



Gaelic Place Names of Arrochar Parish

a guide to the meanings behind the names

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INTRODUCTION

Place names provide valuable insights into the history and geography of a region. They reflect the languages of the people who settled there and the landscape they lived in. They can shed light on the plants and animals that inhabit the landscape, and about how people have used it over the centuries. Like the landscape and its people, place names change over time—sometimes we may never be sure where a name came from or what the person who coined it had in mind, but in other cases, understanding what a name means allows us to see a place in a whole new light. In this booklet, we've given the most likely interpretations of the place names, based on current knowledge, but the origins of many remain open to question.

This booklet provides a very brief introduction to the Gaelic place names of Arrochar parish, as used on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer Series, sheet 364. Arrochar parish was erected as a separate parish in 1659, before which it was part of the parish of Luss. Its boundaries are shown on the map on page 5.

In addition to understanding their meaning, visitors to an area may also have good reason for wanting to learn how to pronounce its place-names. Not only does it avoid both confusing the locals, and amusing them at your expense, but knowing the correct local pronunciation of a place-name can also give clues to the language it was originally coined in, and some idea of what it might mean.

Scotland has a complicated language history that is reflected in its place-names. Although most of the place-names of Arrochar parish are of Gaelic origin, Gaelic has not been spoken as a first language by local people for several generations and the dominant languages in Arrochar are now Scottish English and Scots; indeed local pronunciation may no longer necessarily follow the recognised Gaelic rules!

We've included a few, basic rules to Gaelic pronunciation on page 3, but the rules are difficult to convey in a short guide like this. Just be aware that many of the names in this book don't sound like you'd expect them to sound, based on the English spelling system. However, the best advice is probably to ask a local how they would pronounce a name, and with any luck, you might find out a lot more about the place than just its name!

Information in grey below each entry refers to earlier spellings of the name, with the relevant date and source of the information. More information on the sources is given on page 31. A 4-figure grid reference is given in grey to the right of each entry.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Here's a very rough guide to the pronunciation of Gaelic words:

An accent over a vowel means that the vowel is long, like:

bànn 'white', pronounced 'bahn' (long a).

bh is v, as in 'very'

ch is always as in 'loch', e.g. Loch Lomond, Loch Ness, never as in 'church'

d varies depending on what letters it is next to:

j as in 'jam' when before or after the vowels e and i

d as in 'do' when before or after the vowels a, o and u

dh varies depending on what letters it is next to:

y as in 'yet' when followed by the vowels e and i

a throaty ch as in 'loch' when followed by the vowels a, o and u

it is often silent when at the end of a word

fh is silent

gh is the same as *dh*

mh is the same as *bh*, but more nasal

ph is f, as in 'fall'

s varies depending on what letters it is next to:

sh as in 'shore' when before or after the vowels e and i

s as in 'so' when before or after the vowels a, o and u

t varies depending on what letters it is next to:

ch as in 'church' when before or after the vowels e and i

t as in 'to' when before or after the vowels a, o and u

th is h, as in 'hot'

Some abbreviations used throughout this booklet:

