A RESOURCES SHEET FOR THE STUDY OF PLACE-NAMES IN THE THREE VILLAGES: ARROCHAR, TARBET and ARDLUI

Some useful websites and reference works, compiled by Simon Taylor, University of Glasgow
http://www.gla.ac.uk/stit

Note that a full bibliography, including a section on regional studies, arranged by pre-1975 county, can be found on the Scottish Place-Name Society website: *http://www.spns.org.uk/bibliography09.html*

WEB RESOURCES

GAELIC NAMES and PRONUNCIATION. There are good Gaelic sound files for place-names (as well as for common nouns) on the following site: *http://www.learngaelic.net/dictionary/*. While the sound file coverage is not yet complete, they are being added all the time (by BBC Gàidhlig). Gaelic sound files for some Munros can be found on *http://www.cnag.org/en/mountain-names* Gaelic sound files for some place-names, as well as sound analysis of meaning, can be found in the Database of Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba/Gaelic Place-Names on *http://www.gaelicplacenames.org*. See also PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS, below.

There are three good, substantial booklets on place-names produced by Scottish Natural Heritage, both free from SNH, both available online on *www.snh.org.uk*

MacIlleathain, Ruaraidh, 2007, *Gaelic in the Landscape: Place names in the North West Highlands/A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre: Ainmean-àite ann an Iar-thuath na Gàidhealtachd*, Scottish Natural Heritage (bilingual Gaelic and English, with a guide to the Gaelic pronunciation of each name discussed. Currently out of print, so only available online).

MacIlleathain, Ruaraidh, nd, *Gaelic and Norse in the Landscape: Place names in Caithness and Sutherland/A' Ghàidhlig is Lochlannais air Aghaidh na Tìre: Ainmean-àite ann an Gallaibh, Cataibh is Dùthaich MhicAoidh*, Scottish Natural Heritage (bilingual Gaelic and English, with a guide to the Gaelic pronunciation of each name discussed).

King, Jacob, and **Cotter**, Michelle, 2011, '*Gaelic in the Landscape: Place-names in* **Islay** *and* **Jura***/A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre* (Scottish Natural Heritage/Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba and Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba/Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland).

The best Scottish Gaelic Dictionary remains Edward Dwelly's *The Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary* (1901–11; various editions and reprints), though it needs to be handled with some care. It is on-line (in both a Gaelic and an English version) on: *http://www.cairnwater.co.uk/gaelicdictionary/*

MAPS. The National Library of Scotland (Map Library) runs an excellent website *http://maps.nls.uk/* on which you can access detailed maps of the counties of Scotland as far back as the manuscript maps of Timothy Pont made in the 1590s, and including the all-important Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6 inch.

NOTE ALSO: *http://maplandbritain.co.uk/* for the purchase of giant jigsaw OS maps of Scotland (and elsewhere).

NORSE PLACE-NAMES aka SCANDINAVIAN PLACE-NAMES
See PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS, below.

PARISHES
While there is no map that will depict the precise medieval parishes, the National Library of Scotland now has online the index maps from the Ordnance Survey 19th-century 6-inch maps, and these have the pre-1891 parish boundaries on county-wide maps.

http://maps.nls.uk/os/county_series_list.html

For parishes between 1891 and 1975, go to:

http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/, then click on the relevant county on the interactive map or the accompanying list. For more on this website, see SCOTLANDSPLACES, below.

For parishes and parish boundaries, medieval and modern, see also the new website (under construction early 2013) of the Mapping of the Historical Parishes of Scotland group:

http://www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/mapping-parishes-medieval-scotland/

PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS: There is a series of Ordnance Survey web-based publications for three of the languages which have made an important contribution to the place-names of Scotland: **Gaelic**, **Scandinavian** (Norse) and **Scots**. Each consists of an *Introduction*, which includes some basic grammar as it relates to place-name formation, and a *Glossary* of common place-name elements.

