened, and would no doubt have been lost, had it not been strengthened by the addition of another generic, which in tautological names happens to repeat the meaning of the generic of the original name. The creators of tautologies are no doubt unaware of the lexical meaning the original name once had. To the fading original name, they simply add the most obvious characteristic of a place, and in most cases the addition will be of a generic describing the place. As a consequence, the original name is transformed from an independent unit to a dependent unit which thereafter functions, to some degree, as a specific.

Here another question arises. Why would a name-creator not invent an entirely new name instead of recycling an old opaque one? The answer lies in the fact that the onomastic force of the existing name may be weakened, yet remain too

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178 This is before it becomes an ex-nomine unit.
strong to be ignored. Hence the addition of a lexically meaningful generic which leads to creation of a tautological name, which in return gives the old name a new lease of life. Tautologies are not a result of lack of intensive language contact among various groups of settlers. If that had been the case, as happens in many bilingual communities, a location would be given two names, both with the same meaning, but each used independently of the other.

Tautologies are insignificant in a synchronic analysis of the nomenclature. In a diachronic analysis, however, they mark an important, independent stage of name development and help establish an approximate chronological order.

This is illustrated in the example of the OS name Tresivick, which first appears in the Ordnance Survey Object Name Book in 1878, and is still marked on present day maps. Locals of Vatersay, however, have created a tautology and refer to the location as Bàgh Thrèisibhig.

The comparison of geo, from ON gjá, ‘gully’, and its G equivalent sloc in the Barra Isles reveals further information. G sloc appears as the generic in 134 primary names in either simplex or compound form. Whereas the element geo has survived in the simplex names An Geòdha, in Brevig Bay, An Geòdha Beag, north-west of Doirlinn, and in Na Geòdhachan, on the south coast of Mingulay, it has disappeared from maps and minds in compound form unless supplemented by G sloc. This is the case in eight names which are actively used by Barra’s inhabitants, examples being Sloc Hiasigeo in Berneray, Sloc Glamarigeo in Pabbay, and Sloc Heisegeo in Mingulay. Historical records show that there used to be three further tautological names, specifically Stockghrigeo in Fiaray, Stockchrasigeo in Scurrival, and Stockl?igeo at the south-east side of Am Meall in Vatersay. Furthermore, the MacLean map of 1823 lists Ruringeo, and Allan McDonald’s list of non-Gaelic place-names in Mingulay provides Tremmisgeo and Laikigeo, all of which contain geo as the sole generic, but none of which have found their way into modern usage.

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180 See name 1 in appendix A.
181 See name 13 in appendix A.
182 See name 71 in appendix A.
183 See name 79 in appendix A.
184 This name may be related to or even name the same location as Sloc Chremisgeo. See name 103 in appendix A.
185 See name 106 in appendix A.
7.3 Aliases

Just over 18% of names in the Barra group are alias names meaning that there are at least two names competing to designate the same feature. The alias names may be subdivided into four general groups.

7.3.1 Abbreviation

Often a place-name is shortened to a simple name when used within a close community such as a township\(^{186}\), and, conversely, a name may be extended when a non-local is naming a feature in a lesser known part of the island. The following four examples show various versions of abbreviations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Name</th>
<th>Abbreviated Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An Tràigh a Deas</td>
<td>Tràigh a Deas Shanndraigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A’ Chleit</td>
<td>Cleit a’ Chaolais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A’ Mhuc</td>
<td>Sgeir na Muice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Bàgh</td>
<td>Bàgh nan Ròn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3.2 Modification

There are varying degrees of modification. Some alias names only correspond in either the generic or the specific while the other parts of the names differ considerably.

Taigh a’ Mhàil, ‘house of the rent’, is the place where the rent collector used to live. It has the parallel name of Taigh an Dà Mhàil, ‘house of the two rents’, as the rent collector used to fulfill his duty twice a year. Since the house has become a ruin, another name, Tobht’ a’ Mhàil, the ‘ruin of the rent’, has been established.

Two narrow inlets on the west side of Vatersay are both called Sloc nan Calman, ‘gully of the pigeons’. Only locals who were aware that both gullies carried the same name knew of the further distinguishing names Sloc Beag nan Calman, ‘small gully of the pigeons’, and Sloc Mór nan Calman, ‘big gully of the pigeons’.

Examples of this group are:

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\(^{186}\)See section 2.3.2.
Some features have three or even more aliases. This is the case with Sgeir a'Bhoiler, 'skerry of the boiler', which is also known as Sgeir a'Phòla, 'pole skerry', and Sgeir Oronach, 'distinguished rock'. Sloc Grisivick, 'gully of pig bay', too, has two alias names in An Sloc Mòr, 'the big gully', and Sloc an Êisg, 'fish gully'. It is striking that two large lakes in Barra boast four/five aliases each whereas other lakes on the island are known to have only one name. The first feature in question is Loch Tangusdale for which even the OS provide two names on their maps. The name Loch Tangusdale was obviously inspired by the name of the township on whose ground it is located. The name Loch St. Clair was the invention of a 19th century novelist which found its way on to a map. Another name, An Loch Mòr, 'big lake', compares the loch with a neighbouring one which is considerably smaller. Loch an Eas Dhuibhe, 'lake of the dark waterfall', is the fourth variant and refers to a cateract which is part of one of the two streams contributing to the loch. With Dùn MhicLeòid situated on an island in the lake some people refer to the site as Loch MhicLeòid.

Another prominent feature is a lake on the east side of Barra. The name Loch Scotageary, 'lake of the enclosure of ?', is an OS entry, but the feature was known by that name to only one individual among all the interviewees. A number of more contemporary names are in circulation. The names Loch nan Fluraichean, 'lake of the flowers', and Loch nan Lilies both refer to the extensive growth of water-lilies which is found at that place. A fourth name, Loch an Rubha, 'lake of the promontory', refers to a nearby headland.

Another feature with a large number of aliases is a small, scenically located islet in the sheltered part of Northbay harbour. It is called Eilean nan Rodan, 'rat island', Eilean nan Gèadh, 'geese island', Eilean na Craoibh, 'tree island', An t–Éilean Beag, 'the small island', and Statue Island. Among these five names only the last two are obvious choices, as the island is small and accommodates a statue. The reason for this variety of names may lie not only in the lack of communication among different user groups. Despite its prominent location, the islet does not serve as a landmark, because there are more striking features in the vicinity, nor is it of any economic function or value.
7.3.3 Full or Partial Translation

In a number of cases names have been translated from one language into another, mostly from Gaelic to English, with ON ex-nomine units untouched.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gaelic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bàgh a’ Chaisteil</td>
<td>Castlebay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bàgh nan Ròn</td>
<td>Seal Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baile na Creige</td>
<td>Craigston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgeir na Halman</td>
<td>Halaman Skerry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bàgh Chòrnaig</td>
<td>Cornaig Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h–Eileanan Dubha</td>
<td>Black Islands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not every translation is literal. There are names which have undergone modification by partial translation or grammatical variation, examples being:

Sròn Queen Victoria ‘Queen Victoria’s nose’ Queen Victoria Rock

7.3.4 Unrelated Aliases

When a feature has two entirely unrelated names they most often originate in different languages. Examples include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gaelic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cnoc nan Caorach ‘hill of the sheep’</td>
<td>Upper Bruernish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogha Dubh an Dùin ‘dark reef of the fort’</td>
<td>Twin Rocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Creagan Móra ‘the large rocks’</td>
<td>Tea Rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baile MhicNéill ‘MacNeil’s village’</td>
<td>Castlebay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bannish ‘straight headland’</td>
<td>Wedding Point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.4 Aspects of Phonology

This section discusses some phonological observations made in the place-names of Barra.

