THE PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN ISLAND

Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig

Placenames Office, Ordnance Survey, Dublin.

Rathlin Island lies about four miles off the north coast of County Antrim and thirteen miles west of the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland. It is one of Ireland's largest islands with an area of about five and a half square miles, and the only inhabited island of any size on the eastern sea board. Its distinctive boomerang-like shape measures five miles from east to west and three miles from north to south and just over one mile in width at its widest point. The western arm of the island, the Upper End, consists mainly of high rocky ground with spectacular cliffs rising to over four hundred feet. In the southern arm, the Lower End, the land is lower, with the highest point reaching just over two hundred feet. The island is divided for administrative purposes into twenty two townlands, which vary in size from 24 to 317 acres. The island supported a large population in the first part of the nineteenth century, but this has fallen dramatically over the past one hundred and fifty years from over 1,000 in 1841 to about 100 today. Not surprisingly, the decline in the population was paralleled by an equally dramatic shift in language from Irish to English. Irish was still the everyday language of Rathlin when the Ordnance Survey visited the island during the first mapping revision of 1853. In the following half century, however, the language lost ground rapidly, with the result that when Holmer was working on the island in 1937, he could only find nineteen persons with enough competence in the language to be of assistance to him. Of these, few actually used it in their daily lives. To the majority of the present population, Irish is not even a memory. As elsewhere, soon the only reminder that a language other than English was once spoken on the island will lie in its placenames. Given present trends, few of these will be known in the future.

The following collection of Rathlin placenames contains just under 450 names. I recorded almost 400 of these in 1986 from Alex Morrison, a native of Rathlin Island now living in Ballycastle, to whom I had been introduced by Brian Mac Lochlainn of Glenarm. Brian had collected the names from Alex over a number of years and
had painstakingly marked the position of each name on the large scale Ordnance Survey map. Recognising the uniqueness of Alex’s store of placenames, Brian came to the conclusion that it deserved to be published and brought to a wider audience. In preparing the material for publication, I have tried to corroborate Alex’s names with evidence from other sources, in particular, Holmer’s *The Irish of Rathlin Island* and Ordnance Survey documents. I also used M. O’Boyle’s article on Rathlin placenames, but to a lesser extent because of the unreliability of many of his forms. However, I was unable to find over two thirds of the names provided by Alex in any other source.

Alex Morrison was born in Greenock of Rathlin parents in 1915. On his mother’s death in 1919, Alex was brought to Rathlin to be reared by an aunt of his father’s, Caitríona McCurdy (née Morrison), who was born in 1840. There were also two sons and a daughter-in-law in the household. The McCurdy family was one of the few island families in which Irish remained in everyday use, so Alex grew up with the language, unlike most of his generation. He never learned to read or write Irish, however, because the language was not taught in the local school. Within the exception of Caitríona, who was born in 1896, all of the McCurdy family members supplied Holmer with linguistic material, Alex being his youngest informant. Like many other islanders, Alex spent most of his adult life at sea and was away from the island for extended periods from about 1943. He therefore gradually began to lose contact with the language and by 1950, with the passing of the older generation, there was no one left on the island with whom to converse in Irish. Alex would find it difficult to conduct a conversation in the language now, but he still possesses a large store of words and phrases, many of which are not found in Holmer’s work. His pronunciation of the names is generally consistent with the dialect of the island as described in *The Irish of Rathlin Island*.

The Norwegian scholar Nils M. Holmer carried out his study of the Irish dialect of the island in 1937, the results of which he presented in *The Irish of Rathlin Island*, which was published in 1942. By the time Holmer visited the island, Irish was almost extinct, being spoken for the most part by only a few of the older people. With two exceptions, his informants were over sixty years of age and many of these did not use the language in their everyday lives. As a consequence, Holmer had to supplement his linguistic material with evidence from placenames to a much greater degree than is usual in dialect studies. Holmer lists approximately 300 placenames and provides at least one phonetic version for each name. He rarely supplies a translation of the names, nor does he give any hint of the
name, where it exists, is given on the right hand side. The evidence on
which the Irish form is based is then given and this is followed by a
literal English translation. The sources are identified by abbreviations,
the key to which is given at the end of the introduction.
Morrison's and Holner's name versions are given in phonetic form.
The transcription used follows that used by Holner in *The Irish of
Rathlin Island*, to which the reader is referred. The only significant
modification I have made is the substitution of Holner's symbol [i] by
the more commonly used symbol [í]. I have also replaced the
idiosyncratic sound [y] used by one of Holner's informants with [i],
the sound which the speaker undoubtedly intended (see Holner p.
37). The material from the Ordnance Survey Revision Namebook is
arranged as follows: the locally recorded name with the name of the
informant from whom it was received; the local explanation, if given;
John O'Donovan's Irish version and translation; J. Sullivan's
descriptive remarks on the feature to which the name refers.

I wish to express my gratitude to the following for their help during
the preparation of this article: Alex Morrison, without whom this
collection would not have appeared; Brian Mac Lochlann, on whose
work the collection and map are based; the Director of the Ordnance
Survey, Dublin, for permission to quote from the Revision
Namebooks; Vincent Steadman of the Ordnance Survey Archaeo-
logical Branch, who drew the accompanying maps; the editor, Rúairí
Ó hUiginn.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

Persons are arranged according to surname, other sources according
to first letter.

| AA | Archy Anderson, farmer, Carravally, RevNB |
| DA | Daniel Anderson, farmer, Carravally, RevNB |
| JA | John Anderson, farmer, Knockans, RevNB |
| JB | John Black, farmer, Ballycarry, RevNB |
| LB | Loughry Black, farmer, Ballycarry, RevNB |
| WB | William Black, farmer, Ballygill North, RevNB |
| Dinn. | Rev. Patrick Dineen Irish-English Dictionary |
| DweIlly | Edward DweIlly Illustrated Gaedic-English Dictionary |
| FGB | Niall Ó Dónaill Foclóir Gaedhil-Ghéartha |
| RG | Rev. Robert Gage, RevNB |
| Ir. Tory | John Noel Hamilton *The Irish of Tory Island* (Belfast, 1974) |
| H | Nils M. Holner *The Irish of Rathlin Island* (Dublin, 1942) |
| M | Alex Morrison, Rathlin Island (see Introduction) |
| AM | Archy Morrison, farmer, Carravally, RevNB |
| DM | Danl. Morrison, farmer, Carravally, RevNB |

**PLACE-NAMES OF RATHLIN**

| DMC | Daniel McCurdy, farmer, Knockans, RevNB |
| DMCk | Daniel McCormick, farmer, Roonivoolin, RevNB |
| MMC | Michael McCaig, farmer, (and publican), Demesne, RevNB |
| NMC | Neal McCoy, farmer, Demesne, RevNB |
| PMC | Patk. McCurdy, farmer, Kinramer North, RevNB |
| JMF | Jas. M'Fall, farmer, Mullindress, RevNB |
| JMK | John McKinley, farmer, Roonivoolin, RevNB |
| LASID | Heinrich Wagner Linguistic Atlas of Irish Dialects iv (Dublin, 1960) |
| LMK | Loughlin McKinley, farmer, Ballynoe, RevNB |
| OB | M. O'Boyle 'Place Names of Rathlin' in Down and Connaught Historical Society Journal X (1939), pp. 44-54 |
| OD | John O'Donovan, Ordnance Survey, RevNB |
| RevNB | Ordnance Survey Revision Namebook, Antrim Sheet 1 (1852); original manuscript in Ordnance Survey Office, Dublin |
| JS | J. Sullivan, Ordnance Survey, RevNB |
| JW | J. Waid, Ordnance Survey, RevNB |
| AW | Alexd. Weir, farmer, Carravindoan, RevNB |
| DW | Daniel Weir, farmer, Ballyconagan, RevNB |

**AN CAIBEAL**

| k'jabal | M |
| k'jabal | H 45, 50, s'xjabal dola'xjabal | H 170 |

The chapel
caibeal 'chapel', 'family burial ground' DweIlly.

