Guide to Scots origins of place names in Britain

Introduction

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Background

Scots is the name for the language of lowland Scotland. It is a Germanic language, closely related to English. It developed from the northern Old English (or Old Northumbrian) that was introduced into south-east Scotland (south of the Forth) from the 7th century AD onwards, as the kingdom of Northumbria expanded northwards. It was reinforced later by northern English that had been exposed to strong Norse influence after the Norse (Danes and Norwegians) occupied what is now Yorkshire and Cumbria. It started to be more widely spoken in eastern Scotland, north of the Forth, in the 12th century; by the early 15th century it was well established as the language of the Scottish court and parliament; and by the end of the middle ages (that is by about 1500) it had superseded Gaelic in almost all the southern and eastern lowlands. It was introduced into the Northern Isles (Orkney and Shetland) in the later middle ages, and by the 18th century it had superseded the local Norse language (Norn), which, however, has left its strong mark on the Scots spoken in those islands.

When it was first introduced into Scotland north of the Forth the language now known as Scots was described as 'Inglis', and it did not start being described as 'Scottis' until the late middle ages. In southern Scotland (south of a line running between the Firths of Clyde and Forth) it is sometimes difficult to distinguish place names that were coined in the post-1100 period from those that date from the earlier Northumbrian occupation, which are referred to as Old Northumbrian, Old English, or Anglian.

While the bulk of the more important place names in the Scottish Lowlands, such as those of settlements and parishes, are either of Celtic origin (Gaelic, Pictish, British), or, in the south-east, of Old Northumbrian origin, Scots place names predominate on detailed maps of almost any part of this Lowland area. This is because most of the surviving names of the smaller hills, burns, bogs and other minor features, as well as later settlements, were coined within the Scots-speaking period. This applies especially to divisions of older estates or landholdings that have adjectives known as 'affixes' attached to them to describe the various divisions. Typical affixes are west(er), east(er), nether, laigh, heich or high, over, meikle, and so on. All of these are Scots, but mostly attached to place names that are much earlier. Such affixes usually describe the position or size of different divisions of a settlement-area relative to each other. However, they can also describe the nature of the land typical of the particular division. For example, the extensive lands of Cairnie (a Celtic name) north of Cupar in Fife were divided early in the Scots-speaking period and have come down to us with Scots affixes such as Hillcairnie NO3618, Lordscairnie NO3517, Myrecairnie NO3617, and Newcairnie NO3519. More typically, and probably of slightly later date, the various features of the divisions of an old holding are expressed by such Scots compound nouns as 'Hilton (hilltoun) of', 'Bogton (bogtoun) of', 'Newton (newtoun) of', as in Hilton of Culsh NJ8748, Aberdeenshire. Hilton of Culsh distinguishes it from other divisions of the lands of Culsh such as South Culsh NJ8847 (Scots south), Mains of Culsh NJ8848 (Scots mains of) and Milton of Culsh NJ8848 (Scots milntoun of).

The high number of Scots place name elements in names on modern maps of the Scottish Lowlands is obscured by two factors. Firstly, because of their close relationship, there are many elements that Scots shares with English, more precisely Scottish Standard English, the standard form of the English language spoken in Scotland. Because of the cultural and political dominance of English over the last few centuries it is often assumed that a place name element that is the same as English is English, when it is in fact Scots. Elements such as hill, side, and field, are as Scots as burn, brig, and brae, and belong to the very earliest layer of Scots place names. In areas of Northumbrian occupation (especially East Lothian and the eastern Borders) names with such elements as hill, side, field could even be as early as the 7th or 8th century.

The other factor that has obscured the high number of Scots place name elements on modern maps is the strong English influence on the written language over recent centuries. This was reinforced by the fact that when the Ordnance Survey first surveyed Scotland in the 19th century the language mould into which it was cast was Standard English rather than Scots. The result of all this has given a spurious, and often misleading, English veneer to Scottish place names. For example, places ending in Scots haugh have often been depicted as hall, or similarly the Scots word fa(w) rendered as fal. It has led to uncertainty as to whether a place name coined in the last 200 or so years should be defined as Scots or Scottish English.

Structure of place names

Place names can consist of a single generic element, usually a noun, either in the singular or the plural (Knowe NJ2835, Kaims NT2768). These are sometimes preceded by the definite article 'the' (The Bught NX8782). Most place names, however, are made up of more than one element, with a linguistic relationship between the elements. The closest relationship between two elements is known as a compound noun, two words put together to form a new word, which is then used as a place name. Examples of this are hatto(u)n 'farm or settlement at or with a hall or main residence', made up of Scots hall or ha 'hall', 'main residence' and Scots toun 'farm', 'settlement'; hil(l)toun 'farm or settlement on a hill or upland', made up of Scots hill and Scots toun; and milntoun 'mill farm or mill settlement', 'milton', made up of Scots miln 'mill' and Scots toun. In effect these can be treated as single generic elements.

The generic can also be qualified by:

- an adjective, such as black in Blackford NN8909;

- another common noun put before the generic, such as bow 'cattle' in Bowmuir NS9942;

- a proper noun put before the generic, either a personal name, such as Thomas in Thomaston NS2409 or Mary in Maryhill NS5569 **or** an existing place name, such as Earnock in Earnock Burn NS6954; and

- a place name put after the generic (with or without the definite article), followed by of (often reduced to o), such as of Bute in Kyles of Bute NR9966 or o Muckhart in Yetts o Muckhart NO0001.

The element qualifying a generic element is called a qualifying or specific element. An element can be generic or specific, depending on how it is used in a name. For example, in Blackford NN8909 black is the specific, ford is the generic element; whereas in Fordmouth NS9850 ford it is the specific, mouth the generic element.

Scots and Gaelic

Scots and Gaelic have coexisted for many centuries, with Scots superseding Gaelic in the Lowlands in a long and gradual process. This means that many Gaelic words have been borrowed into Scots, a borrowing that is especially strong when it comes to topography or descriptions of landscape. Examples of such Scots words borrowed from Gaelic that are still in use, or at least recognisable even to non-Scots today, are ben, corrie, glen, loch, and strath.