7.4.1 Assimilation

Assimilation occurs when a speech sound is modified by a neighbouring sound. In the G word cladh, ‘graveyard’, the short /a/ before /ɣ/ becomes /ø/ as in the name Cladh Bhrianain [k’tɬøɣˈvɾiːnən].
The nasal /N'/ is assimilated by a preceding l-sound as in G gualan, 'shoulder'. It is pronounced [ˈɡwɑlɐ] in the nom. sg. form, and [ɡuɑlɔ] in its pl. form.\(^{187}\)

Total progressive assimilation may be observed in the personal name Ronald, derived from ON Ragn(v)aldr, which has gone through the forms /vn/ → /ŋn/ → /ŋ/ before eventually being assimilated by the following vowel to [ɹŋ-ɔ].\(^{188}\)

In Lamalum, from ON lamb + holmr, 'lambs' island', we find an example of a nasal assimilating an originally voiced occlusive. Here /mb/ is absorbed into /m/.

Mutual assimilation takes place in groups containing an r-sound followed by an s-sound.

\[/*Rht/ \rightarrow /*Rst/ \rightarrow /st/\]

Beinn Mhartainn [ˈheɪn vaɾstən]
Carraig an t-Sagairt [kʰaɾikə ˈtʰaːɡoːʃ]\(^{189}\)

An aspirated t /t'/ produces the following sound change when combined with a sibilant.

\[/*Rht'/ \rightarrow /*Rst'/ \rightarrow /t'/\]

Am Port Bàn [əm 'pʰtʰʰɐn]
Hartaval [ʰɛtʰəval]
Abhainn a' Ghoirtein [əu-iN8 gʰoɾtʃən]

7.4.2 Dissimilation

In regular dissimilation, consonants in stressed syllables render unlike consonants in unstressed syllables.\(^{189}\) The place-name Caolas a' Bhrìsitidh Ràmh, however, is an example for 'inverted dissimilation', when the physiologically stronger element is dissimilated by the physiologically weaker element.\(^{190}\)

[ˈtʰrɪfʰˈtʰəv] 'to break' → Caolas a' Bhrìsitidh Ràmh [kʰələs νɾiʃʰˈtʰəv 'ɾɑːv]

7.4.3 Intrusion

Initial 'sr' is pronounced /str/ as in Sròn an Iasgair [strən 'niasɡəɾ] and Sruth Bealach a' Fhuinnd [struθ ɬeːlaxə 'fuinɲ].

Stressed syllables beginning in a vowel are influenced by the final consonant of a preceding word.

After weakly stressed monosyllabic words a schwa-sound is occasionally inserted if the following word begins in a consonant.

An t-Àllt Ruadh [ə,Nauluθ 'Ruɔy]  
A' Chleit Ruadh [ə 'kleθ iht 'Ruɔy]

7.4.4 Reduction

Long vowels or diphthongs are reduced to half-long vowels or monophthongs when they occur in weakly stressed syllables.

An Àird Ghlas [ə,Naouθ 'ylas]

7.4.5 Differentiation

If an initial occlusive, spirant or m-sound is followed by an /n/, the latter becomes /r/ and a subsequent vowel is nasalised.\(^{191}\)

An Cnoc Mòr [ə,νɹrθx 'mɔr]  
An Cnap Glas [ə,νɹrθp 'glas]  
Lag nan Chnàimh [lθªθ nan 'kəθv]

7.4.6 Metathesis

Metathesis takes place when a consonant in front of and a consonant behind a vowel change place. This is the case in G trosg, ‘cod–fish’, a loan from ON purskr, as in Bogha nan Trosg, ‘reef of the cod–fish’.

7.4.7 Interchange

The sounds /l/ and /n/ are occasionally interchanged as in Eilean Vialish (OS, 1977), spelt in historical sources as Ellenvialish (MacLean, 1823) and Vialish Island (AD, 1874), but pronounced as [elθn 'viənθ]. COATES observes a similar phenomenon in some St. Kildan place-names.\(^{192}\)

\(^{192}\)See R. Coates, 1990.
7.4.8 Loss of Consonants

Nasals occurring before laterals are lost. This is the case in Barra’s Ben Leriebreck, pronounced as [ˌbeɪ ˈjeɪribriːk].

Nasals before /ʃ/ are also dropped as in Innis Bhàn [ˌiːʃˈvæn] and Innisgeir [ˌiːʃˈiːkˈer]...

Nasals are lost after laterals as in Mol nam Faochag [ˌmoː nˈfəːxək]...

ON bólstàdh as part of An Garrantost has lost its lateral and its ending. The initial ‘h’ of ON words is dropped in some of Barra’s place-names. Examples are An Rochd Mòr, ‘the large tangle-grown sunken rock’, from ON hrukka, and Leeinish, ‘shelter headland’, from ON hlið.

7.4.9 Aspiration

7.4.9.1 Preaspiration

Twinned voiceless occlusives in ON loanwords become aspirated in Barra’s place-names.

ON bakki   Bac          [ˈbaxk]
ON brekka  Úlabrac     [ˈuləbraxk]
ON hrukka  An Rochd Mór [ənˈrɔxk ˈmoːr]
ON klettr  A’ Chleit    [əˈʃleːtʃ]
ON knappr  Cnap a’ Choilich [ˌkəɾəbəˈʃəlɪʃ]

7.4.9.2 Lenition

Nine of the twelve consonants used in Gaelic may be ‘softened’ or aspirated under certain grammatical circumstances. This process, called lenition, is not restricted to Gaelic words only, but applies to all words used within a Gaelic language contact. In many cases lenition of ON names makes it difficult to trace their origin as it silences certain consonants or obscures whether for example a word begins with the letter ‘b’ or ‘m’ as they both sound like /v/ after lenition. The following conversion table illustrates possible changes.

196 The potential thirteenth consonant, ‘h’, is exempted from this count as it is predominantly used in lenition. See R. Black, 1992:17.
7.4.10 Eclipsis

The loss of sound which in certain Gaelic dialects occurs when /m/ or /n/ is followed by another consonant is known as eclipsis. "It does not affect the grammar or meaning of Scottish Gaelic in the way lenition does, and its nature varies from dialect to dialect."\textsuperscript{197} The following two Barra place-names are examples of eclipsis:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{Sloc nan Con} ‘gully of dogs’ [ślɔ̃k nɐ ŋʰˈɔn]
  \item \textit{An Geata Geal} ‘the white gate’ [əˌŋʰˈætə ˈŋʰˈæl]
\end{itemize}

7.5 Aspects of Morphology

Borgström undertook a thorough examination of the Gaelic of Barra including its morphology.\textsuperscript{198} This section is based on his detailed observations but tailored to suit a place-names context. It is illustrated, and where appropriate, extended with place-names examples of the Barra Isles.

7.5.1 Substantive

7.5.1.1 Gender

The absence of gender in modern English contrasts with the use of two genders, m and f, in Gaelic, and three genders, m, f and n, in Old Norse.

In translation of names from G to Eng. the gender is lost.

Depending on the gender of the noun the following adjective can be changed.\textsuperscript{199}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{197} R. Black, 1992:195.
  \item \textsuperscript{198} See C. Hj. Borgström, 1937:158–198.
  \item \textsuperscript{199} See section 7.5.2.
\end{itemize}
In a number of G borrowings from ON the gender of the original word has been changed. This was the case in the following loanwords.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ON akkeris-setr (n)</th>
<th>G acarsaid (f)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ON buð (f)</td>
<td>G bùth (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON klettr (m)</td>
<td>G cleit (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON øy (f)</td>
<td>G eilean (m)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.5.1.2 Case

Of the five cases, nominative, genitive, dative, accusative and vocative which are used in G grammar, only the first two play an important role in place-name composition. The dative case is rarely used, appearing only after prepositions, and occurs only four times in the nomenclature of Barra. Most Gaelic names, however, were collected in an oral context and were not, therefore, recorded in the nominative form. Where appropriate, the name has been restored to nominative case.

