

Workshop: *Working with Place-Names*

NOTES FOR PLACE-NAME COLLECTION & ANALYSIS (SCOTLAND)

Numbers correspond to those on the [Scottish Place-Name Record Sheet](#)

This follows the procedure established for the *Place-Names of Fife* volumes (*PNF*), for more details of which see Introductions to Vols. 1-4. This methodology is also being applied to the current place-name project 'Scottish Toponymy in Transition: Progressing County Surveys of the Place-Names of Scotland' (primarily focused on Kinross-shire, Clackmannanshire and Menteith) based the University of Glasgow, for full details of which see www.gla.ac.uk/stit

1. HEAD-NAME: normally the O(rdnance) S(urvey) Explorer (1:25,000) form. If there is variation in this form between different OS maps, take the form of the most recent edition. If the name does not appear on any OS map, take the most recently documented form. Slightly different principle can apply to medieval names which have not survived.

2A. PARISH (as shown on OS maps published after 1891 and before 1975). If a place has changed parish, add a comma followed by the earlier parish. This may be a medieval parish now no longer in existence; e.g. Kilmorich (Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich, formerly Kilmorich). Three-letter parish abbreviations can be used, for which see <http://www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/mapping-parishes-medieval-scotland/>. This would then read Kilmorich LGK, KXH.

Some parish and county abbreviations for our study-area:

AAR Arrochar [strictly speaking this should be AAR, LUS, but as all AAR names were in LUS before 1658, this is given for AAR]

ARG Argyllshire (pre-1975)

BON Bonhill DNB

DNB Dunbartonshire (pre-1975)

KXH Kilmorich, now part of LGK ARG

LGK Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich parish ARG

LGX Lochgoilhead, now part of LGK ARG

LUS Luss DNB

PER Perthshire (pre-1975)

STL Stirlingshire (pre-1975)

2B. COUNTY (pre-1975 re-organisation). For list of abbreviations for England, Scotland and Wales, see for example W. F. H. Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names* (1976, 2001); or Nicolaisen, Margaret Gelling and Melville Richards, *The Names of Towns and Cities in Britain* (London 1970). If a place has changed county at any time in history, add the earlier county abbreviation after the 1975 county, separated by a comma:

e.g. Portmoak KNR, FIF i.e. Portmoak, in Kinross-shire in 1975, formerly in Fife (it changed county/sheriffdom in 1685).

A good map of the pre-1975 counties of Scotland can be found on www.whoownsscotland.org.uk

NOTE on 2A and 2B.[PARISH and COUNTY]

It is very important to establish early parish and county boundaries, so that place-names can be fitted into the earliest possible administrative and territorial units.

Best reference works for this are:

I.B. Cowan, *The Parishes of Medieval Scotland*, Scottish Records Society vol.93, 1967 (on-line on <http://www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/mapping-parishes-medieval-scotland/>)

For some parts of the country: *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, Bannatyne Club 1851-5 (medieval dioceses of Glasgow [part], Argyll, The Isles, Ross, Caithness). **Luss and Arrochar** are in Vol. 1, which is available on-line on <http://archive.org/details/originesparochia01bann>

For post-Reformation changes: *The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, edd. T. Thomson & C. Innes, 1814-75, vol. 12 (General Index) under PLANTATION of Kirks (Union, Disjunction and Erection of Kirks and Parishes) pp. 979-81. For a new edition of *APS* see <http://www.rps.ac.uk/>

For the 1891 rationalisation: H. Shennan: *Boundaries of Counties and Parishes in Scotland*, 1892. This is now on-line on: <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

3. SITE CLASSIFICATION CODE (as found in OS Pathfinder Gazetteer): this gives us a modern description of the place. **Note: a place can have more than one code.**

A = Antiquity; C = Coastal Features, including marine names; P = Parish; R = Relief Feature (e.g. hill, mountain etc.); S = Settlement; V = Vegetation (e.g. wood); W = Water Feature

4. NGR: OS six-figure N(ational) G(rid) R(eference), if known; if uncertain as to where the place lay, give a four-figure NGR and add an Accuracy Level code (see no. 5., below). For rivers, burns etc., take the NGR of its mouth or its confluence with a larger water-course. For a range of hills, moorland or other feature which covers a large area, give four-figure NGR of the highest point; for a loch etc., of deepest point. If no obvious highest or deepest point, give four-figure NGR of what you consider to be a central point.

NB Instructions on how to calculate this are given on every modern OS map. Note also that every OS grid is one kilometre square, regardless of scale.

5. ACCURACY LEVEL OF NGR, signalled by a number 1-5.

1 Accurate Position: clearly identifiable from reliable sources.

2 Assumed Location: the site is closely identifiable, but on the basis of sources whose accuracy is not always certain, for example early maps. It is therefore generally used with names which are now obsolete. It can also be used for names which are still in use, but only with affixes such as Wester, Nether, Meikle etc., where the original centre of the estate is no longer known.

3 General Location 1 km: known to lie somewhere in the locality within any of the adjacent kilometre-squares around a given 4-digit NGR (i.e. within a 1 kilometre radius of a given 1 kilometre square). If used with a 6-digit NGR, then the place is assumed to lie within a km radius of given NGR.

4 General Location 5 km: assumed to lie within 5 km radius of given NGR.

5 Vague Location: we know only the county, or some other large defined area such as an island.

6. OS EXPLORER SHEET NUMBER. This is inserted only if the name does in fact appear on that map series. Otherwise put X here.