Spelling and pronunciation

There is no generally accepted correct way to spell Scots, and it tends to vary by region, reflecting local pronunciation. For example, the vowel that in central Scotland is pronounced as a long open o (as Standard Scottish English awe) is pronounced in north-east Scotland as a long open a (as in Standard Scottish English shah, bra). The spellings haw and haa reflect this, and ha is commonly used to cover both. In earlier writing an apostrophe will be found in such words, for example, ha', to indicate the loss of ll, but this is no longer acceptable. In general the glossary has taken as its headword the main form found in the Concise Scots Dictionary, giving alternative forms as well as cross references. This dictionary is derived from two major works, the 12-volume Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue (Scots before 1700) and the 10-volume Scottish National Dictionary (Scots after 1700). These two very important dictionaries are now available in an easily accessible form on the Dictionary of the Scots Language web site (http://www.dsl.ac.uk).

Vowels

One of the chief features of Scots vowels (as well as the vowels of Standard Scottish English) is that certain vowels are pronounced as a single sound (known as a monophthong), not two sounds put together (known as a diphthong), which is the case in South British Standard English (including English Received Pronunciation). If there is nobody around, say out loud, slowly, how the Queen would say 'boat': you will hear (at least!) two different vowels in there. In Scots the same word is pronounced with one single vowel, which can be described as a closed o, very much the sound of the German oo in Boot ('boat'). In fact, the vowels of Scots are much closer to those of standard German than they are to those of South British Standard English.

Bearing all this in mind, it should be straightforward for anyone familiar with Standard English spelling to be able to pronounce all the vowels in the Scots elements in this index. However, the following should be noted:

- ow and ou: ow is pronounced as in Scottish Standard English ow in 'how'; ou is pronounced as in Scottish Standard English oo in 'look', though sometimes it is pronounced ow, with doup generally pronounced 'dowp', and loup pronounced as 'lowp'.

Consonants

With a few exceptions, the pronunciation of Scots consonants presents no difficulty to the speaker of most forms of British English. The exceptions are:

- ch and gh are both used indiscriminately to represent the guttural sound, well known in the Scottish English pronunciation of 'loch'. Thus the final consonant of Scots laigh 'low' is pronounced the same as the final consonant in Scots loch, but is written both as laigh and laich.

- r is always pronounced, unlike in most forms of English English, where it is no longer heard as r after vowels.

- wh is pronounced something like hw; Scots (as well as Scottish Standard English) is careful to distinguish between wh and w, which in many forms of English have fallen together as w.

Further information

More information on Scots, Scots dictionaries, and links to other relevant sites, can be found on the Scottish Language Dictionaries web site http://www.sldl.org.uk

As noted above, the Dictionary of the Scots Language web site, http://www.dsl.ac.uk, brings together the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue and the 10-volume Scottish National Dictionary.

Details of books on Scottish place names can be found on the web site of the Scottish Place-Name Society/Comann Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba http://www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns

Glossary

Place names are made up of components which are referred to as elements. These elements are simply the words people used to describe a place or their response to their environment. A more complete background to Scots in place names, pronunciation and spelling can be found preceding *Introduction*.

This is a glossary of the elements from Scots most frequently found in the place names of Britain. It does not claim to be a comprehensive list of Scots elements found in Scottish place names, but it can claim to be the most comprehensive to date. Some elements which are the same as English have not been included. The meaning given is that which occurs in place names. Examples (with grid references) are given for each element.

Abbreviations

adj = adjective

n = noun

Element	Meaning	Examples
aller *n*	*alder*	**Aller Dean** NT9847, **Allershaw Burn** NS9611
auld *adj*	*old*	**Auld Byres** NS4219, **Auld Mill** NO4862
balk *n*	*alternative form of* **baulk**	**Howbalk** NU0513
baud *n*	*thicket, thickly growing gorse*	**Bauds of Cullen** NJ4766, **Birkenbaud** NO7296
baulk *n*	*unploughed rig in a cultivated field often used as a boundary*	**Baulk Hill** NO0709, **Baulk of Struie** NO0709
bell *n*	*top of a hill, highest part of a slope; bell-shaped*	**Bell Craig** NS5583, **Bell Hill** NY5397
belt *n*	*narrow plantation*	**Belt Hill** NX6679, **Belt of Muirtack** NJ9938
bent *n*	*open ground or sandy hillocks covered with coarse, rush-like grass*	**Bent** NO6972, **Bent Bridge** NS4359
bicker *n*	*fight, quarrel*	**Bicker Bridge** NJ5959, **Bicker Burn** NJ6058
bield *n*	*place giving refuge or shelter*	**Bieldside** NJ8802, **Craigy Bield** NT1756
biggin *n*	*building*	**Langbigging** HY7644, **Midbigging** HY5103
bink *n*	*ledge in a cliff, shelf*	**Binks Hill** NT4103, **Black Binks** NO2565

