

Place names tell us a lot about the history of an area and the people who lived there. Scotland's place names come from several different languages. Celtic (Gaelic, Brittonic and Pictish), Norse, Scots and English. Usually there are two parts to a place name – one which gives the type of place and another which gives some additional description. Look at a map and try to find the meanings of some of the place names.

Celtic	Norse	Old English/Scots	Meaning
Pit, Tref, Try, Bal	Bost, Bister, Bo	Ham, Ton, Wic	Farm, Village
Caer, Dun	Borg	Burgh	Fort, Town
Both, Tigh	Bud	Booth, Hus, Hoose	House
Kil, Eccle	Kirkja	Circe, Kirk	Church
Inch, Eilean	Ay, Ey	Iland	Island
Avon, Abhainn, Aber, Inver	A, Ar	Ae or Flod	A, Ar
Drochaid	Brug	Brycg, Brig	River or River mouth
Monad, Ben, Cnoc	Fell	Hyll, Cnoll	Bridge
Drum, Tullie, Barr	Rig	Hrycg	Mountain, Hill, Knoll
Strath, Glen	Dalr	Strath, Glen	Ridge, Back, Hill
Achadh, Auch, Auchen, Magh, Dail	Lith	Lea	Field, Plain, Meadow
Ard, Rudha, Ros, Trwn, Sron	Ness	Head	Headland, Nose, Point
Camas, Cambus	Vagr, Vik, Hop		Bay, Bend, Creek
Tros Brittonic = across	Gate	Paeth, Geat, Yett	Path, Gate, Way
Cardden, Pert, Coille	Garor, Gardr	Geard, Word, Worth	Enclosure