1. An Fhideog or Port na Fhideige

id'3ag porto'nid'3ag | M |

Fedeóg, 'Not known, but is port where many reeds grow' OB53
the inlet or the port of the inlet
fideog is probably a local variant of *fead* 'watercourse, gully' /FGB/ 'inlet' Ir. Tory.

2. Glaic na Fhideoge

glak'na'fid3ag'oa | H 195 |

the hollow of An Fhideog
3 Ínseán na Fideolge

Inanfiddoge

in:jə'niːdɔɡ  M
in'ən fidʒə'ɡə H 195

Inanfideog, DMCC, JA; Inanfiddoge, PMcC; Abhann nan Fiodóg 'nook of the plovers', OD;

"A nook or inward curve in the cliff at the coast line, so called from being the wonted haunt of the birds called plover. This place abounds with such birds" JS

the inean of An Fhideog

4 Rubha Challáin

Ruecallan

rə'xələn  M

Ruecallan, PMC, WB; Ruadh Callan 'the noisy or clamorous point'
Rubha Callainn 'Callan's point'. OD;

"A bold headland running into the sea and terminating in a narrow point. It is steep and precipitous and is supposed to have been so named from the roaring sound which the sea makes, in dashing against its base. The name applies to the point" JS

the point of the noise
or the point of Callán

Rubha an Chailín 'the point of the girl' is another possibility if Holmer's form in 6 reflects the original.
According to OB 50, Callán was the name of an enchanted steed which was killed at 'Loch Callán' in Knockans.

5 Rubha Challáin Ard

rə'xələn'ərd  M

high Rubha Challáin (4)

6 Rubha Challáin Iseal

rə'xələn'iʃəl  M
(II) rə'xələn'əʃəl Rudha Chailean Iseal H 207

low Rubha Challáin (4)
7 Torpal
'torpal M
an'torp An Torp H 243
Thurble, 'a round hill near the sea' OB 52
the clump (?)
Probably the same as torp, tarp 'clod, lump of earth or clay'
(Dwelly).

8 Craisiseán an Pheachtna
krísisí'á’atín M
the ledge of the pet

9 Uamh na mBainneann
lánna’ba’áán, lénna’bálján M
the cave of the females

10 An Chloch Chrom
kláx’krón M
the inclined stone

11 Uamh na bhFireann
lánna’fíráén M
cave of the males

12 Leac Duilisc Creagáin
lik, dilíis’kregán M
flag of the rock-dulse
or the dulse rock of Creagán

13 Rubha Íneán na bhFear Liath
ruthar’l’íet M
the point of Íneán na bhFear Liath
(19)

14 Deargán Point
'dárgan point M
Deargan Point, PMC; Dearginan Point, WB;
Deargán ‘point of the red nook or chasm’, OD;
"A bold precipitous headland jutting into the sea, and so called
from red earth or ochre appearing along its face. It is well known
by this name" JS

15 Port an Deargáin
párt an ‘dárgan, Purt an Deargan H 184
the port of An Deargán (16)

16 An Deargán
'dárgan M
Deargán, 'red soil', OB 53
the reddish place
Possibly a contraction of Dearg-Íneán 'red ineán'

17 Srón na Srianna
sdrõn’sdríín M
the nose of the bridle

18a Staca an Deargáin
sddc’s’dárgan M
the stack of An Deargán (16)

18b Staca an Mhadaidh
Stackavadddy, WB, PMcC; Stac a Mhadaidh 'the dog's stack'
OD;
"A large rock rising out of the sea. It rises to a considerable
height and is never covered. It signifies "The dog's stack" or
"stook" but nothing is locally known as to how the name came to
be applied" JS

the stack of the dog
This name appears on the OS Fair Plan but is replaced by
Stacknaderginan on the OS map.
19 Íneán na bhFear Liath

In'hvar'la Inbhcear Liath, Inean na bhFear Liath H 205
Inan na naaite bhfear liath, Inan of the nine grey men. Nine men
drowned here in shipwreck, and, afterwards, nine grey haired
men were to be seen by some walking up the inan by night!' OB 53

the inean of the grey men

The Irish form could represent a contraction of Íneán na Naoi
bhFear Liath 'the inean of the nine grey men', as OB suggests.
However, Morrison maintains that there were eleven.

20 Staca Íneán na bhFear Liath Stacknavarlea

sdankine'lae M
stak in'var'la Stace Inhcear Liath < Staca Inean na bhFear Liath H 205

Stacknavarlea, WB, PMC; Stáca na Fear Léith 'greymans
stack'

Staca na bhfearr Liath 'stack of the greymen' OD

"A large insulated rock, rising to a considerable height. The sea
never covers it. It is supposed that the ghyshish aspect of some of
the stones along its surface as well as their peculiar formation, has
caused them to be likened to grey, or old men. Hence—it is
supposed—the origin of the name." JS

the stack of Íneán na bhFear Liath
(19)

The name is explained by Morrison as 'the stack of the eleven
grey men'

21 Lafta na bhFireann

lotone'vrion M

the ledge of the males

22 Uamh na Íneán na bhFear Liath

lva, injaver'l'la M

the cave of Íneán na bhFear Liath
(19)

23 Tuibbileog Tieveloge

'tviljag M

Tieveloge, PMC, WB; Taobh Liag 'side of the rocks'; OD. Tibhe
'a strand' Leuc 'a flag, a flat stone', Leog is a marsh; Note in
pencil

"A rocky point at the west base of a towering, precipitous cliff. It
is inaccessible except by boat, and boats can only approach it in
calm weather". JS

Derived from taobh 'side'

24 Staca an Uisce Stackaniska

sdak'o'lnjag M

Stackanusge, WB, PMC; Stáca an uisce 'stack of the water' OD

"A large insulated rock rising abruptly out of the sea. It is never
covered by the tide. It stands about 3 chains from shore—It is
inaccessible except by boat—it signifies the "watery stock or
stack" JS

the stack of the water

25 An Staca Buidhe Stackaboy

sdak'o'bw M
staka bi'aa H 237

Stackaboy, WB, PMC; Stáca buidhe 'yellow stack' OD

"A large insulated rock rising abruptly out of the sea and so
called it is said, from yellow streaks which appear along its
surface.—It stands about 150 links from shore" JS

the yellow stack

26 Bealach an Staca Bhuidhe

bjulax an stak véia H 169

the road of Staca Buidhe (24)