Element	Meaning	Examples
birk *n*	*birch-tree*	**Braes of Birkenhills** NJ7445, **The Birks** NJ7261
bog *n*	*morass, bog*	**Bruntshielbog** NY4082, **Dean Mill Bog** NT7571
bonnet *n*	*soft flat hat*	**The Bonnets** NN8751, **Blue Bonnet Hill** NH5038
bonnie *adj*	*see **bonny***	**Bonnie Doune** NK0364, **Bonnie View** NT9550
bonny *adj*	*beautiful, pretty, handsome, attractive*	**Bonny Braes** NX0669, **Bonnyside** NJ7915
boo *n*	*manor house, village (used in Northern Isles and parts of Caithness)*	**Boo Breck** HY2716
bought *n*	*sheepfold; curve, bend*	**High Boughthill** NY7886, **The Bought** HY5608
bow *n*	*cattle*	**Bowfield** NS3958, **Bowhouse** NO2610
Bracken *n*	*fern*	**Bracken Gill** NY2994, **Brackenhill** NN9114
brae *n*	*slope of a hill; uplands (in plural form)*	**Brackeny Brae** ND2349, **Braes of Coul** NO2857
braid *adj*	*broad*	**Braid Bog** NJ4218, **Braidhaugh** NT5910, **Braid Cairn** NO4287
brewster *n*	*brewer*	**Brewster's Burn** NS8208, **Brewsterwells** NO4809
brig *n*	*bridge*	**Brig o'Turk** NN5306, **Blackburn Brig** NJ8744
broch *n*	*circular prehistoric tower*	**Broch of Borwick** HY2216, **Oxtro Broch** HY2526
brock *n*	*badger*	**Brock Burn** NS5259, **Brockholes** NJ6307
broo *n*	*brow of a hill, overhanging bank of a hill*	**Broo Gill** HU2678
brow *n*	*see **broo***	**Throw Brow** NT1012, **Wedder Brows** NT2209
brunt *adj*	*burnt*	**Brunt Rig** NS7208, **Bruntland** HU5142
bu *n*	*bull*	**Bu Hill** HY2204
bucht *n*	*see **bought***	**Buchtrig** NT7714, **Bucht Slack** NT0427, **Bucht Burn** NS5543, **Bucht Sike** NT7819

Element	Meaning	Examples
bught *n*	*see* **bought**	*Sheep Bught Rock* NX7243, *New Bught Hill* NX1471, *Todsbughts* NS8372
burgh *n*	*Scots and Scottish English spelling of borough, town (originally with a charter)*	*Jedburgh* NT6520, *Edinburgh* NT2876
burn *n*	*stream*	*Nether Burn* NS9308, *Newbigging Burn* NJ6108
burrow *n*	*form of* **burgh**	*Burrowgate* HY6123, *Burrowley* NJ9834
butt *n*	*ground disjoined from adjacent lands, strip of ploughed land, irregularly shaped ridge*	*Butt Hill* NS7714, *Longmeadow Butts* NT5435
cairn *n*	*pyramid or pile of loose stones*	*Macbeth's Cairn* NJ5705, *White Cairn* NJ5931
cald *adj*	*see* **cauld**	*Cald Burn* NO2977, *Cald Well* NY5382
carlin *n*	*old woman, old man*	*Carlin Burn* NS5242, *High Carlingcraig* NS5639
carse *n*	*low land along river bank, flood plain*	*Carse Loch* NX9184, *Carse of Bayfield* NH8073
caul *n*	*weir, dam*	*Old Caul Burn* NY2371
cauld *n*	*see* **caul**	*Nisbetmill Cauld* NT6524
cauld *adj*	*cold*	*Cauldwells* NJ8056, *Cauld Cleuch* NT4601
causey *n*	*causeway*	*Causeyhead* NS4346, *Causeyport* NO9198
chingle *n*	*gravel, shingle*	*Chinglebraes* HY4208
clash *n*	*large hollow or cavity on hillside*	*Clash Burn* NO7892, *Clash of Wirren* NO4975
claver *n*	*clover*	*Claver Hill* NY7479, *Claver Sike* NY7379
cleuch *n*	*see* **cleugh**	*Corbie Cleuch* NS8503, *Chapel Cleuch* NS8112
cleugh *n*	*gorge, ravine, cliff, crag*	*Cleugh of Tongue* NX5253, *Baron's Cleugh* NT1460
clift *n*	*cliff, cleft, cave*	*Clifton* HY5042

Element	Meaning	Examples
clint *n*	*cliff, crag, precipice*	**Clint Burn** NY7279, **Clintlaw** NO2853
close *n*	*enclosed land, farmyard, narrow alley*	**Green Close** NY2354, **Howclose** NX8775
cloy *n*	*see* **cleugh**	**Cloy Rig** NX3281, **Cloybank** NS7779
coble *n*	*ferry boat*	**Coble Haugh** NO0517, **Coble House Point** NO4619
comb *n*	*bosom of a hill, hollow in a mountain side*	**East Comb** NO7047, **Lishaw Combs** NY5984
corbie *n*	*raven, crow*	**Corbie Craigs** NS4509
corby *n*	*see* **corbie**	**Corby Linn** NY5587
corrie *n*	*hollow on the side of a mountain or between two mountains*	**Corrie of Bellaty** NO2460
corse *n*	*cross, market place, crossing place*	**Corse Burn** NJ5507, **Corse Sike** NY3475, **Corston** HU3612
cot *n*	*small house, cottage*	**Sheepcot Hill** NY0584, **Washingcot Rocks** NJ0852
cote, cott *n*	*see* **cot**	**East Cote Farm** NY1255, **Woodside Cott** NH8307
cotton *n*	*small collection of farm-cottages*	**Cotton of Carnegie** NO5241, **Carriston Cotton** NO3204
cottown *n*	*see* **cotton**	**North Cottown** NJ7715, **Upper Cottown** NJ7615
cove *n*	*cave, cavern*	**Cove Harbour** NT7871
cowper *n*	*horse dealer*	**Cowper's Craig** NJ8266
craig *n*	*rocky place*	**Swallow Craig** NS7310, **White Craig** NO2175
cran *n*	*crane, heron*	**Cran Moss** NX1033, **Cranbog** NJ8760
craw *n*	*crow, pen, pig-sty*	**Craw Stane** NJ4926, **Craw Wood** NY1379
croft *n*	*land of superior quality, kept constantly manured and under crop, smallholding*	**Westburn Croft** NJ9420, **White Croft** NM9336
croo *n*	*small yard, sheep pen*	**Billia Croo** HY2210, **Croo Field** HU2051

