



‘The fort of Maine or Manna’: This is on record as *Dunmany* in 1214. Even up to the early twentieth century this name was not pronounced with an *-l-* and does not derive from the Gaelic *dail*.

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Nearby are *Buachaill Èite Mòr* and *Beag*, ‘the big and little shepherds of Etive’; near the source of the River Etive is *Lochan Màthair Èite*, ‘the little loch of the mother of Etive’.

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*Inbhir* denotes an inlet and is usually followed by a river-name. In some cases, as shown above with *Thurso ~ Inbhir Theòrsa*, Gaelic has retained *Inbhir* where the element has been lost in English.

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Gu aonta air ainmean-àite  
Addressing Gaelic place-names

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## CARSON A THA AINMEAN-ÀITE CUDROMACH?

'S e pàirt air leth cudromach de chultar na h-Alba a th' ann an ainmean-àite. Bidh iad ag innse tòrr dhuinn mu eachdraidh, àrainneachd agus cànan sgìre.

## WHY ARE PLACE-NAMES IMPORTANT?

Place-names are a vital part of Scotland's culture. They tell us a lot about an area's history, environment and languages.

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'S e Marc-innis ~ *Merkinch*, a' ciallachadh 'eilean no achadh an eich', sgìre ann an Inbhir Nis a bha gu h-eachdraidheil air a chleachdadh airson eich a chumail agus gu tric cuairtiche le uisge aig muir-làn. An-diugh tha taighean ann an àite achaidhean agus tha an t-àban a chruthaich an t-eilean a-nis air a lìonadh. Ged nach eil cleachdadh tùsail an fhearainn a-nis follaiseach idir, tha eachdraidh na sgìre glèidhte san ainm.

Merkinch ~ *Marc-innis*, meaning 'horse island or meadow', is an area in Inverness which was historically used as pasture for horses and frequently surrounded by water during high-tide. Today the pastures have been replaced by housing and the backwater which created the island has been filled in. Although the land no longer bares any resemblance to its original use, its history is retained in its name.

## DÈ BHIOS AÀA A' DÈANAMH?

Bidh sinn a' cleachdadh fios muinntir an àite, eòlas eachdraidheil agus prionnsapalan stèidhichte gus stiùireadh a thoirt air riochdan cearta ainmean-àite.

Tha an Stòr-dàta Nàiseanta de dh'Ainmean-àite Gàidhlig againn na ghoireas air-loidhne a tha fosgailte dhan a h-uile duine, agus na dhòigh air ainmean-àite Gàidhlig a ghleidheadh agus an inbhe a thogail. 'S e goireas oideachail ionmholta th' anns an stòras seo a tha air leth cudromach a thaobh dualchas, eachdraidh, àrainneachd agus cànan na h-Alba, agus airson mìneachadh a thoirt air mar a chaidh co-dhùnaidhean air ainmean a ruigsinn.

## WHAT DOES AÀA DO?

We use local knowledge, historical expertise and established principles to agree accurate forms of place-names.

Our National Gazetteer of Gaelic Place-names, an online resource, accessible to all, as a central point for preserving and promoting Gaelic place-names. This database is an invaluable educational tool and a treasure trove for Scotland's historical, environmental and linguistic heritage, and to explain how the decisions on names were arrived at.

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'S e com-pàirteachas comhairleachaidh nàiseanta airson Ainmean-Àite Gàidhlig ann an Alba a th' ann an Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA). Mar phàirt den obair againn, bidh sinn a' rannsachadh, a' dearbhadh agus a' toirt comhairle air riochdan cearta cunbhalach ainmean-àite Gàidhlig airson soidhnichean, mapaichean agus nithean foillsichte eile.

Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) is the national advisory partnership for Gaelic place-names in Scotland. As part of our remit we research, agree and advise on correct and consistent forms of Gaelic place-names for use on signage, maps and other published materials.

## CÒ TH' ANN AN AÀA? WHO ARE AÀA?