27 Eadar an Dá Staca

odara'sdak M

between the two stacks
28 Stacknacally
sdóca's-kolí M
stak na coillí H 237
Staca na Ceallaigh: 'in structure resembles old hag' OB 52
Stacknacallyaig, WB, PMC;
Stáca na Ceallaigh 'stack of the hag' OD
"A large insulated rock. It stands about six chains from the shore
and terminates in a jagged point. This point it is said, having been
likened to an old woman has given origin to the name." JS

the stack of the hag

29 Doonmore
dàn'm'or M
Doonmore, WB, PMC; Dun Mór 'great fort', OD;
"A large insulated rock rising abruptly—perpendicularly
apparently—from the sea and to a considerable height. It is flat
on summit but is apparently inaccessible. It stands close to the
shore, and at the west base of a towering cliff.—It is separated
from the main land by a narrow channel—it signifies "the great
rock." JS

great fort

30 Portandon
portán's-dàn M
Portandon, WB, PMC; Port an Duín 'port of the dun', 'port or
harbour of the don or rock' OD:
"A small port where boats land in calm weather to cut weeds
(sea) for fodder. It is situated between the rocks called Doonmore
and Carrickagarry and is called from the former rock which
stands at the north side of the entrance to it" JS

the port of the fort

31 Carrickagarry
karik'a-yarri M
Carriga: Garbha B 52
Carrickagarry, WB, PMC; Carrica a Ghearraidh 'rock of the cut;
rock of the broken surface' OD

PLACE-NAMES OF RATHLIN

"A narrow high ledge of rocks running from the coast line into
the sea in a N. direction. The sides are steep and summit narrow.
They rise afar above the sea, but are considerably lower than the
cliff from the base of which they put out. The local signification
of the name is, a heap of rocks. It is one solid mass—not
detached." JS

the rock of the garden or wall
gárradh 'garden', 'yard', 'stone fence' (Holmer); 'wall', (Dwelly).

32 Srón Charraigh an Gharraidh
sróin, xarik's-yarri M
the nose of Carraig an Gharraidh
(28)

33 Bealach Charraigh an Gharraidh
bjalax xarik's-yarri H 199
the road of Carraig an Gharraidh
(28)

34 An Clochán
'klaxan M klaxan H 174
Clochan, WB, PMC; Clochán 'a stony ford', 'a round rock or
stepping stone' OD
"A round rock in the sea which is covered at high water. The sea
is continually breaking over it. It is supposed to have been so
called from the resemblance it bears to a stepping stone" JS

the stepping stones

35 Bogha an Chlochán
boo klohan 'Clachan Reef' H 165
the reef of Clochán (34)
bogha 'reef', 'wave breaking over a submerged rock' H

36 An Bhó
The Cow
The Cow, WB, PMC;
"A large high rock washed by the sea but connected with
the main land (of the island) by a lower ledge of rocks." JS

the cow

See 37 below.
breaks over it but it is never otherwise covered. It stands about seven chains from shore and off the west point of Rathlin Island" JS

45 Gob an Tairbh
Bull Point
gob an 'tEr'v H 202
the point of the bull

46 Crúphort
Cruephort
'krúafort M; (bjelax) xrrafort H 181
Crúdh-port: 'Perhaps milking port' OB 52
Cruephort, WB, PMC; 'horse shoe port' OD;
"A small port where boats land in calm weather and so named from its being shaped like a horse shoe" JS
horse-shoe (like): port?
Compound of crú 'horse shoe' and port

47 Bealach Crúphort
bjelax xrrafort Bealach Chruafort H 181
the road of Crúphort (43)

48 Srón an Bhealaigh
sdroma'vali M
the nose of the road (47)

49 Beirmeis na Gaoithe
bern[In]n geço M
bErn'ef no gEçø H 164
promontory of the wind
cf. Church Quarter 9
beirmeis 'bare promontory' H

50 Ìnèán Draighin
Inandrian
vinjan draön' M
Inandrian WB, PMC; Aighean an Droighinn 'The nook of the thorns' OD
51 Bealach Ínán Draighean
bjalax in'ën dreíen, Bealach Ínán Draighean H 187
the road of Ínán Draighean (50)

52 Sceàr Mhic Laitheartaigh
ìg'ër ma'klovorti M
Skerry of Mac Laitheartaigh

53 Port na Luinge
port na'leig M
pàirt na 'l'Feá H 79, 211
Portnaluingé, WB, PMC; Port na Luinge 'port of the ship', OD
"A small port where boats can only land in calm weather. A ship
named "The Pilgrim" was cast ashore here about 40 years ago;
this has given rise to the name" JS (July 7th 1853)
the port of the ship

54 Srón an Mhinistir
'mNisdarz 'nozz M
sron' o min'jter H 237
the nose of the minister

55 An Ínán Cumhang
Inan'kuan M
Inan Cuaiing 'narrow inam' OB 52
Inancoan, JA, DMC; Aighean or Adhan a Chuain 'nook or
chasm of the port', OD
"A small nook or inward curve in the cliff at the coastline, with a
small port at its south base, in which boats land in calm weather.
The name applies to the curve in the cliff and signifies "the nook
of the port or harbour" JS
the narrow inán

56 Bealach an Ínán Chumhaing
bjalax òn'ìn en kllén (xllén) H 183
the road of Ínán Cumhang

57 Tollabhae
Tollowey
'tulstr M
toleve() Tollabhae H 243
Tollboy, Tollowey, JA, DMC; Tolluagh 'a hole, a cave', pencil;
Toll Umhaighe, 'hole of the cove', OD
"A cave running in at the base of the cliff. There is a hole or
fissure in the top of the cliff communicating with the cove
beneath. These have given rise to the name. "Toll"—a hole and
"owey" a cave or cove" JS
Meaning not known.

58 Cuarachadach
Cooraghy
'kkrañi 'kkrañi M;
kluhe()g kllroag króag Cuarachaigh H 183
the crooked field

59 Bealach Chuarachaidh
bjalax xllroag H 163
the road of Cuarachaidh (58)

60 Bé Cuarachaidh
Cooraghy Bay
Cooraghy Bay, JA, DMC;
"A small bay bounded on the west, north, and east by towering
cliffs. There are several descents, by narrow pathways to it from
the land side—all available only for foot passengers. Origin of
name unknown" JS
the bay of Cooraghy (58)

61 Sliabh an Deargáin
Slevenaderginan
j'eva'd3argon M
Sleavenaderginan, Slevenaderginan, JA, DMC, WB, PMC;
'Mountain of the red nook' OD
“A hill rising near the coast line. Its sides are rocky, its summit rather flat and smooth. The sea washes its west base and at said W. base is a curve in the shore called ‘Deargán’ and from this the hill has been named” JS

the mountain of Deargán (16)

62 Lochan na gCapall (Pond)
or Lochán na mBában

loxan’gcapal ‘formerly loxan’baban’ M
lohan nam baban H 161

the pond of the horses
or the pond of the tufts

H suggests baban ‘water lily’, M suggests baban ‘bobbin’, ‘spool for a ship’.