f: feminine noun; m: masculine noun

G: Gaelic

Geog. Coll.: Geographical Collections

Lennox Cart.: Lennox Cartulary

OS: Ordnance Survey

OSNB: Ordnance Survey Name Book

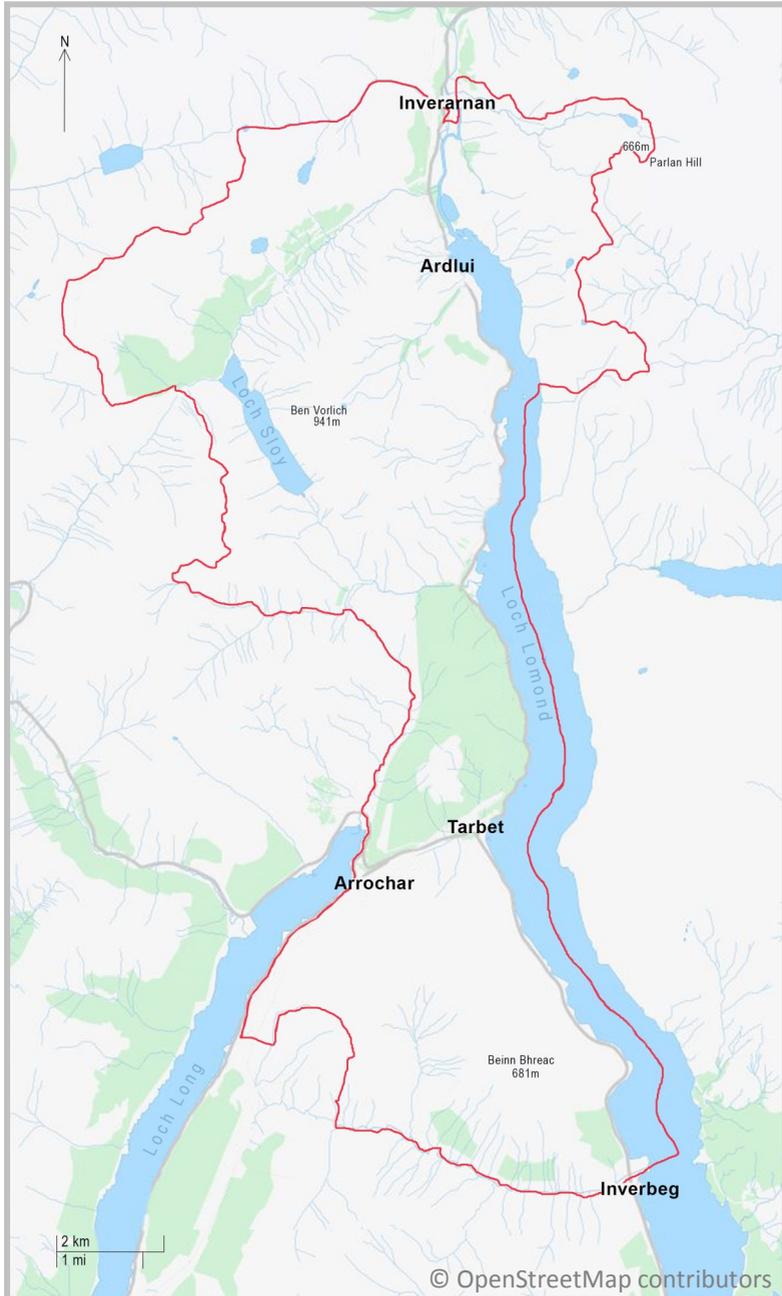
RMS: Register of the Great Seal

COMMON GAELIC WORDS

FOUND IN PLACE NAMES

<i>achadh</i>	a field, also occurs as auch or auchen
<i>àird</i>	a promontory, usually appears as ard
<i>allt</i>	a burn or stream
<i>beag</i>	wee, small
<i>beinn</i>	a mountain or hill, often appears as ben
<i>burn</i>	not Gaelic, but a common Scots word meaning a stream
<i>cnap</i>	a lump, a knob
<i>cnoc</i>	a knoll, eminence
<i>coire</i>	a cauldron, a hollow, a corrie - usually high in the hills
<i>creag</i>	a rock, cliff or precipice, a crag
<i>dubh</i>	black, dark
<i>glas</i>	green
<i>loch</i>	a lake, an arm of the sea
<i>lochan</i>	a pond, or wee loch
<i>inbhir</i>	the mouth of, confluence
<i>mór, mòr</i>	great, of great size. Mór was replaced by mòr in the 1980s, when Gaelic spelling changes abolished the use of acute accents.
<i>maol</i>	bald, hence bare and rounded referring to a hill or promontory
<i>rubha</i>	a promontory, often misspelled as <i>rudha</i>
<i>stob</i>	a stick or post, a hill of this shape
<i>stùc</i>	a pinnacle, steep, a conical rock
<i>tigh, taigh</i>	a house
<i>tom</i>	a hillock

ARROCHAR PARISH



- ABAID** The Abbey NN 2811
 A rocky area on the lower slope of Ben Vorlich.
 Dwelly *abaid* f. abbey; cowl or hood of a monk; m. abbot
 OSNB 'Where foxes were in the habit of seeking shelter'
 Abaid 1860 OSNB
 From G *abaid*, an abbey
- ALLT ARDVORLICH** Burn of the height of Mòrlìch (see *Ardvorlich*) NN 3212
- ALLT ARNAN** Alder burn? or Sloe burn? NN 3118
 The burn forms the northern boundary between Arrochar and Killin parishes. The origins of the name are unclear. The name Inverarnan comes from the same root.
 'rivol<us>...Hernane' (the burn Arnan); one of the marches of land given by Donald Earl of Lennox to Malcolm son of Bartholomew 1333–c.1364 Lenn. Cart.
 Allt Arnan 1860 OSNB
 From G *allt*, a burn, and either *feàrna*, an alder (the f is silent) or *àirne*, a sloe
- ALLT CHNOIC** Burn of the knoll NN 2713
 A very straightforward name, describing its physical situation.
 OSNB 'Burn of the knoll'
 Allt a' Chnoic 1860 OSNB
 From G *allt*, a burn; *cnoc*, a knoll
- ALLT COIREGROGAIN** Burn of Coiregrogain (see *Coiregrogain*) NN 3009
 This burn forms part of the western boundary of the parish.
- ALLT CROIT A' CHLADAICH** Burn of Croit a' Chladaich (see *Croit a' Chladaich*) NN 3202
 This burn falls into Loch Lomond close to the house called Hollybank. (see below)
- ALLT ROSTAN** Burn of the small roast? NN 3312
 In the 13th century the Earl of Lennox described a grant of land as bounded by the stream called 'Trosty', perhaps a form of the Gaelic *rostan*. This boundary remains part of the parish boundary on the east side of Loch Lomond, opposite Island I Vow.
 OSNB 'Dim of Ròst. Rostan a small roast'
 From G *allt*, a burn; *rostan*, a small roast. Or perhaps 'Trosty' might be from the G *trostan*, a foot, support or pillar?



ALLT STÙC AN T-IOBAIRT Burn of Stùc an t-lobairt NN 3301

This name follows a common pattern of the burn being named for the mountain where it rises, in this case Stùc an t-lobairt. (see below)

AN T-SREANG The String NN 3001

Name of the pass between Tullich Hill and Ben Reoch, referred to locally as 'The String Road'. It may have been a boundary, as An t-Sreang in Lorn.

An Tsreang 1860 OSNB

Ant sreang 1864 OS 1st edn

From G *an*, the; *sreang*, a cord or string

ARDLEISH NN 3215

Historians of the Clan MacFarlane have suggested that the first stronghold or castle of the clan was at Ardleish, on the east shore near the north end of Loch Lomond, opposite Ardlui.

Ardleish 1747-1755 Roy

Ardleish 1860 OSNB

First element from G *àird* or *àrd*, a promontory, but the derivation of the second part is unknown

ARDLUI Promontory of a calf NN 3115

Although the name has existed for a long time, the village only developed with the coming of the railway in 1894.

Ardlue 1747-1755 Roy

Ardlui 1865–1867 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *àird* or *àrd*, a promontory; *laogh*, a calf

ARDMAY Promontory of level land NN 2802

The name now refers to the house located here, but must have originally described the land feature.

OSNB 'Ard, a height, a prominence, *Madh*, a surface, a field'

Ardmage 1747-1755 Roy

Ardmay 1777 Ross

Ardmay 1860 OSNB

From G *àird* or *àrd*, a promontory; *magh*, plain, level land

ARDVORLICH Promontory of Morlich or Promontory of the great slabs NN 3212

The origins of this name are not clear, though it is connected to Ben Vorlich, where the burn arises.

OSNB 'Ard, high, Mor great, Leac a flag or flagstone'

Ardvarlig 1747-1755 Roy

Ardvurliy 1777 Ross

Ardvorlich 1860 OSNB

From G *àird* or *àrd*, a promontory. Morlich may be from old G *murboig* 'bay' (literally 'sea-bag'), or from *mòr*, big or great; *leac*, a slab, a flagstone. (The name is also found in a diminutive form at Morelaggan on the shore of Loch Long)

ARROCHAR Ploughgate NN 2904

The name first appeared in the 13th century as 'Arochor de Luss' in a grant of land from the Earl of Lennox. An 'arachar' or 'carucate' is a unit of land that a team of oxen could plough in a season, roughly 120 acres. The word arachar to describe a ploughgate is exclusive to the ancient Earldom of Lennox and, given the terrain, may have indicated use of a lighter kind of plough than those pulled by oxen. The 'upper carucate of the land of Luss' (RMS) later became the parish of Arrochar.