Element	Meaning	Examples
crook *n*	*from cruik: bend in a river, curved or crooked piece of ground*	***Avoncrook*** NS9472, ***Crook of Devon*** NO0300
crooked *n*	*bent, winding*	***Crooked Bank*** NS9010, ***Crookedshaws*** NT8025
cutty *adj*	*short*	***Cutty Cleuch*** NY2279
dass *n*	*ledge on a hillside or cliff*	***Green Dass*** NX9198, ***The Dass*** NT4750
daugh *n*	*see* **davoch**	***Daugh of Aberlour*** NJ2842
davoch *n*	*measure of land*	***Easter Davoch*** NJ4607, ***Davoch of Grange*** NJ4851
dean, den *n*	*deep wooded valley (dean - south of the Forth, den – north of the Forth)*	***Dunglass Dean*** NT7671, ***Easter Denhead*** NO2441
dess *n*	*see* **dass**	***Desswood*** NO5799
dod *n*	*bare hill with rounded top*	***Deuchrie Dod*** NT6272, ***Friardykes Dod*** NT6569
dodd *n*	*see* **dod**	***Dodd Sike*** NY7079, ***Great Dodd*** NY7992
doocot *n*	*dovecot*	***Doocot Den*** NJ7863, ***Doocot Point*** HY4716
doup *n*	*bottom, end of anything, buttocks, backside*	***Little Doups*** NJ8361, ***The Doups*** NT6536
drum *n*	*long narrow ridge or knoll*	***Disdow Drum*** NX6156, ***South Drum*** NO5359
dub *n*	*small pool of water, puddle*	***Waterless Dub*** NT2394, ***Davy's Dub*** NS1855
dyke *n*	*stone or turf wall*	***Deer Dyke*** NO6676, ***Dykefoot*** NO4781
easter *adj*	*eastern(-most), lying to the east*	***Easter Anguston*** NJ8201, ***Easter Balmoral*** NO2694
elbuck *n*	*elbow*	***Deil's Elbuck*** NX9393
eller *n*	*elder*	***Eller Bog*** NX9385, ***Ellerslee*** NX9785
fal *adj*	*see* **faw**	***Falkirk*** NS8781, ***Falfield*** NO4408
fank *n*	*enclosure*	***Fank Wood*** NS0878, ***Fank Burn*** NN7024

Element	Meaning	Examples
faugh *n*	fallow ground	*Longfaugh* NJ8322, *Faugh* NS9312
fauld *n*	part of the outfield of a farm manured by penning cattle on it, fold	*Shuttlefauld* NO1109, *Stane Fauld* NX2768
faw *adj*	variegated, of different colours	*Faw Hill* NT6213, *Faw Side* NY3596
fell *n*	rocky hill, hill-moor, high-lying ground	*Fell Hill* NX2990, *Garheugh Fell* NX2751
fey *n*	small field, croft	*Kirk Fey* NX1238, *Fey Wood* NX8977
firth *n*	estuary, inlet of the sea	*Firth of Tay* NO3727, *Firth of Lorn* NM7628
flag *n*	flagstone	*Horse Flags* HY4849, *Fowl Flag* HY5055
flosh *n*	see **flush**	*Flosh Burn* NT5303, *Floshknowe* NY0076, *Floshend* NY3168
flow *n*	morass, peat bog	*Fala Flow* NT4358, *Anderside Flow* NS6233
flush *n*	boggy ground where water lies on the surface	*Flush Hill* NX0067, *Tranew Flushes* NS3407
foggy *adj*	mossy, spongy	*Foggy Moss* NJ4654, *Foggyleas* NO2414
forest *n*	large area of land not necessarily wooded, originally used for deer hunting	*Forest Lodge* NJ0216, *Garadhban Forest* NS4086
forking *n*	division of a river into one or more streams	*The Forkings* NJ6421, *Forkings of Raith* NS2962
fowl *n*	bird of any kind	*Fowl Craig* HY5054, *Fowl Taing* HU5179
frith *n*	wood, clearing in a wood	*Frithfield* NO5507, *Frithbie* NY2065
gair *n*	strip of green on a hill, patch of marshy ground in heather	*Gair Burn* NY6279, *Gair Shank* NT2809
gairy *n*	steep hill, precipice	*Gairy Lochs* ND4685, *Kittlegairy Burn* NT2741
garth *n*	shallow shingly part of a river	*Garthbanks* HU3612, *Garthdee* NJ9103
gate *n*	road	*Gateside* HU2978, *Canongate* NT2673
girth *n*	sanctuary	*Girthgate* NT5043

Element	Meaning	Examples
glack *n*	*narrow valley*	**West Glacks** NJ6039, **The Glack** NH7856
gled *n*	*buzzard, kite*	**Upper Gledfield** NH5790, **Gled Brae** NX7893
glen *n*	*valley*	**Friar's Glen** NO6879, **Sma' Glen** NN9029
gore *n*	*strip of land at the side of a field*	**Gore Bridge** NT6942, **Gore Moss** NX9973
gote *n*	*drain, ditch, narrow inlet of the sea*	**Tod's Gote** ND3544, **Whitemoss Gote** NS2958
gouk *n*	*see* **gowk**	**Gouknest** NS4047, **Gouk Hill** NS3482
gowk *n*	*cuckoo*	**Gowkhall** NT0589, **West Gowkhill** NJ9046
grain *n*	*branch of a river, arm of a valley*	**Willow Grain** NS8412, **Wolf Grain** NO4388
green *n*	*village green, grassy ground surrounding a house*	**Woodgreen** NS3044, **Allerdean Greens** NT9845
grip *n*	*from gruip: drain*	**Millgrip** HY6123, **Rough Grip** NJ3605
gullet *n*	*gully, ravine*	**Gullet Spout** NX9195, **The Gullet** NY4887
gutter *n*	*mud, mire, puddles*	**Thorter Gutter** NT0217, **Black Gutter** NX4185
hack *n*	*wild, rocky stretch of moorland or moss*	**Hack Field** HU1756, **Hackland** HY3920
hag, hagg *n*	*hollow of marshy ground in a moor, hillock of firmer ground in a bog*	**Hag Brae** NO5050, **Hagg Dean** NU1627
hally *adj*	*holy*	**Hallywell Rig** NT6953
hame *n*	*home, settlement*	**Cauldhame** HU3938, **Tyninghame** NT6079
hard *n*	*piece of firm ground as opposed to a bog*	**Wester Hardmuir** NH9456, **Burn of Hardwall** HU3769
hass *n*	*see* **hause**	**Katie's Hass** NT2941
hatton *n*	*farm or settlement with a hall or main residence (a combination of Scots haa (hall) + toun)*	**Easter Hatton** NO1947, **Merryhatton** NT5479
haud *n*	*overhanging bank of a stream, retreat*	**Haudgate Hole** NT8655, **Haud Yauds** NT8368