63 Cnoc an Tairbh Crockantirrive

krokon’tarv M
krokon ‘tEr M H 240

Crockantirrive, WB, PMC; Cnoc an Tairbh, ‘hill of the bull’, OD

“A high smooth hill with a ? (trigonmetrical station) and rising to a height of 372 feet. The sea lashes its north and west base. It is said to have been so called from its proximity to a rock named ‘The Bull’ which stands about ½ mile S. West of it” JS

the hill of the bull (44)

64 Machaire an Tairbh Magherantirrive

maxar’tarv M

Magherantirrive JA, DMC; Machaire an Tairbh, ‘plain of the bull’ OD

“A smooth eminence with fine pasture, Is now a sheep walk. Is well known by this name Magherantirrive. The sea washes its west and south base. It is said to have been named from a rock called ‘The Bull’ which stands in the sea at its west margin” JS

the plain of the bull

PLACE NAMES OF RATHLIN

65 Loch an Tairbh

loxan’tarv M
loxan ‘tEr M H 240

the lake of the bull

66 Machaire na Garman

maxar’garman M

cf. garma, garmain FGB, Dwelly.

67 Cailin Dubh

calmon’di M

the black girl?

68 Dubhar
dubor M, dlor H 188
cf. Dwelly s.v.

dark place?

CEANN RAMHAR THUAIDH

Kinramer North

1 Uamha Mhac Éatalain

λαι ο θ ε τ αλ αί M

the cave of Mac Éatalain?

The final element in this name is uncertain.

2 Port Colain

port’kalam M

the port of Colam

3 Carraig an Líonta

kariku’linə M

the rock of the flood tide
4 Staca an Duitseach
sdulka'n'di'tjæx M
stak an d'tjæx H 77, 189
the stack of the Dutchman

5 Uamha Mhac a’ Phi
lævi, ska’fií M
the cave of Mac a’ Phi

6 Íneán Riabhaigh
injø'revi M
inø'n riavi in'en riavi H 225
the Íneán of the housewort
riabhach ‘pasture house-wort’ or ‘dwarf red rattle’ Dinn.,
‘common housewort’ Dwelly.

7 Brocaigh
'broki M
badger warren

8 An Phaire Ard
park'ard M
the high field

9 Sliabh an Chairn
Slieveacarn
jliavo'xæræn M
Slieveacarn, JA, DMC, WB; Sliabh a Chairn ‘mountain of the
cairn,’ OD
“A hill with rocky sides and rather smooth summit. It stands near
the coast line and the sea washes its north base. It is so named
from a pile,—locally a cairn—raised upon it for Ordnance
Survey observations. The pile was used as a Δ (trigonometrical
station) and is still to be seen. The name is now well known
through the island’’ JS
the mountain of the cairn

10 Glaic Íneán Riabhaigh
glak'injø'revi M
the hollow of Íneán Riabhaigh (6)

11 Sliabh Íneán Riabhaigh
jliøj,injøn'revi M
the mountain of Íneán Riabhaigh (6)

12 Glaic an Chapail Bháin
glak'ø,xopil'n'van’t M
the hollow of the white horse

13 Móine Alasdair Óg
monjø'alasdr'oij M
the bog of Alasdair Ógh
The last element of this name is uncertain.

14 The Lime Kiln
M

15 Carn Ard
køron'ard M
the high cairn

16 Bealach an tSluaingh
bélaxø'xuæg M
bjalax an 'tilkog H 234
b'jalax n'ly'tag LASID iv.18
the road of the fairy host

17 Goirteán
gøitjæn M
the small field

18 Cúl an Chnoic
klæ'n'grayk klä'xøæk M
the back of the hill

19 Staca an Mhóine
sdulka'n'vømi M
the stack of the moor
20 An Cartrnasna
karon' trasna  M
the cross cairn

21 Lag an Loch
lags'loch  M
the hollow of the lake

CEANN RAMHARTHEAS
Kingram South

1 Sron an Mhadaidh
sroan'maddi  M
sroan' a' mada H 213, 237
Sroannamaddy, WB, PMC; Sron na Madadh 'nose of the dogs', 'dogs' snout', OD
"A bold precipitous headland projecting into the sea, and so called from some of the jutting rocks along it being likened to dogs' snout or nose' JS
the nose of the dog

2 Inean an Fhranais
injan'digei  M
the ineän of the Frenchman

3 Creag na Scarb
kregn'sgarav  M
the rock of the cormorants

4 Port na Spag
portna'sbagh  M
part an'spaig H 236
the port of the paws

5 Sron Dear
sroandareig
sroandrearagh H 64, 184 sroan'dgargan H 184
Sroandareig, JA, DMC; Sron Dearaig 'the reddish snout', OD
Sroandareig, JA, DMC; Sron Dearaig 'the reddish snout', OD

PLACE-NAMES OF RATHLIN

6 Paire na nEach
parkna'nexe M
pairst' na neig H 56n.
Paire na nEach: 'Where Brenjargan, the great warrior of the Blacks was killed' OB 50.
the red nose
the field of the horses

7 An Croisean Dubh
krajan'dal  AM
on kreian'da An Creisean Dubh H 180
the black ledge
creisean 'scree' (a kind of shelf in the rocks) H.

8 An Stuaman Buidhe
sdub'uith M
stulanam H 238
the yellow dullard
Stuaian 'solitary or dull man' H

9 Uamha Beirn
o'bearn M
o'b'sarn H 220
Oweyberne; 'Bearn's cave. Bearn was a great warrior who, together with Brecain, grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, fought several battles on the island' OB 51.
Oweyberne, JA, DMC; Uamhaidh Ui Beirn 'O Beirne's Cave', OD; Berne in this word is a proper ...'; 'Berne's Cave';
"A natural cave at the base of a cliff said to be so called from some fugitive named Berne or Byrne having taken refuge, and concealed himself in it. The sea washes the mouth of it' JS
the cave of Bearn
9a Sruthán Uamha Beirn
srath o' b'earn' H 220
the stream of Uamha Beirn (9)

9b Bealach Uamha Beirn
bealach ab'earn' H 220
the road of Uamha Beirn (9)

10 Droim Eiscín Duibh
drim, afan'div M
ridge of the black waterfall or stream
(7)
The second element is uncertain; perhaps it is a variant of easán 'little waterfall' (Dwelly), see also, eas, easach 'stream'

11 Leatrom an Fhaigh
leathrom'ni M
1'etram an nir' H 194, 209
the slope of the raven

12 Sloc an Airgid
slia' nar'gaid C M
hollow or gully of the money
see sloc: Dwelly

13 Droim Cruaidh
drim'krua M
hard ridge

14 Maolchnoc
'moiliach M
Moylecrok
Moylecrok, WB, PMC: Maolchnoc 'bald hill’ OD

15 Leathallit
'le, alda M
one-sided valley
leathallit 1. ‘Burn having a high bank on one side’ 2. ‘Sloping land on one side of a burn’ Dwelly

16 An Mhuclach
'mokla M
moklII H 218
the piggery

17 Barr na Muclaighe
barna'mokle M
barr na maklII H 218
the top of An Mhuclach (16)

18 Cnoc na bhFeadóg
kroko'naasd M
the hill of the plovers

19 Glac an Acair
glako'nikir M
the hollow of the acre

20 Glacan Toighe Mhóir
glak'an, tEi'mosr H 55, 242
the hollow of the big house

21 Sloc an Choire
sia'xot M
the hollow or ditch of the cauldron
22 Garraidh an Chreagáin
   gairia’xnregan M
   the garden of the rocky place