For **Gaelic** Place-Names (Introduction by Simon Taylor):

The pdf of the 41-page booklet, with Introduction, can be downloaded on:

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/docs/ebooks/guide-to-gaelic-origins-of-place-names.pdf

For **Scandinavian** (**Norse**) Place-Names (Introduction by Anke-Beate Stahl):

The pdf of the 12-page booklet, with Introduction, can be downloaded on:

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/docs/ebooks/guide-to-scandinavian-origins-of-place-names.pdf

For **Scots** Place-Names (Introduction by Simon Taylor):

The pdf of the 22-page booklet, with Introduction, can be downloaded on:

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/docs/ebooks/guide-to-scots-origins-of-place-names.pdf

There is a fourth such site concerning **Welsh** Place-Names; see:

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/support/knowledgebase/place-name-origins/welsh/index.html

Note also short, well-informed articles by Alison Grant on individual place-name elements both Gaelic and Scots in each issue of the fee e-zine (electronic magazine!) *The Bottle Imp* on: *http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/ScotLit/ASLS/SWE/TBI/index.html*

PLACE-NAME WALKS: These have been developed by the University of Glasgow, in conjunction with various local history societies. For full details, as well as pdfs of the accompanying booklets and hand-outs, see:

http://onomastics.co.uk/

This a new website set up and managed by post-graduates at the University of Glasgow, and contains other features immediately relevant to the study of both place- and personal names ('onomastics' means 'the study of names').

SCANDINAVIAN PLACE-NAMES aka NORSE PLACE-NAMES

See PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS, above.

SCOTLANDSPLACES: *http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/*

This describes itself as: 'a website that lets users search across different national databases using geographic location. The user is able to enter a place name or a coordinate to search across these collections or they can use the maps to both refine and define their search. The results pages provide the data relevant to the search conducted, from each of the project partners.' These partners currently include: The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS); The National Records of Scotland (NRS) [formerly The National Archives of Scotland (NAS)] and The National Library of Scotland (NLS).

It also contains details of all the county- and parish-boundary changes made in 1891.

SCOTS

See the website of **'Scots Words and Place-names'** (SWAP)

www.gla.ac.uk/swap

This contains a 'Glossary of Scots Place-name Elements', as well as the facility for pupils and teachers to send in examples of place-names which contain these words. (Co-ordinated by Dr Alison Grant, Scottish Language Dictionaries and Scottish Place-Name Society).

An excellent Scots resource is the online Dictionary of the Scots Language/Dictionar o the Scots Leid, an electronic edition amalgamating two earlier works, the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (Scots up to c.1700) and the *Scottish National Dictionary* (Scots from c.1700): *http://www.dsl.ac.uk*

For Scots in Scottish place-names, see also PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS, above.

SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY: *http://www.spns.org.uk*
This includes a regularly up-dated bibliography of Scottish place-name studies, including regional studies: *http://www.spns.org.uk/bibliography09.html*

READING MATERIAL

Note that a full bibliography, including a section on regional studies, arranged by pre-1975 county, can be found on the Scottish Place-Name Society website: *http://www.spns.org.uk/bibliography09.html*

MAIN WORKS
Nicolaisen, W. F. H., 1976, *Scottish Place-Names* (London; revised edition 1979: new revised edition, Edinburgh (John Donald) 2001). Paperback.: This is the only full scholarly study of Scottish place-names in book form. Although in need of revision in various ways, it remains the best general introduction to the subject.
Watson, William J., 1926, *The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland* (Edinburgh and London): for individual names, the best book to be written on the Celtic (British, Pictish and Gaelic) place-names. Although not easy to use in parts, it always repays the effort. Latest edition Birlinn 2004 with introduction, some addenda and corrigenda, and full Watson bibliography, by Simon Taylor; reprinted Edinburgh (Birlinn) 2011 with Taylor's introduction, expanded addenda & corrigenda and expanded Watson bibliography. Paperback. Some chapters are available online on the SPNS web-site. It is often abbreviated simply as *CPNS*.
Very helpful to use with it is the **Elements Index** to *CPNS* (compiled by Eric Basden and Alan James) to be found on the SPNS web-site: *http://www.spns.org.uk/WatsIndex2.html*