Element	Meaning	Examples
haugh *n*	*river-meadow, level piece of ground beside a stream*	***Haugh of Glass*** NJ4239, ***Haughhead*** HY4010
hause *n*	*gap, opening, neck of land, head of a pass*	***Hause Burn*** NX8762
head *n*	*see* **heid**	***Herston Head*** ND4191, ***Heugh Head*** NO5098
heck *n*	*rack or grating for fodder, for drying fish, or across a stream*	***Hunterheck*** NT1004, ***Old Haiks*** NO6111
heid *n*	*head, highest part of a valley, summit of a hill*	***The Deil's Heid*** NO6741
hemmel *n*	*from hammel: covered shed for cattle*	***Blue Hemmel*** NY7475, ***Hemmel Knowe*** NT7759
heuch *n*	*precipice, crag, cliff, steep bank*	***Heuch of Coul*** NN9712, ***Little Heuch Law*** NT7816
hip *n*	*projecting piece of land*	***Lamahip*** NO5592, ***Hanginghip Plantation*** NY2473
hirst *n*	*hillock, knoll, barren, unproductive piece of ground*	***Netherhirst*** NY4473, ***Sandy Hirst*** NT6379
hog, hogg *n*	*young sheep*	***Hog Burn*** NT3918, ***Hog Lairs*** NT9113
hole *n*	*cover, shelter, hole*	***Brockholes*** NJ6307, ***Low Todhole*** NY6298
holl *n*	*see* **howe**	***East Holl*** NJ1456, ***Holl Burn*** NO2103
hollin *n*	*holly*	***Hollin Burn*** NT7803, ***Hollinsheugh Hill*** NU1519
holm *n*	*from howm: stretch of low-lying land beside a river*	***Lyneholm Cleuch*** NY2791
hope *n*	*small enclosed upland valley, hollow among the hills; bay*	***Hopehead Burn*** NT1438, ***St Margaret's Hope*** ND4494
howe *n*	*hollow depression, low-lying piece of ground*	***Hopeless Howe*** NX3366, ***Howe Moss*** NJ7641
howie *adj*	*full of hollows*	***Howierig*** NS8478, ***Howie Sound*** HY4631
jingle *n*	*see* **chingle**	***Deil's Jingle*** NY2795, ***Near Jingle Sike*** NY4986
kail *n*	*cole, a variety of cabbage*	***Kail Yard*** ND4996, ***Kail Cairn*** NT3825
kaim *n*	*see* **kame**	***Maiden Kaim*** NO8883, ***North Kaim*** NS3461
kame *n*	*comb, long narrow steep-sided ridge, crest of a hill*	***Burn of the Kame*** HU4785, ***Easter Kame*** HU3788

Element	Meaning	Examples
kip, kipp *n*	*projecting point of a hill, peak*	**Hyndhope Kip** NT3519, **Kipps Farm** NS7366
kippie *adj*	*hilly, having kips*	**Kippie Island** NT8844, **Kippie Knowe** NT7716
kirk *n*	*church*	**Kirkhill** NK0152, **Kirkmichael** NO0860
kirn *n*	*churn, natural feature resembling a churn*	**Wester Kirn** NJ2000, **Auld Wife's Kirn** NT0500
knab *n*	*see* **knap**	**The Knab** HU4840
knap *n*	*hillock, knoll, rounded knob, lump, bump*	**Marnock Knap** NO8277, **Square's Knap** NO8183
knock *n*	*hillock*	**Big Knock** NT1017, **East Knock** NO4876
knowe *n*	*hillock, knoll, protuberance*	**Lamb Knowe** NS7917, **Lang Knowe** NS9830
kyle, kyles *n*	*sound, strait*	**Kyle of Durness** NC3765, **Kyles of Bute** NS0472
lade *n*	*watercourse leading to a mill*	**Mill Lade** ND3648, **Distillery Lade** NR3358
laigh *n*	*from laich: stretch of low-lying ground*	**Laigh Drumdow** NS2105, **Laigh Riggend** NS7669
laigh *adj*	*low*	**Laigh Hill** NT1228, **Laigh Wood** NX1585
lair *n*	*mud, mire, bog, quicksand; place where animals lie down, enclosure*	**Hog Lairs** NT9113, **Nouts' Lair** NO7586
land *n*	*land, the fields, countryside*	**Meikle Kirkland** NX8269, **Woodlands** NH8351
lane *n*	*marshy meadow; sometimes English 'lane'*	**Rushy Lane** NT0011, **Shiels Lane** NX1970
lang *n*	*long, tall*	**East Langton** NS4051, **High Langmuir** NS3941
latch *n*	*mire, swamp*	**Little Latch** NO4538, **Latchfold** NJ8146
law *n*	*round, conical often isolated hill,*	**Lucklaw** NO4120, **Macbeth's Law** NO2034
lea *n*	*grass-land*	**Oaklea** HY4506, **Rashboglea** NJ8645
lee *n*	*see* **lea**	**Netherlee** NS5758, **Merrylee** NS5659
ley *n*	*see* **lea**	**Langley** NJ5156, **North Whiteley** NJ4347