Arochor c.1292-1333 RMS ii

Arrochar 1545 RMS iii

Arroquhare 1616 Retours

Erchar 1777 Ross

From G *arachar*, unit of land

AUCHENDARROCH Field of the oak tree NN 3204

Oak was much prized as a hard wood for building. We know that oaks were planted by the MacFarlanes at Invereoch, and maybe they were also planted at Auchendarroch.

From G *achadh*, a field; *an*, of the; *darach*, oak tree

BALLFROINE Place of mourning?

This name only appears on Ross's map of 1777, approximately where Stuckiedhu is now. Stuckiedhu has existed since at least 1603 and it may be that the name was reported to the



mapmaker as a description – ‘place of mourning’, because of a recent death there.

Ballfroine 1777 Ross

From G *baile*, a farm (in modern G, a town); *bhroin*, mourning?

BALLYHENNAN

NN 3104

Now refers to the west part of Tarbet, nearest to Ballyhennan Church and graveyard. Roy’s map (1747) gives the name as Kilchenn, which gives a clue to a much older origin: the first element is from *cill*, a church or burial ground, though this predates the present church building (1844).

OSNB ‘A row of cottar’s houses. Dr McFarlane states that the Roman Catholic clergy met here for church purposes prior to the Reformation’

Kilchenn 1747-1755 Roy

Wester Ballahenan c.1820 Feuing Plan Rental Roll Colquhoun Estates

E Ballahenan c.1820 Feuing Plan Rental Roll Colquhoun Estates

Ballyhennan 1864 OS 6” 1st edn

From G *baile*, a farm (in modern G, a town). The origin of ‘hennan’ is unknown

BEINN A’ CHOIN The dog’s mountain

NN 3513

OSNB ‘Beinn, a mountain. The dog’s mountain’

Beinn A’ Choin 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn*, mountain; *choin*, genitive singular form of *cù*, dog

BEN BHREAC Speckled mountain

NN 3200

Beinn Breachd 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn*, a mountain; *breac*, speckled

BEINN DAMHAIN Mountain of the stag

NN 2817

Damh can refer to a stag or an ox.

OSNB ‘*Damh*, a hart, a stag, the male of the red deer, *Beinn* - a mountain..... Note the plural of many nouns is formed provincially by adding ‘an’ to the singular, and it is more likely that the hill got its name from its being the resort of more than one male deer than that it got its name from one stag, or ox.’

Beinn Damhain 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn*, a mountain; *dàmh*, a stag

BEINN DUBH Dark mountain

NN 2711

Beinn Dubh 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn*, a mountain; *dubh*, dark, black

BEINN DUCTEACH Mountain of the black house or house on the hillock?

NN 3415

A name with two possible meanings, both of which are uncertain.

OSNB 'Beinn, a mountain and ducteach from *dùc*, a hillock'

Beinn Ducteach 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn*, a mountain, and either *dubh*, black, dark, and *teach*, a house, or *dùc*, a hillock and *teach*, house

BEN GLAS BURN Burn of Ben Glas

NN 3218

This would originally have been Allt Beinn Glas, but the Scots word (burn) has crept in! This burn forms the north-east boundary of the parish of Arrochar and creates a spectacular waterfall as it drops off the hill near Inverarnan.

From G *beinn*, a mountain; *glas*, green

BEN REOCH Brindled or grizzled mountain or Freezing mountain

NN 3002

This name illustrates the difficulty in finding the precise origin of names! There are two possible meanings, either of which are perfectly reasonable. (see below). The second element also appears in Inverloch, suggesting there was once a burn of the same name. (see Manse Burn)

OSNB 'Beinn, top of mountain, *Reodhadh*, act of freezing'

From G *beinn*, a mountain and either *riabhach*, grizzled or *reodhadh*, freezing

BEN VANE White mountain

NN 2709

OSNB 'Beinn, a mountain, *Bhan*, white. When a pronunciation and a spelling of a name in a Gaelic district differs but very slightly from the Gaelic pronunciation and spelling it is better (to) spell it as Gaelic. Ben Vane and Beinn Bhan would be pronounced alike by a Gaelic reader'

Bin Vean c.1583-1596 Pont

Ben Vain 1747-1755 Roy

Ben Vane 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn*, a mountain; *bàn*, white



BEN VORLICH Morlich's mountain or Mountain of the great slabs NN 2912

The name has appeared on maps since the 16th century, with several different spellings, but opinions differ as to the origin of the name. (see *Ardvorlich*)

OSNB 'Ben from *beinn*, *Mor*, great, *Leac*, a declivity, *Lic* gen sing of *Leach*. Anglicised from the Gaelic *Beinn Mòrlìc*'

Bin Vouyrigh c.1583-1596 Pont

Ben Vurligan 1747-1755 Roy

Ben Vorlich 1860 OSNB

From G *beinn* + *Morlich*

BLAIRANNAICH Ferny field NN 3206

OSNB 'From *Blar*, a field and *Raineach fern*'

Blarnik 1777 Ross

Blarinu 1823 Thomson

Blarannich 1860 OSNB

Blarannich 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *blàr*, a field; *raineach*, ferny

BLARSTAINGE Field with a ditch NN 3217

OSNB 'Blar, a field, stainge, a ditch'

Blaistaing 1747-1755 Roy

Blarstainge 1860 OSNB

From G *blàr*, a field; *staing*, a ditch

CAM ALLT Crooked burn NN 2714

OSNB 'Cam crooked, Allt, a stream'

From G *cam*, crooked; *allt*, a burn, a stream

CAMUS NAN CLAIS The bay of the hollows

This house stood at the south of Rubha Mòr, immediately west of Lochan Uaine. The name

comes from its situation and refers to the bay and the natural furrows or hollows in the adjoining field.

OSNB 'Camas (G) a bay, a creek, a harbour. *Nan*, of the. *Clais*,and may signify furrows, hollows.'