7.5.1.3 Article

G has no indefinite article.

In G the definite article can, under certain circumstances, alter the initial sound of the noun. The processes in question are usually referred to as eclipsis and lenition. Lenition takes place in, for example, masculine sg. substantives in genitive case if they begin with the letters ‘b’, ‘f’, ‘m’, ‘p’, ‘c’ or ‘g’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sloc a’ Bhòcain</th>
<th>[slo:k a vo:kain]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sgcir a’ Chlaidheimh</td>
<td>[sk’er’a xlai-ul]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lèan’ a’ Mhinisteir</td>
<td>[l’i:nə viNj’tər]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lenition also affects f. sg. nouns in nominative case if they they begin with ‘b’, ‘f’, ‘m’, ‘p’, ‘c’ or ‘g’ and are preceded by the definite article.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A’ Bhuaile</th>
<th>[a’vu:l]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A’ Chachaileith</td>
<td>[a’xa:ale]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A’ Mhol</td>
<td>[a’vol]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a few names an Eng. noun in genitive case is connected to a G noun in nominative case by a G article. Examples are Creag na Cuckoo, Tobar na Square, Eilean nam Bluebells and Sloc na Teileagraf.

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In addition to the OS entry *Loch Obe* there is the locally used form of *Loch na h-Ób*. Cox associates the intrusive article with a ‘relatively late preference for the use of the article’. 201

The Eng. definite article occurs not only in combination with Eng. substantives. It may also be used with G substantives as in *The Aird, The Glen* and with ON substantives as in *The Hoe and The Stoung*.

### 7.5.1.4 Personal Names

In the genitive case men’s names are always lenited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Place-Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seumas</td>
<td>[ˈjeːməʃ]</td>
<td>Eilean Sheumais</td>
<td>[ˈeɪlən ˈʃəuməʃ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domhnall</td>
<td>[ˈdəʊnəl]</td>
<td>Creag Dhòmhnaill Ruaidh</td>
<td>[ˈkɾəɡ ˈdəʊmənəl ˈruəɪd]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murchadh</td>
<td>[ˈmʊrəxəɾ]</td>
<td>Cuidhe Mhurchaidh</td>
<td>[ˈkɥiɾə ˈvəɾəɾ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.5.1.5 Irregular Nouns

A number of substantives are strongly inflected as in the following example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>sg.</th>
<th>pl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>cú</td>
<td>[kɾˈuː]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>coin</td>
<td>[kɾˈən]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dative</td>
<td>cú</td>
<td>[kɾˈu]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocative</td>
<td>a choin!</td>
<td>[ə əɾkʰən]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This, of course, is also reflected in the place-names containing irregular substantives.

*Sloc nan Con* ‘gully of dogs’ [ʃlɔk nə ŋkʰəɾ]

### 7.5.1.6 Inflection

The G declension system is irregular and complex. There are six types of declension for nouns in the singular, each with a number of subdivisions, and five types of declension for nouns in the plural, also with subdivisions. 202

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7.5.2 Adjective

"The adjective is inflected in case, gender and number when used as an attribute after a substantive."\(^{203}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>m</th>
<th>f</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg.</td>
<td>radical</td>
<td>lenition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl.</td>
<td>radical(^*)</td>
<td>radical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>radical</td>
<td>lenition(^*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>lenition</td>
<td>radical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dative</td>
<td>lenition(^*)</td>
<td>lenition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^*\) Lenition if preceding substantive ends in a palatal consonant.

Depending on the gender of the noun the following adjective can be changed.

\begin{align*}
\text{Am Bågh Dubh} & \quad [\text{Am ,bágh 'ðubh}] \\
\text{An Sloc Mór} & \quad [\text{An ,slók 'mòr}] \\
\text{Am Port Bàn} & \quad [\text{Am ,pört'bàin}] \\
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{A' Chuidh' Dhubh} & \quad [\text{æ ,xuì 'yù}] \\
\text{A' Bheinn Mhóir} & \quad [\text{æ ,vòì 'vòr}] \\
\text{A' Phalla Bhan} & \quad [\text{æ ,fòlà 'và:n}] \\
\end{align*}

Vocalic mutations in the declension of adjectives occur frequently.

\begin{align*}
\text{nom.} & \quad \text{gen.} \\
\text{An t-Allt Ruadh} & \quad \text{Caolas a' Bhogh' Ruaidh} \\
\text{An Geata Geal} & \quad \text{Bogh' an Taigh Ghil} \\
\text{An Lón Beag} & \quad \text{Carraig Chaluim Bheig} \\
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
[\text{ruòj}] & \quad [\text{ruòj}] \\
[\text{g'æl}] & \quad [\text{g'æl}] \\
[\text{bòk}] & \quad [\text{bòk}] \\
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
[\text{æ ,nòulta ruòj}] & \quad [\text{κ'άιλος æ ,vογα 'ruòj}] \\
[\text{æ ,g'æba'tæ 'g'æl}] & \quad [\text{βο η ,t'ο 'jil'}] \\
[\text{æ ,lòn 'bòk}] & \quad [\text{k'αρικ ,x'αλαμ 'vik}] \\
\end{align*}

7.6 Summary

The examination of English, Gaelic and Norse generics in particular geographic areas draws the following picture. Whereas a superficial glance at the OS map gives the impression that most names are of ON origin, a detailed survey reveals that microtoponymy is strongly influenced by Gaelic.

ON dominates in terms for large and medium-sized islands and sea-rocks, and G words for small islands and underwater features, such as sgeir and bogha, are merely loanwords derived from ON. Shore-terminology is largely influenced by G,\(^{203}\) C. Hj. Borgstrøm, 1987:173.
although some ON words have been borrowed into G to supplement the vocabulary describing bays and beach-rocks. Names for bay-shaped features include generics from both ON and G, but whereas G dominates in terminology for straits, small bays and gullies, it is gaelicised words of ON, and in one case Eng./Lat., origin which provide the entire range of names for landing-places. Freshwater features are almost entirely G. The most prominent relief features carry ON names, but almost every generic describing medium-sized or smaller hills is G. Names for summits, single rocks and hollows draw their generics from a wide range of G vocabulary which, with the exception of ON dalr, covers the entire range of terms for valleys. A fairly even balance of ON and G is apparent in words for slopes and mounds.

Generics for promontories, however, present a different picture. Although ON provides some terms for headlands, with nes featuring extensively in names of Barra’s promontories, the G terms àird, rubha and gob cover a wider range of features. The most prominent and, in nautical terms, important, frequently used names of headlands contain generics that have been anglicised.

Place-name generics used in the context of crofting feature some G terms, but the vast majority of loanwords originate in English, with the exception of a few, very popular ON terms. In generics indicating kinds of level or neutral areas, G dominates over ON. This also applies to generics indicating vegetation.

Eng. is most influential in the shared category of settlement and construction, mainly due to the inclusion of mapped features relating to church property and infrastructure. G provides generics for housing and defence sites, borrowing words from ON and Eng. to supplement its vocabulary. As many settlements in Barra have been given names inspired by nearby natural features or enclosures, there are few conventional settlement generics. Nonetheless, the four major ON settlement generics as identified by Nicolaisen can be found on Barra.

The analysis of aliases reveals that the categories of full/partial translation show the strongest degree of language contact. In full or partial translation, names of ON origin which form part of a new name as ex-nomine units remain untranslated. This is the case in Comaig Bay. In its G parallel form Bàgh Chòrnaig however, the ON ex-nomine unit is subject to lenition.

Unrelated aliases are often drawn from different languages. This is the case in Upper and Lower Bruernish which G native speakers call Cnoc nan Caorach and Rubha Chàrnain, respectively. Although Bruernish is known for its comparatively high influx of non-Gaelic speakers, there are other areas, too, in which the same

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process may be observed.