23 An Scoithe Dubh
   sgoltjó’dal M skoltjó’dal H 230
   the black cleft

24 Bealach an Raithnigh
   bjolaxa’róni M
   bjolaxa’róni H 226
   the road of the bracken

25 Tobair na Luchóige
   tobar’nxajig’
   tobar na luxog’ H 212, tobar na luog’ H 49, 79
   the well of the mouse

26 AN CHLOIGEANN
   Cleggan
   klóg’én g’kleg’én na ‘kleg’in’a, Claigenn, (gen.) na
   Claiginne H 175
   the skull

1 Staca Alt an Duibhéin
   sdaik,altan’đavin M
   the stack of Alt an Duibhéin (3)

2 Poll Ceardamán
   pol’kjerdaman M
   hole of the beetles

3 Alt an Duibhéin
   altan’ðiven M
   alt an’diven H 188, 192
   the cliff of the cormorant

4 Bé Alt an Duibhéin
   Altandivian Bay
   Altandivian Bay, WB, JA; Ba Alt an Dubhain ‘the bay of the dark
   glen’, OD
   “A small bay which boatmen visit in the summer season to cut
   seaweeds and burn kelp. It is not otherwise used as a place of
   resort. It is bounded on the north by a towering cliff, which
   intercepts the sun’s rays, thus throwing a dark shadow on it.
   From this circumstance the name is supposed to have been
   derived.” JS
   the bay of Alt an Duibhéin(3)

5 Coileam
   kajámn M
   “that’s between two ports”
   (the) column (?)

6 Cois an Lochá
   kajn’léox M
   kof’anj’loha H 81, 179
   the side of the lake

7 Rubha Chois an Locha
   rla,kajn’léox M
   the point of Cois an Locha (6)

8 Fargán na Leac
   Farganleck or Leck Point
   fargan’lék M
   Farragannaileck or Leck Point, WB, JA; Pointe Farragannaleca
   ‘rugged rocky point of the flags’ OD
   “A bold rocky headland projecting into the sea. It has been so
   named from the rugged character of the rocks along its face and
   from ledges of rocks which the country people call ‘lacks’
   running into the sea, from its north and west base.” JS
   the ledge of the flags

9 Oileán na Leac
   Illanaleck
   slóa’lék M
   Illanaleck, JA, DMC; Oileán na Leac ‘island of the flags’, OD
"An insulated rock rising out of the sea and so called from the low flaggy ledges or reefs running into the water from it. The sea breaks over this rock but never covers it at any tide" JS

the island of the flags

10 Port na Leac
portna'lek M
the port of the flags

11 Uamh na Leac
arvna'leik M
the cave of the flags

12 Rubha an Mhadaidh Uisce
ravadi'ifga arvadi'ifga M
the point of the otter

13 Maide Sheisri
mad'ja'he:j M
the (wooden) plough

maide seisrighe /madga jofari, jesri, jefita/ 'plow' H 213

14 Inean Mheáin
Inanavane
in'ja'vean, in'ja'vaen M
in'vean, in'vaen (Inan Mheadhon) H 205

Inanavane, JA. DMC; 'meaning uncertain', OD
'Nook of the white spots or streaks'—explanation;

"An uneven curve or nook in the cliff at the coast line; and said to be so called from the white streaks or veins along the face of it" JS

the middle Inean

15 Cloch Ghabert
kloxfjilbar M
the stone of Gilbert

PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN

16 Cloch Raghnaill
kloxFrenaidz M
the stone of Raghnaill

17 Páirc na Leac
parkna'leik M
the field of the flags

18 Páirc na Leac Íseal
parkna'leik'isal M
low Páirc na Leac (17)

19 An Pháirc Íseal
park'isal M
the low field

20 Loch na nEascann
Loughanskan
laxna'nescgan M
loxnóskan LASID iv. 18
lohan na 'neskan H 190

Loughnascan WB, PMC; Loch na n-eascaimn 'lake of the eels', OD

"A fresh water lough in a mountain district having one small outlet which flows north and enters the sea at Altadain Bay. It abounds in eels and hence the name Loughnascaimn or lake of the eels" JS

the lake of the eels

21 Béal Chois an Locha
beilka'fajox M
the mouth of Cois an Locha (6)

22 Cnoc na bhFaoileann
krokná'verlijin M
the hill of the seagulls
23 Rubha na bhFaoileann
r̂wba' vølé:n M  the point of the seagulls
See Roonivoolin

24 Glaic an Gharraidh Úir
glak'gari'øir M  the hollow of the new garden

25 Cnoc Idir Chasaideh an Lochá
krókada'xasa'lox M  the hill between the twists of the lake?

26 Bruach an Lochá
bruəxa'lox M  the bank of the lake

27 Céim an Iscaigh
k'ema'netsgi M  the step of the fishing

28 An Chrích
b̄x̄r̄d̄ar'x̄ri' M (Border an Chrích)
x̄r̄i' H 37, 180  the boundary

29 Sliabh na Crí
flevro'x̄ri' M  the mountain of the boundary

30 Bachtá
'ba:xto M  the marsh, or the turf bank
bachtá 'bogcutting; turf bank' FGB; bacht 'small lake', 'marshy ground';

31 An Cnoc Breac
krók'b'jra;k M  the variegated hill

33 Barr Dún Bheag
barr dán'vég M  the top of Dún Beag

34 Sliabh Chondain
flevo'xondan M  the mountain of Condain

35 Stuaman na Fiolaire
sdusman na'filh M  the "dullard" of the eagle

36 Leac an Tachrán
lako'taxrank M  the flag of the child

37 Glaic Allt an Duibhéin
glak'altan 'dá'von M  the hollow of Allt an Duibhéin (3)
glak'altf ann díven H 192

38 An Cnoc Mór
krók'mór' M  the big hill
39 Cúl na Garraidhean
kóla'garraidhən M the back of the gardens (?)

40 Garradh Óig
garra'əxəh M the garden of the young person (?)

41 Garradh Néill
garra'ne'il M the garden of Niall

42 Páirc an tSratha
parcan tro M the field of the holm

43 Toigh na Gruagach
taijnəgruagax M the house of the brownies

44 Put na Bruine
putnəbruine M the butt of the contention
put from English butt. See Dwelly s.v. put, putadh

45 Rubha na Gàmhna
rək'nagavən AM the point of the calves

46 Tobair an Chac
tobairəxak M the well of the excrement

47 Leabaidh an Bholla
labəxvola M l'obia vola H 166 bed of the boll
bolla 'dry measure of twenty, otherwise, six bushels' H.

48 Sliabh an Chonnaidh
ʃliəvə'kənədən M ʃliəva'kənədən N ʃliəva'kənədən H 178 mountain of the fire wood

49 Glaic Whistling Bet
gla'kə'xətənətə M the hollow of Whistling Bet

50 Cnoc an Dubhcheafain
krokan dəx'əjafojən M the hill of the frivolous person
The form and meaning of this name are conjectural. ceafan 'frivolous person' Dwelly.