Camus nan Clais 1860 OSNB

From G *camas*, a bay; *nan*, of the; *clais*, hollows or furrows

CEANN MÒR Big promontory NN 3212

On General Roy's map of 1747, the name has been anglicised to Kenmore. On the modern map it is correctly named Ceann Mòr.

Kenmore 1747-1755 Roy

From G *ceann*, a promontory; *mòr*, big

CLACH NAN TARBH or PULPIT ROCK Stone of the bull NN 3213

Legend has it that the name was given to the rock because it was dislodged from the hill during a fight between two bulls – one from either side of the loch. It became known as Pulpit Rock because the parishioners of Arrochar Church who lived at the north end of Loch Lomond complained about the long walk to the church. The minister, Dr Peter Proudfoot, declared that if a pulpit could be made he would preach from it! Several local men carved out a hole in the rock and constructed wooden stairs and a guard rail, and the minister and his successors duly came and preached there.

Clachan Nan Tarbh 1860 OSNB

From G *clach*, a stone; *nan*, of; *tarbh*, a bull

CLATTOCH BEG Wee shore

Clattoch Beg is mentioned in old documents in association with Clattoch Mòr, though no trace now remains. It is thought to be near where Shore Cottage currently stands in Tarbet.

From G *cladach*, a shore; *beag*, wee, small

CLATTOCH MÒR Big shore

Clan MacFarlane historians suggest that the chief lived here after the castle at Inveruglas was sacked by Oliver Cromwell's troops in around 1650, and before the castle on Island I Vow was built. The site is said to be near the ground now occupied by Glebe House (once The Manse) in Tarbet.

OSNB 'Cladach, a shore, beach'

From *cladach*, a shore; *mòr*, big



CLOANREACH Speckled or variegated brae NN 3104

This is the name of a group of houses marked on Ross's map of 1777 on the north side of the Arrochar road in Tarbet.

OSNB 'Supposed by Dr McFarlane to be a corruption of Gleanreoch – streaked or spotted glen'

Cloanreach 1777 Ross

Clanreoch 1860 OSNB

Clanreoch 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *clao*n, a brae, sloping road; *riabhach*, striped or mottled

CNAP MÒR Big lump NN 3216

OSNB 'Cnap, a little hill, a knob, *Mor*, great'

Cnap Mor 1860 OSNB

From G *cnap*, a lump; *mòr*, big

CNAP NA CRICHE Knoll of the boundary NN 2715

This hill probably marked the boundary between two farms.

OSNB 'Cnap a knoll, *criche* a boundary'

Cnap Na Criche 1860 OSNB

From G *cnap*, a knoll; *na*, of the; *criche*, genitive singular form of *cricoch*, a boundary, limit

CNOC Wee rounded hill NN 2613

Cnoc 1860 OSNB

From G *cnoc*, a knoll, an eminence

COILLE CHORAIN Wood of the sickle NS 3099

By 1860 this name applied to a house, or croft, but must originally have applied to a curved or sickle-shaped wood, though none is evident on older maps.

OSNB 'Coille, a wood. *Chorran*, gen of *corran*, a reaping fork'

Coille-chorain 1860 OSNB

From G *coille*, wood, forest; *corran*, a sickle

- COIRE BHUILG** Bag-shaped corrie NN 3102
 Note that on the 1st ed OS map, the corrie is shown running north/south, while on the current Explorer map it is shown east/west.
 OSNB 'Coire, a mountain dell, a linear hollow between two hills. *Builg*, a bag or bellows'
 Coire Bhuilg 1860 OSNB
 Coire Builg 1864 OS 6" 1st edn
 From G *coire*, a cauldron, a circular place, a corrie; *builg*, a sack or bag
- COIRE CREAGACH** Rocky corrie NN 2913
 OSNB 'Coire, a dell, *creagach*, rocky'
 Coire Creagach 1860 OSNB
 From G *coire*, a corrie; *creagach*, rocky
- COIRE NA BAINTIGHEARNA** Corrie of the lady NN 3011
 OSNB 'Coire, a dell. *Baintighearna*, a lady'
 Coire Na Baintighearna 1860 OSNB
 From G *coire*, a corrie; *na*, of the; *baintighearna*, lady
- COIRE NAN EACH** Corrie of the horses NN 3110
 OSNB 'Coire, a dell. *Each*, a horse'
 Coire Nan Each 1860 OSNB
 From G *coire*, a corrie; *nan*, of the; *each*, horses
- COIREGROGAIN** Stunted corrie NN 3009
 OSNB 'Coire a dell. Grogan, from *Groganach*, stunted'
 Coiregrogain 1860 OSNB
 From G *coire*, a corrie; *grogan*, stunted
- CREAG A' MHADAID** Crag of the dog NN 3313
 Creag A' Mhadaidh 1860 OSNB
 From G *creag*, a crag; *a'*, of the; *madadh*, dog
- CREAG A' PHUIRT** Crag of the harbour NN 3213
 This name appears on old maps, on the promontory at Inverbeg. Although no signs remain today, it suggests that there must once have been a pier or anchorage here. Around 1600,



John, a chief of the MacFarlanes, built and endowed an almshouse for accommodating travellers in this area.

OSNB 'Creag a rock. *Phuirt* or *Puirt* a port, harbour, ferry'

Creag A' Phuirt 1860 OSNB

From G *creag*, a crag; *an*, of the; *phuirt*, genitive singular form of *port*, harbour

CREAG AN ARNAIN Rock of the height NN 3210

This is the name given on OS Explorer Map 364, though that given in the OSNB and OS 6" 1st edn is Creag an Ardain. (For the meaning of Arnain see Allt Aman)

OSNB 'Creag, a rock. *Ardain*, gen. of *Ardan*, a height'

Creag an Ardain 1860 OSNB

CREAG AN T-SEARRAICH Crag of the colt NN 3004

Although not on the modern map, this name applied to a settlement (now ruinous) on the north side of the isthmus, west of the railway station.

OSNB 'Creag a crag. *Searraich* gen. sing. of *searrach*, a foal'

Craggantarich 1777 Ross

Craignatarroch c.1820 Feuing Plan Rental Roll Colquhoun Estates

Creag na Searraich 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *creag*, a crag; *an*, of the; *searrach*, colt, foal

CREAG CHAM ALLT Crag of the crooked burn NN 2715

The order of this name has changed a bit over time. It is given as Cam-alt Creag (Crooked burn of the crag) on the 1st edn OS map.