The sections on aspects of phonology and morphology aim to give a general idea of the complexity of G, but also consider the other languages involved in Barra's place-names. It is particularly the phenomenon of lenition that affects ON place-names, and obscures the identification of initial letters. This is reflected in the name *Háwshūm* from McDonald's collection of non-Gaelic place-names in Mingulay, in which the forms *Sáwshūm* and *Táwshūm* are listed as possible alternatives.

\[205\] See appendix A, name 107.

\[206\] See A. McDonald, 1903:433.
8 Barra Place-Names: Past, Present and Future

8.1 General Observations

A straightforward, practical approach to place naming is apparent in the nomenclature of Barra in which associative and descriptive names dominate. The relatively high level of incident names at 5% could be linked to the islanders’ rich tradition in storytelling and interest in fates of both people and animals. Surprisingly for this catholic stronghold, the place-names contain hardly any saints’ names, a sign that work-life and religious welfare were treated as separate issues.

The composition pattern of syntax shows a high ratio of primary complex-names and simple-names, which together account for more than three quarters of local place-names. Secondary and tertiary compound-names occur considerably less frequently. Personal names occur in 15% of place-names and generally indicate frequent usage rather than ownership. Names containing opaque elements amount to just over 8%.

The strong influence of ON as observed in place-names on large scale maps is not paralleled at a detailed level. The overwhelming majority of microtoponyms are of G origin. In this respect, Borgstrøm’s assumption that a detailed analysis of Barra’s nomenclature would reveal a large number of further ON place-names cannot be confirmed. ON dominates in the names of the highest mountains and in names for reefs and islands. It is as influential as G in terms for bay-shaped features, but serves merely as a donor language for loanwords to supplement the existing G terminology for shore-features such as beach rocks and landing-places. G dominates in names of all fresh-water features and also has a strong presence in terms for medium-sized hills and for hollows. The frequency of ON and G in names for promontories is evenly balanced, with anglicised parallel names for the most prominent locations. A number of G loanwords for crofting are based on Eng., and a few frequently used ones on ON. In terms for man-made constructions Eng. shows its strongest influence.

Both morphology and phonology indicate that ON names form an integral part of Barra’s nomenclature and that, in a number of cases, they are embedded beyond recognition. English has influenced the names of the economic centres, and is used on maps to describe a number of infrastructure features.

Assessing the level of ‘Norseness’ in Hebridean place-names is a risky undertaking, as it is up to the individual researcher to decide how to evaluate the status of

loanwords and ON ex-nomine units in G place-names. Their inclusion or exclusion can cause considerable variation in the results. Instead of presenting possibly misleading statistics, this thesis aims to point out general tendencies.

Although the Western Isles were surveyed at a comparatively late stage, Barra's place-names are relatively well preserved. This is partly due to the fact that Gaelic with its wide range of phonemes is capable of preserving ON names. Secondly, Barra Gaelic, which is considered conservative, has not changed rapidly but has retained its phonemic shape of words and names through the centuries. Nevertheless, sound reductions have taken place and a number of sounds in originally ON place-names have been rendered unrecognisable.

The forced clearances of the 19th century, subsequent resettlement schemes, and most of all the desertion of satellite islands at the beginning of the 20th century have taken their toll on place-names. The southern and northern satellites contain hardly any place-names other than for the highest mountains and for coastal features. The interiors of these islands are largely devoid of names. Fr. Allan McDonald's list of non-Gaelic place-names of Mingulay gives some idea of the web of names that must once have covered the satellite. The population density, no doubt, has a strong influence on how intensively the land is cultivated, and the decline in the group's population, from over 2200 inhabitants in the second half of the 19th century to almost half of that number at the end of the 20th century, cannot be ignored. On mainland Barra, too, there are less well-covered areas, such as the territory between Grean and the common grazing of Ardveenish, where the inhabitants have moved or passed away and taken with them their place-names.

The craze for anglicisation of G place-names in the 1870s by the Admiralty has, in some cases, been reversed and the older G names revived. The latest edition of the OS Landranger series, published in 1997, however, gives gaelicised versions of every place-name on the Barra Isles, even those which are unmistakably of ON origin, and which from the earliest historical records onwards have been constant in pronunciation and spelling. It can only be hoped that the OS will reconsider its approach for future editions and treat the place-names and the historical heritage of the area with more respect.

8.2 Relative Chronology

Due to the lack of early documentary sources the dating of place-names is difficult. Therefore, only relative chronological sequence can be established, except for the

\[208\text{See M. Oftedal, 1955:110.}\]
few datable events that inspired place-name creation. There is no doubt that
Barra was inhabited before the arrival of the Norwegians, but as there is no
linguistic evidence of a pre-Norse place-names stratum the Norse immigration
during the ninth century provides the earliest onomastic evidence.

I agree with Nicolaisen\textsuperscript{209} and Waugh\textsuperscript{210} that natural features will have been
named before settlements and other artificical constructions. Subdivision of set­
tlements will have taken place at a relatively late stage. An example of an un­
compounded place-name as a sign of first naming\textsuperscript{211} is Uidh in Vatersay from
ON eið, ‘isthmus’. This same element can also be found in the names of two
settlements on Skye, in an old farm-name in Shetland, and in numerous sites
in Norway. Bac from ON bakki, ‘slope’, at the west side of Barra serves also
as a village name in Lewis. There is also a Back in Shetland, and several oc­
currences in Norway. Further uncompounded place-names of ON origin include
Borve, Sheader\textsuperscript{212} and Cuier, all of which have equivalents in other Hebridean
islands, Orkney, Shetland and Scandinavia. Each of the large settlement generics
identified by Nicolaisen\textsuperscript{213} has also been productive in Barra. The examples of
An Garrabost, Husabost as part of Abhainn Husabost, and Suinsibost\textsuperscript{214} originate
from ON bolstaðr, ‘farm-stead’, a well-established ON settlement generic which,
in the form –bost, has also been productive on Lewis and Skye. Melast, ‘sea-links
stead’, possibly contains the ON generic stadir, which indicates an early stage
of settlement. The Sandray place-name Sheader is based on ON setr, ‘shieling’,
which has parallels in other Hebridean place-names and leads back to the coastal
district between Fjordane, Møre and Trøndelag\textsuperscript{215} in south-west Norway, which
accommodates a high ratio of names containing this element.

Only a few place-names contain hints pointing at datable events such as ship­
wrecks. Bealach Dhuggain, ‘Fr. Duggan’s pass’, designates a mountain pass con­
necting Craigston with the east coast. Fr. Dermit Duggan, who worked in
Barra from 1652 until 1657, is said to have taken this route frequently in order to
conduct service in the villages at Barra’s east side. Port na Teileagraf identifies
the location where the telegraph cable enters Barra soil. This name must be a
post-1884 creation as this was the year that the link was established.

The island of Muldoanich, located at the entrance of Castle Bay, is one of the few
places in Barra whose name has a good historical record.

\textsuperscript{210}See D. Waugh, 1985:4.
\textsuperscript{211}See W. F. H. Nicolaisen, 1979–80:112.
\textsuperscript{212}On Sandray.
\textsuperscript{214}See appendix A, name 114. Suinsibost is located on Mingulay.
Despite this list of historical forms, there is no explanation for name change from Scarpa to Muldoanich or Deer Island.