7. ALTITUDE in metres, calculated from the contours and spot-heights on OS Explorer maps or the like. Use metres in preference; always state the unit of measurement (add m for metres).

8. ORIENTATION or ASPECT: if the feature has an obvious orientation or aspect, this is noted here. If an aspect is given, implicit in this is that the place in question is on a slope, which has obvious implications as regards both drainage and sunlight. Eight airts or compass points are used, with the following abbreviations: NOF north facing, NEF north-east facing, EAF east facing, SEF south-east facing, SOF south facing, SWF south-west facing, WEF west facing, NWF north-west facing.

EXAMPLES showing points 1-8.

STUCKIEDHU AAR DNB S NN31 04 1 364 45m NOF

AUCHENDENNAN BON, LUS S NS36 83 1 347 30m EAF

9. EARLY FORMS OF PLACE-NAMES

Example:

STÙC AN T-IOBAIRT AAR S NN33 01 1 364 35m

terris de *Stuckintibert* 1676 *Retours* DNB no. 69 [one of the lands of the barony of Luss (Colquhoun); ‘the lands of Stùc an t-Iobairt’ extending to 1 merkland; followed in the list by the lands of Glenloin (*Glenloyne*) and the lands of Stuckinclaigh # (*Stuckincloich*)]
Stucknatibart 1777 Ross/DNB

This can be broken down as follows:

(a) terris de (b) *Stuckintibert* (c) 1676 (d) *Retours* DNB no. 69 (e) [Latin; one of the lands of the barony of Luss (Colquhoun); ‘the lands of Stùc an t-Iobairt’ extending to 1 merkland; followed in the list by the lands of Glenloin (*Glenloyne*) and the lands of Stuckinclaigh # (*Stuckincloich*)]

- (a) Descriptor or preposition as found in the text; if translated into modern English, then put in round brackets
- (b) Early form, arranged in chronological order, so that we get an idea of the development of the name through time
- (c) Date of record (e.g. 1676) or date range (e.g. 1196 × 1198).
- (d) Source; for Scottish medieval printed sources, abbreviations should conform to those in *List of Abbreviated Titles of the Printed Sources of Scottish History to 1560*, Supplement to the *Scottish Historical Review*, 1963. See also **Resources Sheet** for some of these. Otherwise make your own abbreviations and key, and apply consistently.
- (e) Miscellaneous information about the context of the early form and its source, such as age of source: is it contemporary with the date given in (c), or is it a much later copy? If much later, give approx. age of the later copy. If it is an original, add ‘original document’; Also tenorial details can be added here, such as who is giving, receiving or holding the land, what other lands are associated with it, which barony (if applicable) and any other information relevant to the early form in question.

10. LANGUAGE: the name broken down into its constituent parts (generic, specific, affix, definite article etc.), giving the language of each part.

11. DISCUSSION. This can consist of the following:

- (1) Meaning of the name, language of the elements and any linguistic discussion (expanding on 10.); in doubtful cases evaluating alternative interpretations. Also includes relevant published and unpublished references to discussions of the place-name in question.
- (2) Information relevant to topography, extent, change of referent etc.
- (3) Local place-name lore or traditions.
- (4) Details from OS Name Book, where relevant.
- (5) Note on NGR in top line, and on other names in the area generated by the name under discussion.

Example of 10 and 11:

G *stùc* + G *an* + G *ìobairt*

‘Jutting hill of the (church-) offering’; in modern Gaelic *ìobairt* is a f. noun, so it would be *Stùc na h-Ìobairt(e)*; or, if, a m. noun, *Stùc an Ìobairt*. This was presumably land that had at one time been given to support the church of Luss. For a full discussion of *ìobairt* in Scottish place-names, see Watson 1926, 254; and (especially in a Menteith context) McNiven 2011, 160-3.

It is one of several *stùc*-names in the area applied to land-holdings. This cluster of such names is, as far as I am aware, unique in Scotland, and may reflect the rough terrain which could nevertheless support settlement. Others in Arrochar parish are *Stuckaclaigh #*, *Stuckendroin*, *Stuckgowan*, *Stuckiedhu*, *Stuckivoulich* and *Stuk McIan #* (1777 Ross/DNB,

just north of Inveruglas); there is also, at the southern end of Loch Lomond, Stockroger BON, LUS (i.e. (Bonhill parish, formerly Luss parish), which first appears as *Stukeroger* 1333 x c.1364 *Lenn. Cart.*, 92. This contains the Anglo-Norman personal name Roger, which cannot have been current in the Lennox much before the later twelfth century.

12. /LOCAL PRONUNCIATION TO BE SUPPLIED/

12. PRONUNCIATION: To record pronunciation, it is best to use the IPA (International Phonetic Association) alphabet (see the hand-out explaining the International Phonetic Association (IPA) alphabet taken from *Concise Scots Dictionary*, xxii-xxiii). For Gaelic phonetic transcription, a good starting point is the introduction to *Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks* (2011; a new edition of Hugo's *Gaelic in Three Months*, 1999), Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, with Iain MacAonghuis.

The font can be downloaded on

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=FontDownloadsIPA#2339eb7c:
Charis SIL is the site's own recommendation. If you develop your own one phonetic transcription, make sure it is clearly explained and consistent, and includes ways of representing primary and secondary stress.

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