



Place name studies: suggested reference sources

This list has been compiled by Scottish place name expert, Simon Taylor, for our first SRP annual conference in October 2008. It contains details of the most useful printed and online sources which are available for place name research in Scotland, including links to the Scottish Place Name Society's website.

Principal sources

W.F.H. Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names* (London: Batsford, 1976); note also slightly revised edition, Edinburgh: John Donald 2001.

William J. Watson, *The History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland* (1926); reprinted by Birlinn (Edinburgh 1993); reprinted again by Birlinn (Edinburgh 2004), with new introduction, corrigenda, some addenda and a full W. J. Watson bibliography, by Simon Taylor.

For a full Scottish place-name bibliography, including regional studies see: www.spns.org.uk/classtext.htm

For modern Scottish Gaelic see: www.yourdictionary.com/languages/celtic.html under 'Scottish Dictionaries.

The best Scottish Gaelic Dictionary is still E. Dwelly *The Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary* (1901–11) (various editions and reprints), though it needs to be handled with some care. As far as I am aware it is not on-line.

For Old Gaelic (Old and Middle Irish and early Scottish Gaelic) see www.dil.ie. This Dictionary of the Irish Language (eDIL) is a digital edition of the entire Royal Irish Academy's *Dictionary of the Irish Language based mainly on Old and Middle Irish materials*.

Other sources

AHRC Names Project, Dept. of Celtic, University of Glasgow: details on: www.gla.ac.uk/departments/celtic/projects, then select The Expansion and Contraction of Gaelic in Medieval Scotland: the onomastic evidence.

Also on this website are full details of:

Place-Names of Fife Vol. 1 (West Fife between Leven and Forth), S. Taylor with G. Márkus, (Donington 2006) [volume 1 of a 5 volume series] and

Place-Names of Fife Vol. 2 (Central Fife between Leven and Eden).

Journal of Scottish Name Studies www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS.html

National Library of Scotland maps site, including Roy's military survey, various early plans and some estate plans www.nls.uk/maps

Place-Names in the Historical Landscape: Changing Land Use in The Howe of Fife, S. Taylor, in *Landscape and Environment (in Dark Age Scotland)*, ed. Alex Woolf (St Andrews 2006), 75–90 (see footnote 1).

Scottish Place-Name Society www.spns.org.uk

¹ Shorter versions of this are: 'Place-names and the Hidden Landscape', *Scottish Local History* 56 (winter 2002), 12–14; and 'Place-names and the Changing Landscape: The Howe of Fife, a Case Study', vol. 2 no. 3 (May/June *HS* 2002), 49–51.

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Paul Bibire *Peder Gammeltoft and Bent Jørgensen, edds.*, Names through the Looking-Glass: Festschrift in Honour of Gillian Fellows-Jensen, July 5th 2006

Angus Watson *Simon Taylor with Gilbert Márkus*, The Place-Names of Fife, Volume One (West Fife between Leven and Forth)

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