OSNB 'Cam, crooked, *Allt*, a stream, *Creag*, a rock.'

Camallt Chreag 1860 OSNB

Cam-alt Creag 1864 OS 1st edn

From G *creag*, crag; *cam*, crooked; *allt*, burn

CROIT A' CHLADAICH

Although this name does not appear on modern maps (except in Allt Croit a' Chladaich), it must have referred to the piece of land where Allt Croit A' Chladaich flows into Loch Lomond, near to Hollybank.

OSNB 'Croit a' Chladaich croft of the shore (G *cladaich* m. gen. sing. *cladach* shore). Allt Croit a' Chladaich is *Allt*, a mountain stream, *Croit*, an eminence, a croft, a piece of arable land, *Chladaich* gen singular of *cladach*, a shore, beach'

Alt Chroit a' Chladiach 1860 OSNB

Alt Croit a' Chladach 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *croit*, a croft, an eminence; *an*, of the; *chladaich*, a shore

CRUACH Rounded hill NN 3316

OSNB 'Cruach, a stack, a high hill'

Cruach 1860 OSNB

From G *cruach*, a heap or stack

CRUACH TAIRBEIRT High hill of Tarbet NN 3105

OSNB 'Cruach, a high hill. *Tairbeirt* from *Tairbeach*, a peninsula'

Cruach Tairbeirt 1860 OSNB

From G *cruach*, a heap or stack; *tairbeirt*, isthmus

DOUGLAS WATER Dark water or Dark burn NS 3397

This burn forms the southern boundary of the parish. 'Douglas' almost certainly comes from the Gaelic words *dubh* (black, dark) and *glais* (burn, stream), rather than being a reference to the family name Douglas, which originates around Douglas in Lanarkshire. This was formerly referred to as the Lower Douglas Water, to distinguish it from the Upper Douglas Water, now Inveruglas Water.

Douglas Water 1860 OSNB

From G *dubh*, dark; *glais*, burn, stream

DOUNE Fort NN 3314

The name Doune occurs throughout Scotland. It is thought to derive from *dùn*, the Gaelic word for a fort. Another Doune, south of Douglas Water, is spelled Down on Roy's map, 1747.

Dune 1747-1755 Roy

Doune 1860 OSNB

DUBH CHNOC Wee dark rounded hill NN 3008



Dubh Chnoc 1860 OSNB

From G *dubh*, dark; *cnoc*, a wee rounded hill

DUBH LOCHAN Wee dark loch

NN 3216

Dubh Lochan 1860 OSNB

From G *dubh*, dark; *lochan*, a wee loch

EDENDARROCH Slope of the oak

NN 3204

Edendarroch 1924 OS 6" 2nd edn

From G *aodann*, face, slope (in place names); *darach*, oak

FAIRY LOCH (see Lochan Uaine)

FIRKIN A mallet?

NN 3300

This name could indicate the shape of the piece land on which the farm stood. There used to be a toll bar across the road at Firkin, where a charge was made for traffic using the road.

OSNB 'The name is supposedly a corruption of *fairchean*, a mallet, which is a description of the shape of land on which the farm stands'

Fliggorm c.1583-1596 Pont

Ferquin 1747-1755 Roy

Firkin 1860 OSNB

From G *fairchean*, a mallet?

GARABAL Enclosure, walled garden??

NN 3117

This name may reflect the flat terrain and its use for cultivation, but the difference between the early forms makes the meaning hard to decipher.

Gorbuck 1747-1755 Roy

Garabal 1860 OSNB

From G *gàrradh*, a garden, an enclosure?, or maybe *garbh*, rough?; and possibly *balla*, a wall?

GARRISTUCK Garden hill

NN 3115

The names suggest that this was one of the more arable areas of the parish. According to the

sale document for Arrochar Estate in 1954, this property used to be a school.

Garrustuck 1747 Roy

Garristuck 1860 OSNB

From G *gàrradh*, an enclosure, a garden; *stùc*, a pointed hill

GEAL LOCH White loch

NN 3116

This loch is first named on Timothy Pont's map of c.1590 and the name probably derives from the fact that the loch is shallow, unlike most other lochs in the area.

OSNB 'Geal- white. Is it not more likely that it is *Gealach*, the moon, from some fancied resemblance, perhaps its white colour and should be A' *Gealach*'

Geal Loch c.1583-1596 Pont

Geal Loch 1860 OSNB

From G *geal*, white; *loch*, a lake

GLEN DOUGLAS Glen of the Douglas Water (see Douglas Water)

NS 3198

OSNB 'Glean dubh Ghlas – Dark grey glen'

Glen Douglas c.1583-1596 Pont

Glen Douglas 1747-1755 Roy

From G *gleann*, a glen; *dubh*, dark; *glais*, burn, stream

GLEN FALLOCH The glen of concealing

NN 3420

This glen likely got its name from being used by raiding clans to hide the cattle they had stolen from their neighbours. The pastime of cattle rustling was once common, and the moon was referred to as 'MacFarlane's lantern' because it was used by that clan to light their night-time activities!

OSNB 'Glean Falaich, the valley of concealing'

Glen Falloch 1860 OSNB

From G *gleann*, glen; *falaich*, concealing

GLEN LOIN Glen of the meadow?

NN 3006

The name possibly just describes the terrain in the glen, which is flat and fertile.

OSNB 'A descriptive name....'

Glenloyne 1676 Retours

Glen Lyne 1747-1755 Roy

Glen Loin 1860 OSNB



Gleann Liomhann 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *gleann*; a glen; *lòn*, a meadow

GURRYVURLIG

NN 3215

This name refers to the large burn that rises on Ben Vorlich and flows northeast into Loch Lomond, just north of Burnside Cottage. It is not marked on modern maps. The second element is a corruption of Vorlich. (see Ardvorlich)

Gurryvurlic 1747-1755 Roy

HOLLYBANK

NN 3202

The current house at Hollybank was built in 2009 to replace an earlier house that burned down. However, it is likely that this site used to be Croit a' Cladaich (see Croit a' Cladaich), given that the burn that flows into the loch just north of the house is called Allt Croit a' Chladaich – 'the Burn of Croit a' Chladaich'.