51 Lag an Róise
lagərəʃə M Glac an Róise 'rose covered hollow' OB 52 the hill of the rose

52 Goirtéan Chloch
gortʃənəxəlxən M gortʃənəxəlxən M small field of (the) stones

53 Gort an Eorna
gortənərən M the field of the barley

54 Cúl an Cheirg Mhúr
kọləxə'xərərərə M the back of the big rock

55 Páirc an Tálléara
pako'tailjər M the field of the tailor

56 Sraith na Sméar
skrəqənəsmər H 230 the green sward of the blackberries
57 Cnoc na Scraithe
krokən na 'sgraic H 230
krok na skruach M
*the hill of the green sod or sward*

58 Bord na Dámnadh
bordna'damnag M
Damnog OB 51
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
*bord na Damnadh*
*bord na Dámnadh*
Droim na Cloiginne

the ridge of An Chloigeann (Cleggan)

Cnoc an Loiste

the hill of the burning

Móine Cnoc an Loiste

the moss of Cnoc an Loiste (74)

An Chreag Mbóir

the big rock

Glaic na nGamhna

the hollow of the calves

Fearann an Charáin

the land of the cairn

Glaic Dhonnagáin Ruaidh

the hollow of red haired Donnagán

Donnagán = Donnchadh = Duncan?

Glaic na Feannóige

the hollow of the grey crow

BAILE GHAILL LàIR

Ballygill Middle

the town of the foreigner

PLACE-NAMES OF RATHLIN

Opa an Griáinín

the channel of An Griáinín (6)

Sloc Dhonnchaídh

the pool of Donnchadh

Craoiseán Shéamais Mhic Pháil

the rock shelf of Séamas Mac Pháil

Craoiseán na Scuab

the rock shelf of the brooms

An Griáinán Ísáil

An Griáinán low (6)

An Griáinán

Greenan

Greenan, JG, WB; ‘sunny hill or circle,’ (Local); Griáinán ‘solarium’ OD

"A small smooth hill rising on a tongue of land that runs into the sea. It forms the crowning point of said tongue or headland. It is supposed to have been so named from its smoothness and sunny aspect. It is well known by the name" JS.

the sunny place

Eisris na nGamhna

Estrishnagwonna

Estrishnagwonna, WB, JA; Eisruis na Gabh ... ‘The track or foot steps of the calves’
Eisris na nGamhna, ‘tracks of the calves’, OD

“A nook or indentation in the cliff at the coast line. It is supposed
to have been named from the circumstance of calves going down
among the shelving benches of the cliff. Of this however nothing
is positively known; it is founded only on local supposition. The
signification of the name however gives some colour to it.” JS
the path of the calves

Easrais ‘passage’ H. This word is not in the dictionaries.
M. explains the name as “a place where calves used to go down”.

8 Maide Sheisri
mad’ghef M
the (wooden) plough

9 An Slogán
fiògan M
the whirl pool

10 Sliabh an Grianán
fiòg’gremian M
the mountain of An Grianán (6)

11 Loch Bhaile Ghaill
laxbal’o’seil M
the lake of Baile Ghaill

12 Tobar an Bhairneach
tobara’varn’ax H 162
the well of the limpet

13 Glaic Thobar an Bhairneach
glak’, tobor’a’varn’ax M
the hollow of Tobar an Bhairneach
(12)

14 Móine Chuí an Chnoic
mo’n’ja,xla’xrek’ M
the bog of Cúl an Chnoic

PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN

15 Seanbhealach
‘Jan’elax M
the old road

16 Seanbhealach Field
‘Jan’elax ‘field’ M

17 Easán
esan M
esan H 190
Eyson OB 52
the place of the waterfalls or streams
from ear ‘waterfall, cascade, cataract’. However, this word is also
used for ‘a (mountain) stream’ in East Donegal.

18 Bruach an Easán
brála’nesan M
Bruach an Eyson OB 52
the brae of Easán

19 Scoilte Dubh
sgolt’ja’d M
skolt’ja’d H 230
the black cleft

20 Barr Bruach an Easán
bar,brála’nesan M
the top of Bruach an Easán (18)

21 Easca na gCorr
esgarn’gwar esgarn na’gaur M
esk na(g) gair, esk nan gair
esknan gair esk nan gair/gaur H 190
the marsh of the herons

22 Cúl an Chorr-Eadain
kl’dach’er’den M
the back of the odd hill-face
23 An Gualainn
'gualin MN
the shoulder

24 An Fearann Fada
feran'fud M
the long (town)land

25 Fearann Alasdair
feran'alasdir M
the land of Alasdair

26 Diog Bhuidhe
doil'bhliadh M
the yellow drain

27 Cill Bhride
kil'briodh M, H 167, 174
kil'ev'riodh M, LASID iv.18
Killybrioida, WB, JA; Cill Bhrighde 'Brigid's Kil or burial ground', OD
"A small uncultivated eminence on the west margin of a marsh. It is said to have been used as a place of interment at some remote period. In digging close to it some bones have been discovered. None have been buried in it in the memory of the present inhabitants save unbaptised children." JS
the church or burial place of (Saint) Brid

28 Droim Chill Bhride
'droim'gill'o 'vriodhgi M
the ridge of Cill Bhride

29 Éadan
edon M
the hill face

30 Uchtaigh
'ucht M, H 246
(steep) slope
uchtaich (2) FGB; uchdach Dwelly

31 Béal an Chlocháin
beal'chlochain M
the mouth of the stepping stones

32 Geal
'giol MN
Meaning not known.

33 Seanbhaile Ghaill
janval'ajail M
old Baile Ghaill

34 Lag na Creige
lag'aki M
the hollow of the rock

35 An Bhroclaigh
'brokeil M
(ans) a'broil H 168
Brockley, WB, JA; Brocach 'a badger Warren', OD
"A small farm village built on either side of an old road at the S. east base of a rocky hill. Five or six of the houses comprising it are nearly of the same size, and are also nearly parallel. Origin not known. The village is well known by this name. It is supposed to signify the grey brink." JS
the badger warren

36 The Axe Factory
eks'fak'tari M

37 Móine na Broclai
brokli'mas M
the bog of An Bhroclaigh
38 Sliabh
jì‘jav M
the mountain

39 Lag na Feannóige
lakna fì‘anok M
the hollow of the grey cow

40 Trench
trenj M

41 Carn na Seile
karana‘feli M
the cairn of the bee(s)?

42 Bruach an Aoidh
brax‘ì‘ili M
brae of manure (?)

43 Cill Éinne
k‘i‘lì‘ami H 82, 190, 174
k‘i‘l‘a‘na lëni H 190, 209
Killeany: ‘limestone quarry here, also old graveyard’ OB 51
Killeany, JA, DMC; Cill Éinne, ‘St. Eany’s church’, OD
“A small port where boats land in calm weather to cut seaweeds and burn kelp. There is also a small dry beach at it where they can be drawn up in case of their being overtaken by storms. The port only is known by the name. Origin unknown.” JS
the church or burial place of (Saint) Éinne

44 BAILLE GHAILL THUAILDH
Ballygill North

1 The Green Hill
do ‘grim’hill M

45 PLACE NAMES OF RATHLIN

2 Hen Hollows
‘hen‘hulaz M
cf gort‘fì‘an na g‘dar M
LASID iv.18

3 Uamhaidh na Colmán
lùvi na‘golman M
lùv na‘nagh golman lùv na‘nagh golman H 177, 246
the cave of the pigeons

4 Bun an Gharraidh
bàn‘gærri M
the bottom of the garden

5 Gallbhuaille
galb‘u‘na M
galb‘ul‘i gailval‘i gailvan‘i H 199
stone cattle pen

6 Cathaoir
kafer M
the chair

7 Screi Riaabhach
sk‘é‘r‘riax M
sk‘é‘r‘riax H 225
Skerrigagh, JA, DMC; Screiagh ‘a sharp sea rock, an island.’ Pencil;
Sceireach ‘rocky’, OD
“A long narrow insulated rock rising out of the sea. It stands from 6 to 8 chains from the shore, and at the north base of a towering precipitous cliff. It has been so named from its shelving scraggy appearance. It is never covered by the sea. In stormy weather the sea breaks over it.” JS
the brindled skerry