The Castle Bay area itself presents a more difficult exercise in establishing chronological order. Historical records provide the 1549 entry Kiselnin and the 1695 version Kisimul meaning ‘rock of the small bay’, which doubtless designates the bay surrounding the rock on which the castle is placed. The name Castle Bay, as listed in Wilson’s gazetteer, was first located north-west of Muldoanich at the entrance of the bay but has gradually moved closer to the castle. Donald MacAulay, a contributor to Ian A. Fraser’s collection of Barra place-names in 1976, refers to the castle rock as A’Steinn, ‘the rock’, and to the bay between the castle and Ledaig as Bágh a’Steinn. Castlebay, the name for the settlement, is inspired by the natural feature by which it is located. Locals, however, remember the older name Baile Mhic Neill, ‘MacNeil’s village’, which is also listed in Dwelly’s dictionary of 1901. The other settlement names in the Castle Bay area are Garrygall, Leadaig, Glen, Rhue and Horough. Lying at the extreme south end of the bay the oldest of these settlement is Horough, from ON hprgr, ‘pile of stones’, traditionally describing an important site of pagan worship. The name Castlebay and its G parallel name Bágh a’Chaisteil can be expected to be comparatively recent creations.

A site in Skallary which MacLean marked as An Gearaidh Ùr, ‘the new enclosure’ in 1823, is nowadays known as Seann Fhaing, the ‘old enclosure’.

Very rarely has one place three parallel names, all deriving from different languages but all with the same meaning. The name Stoney Bay is an 1874 AD listing for a beach at the north-west coast of Scurrival. The OS recorded Bágh nan Clach, ‘bay of stones’, for their six-inch edition, and locals, who were surprised at the OS and AD forms, know this place as Mol Sgurabhail, ‘shingly beach of Scurrival’.
8.3 Future Research

Only 20% of the place-names in this collection have been mapped or have occurred in other historical documents. The remaining 80% of place-names were provided by local informants. In what way their knowledge of formerly non-recorded material will continue to be passed on to future generations entirely depends on the local population of Barra and Vatersay.

English has, since the writing of the first Statistical Account, gained an increasing influence on the Island and is now the language of discourse of the younger generation. Because place-names survive as onomastic units irrespective of transparent or opaque meaning, Gaelic names will certainly continue being used for some time even in an increasingly English speaking environment. In the past this has also been the case with Norse place-names in Barra, which still survive despite the fact that Norse had largely fallen out of use by the 14th century. English, however, does pose a threat to the existing stratum of place-names on Barra. English does not have as high a number of phonemes as Gaelic, and for that reason it is not possible to incorporate Gaelic names into English conversation to the same extent that Gaelic is able to incorporate Old Norse names. Gaelic microtoponymics which are nowadays known to only one or two locals will no doubt be lost from oral tradition in the foreseeable future.

In this project the emphasis was on collecting as many place-names as possible from oral sources, placing them on the map as accurately as sources permitted, and backing them up with historical evidence, oral and written. Due to time restrictions, possibly relevant material collected by John L. Campbell and Margaret Fay Shaw in the 1930s, and now held by the archive of the National Trust for Scotland in Canna House, could not be included.

The gazetteer in the fourth chapter is an attempt at archiving the collected place-names material. In due course the information therein will be transferred to the Scottish Place-Names Database and made accessible to a wide audience. A gazetteer, however, is by no means the most user-friendly option for presenting the collected material as it shows the names in isolation. An atlas including all formerly unmapped place-names would help visualise the names in a geographic context and show the extent of local contributions towards this project.

Harris pupils carried out a project during which they recorded the place-names of their parents' and grand-parents' crofts. Such a project could also be undertaken on Barra, and would encourage a sense of local identity and an interest in local history among the younger generation.
Often my initial visit to a informant family would encourage the participants to collect further names, sometimes with help of friends and neighbours. Regular visits over a number of weeks and, most effectively, walks in the area of interest produced very good results particularly in respect of gathering microtoponymics.

Place-name research is an ongoing process, and, no doubt, locals will have remembered many more names since my last visit to the island. Therefore it would be wrong to assume that this thesis is the last word on the place-names of Barra. It is more a process of stock-taking. As long as Barra and Vatersay are inhabited place-names will be needed and, as required, new names will be coined.
A Uncertain Names

In a number of cases the spelling of place-names could not be clearly identified on maps, whilst in others locations could not be determined to sufficient accuracy. Such place-names are not included in the gazetteer but are listed in this section. Unidentified letters are marked '_'; uncertain forms are marked '?'. In most cases the numbers of the names listed below may be traced on the map. Where a listed name has no map number, this indicates that its location was vague and consequently the name can only be associated with a larger area such as a township or an island.

Barra: Eoligarry (EOL), including Fiaray (FIA) and Fuday (FUD)

1. Slockghriggeo (FIA) ML 1823
2. Slocilanduilik (FIA) ML 1823
3. Portan_ umpan (FIA) ML 1823
4. Ardvuran (FUD) ML 1823
5. Ardli_anish (FUD) ML 1823
6. Runacragamull (FUD) ML 1823
7. Craignagainacha (FUD) ML 1823
8. Craignasca (FUD) ML 1823
9. Poidhuick (FUD) ML 1823
10. Slacnaeous (EOL) ML 1823
11. Knockl_isk (EOL) ML 1823
12. Mealnaho (EOL) ML 1823
13. Stockhrasigeo (EOL) ML 1823
14. Drumnacaran (EOL) ML 1823
15. Lodanmore (EOL) ML 1823
16. Craichd (EOL) ML 1823
17. Tuirk (EOL) ML 1823
Gighay (GIG), Hellisay (HEL), Flodday (FLN), Fuiay (FUI)

18. Slockninullay (GIG) ML 1823
19. Cragancor (GIG) ML 1823
20. Slockanambeg (HEL) ML 1823
21. Skerlia (HEL) ML 1823
22. Meallanleaig (HEL) ML 1823

23. Runamulan ML 1823 (FLN or FUI)
24. Ellenhun?!?h (FUI) ML 1823 east side
25. Cregnabioler (FUI) ML 1823 south side
26. Skerdoniaig (FUI) ML 1823 west side
27. Runamona (FUI) ML 1823 north–east side

Barra: Ardmhóir (ADM), Northbay (NOR), Ardveenish (ADV), Bruernish (BRU), Bolnabodach (BNB)

28. Runaceapan (ADM) ML 1823
29. Ellendnanaing (ADM) ML 1823
30. Banani_ ga?na (ADV) ML 1823
31. Lamalumveg (ADM) ML 1823
32. Runaleish (NOR) ML 1823
33. Ellenanmighn (BRU) ML 1823
34. Skerava_ oa (BRU) ML 1823
35. Portannuigh (BRU) ML 1823
36. Portantow (BNB) ML 1823
37. Knockacadan (BNB) ML 1823
38. Ellenvurlie (BNB) ML 1823
Barra: Interior

39. Cnocan
40. Garranacloich
41. Glachd Ruadh
42. Gearrnahasnick
43. Langinish
44. Iollaghriagsaidh
45. Griluachbrack
46. Mollmore
47. Beinhirimister
48. Amhiuanlium
49. ?Leachuanion
50. Monachhuilachlin
51. Carnachbuie
52. Ruveallart
53. Cregvore

CR 1865 settlement name
CR settlement name
CR settlement name
CR 1806 settlement name
CR 1820 settlement name, probably close to Craigston or Borve
CR 1814 settlement name
ML 1823 certainly related to Garraidh Luachrach
ML 1823
ML 1823
ML 1823 river name
ML 1823 east coast
ML 1823 east coast
ML 1823 east coast
ML 1823 east coast
Barra: Ben Tangaval, Tanguisdale, Cleat

54. Tribiar  
55. Carach  
56. Slockacharich  
58. H_m_lisker  
59. Cuivall  

ML 1823 north shore of Bruach Bearnasdale
ML 1823 north shore of Bruach Bearnasdale
ML 1823
ML 1823
 Possibly Himalisgeir?
ML 1823