INVERBEG

Small river-mouth

NS 3497

This name is unusual because a settlement at the mouth of a river would usually be named after the river, in this case Douglas Water. Roy's map (1747) calls it Diverglass, which is closer to the name of the river (see Douglas Water). Previously known as Nether Inveruglas.

OSNB 'Inbhir beag, the small confluence'

Diverglass 1747-1755 Roy

From G *inbhir*, mouth of, confluence; *beag*, wee

INVEREOCH

Mouth of the Reoch

Like Inverbeg above, a settlement on a river would usually be named after the river. It is likely that the burn now known locally as the 'Manse burn', which flows from Ben Reoch into Loch Long, was once called Allt Riabhach (Reoch Burn). (see Ben Reoch and Manse Burn). Invereoich seems to be an older name for the settlement now known as Arrochar.

Innerywach 1395 Lenn. Cart.

Inneriach c.1583-1596 Pont

Inerioch 1724 Geog. Coll. i (where the 'Laird of McFarlan' has his house)

Inverloch 1860 OSNB

From G *inbhir*, river mouth; *riabhach*, grizzled or *reodhadh*, freezing

INVERGROIN

NS 3099

This name does not translate easily from the Gaelic, but currently refers to a farm sited where a burn joins the Douglas water.

Invergroin 1860 OSNB

From G *inbhir*, a confluence. The origin of '*groin*' is unclear.

INVERUGLAS Mouth of the Douglas Water

NN 3109

Named for its location where the Inveruglas Water, once the Upper Douglas Water, enters the loch. This settlement was once known as Upper Inveruglas, to distinguish it from Nether Inveruglas (now Inverbeg). (See Beveridge, 1923, and Watson, 1926).

Inerouglash c.1636-1652 Gordon

Inverdouglas 1747-1755 Roy

Inveruglas 1860 OSNB

From G *inbhir*, mouth of, confluence; *dubh*, dark; *glais*, burn, stream

INVERUGLAS ISLE Island associated with Inveruglas

NN 3209

The castle on this island was a stronghold of the chiefs of the Clan MacFarlane. It is thought to have been built around the end of the 13th century and was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell's army around 1650. Some low ruins remain, and the castle is a scheduled monument.

Inverdouglas Island 1747-1755 Roy

Inveruglas Isle 1860 OSNB

ISLAND I VOW

NN 3312

The island is first mentioned in the mid 14th century as Elanvow. The MacFarlane chiefs built a castle on the island in 1577, which was the chief's main residence after the castle on Inveruglas Isle was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell's troops around 1650.

Elanvow 1333-c.1364 Lenn. Cart.

Ylina Vow c.1583-1596 Pont

Yl. na vow c.1636-1652 Gordon

Island I Vow 1860 OSNB

From G *eilean*, island. The origin of the second element is unknown, but possibly from *bò*, cow, or *baobh*, hag? or malicious water spirit?



KENMORE WOOD

NN 3207

The modern plantation was probably named for the big, wooded promontory at Ceann Mòr to the north, but it might refer to the bulging shore line of Loch Lomond here. (see Ceann Mòr)

OSNB 'From *Cean Mor*, Great Headland'

Kenmore 1777 Ross

Kenmore Wood 1860 OSNB

From G *ceann*, promontory, headland; *mòr*, big, great

LAG DUBH Dark hollow

NN 2910

Lag Dubh 1860 OSNB

From G *lag*, hollow; *dubh*, dark

LAG UAINE Green hollow

NN 2609

Lag Uaine 1860 OSNB

From G *lag*, hollow; *uaine*, green

LAIRIG ARNAN

NN 2817

The name originally refers to the pass between the hills, but is now associated with the burn that forms the north-west boundary of the parish. (see Allt Arnan)

OSNB 'Probably from *Lar*, earth, *Inghe*, an Island and *Arn*, a judge, or *Larach*, the scene of a battle and *Arnuidh*, fierce. *Lairg*, a sloping hill - The word Lairig occurs in many names in the north of Perthshire. *Larg*, a path, or pass - perhaps from the real or fancied appearance of this glen to a pathway. *Aimean*, perhaps a provincial genitive plural for *Aime*, A sloe. (*Larg Aimean*, The pass abounding in sloes?)'

Larigean 1747-1755 Roy

Larig Arnan 1860 OSNB

From G *làirig*, a pass between two mountains; and possibly *feàrna*, an alder? (f is silent) or *àirne*, a sloe?

LITTLE HILLS

NN 3012

Unusually in this area, the name is given in English as early as 1860.

Little Hills 1860 OSNB

LOCH LOMOND Loch beside Ben Lomond

Opinions differ regarding the origin of this name, but it seems likely that the word Lomond is derived from the Gaelic *laom*, meaning a blaze or beacon. This might refer to Ben Lomond, which at 974m is the highest mountain in the area. People used to light chains of beacons across their lands to warn of danger. The loch is named after the mountain. Watson (1926) suggests that Lomond may come from a Pictish or British word *llumon*, meaning a beacon.

LOCH SLOY Loch of the people NN 2812

This loch was once much smaller until it was enlarged by the building of a dam as part of a hydro-electric scheme in the 1940s, flooding the remains of a settlement. ‘Loch Sloy’ was the war-cry of the Clan MacFarlane.

OSNB ‘Loch, a lake, slòigh of the people’

Loch Sloy c.1583-1596 Pont

Lochen Sloy c.1636-1652 Gordon

Loch Sluy 1747-1755 Roy

Loch Sloy 1860 OSNB

From G *loch*; a lake; *sluagh*, an army, a host, a people

LOCHAN BEINN CHABHAIR Wee loch of Beinn Chabhair NN 3517

On older maps, this loch is named Lochan Beinn Amhghair, the ‘wee loch of anguish’. Chabhair is not a Gaelic word, and is just a mistransliteration of Amhghair.

OSNB ‘*Lochan*, a little loch, an, the, *Amhghair*, affliction – The little loch of affliction’

Lochan an Amhghair 1864 OS 6” 1st edn

From G *lochan*, a little loch; *beinn*, a mountain; *amhghair*, affliction

LOCHAN BEINN DAMHAIN Wee loch of Beinn Damhain (see Beinn Damhain) NN 2917

LOCHAN NAM MUC Wee loch of the perch? or Wee loch of the pigs? NN 3415

This may describe a good fishing loch!