8 Uamha Tóin an Staca
lùvi tò‘njon ‘sdak M
the cave of the bottom of the stack
9 Dún na nGiall  
Dóonnaigíall

dóna’ g’idh M

dhán an g’iald doann a’ nigal H 36, 65

Dún a Geall ‘fort of the hostages’ OB 50

Doonnagiall, JG, WB ‘rock of the jaws or shelves’; Dun na Giall ‘fort of the hostages’ OD

“A narrow tongue or headland running into the sea. Its summit is (broken and) narrow; its sides slope and shelf for some distance towards the sea, and then become quite steep and precipitous. The shelving character is supposed to have given rise to the name—Doonnagiall—rock of the shelves or jaws”. JS

the fort of the hostages

10 Port Dún na nGiall

pàrt dànn na ng’iald part dànna n’ial H 200

Port Dùna a Geall OB 50

the port of Dùna nGiall (9)

11 Dún an Ruaídh

dhàna’ ruaidh dh’s fort M

dhàn an râidh (Dún an Ruaídh, Dún Eoin Ruaidh or Dún an Righ) H 227

Doonarauidh, ‘This name applies to a small marshy spot and is not worth inserting’. JS

the fort of the red man

12 Móine Dún an Ruaídh

móin na roide M

mòinn a ròid M H 227

moorland of Dùn an Ruaídh (11)

13 Glac an Gharraidh

glàca’ ghràidh M

the hollow of the garden

14 Droim an Choire

dhèimn a’ choirí M

the ridge of the cauldron

15 Ceathramh an Fhàinca

ka’rav an’ nàñk`s H 193

k`urav an`nàñk (Ceathramh an Fhainca) H 82

the quarter of the sheep-fold

Ballynagill North is commonly known by this name.

16 Mòine Ceathramh an Fhàinca

k`jurav an`nàñk`s M

the bog of Ceathramh an Fhainca (15)

According to Morrison the last peat harvest in Rathlin was cut here in 1922.

17 An Ceann Riabhach

k`in’ràbach M

fìn`x`an’ràich H 73, 225

the brindled headland

18 An Chúilidh

k`líj M

the nook

19 An Dùn Mòr

dò fort M

Doonmore, WB, JA; Dún Mòr ‘great dun or fort’, OD

“a detached hill with steep sides and flat summit. It is circular in outline and closely resembles an old fort. On the summit is something like the remains of an old wall, a few of the foundation stones of which only remain. The whole hill is a natural formation and is entirely of rock. It has however a slight coat of soil along its surface. The edges around the summit are bare rock and are steep. It is an antiquity—nothing really known of its use.” JS

“the foundations of a wall 10 feet broad is traceable all round the edge of the hill. It has evidently been a fort of considerable importance in former ages.” JR Waid

the big fort
20 Mullach an Dún Mhóir
mála x n dán’ vor H 219
the summit of An Dún Mór (19)

BAILE GHAILL THEAS
Ballygill South

1 An Gob
gob M
the snout or point

2 An Chloch Dhubh
klax’dá: klax’á: M
the black stone

3 Bothach
box M
(the) marsh

4 Íneán Uan
injá’núin M
the inéán of (the) lambs

5 Tuimléir Iain Mhicheáil
tomal, sin’ yhal M
the tumbler of Iain Mhicheáil

6 Loch an Íneán Loiste
loíx, inan’ loésdi M
the lake of Íneán Loiste (7)

7 An Íneán Loiste
injan’ loésdi M
an t’fin’ an’ losd’a H 205
loiste from loiscthe
the burnt Íneán

8 An tSrón Liath
struán ’lan M
Srón Liath; ‘grey rock—shaped like nose’ OB 51
Stroanlea, WB, JA; Srón Liath ‘grey nose’, OD
“A bold prominent headland jutting into the sea and so named
from its greyish aspect and from its being fantastically likened to
a nose or snout”
the grey nose

9 An Creagán Buidhe
kregan’ bwió M
the yellow rocky place

10 Srón na hUamha
sron, na’ hlaív stran, na’ hlaív M
the nose of the cave

11 Cathaoir an Mhuilleora
or the Miller’s Slap
kohar’ váljé dé, málar’ slap M
Cathaoir an Muilleoir, ‘Miller’s chair’ OB 52
the chair of the miller
slap = opening in stone wall

12 Loch an Chodhaill
loíx’ xoda M
Loch Coddleagh, ‘sleepy lough, because always calm.’ OB 52
the lake of the sleep

13 Lag an Lin
lagan’ líín M
the hollow of the flax

14 Talamh na Freamainne
talav na f’jmin M
talav na f’jamon, talav na fjama M H 193
the ground of the seaweed
Loch na Riabhaí
lochna’riabhí M
the lake of the brindled (land)?

Lag an tSeagáil
lagan’tjigal LASID iv.18
the hollow of the rye

Cúl Cnoc Lag an tSeagáil
kálkrók,lagan’tjigal M
the back of the hill of Lag an tSeagáil

Bord an Fhualt
bordh’a’nalft M
the top of the glen

An Pháirc Bheag
park’’veg’ M
the small field

Páirc an Toigh Seoile
park’a,tei’sgolí M
the field of the school (house)

An Srath Mór
stra’mor M
the big holm

An Garradh Mór
gara’mor M
the big garden

Bruach an Gharraidh Mhóir
bráx a yari voir H 199
the brae of An Garradh Mór (22)

An Ghlaic Fhluich
glak M
a’yll’k’l’ux H 201
the wet hollow

Lag na Beinne
lagna’b’en’jo M
lagan na’ben’o H 80, 184
the hollow of the cliff

Creagán Sealdair
kregan’jaldar M
the stony place of Sealdair

Gort na Muc
gort na’mok M
the field of the pigs

Garbhach
’garvax M
g’arvax H 199
the rough field
from garbh ‘rough’ and aqadh ‘field’.

Hill of the Saints
hilídrosents M

Glaic an Toigh Allais
glak’a,tei’alifí M
the hollow of the sweat house

Beinne Mhór
benja’morí M
the big cliff
31 An Carn
karn M
the cairn

32 An Lag Fada
log'fodo M
the long hollow

33 Móine Childe Bhride
móni, kijilja'vridgi M
món'ə x'il'ə vrid'ʒə LASID iv 18
the bog of Cill Bhride

34 Glaic an Acair or
Glaic an Dá Acair
glak'ənukir glak'ə dsi'akər M
the hollow of the acre or
the hollow of the two acres

35 Crich Glaic an Acair
glak'ənukir bordər M
the boundary of Glaic an Acair (34)

AN CNOCÁN
Knockans
an krokan An Cnocon H 176
the hillock

1 Carraig na nGarbháinach Carricknagarowna
Carraignagarowna, JA, DMC; 'rock of the braziers, kind of rock fish'; explanation
Carraig g-Caramhna, OD
“A small rock in the sea a short distance from shore. Fishermen land on it to fish for a species of fish they call braziers—in Irish Carrowna—and hence the name. The tide does not cover this rock; but the sea when rough breaks over it.” JS
the rock of the sea-bream garbhánach 'fish' H, 'sea-bream' FGB, Dwelly.
This name is now obsolete and has been replaced by *Carraig na Scarbh* (1a).