60. Gaitenur  
61. Bein__guall  
62. Vavaihalam  
63. Slockanial  
64. Slockachiran  
65. Creganaghcarbhalich  

ML 1823
ML 1823
ML 1823
ML 1823
ML 1823
ML 1823
Vatersay

66. Portabham  ML 1823  north side
67. Cregnascad  ML 1823  north side
68. Portvaladin  ML 1823
69. Ruan_oil  ML 1823  south coast of Bàgh Chornaig
70. Skerseralan  ML 1823  Uidh area
71. Slock?liegeo  ML 1823  ravine at Am Meall, south east side
72. Slockanuadhio  ML 1823  ravine at Am Meall, south east side
73. Bealachra_rick  ML 1823  location NL6393, east of Heillanish
74. Glacknasken_(?a)  ML 1823  south–west
76. Cuiharich  ML 1823  south–west
77. Ruillibrick  ML 1823  certainly related to Ben Rulibreck, but Beinruillibrick is listed separately in ML 1823.
78. Haillishoove  ML 1823  possibly at NL620948
79. Ruringeo  ML 1823  possibly close to Rubha Brinigeo at NL615959
80. ?D-//?Boanhill  ML 1823
Sandray

81. Glackghlass ML 1823
82. Glackanlioman ML 1823
83. Slockaneich ML 1823
84. Carnvieniel ML 1823 spelling unclear
85. Glackarihriman ML 1823
86. Glenia_i_ ML 1823 spelling doubtful
87. Seumpannaqu(i)alla ML 1823 spelling doubtful, alias for Gleann Mór
88. Cuighlamin ML 1823
89. Uamh Gharsa CW114/2 p. 68f., the cave is supposed to be located at west end of the beach and connected to a Pabbay by a tunnel

Mingulay

90. Garyaphuim ML 1823 located between the Landing Place and Geodhachan
91. Bein_chua ML 1823 alias for MacPhee's Hill, spelling unclear
92. Gist AMD 1903 ['gist], possibly in area NL5783.
93. Sünadu AMD 1903 ['sunadu], related to Bàgh Hunadu
94. Brándalip AMD 1903 possibly in NL5684, south–west of Analepp
95. Söälip AMD 1903 possibly in NL5684, south–west of Brándalip
96. Clet Iuglais AMD 1903 NL565845, location certain, spelling unclear.
97. Höenna AMD 1903 or Sônna, or Tônna, possibly located between Analepp and Guarsay
98. Aoinig AMD 1903 [u:nik], designates either Carnan or Tom a’ Mhaide
99. Hemmish AMD 1903 or Semmish, or Temmish (there is Sgeir Remmish), possibly south side of Mingulay.
100. Hö–ä–ret AMD 1903 or Tó–ä–ret, or Só–ä–ret, (see Sow–sëret or Sows–aret), possibly located at Cladach Dhearg, NL5782.
101. Hilibrick AMD 1903 likely to a name of a hill, south side of Mingulay Village
102. Grān  AMD 1903  possibly located in NL5581.
103. Tremmis-geo  AMD 1903  possibly located in NL5681.
104. Yōh-ri  AMD 1903  possibly located in NL5681.
105. Günarsay  AMD 1903  (see Catarsay and Guarsay), not an island.
106. Lāikigeo  AMD 1903  (diphthong)
107. Háwshūm  AMD 1903  or Sāwshūm, or Tāwshūm.
108. Grēotas  AMD 1903  NL591871
109. Rów-rye  AMD 1903  (ow like in down), or Trow-rye, or Srow-rye.

110. Cāhās-dal  AMD 1903
111. Clet Annsa  AMD 1903
112. Alāvi  AMD 1903
113. Sheōw-a-dal  AMD 1903
114. Sūinsibost  AMD 1903
115. Orācri  AMD 1903
116. Ugrāiny  AMD 1903
117. Lianacui  AMD 1903
118. Sōwseret  AMD 1903
119. Sūnāgir  AMD 1903
120. Ho-isp  AMD 1903
121. Heclaveg  ML 1823

Berneray

122. Breaholum  ML 1823  name in the interior
The generics are listed according to the language in which they occur. Words marked by * are loan-words and have a different origin to the category in which they occur. Where possible, the gender is stated. In the sections of G and of ON names the third column shows the endings for genitive and for plural cases. When only one form is given it is the genitive case unless stated otherwise.