OSNB ‘*Lochan*, a small loch, *Muc*, a perch’

Lochan Nam Muc 1860 OSNB

From G *lochan*, a wee loch; *nam*, of the; *muc*, a pig, or *muc-locha*, a perch

LOCHAN SRATH DUBH-UISGE Wee loch of Srath Dubh-uisge NN 2815

(see Srath Dubh-uisage)

Maol Breac 1860 OSNB

From G *maol*, bare hill; *breac*, speckled

MAOL MEADHONACH Bare middle hill NN 2414

The north-west boundary of Arrochar Parish crosses the summit of this hill.

OSNB 'Maol, a promontory *Meadhonach*, in the centre'

Maol Meadhonach 1860 OSNB

From G *maol*, bare hill; *meadhonach*, in the middle

MEALL AN T-SEABHAIG Lumpy hill of the hawk NN 3213

Mealnasraig 1747 Ross

Binnein 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *meall*, lumpy hill; *an*, of the; *seabhag*, hawk

MONADH TIGHE NA LARAICH Moor or hill of Tigh na Laraich NN 2902

(see Tigh na Laraich)

OSNB 'Monadh, a moor, *Tigh*, a house, *Laraich*, a ruin. This name signifies the moor of the fallen house'

Tynalarach 1777 Ross

Monadh Tighe na Làrach 1860 OSNB

Tigh na Laraich 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *monadh*, moor, hill; *taigh*, house; *an*, of the; *làrach*, ruin

MORELAGGAN Small bay or Big hollow NN 2701

The first mention of a settlement here is in a manuscript dated 1514, where it is referred to as Murlagang. This settlement became High Morlaggan, and has been excavated and recorded. The present settlement of Morelaggan seems to have grown up beside the road (now the A814).

OSNB 'Mor, great, *lagan*, a hollow, a cavity'

Murlagang 1514 Hill Collection of McFarlane Muniments

Murlagan c.1583-1596 Pont

Morlichan 1747-1755 Roy

Morlagan 1832 Thomson

Morlaggan 1864 OS 1st edn



The origins of this name are unclear. It may derive from the old Gaelic word *murbhlagan*, meaning a small seabag or bay, or possibly from *mòr*, big and *lagan*, a hollow

PARLAN HILL MacFarlane's Hill NN 3517

The founder of the Clan MacFarlane was Gilchrist, brother of the third Earl of Lennox. Gilchrist's grandson was Bartholomew, which in Gaelic is Parlan, after whom the clan is named. Note that Mac or Mhic translates as 'son of', hence the name MacFarlane, 'Son of Bartholomew'.

OSNB 'Parlan - Bartholomew, a man's name. Beinn Pharlain, Bartholomew's Hill'

Parlan Hill 1860 OSNB

PORTACHUPLE Harbour of the white foam?? or Harbour of the horse?

Though not on modern maps, this name first appears on Roy's map of 1747, on the promontory at Inveruglas. It was a small harbour, and there was reputedly a mill here in the time of the MacFarlanes. By 1860 the buildings were described as a shepherd's house and two ruined dwellings.

OSNB '*Port*, a ferry, *Choip Gheal*, white foam'

Portachable 1747-1755 Roy

Port A'Choip Ghil 1860 OSNB

Port a' Choip Ghil 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *port*, harbour; *a'*, of the; *coip*, foam and *gil*, white; or *chapail*, genitive form of *capall*, horse

PULPIT ROCK (see Clach nan Tarbh) NN 3213

ROBERT THE BRUCE'S TREE NN 3301

Local legend suggests that this yew tree, sometimes called 'the King's tree' was where King Robert the Bruce rallied his troops following the defeat of his army at the hands of MacDougall of Lorne in 1306, during the Scottish Wars of Independence. The tree is partially rotted, but a recent survey has suggested that it can be conserved

Robert the Bruce's Tree 1860 OSNB

RUBHA BAN White headland NN 3301

Rubaa 1747-1755 Roy

Rudha ban 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *rubha*, a promontory or headland; *bàn*, white

RUBHA DUBH Dark headland NN 3301

Rudha dubh 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *rubha*, promontory or headland; *dubh*, dark

RUBHA GLAS Green headland NN 2803

Rudha Glas 1860 OSNB

Rudha Glas 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *rubha*, promontory or headland; *glas*, green

RUBHA MÒR Big headland NN 3400

Rudha Mòr 1860 OSNB

From G *rubha*, a promontory or headland; *mòr*, big

RUDHA CHAISTAIL Headland of the castle

Though not on current maps, this name appears on the OS 1st edn map of 1864, and presumably refers to Inverloch House (NN 2903) – the seat of the MacFarlanes.

Rudha Chaistail 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *rubha*, headland; *caisteal*, castle

SRATH DUBH-UISAGE Wide river valley of black water NN 2915

Probably a misspelling of Srath Dubh-uisge. Both the valley and the lochan associated with this river are named on maps, but not the river itself, which would have been Dubh-uisge.

Strath Diusk 1747-1755 Roy

From G *srath*, wide river valley; *dubh*, black, dark; *uisge*, water

STOB AN FHITHICH Hill of the raven NN 3015

Stob an Fhithich 1860 OSNB

From G *stob*, hill; *an*, of the; *fitheach*, raven

STOB GOBHLACH Forked hill NS 3398

This feature is not so much a hill, more a series of steep folded cliffs, running down west and south from a plateau, which the name describes.



Stob Gobhlach 1860 OSNB

From G *stob*, hill; *gòbhlach*, forked

STOB NAN COINNICH BHACAIN Hill of the mossy knolls NN 3014

Stob Na Choinnich-bhacain 1860 OSNB

From G *stob*, peak, hill; *coinnich*, mossy; *bac*, a knoll

STRONAFYNE Nose-like hill of the Fenian or Fingalian band NN 3005

This might be a reference to early settlers from Ireland, at the head of Loch Long. It would have been an obvious area to settle, being a flat, fertile place among the mountains, easily accessible from the sea. We cannot know, but maybe these early settlers were originally Vikings, raiding from their stronghold in Dublin.