Element	Meaning	Examples
links *n*	*grass-covered dunes*	**Cullen Links** NJ4967, **Fisherrow Links** NT3473
linn *n*	*waterfall, cataract, deep, narrow gorge, shrubby ravine*	**Flatt Linn** NS6451, **Furmiston Linn** NX5992
lint *n*	*flax*	**Lint Brae** HY4006, **Lintdub Moss** NY2381
loan *n*	*right of way for stock to common grazing, lane, small common ground*	**Braid Loans** NY6477, **Byres Loan** NT3865
loaning *n*	*lane, bypath, right of passage for animals by means of a loan*	**Brownrigg Loaning** NX9976, **Cadgers' Loaning** NY1288
lodge *n*	*hunting lodge, house, fishing-hut*	**Drumbuie Lodge** NO0344, **Dryfe Lodge** NY1893
lone *n*	*see **loan***	**Lone** NJ0748, **Moat Lone** NT2602
loop *n*	*winding of a river, lake or glen*	**Thumb Loop** NX3386, **Upper Loop** NJ7544
loup *n*	*the jump, the leap, narrow part of a river, small cataract*	**Wild Mare's Loup** NO7186, **Black Loup** NX3778
lug *n*	*corner, recess, ear*	**The Lug** HP6317, **Banklug** NS4456, **Blacklug** NJ4137
mains *n*	*home farm on an estate*	**Buittle Mains** NX8160, **Carberry Mains** NT3570
meikle *adj*	*see **muckle***	**Meikle Auchrae** NX6494, **Meikle Cat Cairn** NJ3515
mere *n*	*small pool*	**Mere Cleuch** NT1008, **Leishmere** NH4040
mickle *adj*	*see **muckle***	**Mickle Corum** NN8502
midden *n*	*refuse heap*	**Windydoors Midden** NT4142, **Blackmiddens** NJ4226
mire *n*	*peat-bog*	**Blackmire** NJ1050, **Bloody Mires** NX5388
mirk *adj*	*dark, obscure, black*	**Mirk Bank** NY2791, **Mirk Gill** NY1199
moor *n*	*heath, unenclosed upland usually covered in heather*	**Moor of Dallachy** NJ3663, **Muckla Moor** HU4367
moss *n*	*mossy ground, moorland*	**North Meiklemoss** NK0331, **Nutberry Moss** NY2668
mote *n*	*mound, hillock, embankment, motte*	**Straw Mote** NS7917, **Bardrochwood Mote** NX4565
mouth *n*	*entrance to an enclosed place, mouth of a burn or river*	**Pool Mouth** NK1446, **South Mouth** HU6871

Element	Meaning	Examples
muckle *adj*	*great*	**Muckle Burn** HY3411, **Muckle Ayre** HU4655
muir *n*	*rough grazing*	**Barr Muir** NS5833, **Blackiemuir** NO6971
mull *n*	*headland, promontory*	**Blue Mull** HP5504, **Mull Glen** NX1331
nab *n*	*see* **knap**	**Nabhill** NU0046, **Rock Nab** NU1720, **The Nab** HU2148
ness *n*	*headland*	**Kinghorn Ness** NT2786, **Lamb Ness** HY6821
nether *adj*	*the lower-situated of two places, lower*	**Mid Netherton** NS5858, **Nether Achie** NX6277
neuk *n*	*corner, projecting point of land into the sea, a remote place*	**Park Neuk** NJ1855, **Roughneuk** NS2704
nick *n*	*narrow gap in a range of hills*	**Saddle Nick** NS8203, **Southerly Nick** NT4038
nook *n*	*see* **neuk**	**Craignook** NY5178, **Parknook** NJ4722
noup *n*	*nob*	**Kame of Riven Noup** HU3631, **Little Noup Head** HY5539
nowt *n*	*black cattle*	**Nowt Bield** HY2301, **Nowt Rig** NT1711
paddock *n*	*small farm*	**Paddockfield** NH5015, **Paddocklaw** NJ6661
pan *n*	*in coastal areas referring to salt pans*	**Pan Rocks** NS3131, **Salt Pan Bay** NW9667
park *n*	*enclosure for hunting or agriculture*	**Fowberry Park** NU0227, **Parkhill** NJ4460
path *n*	*from peth: steep track leading through a ravine*	**Stoneypath** NT6171, **Moine Path** NC5155
peel *n*	*fortified tower (Borders), fence, stockade, palisade*	**Leitholm Peel** NT7843, **Peel Hill** NT4628
peerie *adj*	*small (Northern Isles only)*	**Peerie Breast** HY4145, **Peerie Hill** HU5183
perk *n*	*see* **park**	**Perkhill** NJ5705
pike *n*	*cairn of stones on the highest part of a hill*	**Pike Cairn** NT3424, **Pikestone Sike** NY6990
pin *n*	*point, peak, summit*	**Pin Stane** NS9410
plain *n*	*land free from trees, unwooded, piece of level ground*	**Blowplain** NX6677, **High Plains** NY4274

Element	Meaning	Examples
plea *n*	*quarrel*	**Plea Moss** NY2689, **Plea Knowe** NY2296
port *n*	*harbour, gate, gateway*	**Port Laing** NT1381, **Port of Rossdhu** NS3589
pow *n*	*marshy place, slow-running stream*	**Bogmill Pow** NO2726, **Carse Pow** NX9859
pund *n*	*enclosure for animals, especially stray animals*	**Green Pund** HP6207, **Lap Pund** HP6107
pyat *n*	*magpie*	**Pyat Cleuch** NY1591, **Pyat Side** NT3737
pyet *n*	*see* **pyat**	**Pyet Craig** NX1386, **Pyet Knowe** NS2450
quaw *n*	*bog, marsh*	**Eildon Quaw** NT3512
rash *n*	*rush*	**White Rashes** ND3463, **Rashfield** NS1483
rashie *adj*	*covered with rushes*	**Rashie Sike** NT2312, **Rashy Grain** NO7485
raw *n*	*ridge of ground, street, row*	**Blackraw** NT0865, **Cairnraws** NX6274, **Langraw** NT5811
reesk *n*	*wet, boggy land, morass*	**The Reesk** NJ4436
reisk *n*	*see* **reesk**	**Reisk** NK0556
rig, rigg *n*	*ridge, long narrow hill, cultivated strip of land*	**Throw Rig** NS8811, **Tod Rig** NY4395, **Riggend** NS7670
risk *n*	*see* **reesk**	**Risk** NS3759, **Riskend** NS7378
rispie *n*	*long coarse grass*	**Rispie Cleugh** NY5281, **Rispie Lairs** NT1412
rounall *n*	*see* **roundel**	**Marchfield Rounall** NX9877, **Beech Rounall** NO0519
roundel *n*	*anything circular*	**The Roundel** NN1404, **West Roundel** NS9646
row *n*	*see* **raw**	**Stone Row** NH9354, **White Row** NX3495
run *n*	*from rin: stream, land beside a stream*	**Chair Run** NC7615, **Well Run** NC8704
sauchie *n*	*place abounding in willows*	**Sauchie Banks** NY1396, **Sauchie Wood** NS5383
scad, scald *adj*	*see* **scawd**	**Scad Cairns** NO3160, **Scald Law** NT1961