### B.1 Gaelic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Genitive Forms</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abhainn</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>aibhne</td>
<td>stream, river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acarsaid*</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>pl. -eán</td>
<td>anchorage (see ON akkeris-sæt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>àird</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>àirde</td>
<td>height, promontory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>àirigh</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-e, -eán</td>
<td>summer residence for herdsmen and cattle, hill pasture, level green among hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allt</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>uillt</td>
<td>mountain stream, rill, brook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>altair*</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-air, -raichean</td>
<td>high place (Lat. altare)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amhach</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aich, -aichean</td>
<td>neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aonach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aich, -aichean</td>
<td>steep height, hill, plateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bac*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-a, -an</td>
<td>hollow, pit, bog, bank (see ON bakki)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bàgh*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>bàgh, -an</td>
<td>bay, harbour (see ON vágr and ON vik)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baile</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>pl. bailtean</td>
<td>village, hamlet, home, farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bealach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aich, -aichean</td>
<td>pass or gorge of a mountain, glen, gap, breach in a wall or a fence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beannachaidh*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td></td>
<td>blessing (Lat. benedictio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beinn</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>beinne, beanntan</td>
<td>mountain, pinnacle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beul</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>gen., pl. beóil</td>
<td>mouth, opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blianag</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aich</td>
<td>green level spot of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bodach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aich</td>
<td>old man, here: stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bogach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aich, -aichean</td>
<td>swamp, quagmire (related to Eng. bow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bogha*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>pl. -chan</td>
<td>rock sunk under the sea (see ON boði)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bonnach*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aich</td>
<td>cake, here: round rock (Sco. bannock, Lat. panicum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bot</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-a, -an</td>
<td>river bank, mound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bràthair</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-bràthar, bràithrean</td>
<td>brother, here: twin rock (Lat. frater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bruach</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aich, -aichean</td>
<td>bank, edge (related to Eng. brow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bruthach</td>
<td>(m, f)</td>
<td>-aich, -aichean</td>
<td>ascent, steep hill-side, brae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buaile</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>pl. buailtean</td>
<td>fold for sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bun</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>pl. buin</td>
<td>mouth of a river, bottom, base</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Glossary of Generics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bùth*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>bùthan, -annan shop, tent, booth (see ON buò)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buthag</td>
<td></td>
<td>potato pit (Barra usage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cachailleith</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-e, -e an gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cadha</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>opening where wind comes through, narrow pass at a foot of a mountain, narrow ravine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caigeann</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-inn, caignichean pairing, rough mountain pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cailleach</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-iche, -an old woman, here: rock (OIr. the veiled one, Lat. pallium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caisteal*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-eil, -an bulwark, castle (Lat. castellum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>camus</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-uis bay, creek, harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caolas</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-ais, -an firth, strait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caraidh</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>fish trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>càrn*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>càirn, cùirn heap or pile of stones, rock, sledge (see Sco. cairn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>càrnach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>stony ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carragh</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aigh, -aighean pillar, erect stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carraig</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-e, -e an fishing-rock, cliff, promontory, headland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceann</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>cinn point, top, promontory, headland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cearcall*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aill, -an hoop (from Lat. circus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceàrdach</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aich, -achiean smithy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cidhe*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>cidheachan quay (from Eng.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceum</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>cém, ceuman step, path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cill*</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-e, cill(t)eean cell, church, chapel, burying-ground, grave (from Lat. cella)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cirean</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>cirein, -an crest, cock's comb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clach</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>cloiche, clachan stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cladach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aich, -e an shore, beach, coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cleit*</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-e, -e an rock (see ON klettr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cnnap*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aip, -an knob, lump, little hill (see ON knappr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cnoc</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>cnuic, cnocan hill, eminence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coille</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>pl. coillt ean wood, forest, grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coire</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>pl. -achan kettle, circular hollow surrounded by hills, mountain dell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comharradh</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conasg</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aisg gorse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corran</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-ain headland, sickle, here a shallow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cotan*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>cotain small fold for a calf (from Eng. cottage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crannag</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aig, -an fortified island, partly built on man made foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
craobh  (f) -aoibhe, -an  tree, bush
creag    (f) -eige, -an  rock, hill, cliff, quarry (related to Eng. crag)
criathrach  (m) -aich, -aichean  wilderness, swamp
crioich  (f) -iche, -an  boundary
croit*    (f) -e, -eán  from Eng. croft
cruach*   (f) -aiche, -an  pile, heap, stack of peats (see ON hrúga)
cuidh*    (f) -e, -eán  enclosure, pen (see ON kv'í)
cúil    (f) -e, -tean  corner, closet, any enclosed place
curach    (f) -aich, -eán  marsh, fen, bog
cuarraidh* (f) -aich, -eán  quarry (from Eng.)
dám*      (m) dám  reservoir, conduit, black mud, dam (from Eng.)
dig*      (f) -e, -eachan  wall of loose stone (Sco./Eng. dyke)
dóirlinn  (f) -e, -eán  isthmus, peninsula, stony part of the shore
dorn      (m) duírn  fist-sized pebble, also: short cut
drochaid  (f) -e, -eán  bridge
druim  (m) droma  ridge
dún  (m) dúin, dún  heap, hillock, mound, fortress, castle
eas     (m) -a, -an  waterfall, cataract
eilean*  (m) -ein, -an  island, islet (from ON eylancl, ON øy)
fang*    (f) fainge, -an  sheep pen, fold (from Sco. fank)
fadhail*  (f) fadhail  extensive beach, ford, space between islands (see ON vail)
feadan (m)  reed, canal, opening
féith    (f) -e, -eán  vein, underground channel, bog-stream
fideag   (f) -eige, -an  reed
fuaran  (m) -ain, -an  well
geadhail* (f)  ploughed field, park (from Eng. get)
gáradh*  (m) -aidh, -aidhean  dyke, enclosure (see ON geróid)
gearraidh* (m)  green pasture-land about a township, fenced fields, enclosed grazing, point or knuckle-end of a township (see gardr)
geata* (m)  gate (from Eng.)
geòdha*  (m) pl. -chan  gully, chasm (see ON gjá)
glaic    (f) glaice, -eán  hollow valley, narrow valley
gleann  (m) glinne, glinn  valley
glumag  (f) -aig, -an  puddle, deep hole or pool
gnob*   (m) pl. -an  hill (see ON knappr)
gob    (m) guib  mouth, point
goirtean* (m) -ein, goirteinean  little cornfield, enclosure, park, small patch of arable land (Lat. hortus, Eng. garden)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gualann</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-ainn, guailnean shoulder, elbow, corner of a mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>innis</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>innse, innsean sheltered valley, island, pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iolla</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>pl. - an fishing rock covered at high tide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iodhlann</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-ean field, ridge of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iomair</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>luig, lagan hollow (between two knolls), pit, cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lag</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aoigh, laoghan calf, friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laogh</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-ean (natural) landing-place, quay, harbour, shore (from ON hlað-hamarr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>léanna</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-n meadow, swampy plain, field of luxuriant grass, green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leathad</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-aid, leòidean slope, side of a hill, half-ridge, brae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>léig*</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>léige, -ean marsh or miry pool, shallow stream (from Lat. linquo, Eng. loan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leth</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>half or piece of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loch</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>locha, lochanna arm of the sea, lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lón(*)</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-óin, -óinteann meadow, lawn, pond, water, mud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lot*</td>
<td></td>
<td>share, part of the croft (Eng. allotment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luba</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-aig, - an hinge, joint, little finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lùdag</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-rach, -raichean extensive, low-lying, fertile ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>machair</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>màis, màsan hip, buttock, breech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>más</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-oin, -an middle, centre (from Lat. medianum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meall</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>mill, meallan great shapeless hill, mound, heap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mòinteach</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-ainn, mhuilnean gravel, shingle, pebbly beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>mol</td>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>-e, -eann mill (from Lat. molina)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>morghan</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-ach, -aichean top, summit, hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muileann</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-inn, muilnean nest, circular hollow (from Eng.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mullach</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-e, -eann shallow, bank or ridge in the sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nead*</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-e, -eann parc, enclosure, enclosed field</td>
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<tr>
<td>oitir</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>-uirt, - an port, harbour (OIr. port, Lat. portus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>pol</td>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>puill, puill hole, pit, bog, pool, deep stagnant water, dark and deep part of any stream, wet and miry meadow</td>
</tr>
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</table>
B Glossary of Generics

priosan*  (m) -ain, -an  prison, gaol, here: rocks (related to OF prison)
raon  (f) raoin, raontan  field, mossy plain, road, way
rathad*  (m) rathaid  road, path (from MEng. roade)
réidh  (m) pl. -ean  plain, meadow, level ground
roc*  (f) ruic  sunken, tangle-grown rock, here: fold in the sea bed (see ON hrukka)
rodh  (m) -a  water-edge, water mark
rubha  (m)  point, promontory
seasg  (f) seisg  bog-reed
seòlaid  (f)  pier, haven
seóρ*  (f)  shore (from Eng.)
sgalan  (m) sgàthain, -an  mirror
sgeir*  (f) -e, -ean  rock in the sea, sometimes covered by tides (see ON sker)
sgòr*  (m) -òir, -an  sharp, steep hill rising by itself, little precipitous height on another hill, peak, pinnacle (see ON skór)
sgùd  (m) sgùid, -an  cluster
sgàmban  (m)  hill, top of a hill
sgùrr*  (m) -a, -an  high, sharp-pointed hill (related to ON skór)
sithean  (m) -ein, -an  little hill, fairy hill
sliabh  (m) sléibhe, sléibhteann  moorish ground, extended heath
slighe  (f) pl. -an, -achan  path, track
sloc  (m) sluic, slocan  pit, den, hollow, grave, pool, ditch, marsh
slugaid  (f) -e, -ean  quicksand, muddy place, gorge
sòrn  (m) sùirn  concavity
sròn  (f) sròine, srònan  nose, promontory, ridge of a hill
sruth  (m) -an, -annan  river, stream, motion of running water
stalla*  (m) pl. -chan  overhanging rock, craggy, steep sea rock (see ON stallr)
steall  (f) steill, still  squirt, cataract, torrent
stéisean*  (m) pl. -ain, -achan  curing station (from Eng.)
suidhe  (m) pl. -ain, -achan  seat (O.Ir. suide, related to Lat. sedeo)
sùil  (f) sùla, sùilean  eye, hole
taigh  (m) -e, -ean  house
taobh  (m) taoibh, -an  side, way, place
Glossary of Generics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tr>
<td>tir*</td>
<td>(f) land, shore, beach, coast (from Lat. terra)</td>
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<td>tobar</td>
<td>(m) –air, tobraichean well, fountain, spring</td>
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<td>tobhita*</td>
<td>(f) walls of a house, ruin (ON toft, topt)</td>
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<td>toll</td>
<td>(m) tuill, tollan hole, hollow, cavity, pit, den, cave</td>
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<tr>
<td>tom</td>
<td>(m) tuim, –an round hillock or knoll, rising ground, swell, green eminence</td>
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<tr>
<td>tórr*</td>
<td>(m) –a, –an hill, mountain, mound (possibly from Lat. turris)</td>
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<td>tràigh</td>
<td>(f) –e, –ean sea-shore, sandy beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>tucaid*</td>
<td>(f) –e, –ean dove-cot (from Sco. douket)</td>
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<tr>
<td>uachdar</td>
<td>(m) –air, –an top, summit, surface, upper part</td>
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<tr>
<td>uaigh</td>
<td>(f) –e grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uamh</td>
<td>(f) uaimhe, uaimhean cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uídh*</td>
<td>(f) –e, –ean isthmus (see ON eið)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>útrathad*</td>
<td>(f) –aid, –aidean free road to common pasture (from ON ut-reið, out-road, related to MEng. roade)</td>
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B.2 Old Norse