Stronfine 1747-1755 Roy

From G *sròn*, nose-like hill; *an*, of the; *fèinn*, Fenian or Fingalian band

STUACHER A' BHUILG Rounded hill NN 3102

Cruach a Bhuilg 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *builg*, belly-shaped feature

STÙC AN T-IOBAIRT Jutting hill of the offering NN 3301

Though *stùc* refers to a hill, here, and in several other places in the parish, the name now refers to a house or farm. In 1676 terris de Stuckintibert is identified as one of the lands of the Barony of Luss, and the name refers to the rental given to support the Church of Luss. Roy's map of 1747 names Lower Stuckintibert, south of Rubha Dubh, and Upper Stuckintibert, north of the point.

terris de Stuckintibert 1676 Retours

Lower Stuckintibert 1747-1755 Roy

Upper Stuckintibert 1747-1755 Roy

Stucknatibart 1777 Ross

Stuc An t-iobairt 1860 OSNB

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *an*, of the; *iobairt*, offering

STUC NAN NUGHINN Jutting hill of the girl NN 3113

On the 1st edn OS map of 1864, the hill is named Stuc nan Nighinn, and it would appear that name has been mis-transcribed on more recent maps.

Stuc nan Nighinn 1864 OS 1st edn

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *nan*, of the; *nighinn*, girl

STUCKACLAIGH Jutting hill of the stone

This name has disappeared from modern maps but occurs in several old sources. The remains of this settlement are known locally as ‘the Black Village’, because of the belief that the inhabitants died of the plague, though there is no evidence to support this.

terris de Stuckinloch 1676 Retours

Stucknacloch 1747-1755 Roy

Stuckinclaigh 1777 Ross

Stuckaclaigh 1777 Ross

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *an*, of the; *clach*, stone

STUCKARNA Hill of alders or Hill of sloes NN 3218

Though not marked on modern maps, this settlement was just below the Ben Glas burn, in the area where the other ‘Arnan’ names occur. (see Allt Aman)

Stuckarna 1747-1755 Roy

STUCKENDROIN Jutting hill of the bramble NN 3214

Stuckin—ning 1747-1755 Roy

Stuckindroin 1864 OS 6th 1st edn

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *an*, of the; *droigheann*, bramble

STUCKGOWAN Jutting hill of a smith NN 3202

Stuckgoun c.1820 Feuing Plan Rental Roll Colquhoun Estates

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *gobha*, smith

STUCKIEDHU Black jutting hill NN 3104

The RMS in 1603 refers to ‘11 merklands of Meikle Auchenvannel, Auchengaich and Stuckiedhu, part of the lands of the earldom of Lennox’, though this may refer to a different Stuckiedhu.

Stuckindow 1603 RMS



Stuckdow 1747-1755 Roy (further east than Stuckiedhu is today)

Stuckdhu 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *dubh*, black, dark

STUCKIVOULICH Rounded hill

NN 3203

This name now refers to a house, but is likely associated with Stuacher a' Bhuilg, near the summit of Ben Reoch, and with Coire Bhuilg, between Ben Reoch and Loch Lomond, on the Stuckgowan Burn. The second part of the name comes from the Gaelic *bolg*, meaning a bag - or belly-shaped feature, which usually refers to a rounded hill but in this case may be named for a rounded hollow on the south-east side of the summit of Ben Reoch, just south of Stuacher a' Bhuilg.

Slukvulig 1777 Ross (possibly Slakvulig)

Stuckivoulich 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *stùc*, jutting hill; *builg*, genitive singular form of *bolg*, belly-shaped feature

TARBET Isthmus

NN 3104

There are several Tarbet or Tarberts in Scotland, all isthmuses between sea lochs or between a sea loch (in this case Loch Long) and a freshwater loch (Loch Lomond). In this case, we know from 'The Saga of Haakon Haakonarson' written in the 1260s, that Viking invaders dragged their boats across the isthmus: 'The King accordingly sent sixty ships in to Loch-Long. They were commanded by Magnus King of Man, King Dugal, and Allan his brother, Angus, Margad, Vigeik Priestson and Ivar Holm. When they came into the inlet they took their boats, and drew them up to a great lake which is called Loch-Lomond. On the far side round the lake was an Earldom called Lennox. In the lake there were a great many islands well inhabited. These islands the Norwegians wasted with fire. They also burned all the buildings about the lake, and made great devastation.'

Terbart c.1583-1596 Pont

Tarbat 1747-1755 Roy

Tarbet 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *tairbeart*, place where boats could be carried between two bodies of water

TIGH NA LÀRAICH House of the ruin

NN 2902

This may refer to a house at the site off a ruin, rather than meaning that the house itself was ruined.

Tynalarach 1777 Ross

Tigh na Làraich 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *taigh*, house; *na*, of the; *làrach*, ruin

TIGHNESS House of the waterfall

NN 2903

Tayness 1860 OSNB

Tayness 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *taigh*, house; *an*, of the; *eas*, waterfall

TIGHVECHTICAN House of the guard or sentinel

NN 3004

Though not marked on modern maps, one of the houses from the settlement still survives in the grounds of the Army Cadet centre, where it is used as a store.

Tigh an Fhreachadain 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *taigh*, house; *an*, of the; *freacadan*, guard, sentinel

TOM DUBH Black hill

NN 3313

Tom Dubh 1860 OSNB

Tomdhu 1864 OS 6" 1st edn

From G *tom*, hill; *dubh*, black or dark

TOM NA H-INNSE Knoll of the island

NN 3211

Tom na h Innse 1860 OSNB

From G *tom*, hill; *innse*, sheltered

TULLICH FARM Farm on the hill

NS 3099

Tulloch 1747-1755 Roy

Tullich 1860 OSNB

From G *tulach*, hillock, mound

WALLACE'S ISLE

NN 3209

Sadly, probably not named after the famous Scottish patriot, but rather for a William Wallace of Inveruglas, who died in 1814.

Wallace's Isle 1860 OSNB

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Place names provide valuable insights into the history and geography of a region. They reflect the languages of the people who settled there and the landscape they lived in. They can shed light on the plants and animals that inhabit the landscape, and about how people have used it over the centuries. Like the landscape and its people, place names change over time— sometimes we may never be sure where a name came from or what the person who coined it had in mind, but in other cases, understanding what a name means allows us to see a place in a whole new light.



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