Element	Meaning	Examples
scalp *n*	*see* **scaup**	***Scalp Rock*** NG2963
scar *n*	*see* **scaur**	***Scar Brae*** NY0984, ***Scar Point*** NY0065
scarf *n*	*cormorant, shag*	***Scarf Craig*** NJ2271, ***Scarf Rocks*** NC9666
scart *n*	*see* **scarf**	***Scart Isle*** NR6320, ***Scart Rock*** NS2144
scaud *adj*	*see* **scawd**	***Scaud Knowe*** NT9514, ***Scaud Law*** NT6801
scaup *n*	*bank for shellfish in the sea, infertile stony ground, small bare hill*	***Scaup Burn*** NY6599, ***Scaup Pikes*** NY6598
scaur *n*	*steep, eroded hill, cliff face, long ridges running from cliff at low tide*	***The Scaurs*** NJ4738, ***Scaur Wood*** NJ7308
scawd *adj*	*having bare patches, bare of vegetation*	***Scawd Bank*** NY4393
scaw'd *adj*	*see* **scawd**	***Scaw'd Fell*** NT1402, ***Little Scaw'd Law*** NS9104
score *n*	*see* **scaur**	***Inner Score*** HU5145, ***Meikle Score*** ND2175
scree *n*	*mass of small loose stones on a steep hillside, narrow steep hollow*	***Scree Gully*** NO2774, ***Scree Road*** NC4300
scroggie *adj*	*covered with stunted bushes*	***Scroggiehill*** NO1542, ***Scroggie Hall*** NX6779
scrogs *n*	*rough land covered with stunted bushes*	***Scrogs Field*** NT1841, ***Crossford Scrogs*** NX8388
scug *n*	*shelter, slope of a hill*	***Scug Wood*** NJ3642, ***Scuggate*** NY4474
seggy *adj*	*overgrown with sedges or reeds*	***Seggy Burn*** NS5916, ***Seggycrook*** NJ5252
shade *n*	*see* **shed**	***Sick Man's Shade*** NO7262, ***Bradeshade*** NO7379, ***Broadshade*** NJ8107
shank *n*	*projecting point of a hill, slope of a hill*	***Shank Glen*** NS2915, ***Shank of Auchnafoe*** NO5073
shaw *n*	*small wood, thicket*	***Shaw Wood*** NS4961, ***South Cowshaw*** NY0284
shed *n*	*strip of land, distinct separate piece of land*	***Upper Broadsheds*** NK0358, ***Bandshed Moss*** NJ7513
shiel *n*	*hut, shepherd's summer shelter*	***Shiels*** NJ9319, ***Mid Foulshiels*** NS9864
shield, shields *n*	*see* **shiel**	***Shepherdshield*** NY7674, ***Shields Rig*** NT0453

Element	Meaning	Examples
shin *n*	*shin, ridge or steep face of a hill, projecting part of a piece of high ground*	***Whiteshin*** NK1038, ***The Shin*** ND0822, ***Brown Shin*** NS9107
short *adj*	*low, short*	***Shortrighead*** NS8371, ***Short Hope*** NT3801
shot *n*	*division of land*	***Heathershot*** NS7697, ***Cothall Shot*** NJ0056
side *n*	*hillside; also English 'side'*	***South Suttieside*** NO4651, ***Stony Side*** NT6458
sike *n*	*see* **syke**	***Bushy Sike*** NS7408, ***Tod Sike*** NY2984
siller *n*	*silver, money*	***Siller Hill*** NJ6462, ***Siller Stane*** NT5532
sink *n*	*low-lying area where water collects*	***Brierysink*** NS3053
skelly *n*	*rock, skerry*	***Bailiff's Skelly*** NK0663, ***Black Skelly*** NO4182
skew *n*	*twist, turn, state of ruin*	***Skew Skerry*** HU3789, ***Skew Bridge*** NS6425
slack *n*	*hollow between hills, pass, pit, hole*	***Thief's Slack*** NJ5421, ***Wain Slack*** NT6762
slag *n*	*morass*	***Slag Hill*** NS9880
slap *n*	*pass, shallow valley between hills*	***Slap of Setter*** HY3415, ***Thunderslap Hill*** NJ3033
sloch *n*	*see* **slock**	***Berrysloch*** NO5894
slock *n*	*hollow between hills*	***The Wolf Slock*** NX4589
slot *n*	*pit, hole in the ground*	***Slot Burn*** NS6832, ***Buittle Slot*** NX8161
smiddy *n*	*smithy*	***Smiddyhill*** NJ9755, ***Backsmiddy*** NJ7745
snab *n*	*steep, short slope*	***Buckstone Snab*** NT2469, ***Coldwell Snab*** NY4897
sneck *n*	*notch, dip in the ground, saddle between hills*	***Red Sneck Burn*** NJ3123, ***Sneck of Corinch*** NO3564
snout *n*	*projecting point of land*	***Black Snout*** NX9199, ***Burnsnout*** NH9456
souter *n*	*cobbler, shoemaker*	***Outer Souter Cleuch*** NT8419, ***Souterford*** NJ7822