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<td>(n) landing-place</td>
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<td>all</td>
<td>(m) áls, álar stripe, stretch</td>
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<tr>
<td>bakki</td>
<td>(m) bakka, bakkar bog, marsh, hollow, bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>boði</td>
<td>(m) breaker, reef</td>
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<tr>
<td>bólstadr</td>
<td>(m) bólstadar, bólstaddir farm, settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>borg</td>
<td>(f) borgar, borgir fortification</td>
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<tr>
<td>brekka</td>
<td>(f) brekku, brekkur slope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bryggja</td>
<td>(f) quay, bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buð</td>
<td>(f) búðar, búðir little hut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dalr</td>
<td>(m) dals, dalar valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eíð</td>
<td>(f) eíðs, eíðar neck of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eyland</td>
<td>(n) island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fjall</td>
<td>(n) gen. fjalls mountain</td>
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<tr>
<td>gardr</td>
<td>(m) gardós, gardar garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>gerði</td>
<td>(n) gen. gerðis enclosure</td>
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<tr>
<td>gjá</td>
<td>(f) gjá, gjá gully</td>
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<tr>
<td>haugr</td>
<td>(m) haugs, haugar hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>haf</td>
<td>(n) the sea</td>
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<td>Gender</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<td>vik</td>
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<td>vóllr</td>
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<td>øy</td>
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### B.3 Scots

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<tr>
<th>brae</th>
<th>burn</th>
<th>caul(d)</th>
<th>fank</th>
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### B.4 English

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<td>harbour</td>
<td>head</td>
<td>hill</td>
<td>hospital</td>
<td>house</td>
<td>isles</td>
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<tr>
<td>jetty</td>
<td>lagoon</td>
<td>landing-place</td>
<td>manse</td>
<td>mill</td>
<td>monument</td>
<td>pen</td>
<td>pendicle</td>
<td>perch</td>
<td>pillar</td>
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<td>presbytery</td>
<td>rock</td>
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<td>sheep wash</td>
<td>shieling</td>
<td>shoal</td>
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<td>still (?)</td>
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<td>street</td>
<td>village</td>
<td>wellage</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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RHP 13180 Sketch plan of Castlebay Pier, no surveyor, c. 1891.
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RHP 38010/1-2 Plan of the island of Barra, showing part of Eoligarry Estate, coloured to indicate the forshore and the location of major cockle-shell deposits, 1946, traced from OS 6" map.
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RHP 44189    OS 6" plan marked to show land sold to the Congested Districts Board on the Black Islands and on Fuiay and between Bruernish and Greian Head, 1904 or later.

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<th>Informant</th>
<th>Field-worker</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Archie MacDonald</td>
<td>Ian A. Fraser</td>
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C.2 Maps

1546 Lily, George: "Britanniae Insulae".

1573 Ortelius, Abraham: "Scotiae Tabula".

1583 de Nicolay, Nicolas: "Vraye & exacte description Hydrographique des costes maritimes d'Ecosse & des Isles Orchades Hebrides", scale approx. 48 miles = 1 inch.

1595 Mercator, Gerard: "Scotia Regnum".


1610 Speed, John: "The Kingdome of Scotland".

1653 Gordon, Robert: "Scotia Regnum".

1654 Blaeu, Joannis: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, sive Atlas Novus:
   a) "Æbudæ Insulæ sive Hebrides, quæ Scotiae ad occasum praeduntur, lustratae et descriptae a Timotheo Pont, The Western Isles of Scotland".
   b) "Vistus Insula, vulgo Viist cum aliis minoribus Ex Æbudarum Numero ei ad meridiem adjacentibus".

1682 van Keulen, J. : "Pascaart van de noortcust van Yrland als meede de westcust van Schotland", scale approx. 9 miles = 1 inch.

1703 Martin, Martin: "A Description of the Western Isles of Scotland", scale 13 miles = 1 inch.

1714 Moll, Herman: "A new and correct map of Scotland and the Isles".

1716 Martin, Martin: "A New Map of the Western Isles of Scotland".

1730 Tiddeman, Mark: "Draught of part of the Highlands of Scotland", scale 20 leagues = 9 inches.

1734 van Keulen, Gerard: "Nieuve paskaart van de West Kust van Schotland van C. Wrath ... tot in het St. Ioris Kanaal".
1761 Dorret, James: "An accurate map of Scotland drawn from all the particular surveys hitherto published with many additional improvements."

1775 Mackenzie, Murdoch: "A maritime survey of Ireland and the west of Great Britain: The south part of the Long Island from Barra to Benbecula".

1776 Armstrong, M. J.: "Map of the Hebrides or Western Isles of Scotland", scale 17 miles : 1 inch.

1781 Huddart, Capt. Joseph: "A New Chart of the West Coast of Scotland from the Point of Ardnamurchan to Cape Wrath", scale 5 miles = 1 inch.

1789 von Reilly, F. J. J.: "Die Insel Bara", scale 1 mile = 1 inch.

1804 Heather, William: "A new and improved chart of the Hebrides", scale approx. 2 miles = 1 inch.

1823 MacLean: "Map of Barra" as part of John Thomson: "Southern Part of the Western Isles", scale 1 2/3 miles = 1 inch.

1827 Lothian, John: "Western Isles", part of "Lothian's County Atlas of Scotland", Edinburgh, following editions in 1830, 1835, 1838, then re-issued by A. & C. Black, scale 6 miles = 1 inch.

1836 Arrowsmith, Aaron: "Ecclesiastical Map of Scotland".

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1861–62 Admiralty Chart no. 2770, "Scotland West Coast, Hebrides, Sound of Barra", surveyors Hawkes, Master, Maxwell, Otter, small corrections in 1874, scale 1:15 000.

1865 Admiralty Chart no. 2474, "Hebrides or Western Isles from Barra to Scarpa Island", corrections in 1872, scale 1:15 000, surveyed by Otter, Edye.

1876 OS, scale 6 inches, sheets 59, 60, 62–70.
1879  OS, scale 1:2 500, sheets LXII.4, LXII.8, LXII.15, LXIII.1, LXIII.5, LXIV.9, LXIV.7, LXIV.11, LXIV.12, LXV.5, LXV.9.

1886  Admiralty Chart no. 2635: "Scotland West Coast".

1901  OS, scale 6 inches, (2nd edition), sheets 59, 60, 62–70.

1901  Plan of the estate of Barra, H. Sharbau, surveyor, based on Admiralty survey (West Register House).

1954  Vallée, Frank G.: "Sketch of the Islands of Barra and Vatersay".

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1977  OS Pathfinder 216, (NF 71/81), scale 1:25 000, “Lochboisdale”.

1977  OS Pathfinder 231, (NF 60/70), scale 1:25 000, “Barra (North)”.


1991  OS Pathfinder 247, (NL 69/79), scale 1:25 000, “Castlebay”.

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1997  OS Landranger 31, scale 1:50 000, “Barra and South Uist”.

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D Included Maps

1977 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 216 1:25 000  Lochboisdale
1977 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 231 1:25 000  Barra (North)
1991 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 247 1:25 000  Castlebay
1992 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 231 1:25 000  Mingulay

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