Good short general introductions are the sections on Scottish place-names in:
Atlas of Scottish History to 1707, edd. Peter McNeill and Hector MacQueen (1996)[though some of the distribution maps need reworking].
Celtic Culture: An Encyclopedia, ed. John T. Koch 5 vols (Santa Barbara, USA 2006) (S. Taylor).
The Companion to Gaelic Scotland, ed. D.S. Thomson (rev. ed. Glasgow 1994), pp. 226-36 (various authors, including K.H. Jackson and W.F.H. Nicolaisen).
The Edinburgh Companion to the Gaelic Language, ed. Moray Watson and Michelle MacLeod (Edinburgh University Press 2010), pp. 46-62 (R. A. V. Cox).
The Edinburgh Companion to Scots, ed. John Corbett et al. (Edinburgh University Press), pp. 17-30 (M. Scott).
Oxford Companion to Scottish History, gen. ed. Michael Lynch (Oxford 2001), pp. 479–84 (S. Taylor).

Warning: Most of the more popular guides and dictionaries are written on the basis of unsound methodology and information, and are best avoided. This includes almost any small, one volume work covering the whole of Scotland. Two exceptions to this are: Alison Grant's *The Pocket Guide to Scottish Place-Names* (Glasgow 2010); and Maggie Scott's *Scottish Place Names* (2008). A problematic example is J. B. Johnston, *Place-Names of Scotland* (1934). It is often seriously off the mark when dealing with etymologies, but it does contain early forms of names (unfortunately not usually sourced).
Furthermore: There are books and pamphlets about the place-names of most areas of Scotland. While some are excellent, many are extremely untrustworthy and misleading,

especially the older ones, and some are quite frankly not worth the paper they are printed on. One such is J. Milne's *Gaelic Place-Names of Edinburgh and the Lothians* (1912, inexplicably republished by Langsyne a few decades ago); another is H. Cameron Gillies, *The Place-Names of Argyll*.

READING-LIST FOR DUNBARTONSHIRE PLACE-NAMES and SOURCES

Barrow, G. W. S., 1973, *Kingdom of the Scots*, (London) [second edition, Edinburgh 2003]

Curtis, Liz, 2011, 'Tarbat or Not Tarbat? Was there a Portage on the Tarbat Peninsula?', *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 5, 1–34 [includes a general discussion of Scottish place-names containing Gaelic *tairbeart*]

Fraser, *Lennox*: *The Lennox*, ed. W. Fraser, 2 volumes, (Edinburgh 1874).

Irving, John, 1928, *Place Names of Dumbartonshire* (Dumbarton).

Lenn. Cart.: *Cartularium Comitatus de Levenax* (Maitland Club, 1833).

McNiven, Peter E., 2011, 'Gaelic Place-names and the Social History of Gaelic Speakers in Medieval Menteith', unpublished PhD, University of Glasgow
http://theses.gla.ac.uk/2685/

Nicolaisen, W. F. H., 1976 (2001) – see under **Main Works**, above.

OPS: *Origines Parochiales Scotiae : The Antiquities Ecclesiastical and Territorial of the Parishes of Scotland*, Bannatyne Club, 1851-5. An excellent introduction to the sources for local history and early forms of place-names, arranged by medieval diocese and medieval parish; Luss and Arrochar are in Vol. 1, available on-line on:
http://archive.org/details/originesparochia01bann

Retours: *Inquisitionum ad capellam domini regis retornatarum...abbreviatio Rec.Com.,* (3 vols., 1811-16).

RMS: *Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scottorum* ed. J. M. Thomson & others 1882-1914 [aka *Register of the Great Seal*].

Ross/DNB: Charles Ross's 'Map of the Shire of Dumbarton' (1777) available on-line on ***http://maps.nls.uk/joins/595.html***

Taylor, Simon, 2006, 'The Early History and Languages of West Dunbartonshire', in *Changing identities: ancient roots - the history of West Dunbartonshire from earliest times*, ed. Ian Brown (Edinburgh University Press), 12–41.

Watson, William J., 1926 – see under **Main Works**, above.

<simon.taylor@gla.ac.uk>