Element	Meaning	Examples
spout *n*	*waterfall, boggy spring*	***Spout of Balbowie*** NS6487, ***The Black Spout*** NN9557
stab *n*	*see* **stob**	***Stab Hill*** NX1472
stane *n*	*stone*	***The Lecker Stane*** NO0803, ***The Nine Stanes*** NO7291
stank *n*	*ditch, pond, moat*	***The Stank*** NT8128, ***Black Stank*** NJ2351
starry *adj*	*covered in sedges*	***Starryheugh Farm*** NX9575, ***Starry Geo*** HY5237
stead *n*	*farmhouse and buildings*	***Low Greystead*** NY7785, ***Lynestead*** NY5478
steel *n*	*steep bank, hill-ridge*	***Steelend*** NT0593, ***Cockston Steel*** NT6671
stell *n*	*deep pool in a river, enclosure for sheep, clump or plantation of trees, shelter*	***East Stell*** NT2983, ***Fir Stell*** NT5046
steps *n*	*stepping stones*	***Foulsteps*** NU0930, ***Black Steps*** NX3878
stey *adj*	*steep, very steep*	***Stey Brae*** NX6679, ***Stey Fell*** NX5560
stob *n*	*stake, post*	***Easter Stobwood*** NS9553
stot *n*	*young bull, ox*	***Stot Hill*** NJ5903, ***Stotfaulds*** NO4939
straik *n*	*long, narrow tract of land*	***Broadstraik Farm*** NJ8106
strand *n*	*gutter, channel, drain for water, rivulet*	***Whitewell Strand*** NT9116, ***West Strand*** NS5905
strath *n*	*broad flat river valley*	***Green Strath*** NJ4320, ***Helshetter Strath*** NC9661
stripe *n*	*narrow tract or strip of land, rivulet*	***Auchmadies Stripe*** NJ3247, ***Black Stripe*** NJ4754
swart *adj*	*black, dark*	***Swart Howe*** HY5003, ***Swartmill*** HY4846
swine *n*	*pig*	***Swine Burn*** NU0811, ***Swine's Cleugh*** NT3351
swire *n*	*hollow between hills, level place near the top of a hill*	***Swire Knowe*** NT4700, ***Windy Swire*** NT4700

Element	Meaning	Examples
syke *n*	*marshy hollow, esp. one with a stream, small burn*	***Threepsikes*** NT0294, ***Ormscleugh Syke*** NT4651
tack *n*	*farm, leaseholding*	***Tackhouse*** NS6443, ***Upper Tack*** NJ8916
tae *n*	*toe, branch of a drain*	***Broad Tae*** NT0712, ***Hard Tae*** NT7607
taft *n*	*homestead and its land*	***Evertaft*** HY4551, ***Tafts*** HU6091
tail *n*	*lower end of a field*	***Laidler's Tail*** NU0737, ***Wester Tail*** HU5999
tammock *n*	*see* **tummock**	***Cairn Tammock*** NX5764
tap *n*	*head, hill, heap*	***Craw Tap*** HU2550, ***Bruntwood Tap*** NJ6621
tappin *n*	*peaked top of a hill, cairn on a hilltop*	***The Tappins*** NX3596, ***Welltrees Tappin*** NS7504
tappit *adj*	*hooded, crested*	***Tappit Knowes*** NS8202
thorn *n*	*hawthorn*	***East Thorn*** HY4846, ***Hardthorn*** NX9477
threap, threep, threip *n*	*argument, dispute*	***Threapland Wood*** NJ2959, ***Threepsikes*** NT0294, ***Threip Moor*** NX9595
tod *n*	*fox*	***Low Todhill*** NS4343, ***Tod Fell*** NX7959
toe *n*	*see* **tae**	***Toe Head*** NF9594, ***West Toe*** HY5640
toft *n*	*see* **taft**	***Colbinstoft*** HU6193, ***Easter Tofts*** NS8635
toun *n*	*township, farm*	***Upper Carlestoun*** NS6175, ***West Westertoun*** NS8667
trough *n*	*from troch: channel or bed of a river, valley*	***Green Trough*** NS8911, ***Castletrough Burn*** NY0191
tummock *n*	*small hillock*	***Dogtummock*** NX9460
type *n*	*low conical hill*	***White Type*** NT0511, ***The Types*** NX5073
waird *n*	*see* **ward**	***Backwaird*** NJ7417, ***Swinewaird*** NO8680
wall *n*	*well, wall*	***Wall Sike*** NY6099

Element	Meaning	Examples
ward *n*	*piece of pasture, division, beacon hill*	**Littleward** NJ5139, **Brae Ward** NS3158
water *n*	*stream, river, rivulet*	**Pow Water** NN8919
wedder *n*	*wether, castrated ram*	**Wedder Law** NS8828, **Wedderhill** NO8797
wee *adj*	*little*	**Wee Cleuch** NS8806, **Wee Doon** NX4871
weel *n*	*pool, deep still part in a river*	**Weel Pool** NS4308, **Barmuck Weel** NS3106
wester *adj*	*western(-most), lying to the west*	**Wester Aberdour** NT1885, **Wester Bows** NN7306
wham *n*	*broad valley through which a stream runs, marshy depression*	**Wham Rig** NS6905, **Gillwham** NX9265
whaup *n*	*curlew*	**Whaup Crags** NY6578, **Whaup Knowe** NX9793
whin *n*	*gorse*	**The Whin** NT4739, **Wester Whin** NS8668
whinnie *adj*	*gorse-clad*	**Whinniemuir** NO1225
wiel *n*	*see* **weel**	**McKie's Wiel** NX3776, **Quaking Ash Wiel** NX3775
wynd *n*	*long, narrow lane frequently curving*	**Cow's Wynd** NS7810, **Stonywynd** NO5614
yair *n*	*fish trap*	**Yair Hope** NT4333
yard *n*	*yard, garden*	**Corseyard** NX5948, **East Grassyards** NS2264
yearn *n*	*eagle*	**Yearn Cleuch** NS8807, **Yearn Gill** NT0120
yella *adj*	*yellow*	**Yella Moor** HU4466
yett *n*	*gate, natural pass between hills*	**Upper Yetts** NO0001, **Whiteyett** NY2494
yird *n*	*earth*	**Fox Yird** NS6000
yonder *adj*	*more distant*	**Yonderton** NJ8452, **Yonderhaugh** NS9082