1a **Carraig na Scarbh**
   
   **kərəkə'sgarəv** M  
   *the rock of the cormorants*
   
   **scarbh** 'cormorant' H, Dwelly.

2 **Cúilidh Allt an Chaoil**
   
   **kələtə'ʃw:i'j** M  
   **kələ'altəxɛd** H 182  
   *the nook of Allt an Chaoil*
   
   cf Allt an Chaoil (Ballynagard 1).

3 **Sliabh an Fháil**
   
   **šlevə'nə:l** M  
   **šlevə'nə:l'** H 19, slievə'nə:l' H 54, 192  
   *Sliaveanill*, JB, LB, JF; Sliabh an Aill 'mountain of the precipice'  
   
   Sliaveanill, OD  
   
   "A high hill on the margin of the sea and bounded on the W., N., and E. by it. A steep and precipitous cliff descends from its W., N., and East bases to the sea and from this cliff the hill has been named." JS  
   
   *the mountain of the enclosure*
   
   This name is incorrectly located on Ordnance Survey map according to Morrison.

4 **Siogar Eich**
   
   **ʃəgər'ɛci** M  
   *of the horse*
   
   This first element is not known. The name is possibly identical with Srón an Eich (OB 49) 'the nose of the horse'

5 **An Toigh Allais**
   
   **tɛı̆'olaj** M  
   **ən tEi 'fəlIj** H 78, 192  
   *the sweat house*

6 **Cnoc Para Mac Uilcin**
   
   **kroko'pərama'kəl'k'ɛn** M  
   *the hill of Para Mac Uilcin*

7 **Cnoc an Airgid**
   
   **kroka'nərəgɛd'ɕ** M  
   **krebə nərəg'iːd'ɕ** H 158, 77  
   
   Crag an Airgid OB 49  
   
   *the hill or rock of the silver or money*

8 **The Bridge Houses 8**
   
   **də'brɪdʒ'haʊzəs** M  
   *the bridge houses*

9 **The Bog**
   
   **bog** M  
   *the bog*

10 **Gort an Eorna**
   
   **gɔɾ'tə'ʃənrənə** M  
   **Gort an Eorna** OB 50  
   *the field of the barley*

11 **Gort na Muc**
   
   **gɔɾtə'muːk** M  
   *the field of the pigs*

12 **Ucht**
   
   **ʌxt** M  
   *breast (of the hill)*

13 **An Chloch Bhuidhe**
   
   **klaxə'bləjo** M  
   *the yellow stone*

14 **An Cnoc Buidhe**
   
   **kroko'biː** M  
   *the yellow hill*
15 Lag an tSagairt

mass M

"There was a wee hollow (there was no stone), where they assembled and said mass—that was how that particular place was called Mass" M

lag an 'tudart f H 208
cf. "There are several Mass rocks on the island, used during Penal Days, particularly in Knockans and Kilpatrick. One at Lag an Aifrin, has three stones leading to it. Near here is Cealach na gClótreach—a path hidden in the hills, where priests could safely go to pray" OB 54

cf Cealach an Aifrin (sic) Road leading to Killeany where Mass was celebrated OB 50

the hollow of the priest

16 Beinne Mhór

b'ën ja'veor M

the big cliff

17 An Seanlathrach

Shandragh or Knockans South

'jun larox, jandrox M
an jandrox, an jangrax H 87, kän nan jangrax H 231 An Seanlathrach

"... the ruins of two castles at Shandragh (Sean latreach)" OB 49

Shandragh or Knockans South, JA, DMC;
Seandreach 'old face', OD

"A small farm village at the S.W. face of a rocky hill and called Knockans South—the latter being from the townland and from this village being south of another in same townland called Knockans North" JS

the old site

18 Seanlathrach Mountain

jandrox 'mountain' M

PLACE-NAMES OF RATHLIN

19 An Phaíre Úr

park' hír M
park' lar M H 222

the new field

20 Cnoc Thomaс Loinge

krok, toas'laig M
krok toas 'le v H 211

(the) hill of (the) measure of (the) ship

21 Cos an Duitsigh

ekos an dítfi H 77, 189
kos an 'ditfáx H 179 'a formation in the rocks'
kosan 'ditfáx M

cf. Cos an Duitseach: 'Rock with figure in relief in shape of Dutchman's leg' OB 48

the leg of the dutchman

CILL PHADRAIG

Kilpatrick

añ gíla farrik H 66, 174

the church of (Saint) Patrick

1 Cnoc Phadraig

"Hill where St. Patrick preached" M
krok foxdrik H 221

the hill of (Saint) Patrick

2 Cúil na nGámhanach

ekai na' gavax M

the nook of the calves

3 Toigh Ghilbeirt

tòi jil'bar'í M

the house of Gilbert

4 Sliebh Ard

Slihevard

Slihevard, JA, DMC; Sliebh Ard, 'high mountain', OD
“A high rocky hill with a Δ (trigonometrical station), chief summit within the townland of Ballynagard. It is one of the highest—if not the very highest hills in the island—and hence its name Slieveard or the high mountain. A coast guard flag staff once stood where the Δ (trigonometrical station) now stands.” JS

5 Cloch an Ailrinn
klòss'nafhran  M

“In this townland Kilpatrick there is a little field sloping to the south in which there is a hill called Altbeg, and on it a large stone on which Mass was celebrated during times of persecution” Diocese of Down & Connor IV 379

the stone of the mass (the mass-stone)

BAILE NA gCEARD
Ballynagard

bail’ na nòg’ erd  H 173
the town of the tradesmen

1 Alt an Chaoil
Altachuile
altò’xàl’ M
altò-xàl Alt a Chuidhill; cudhill ‘spinning wheel’ H 182
Altachuile, JA, DMC; Alt a choill ‘cliff of the hazel’, OD

“A steep precipitous cliff of considerable height. It overhangs the sea in many parts. The name signifies the glen or cliff of the hazel—but there is nothing to warrant the application of such a name to this place. No hazel visible or known to have existed here” JS

the cliff of the narrow inlet

2 Lake of the Swans
leòd’ßswænz  M

PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN

3 Cúil na Gmhurch
kòlna gàvæx  M
the nook of the calves

4 Smith’s Bog
’smòs’bog  M

5 Fanca na Graisce
fançanca’graíg’ fançanca’g’jaraíg’ graíg’ M
the sheepfold of the rabble

6 Tobar Dhán
tobor’yaän  M
the well of Dan

7 Falta
falita  M
the glen
Alternatively Falta ‘enclosures’.

8 Park Hill
park’hill  M

9 Ceartan
k’jarkàn  M
k’ark’en k’arkàn Carricean H 171
(the) hens (?)

BAILE COINNEAGAIN
Ballyconagan

bala’kàn’skànn’ M
bail’skànn’ag’ H 177
Ballyconagan, DW, JMF; Baile Ui Coinneagain, OD

“A small farm village at the north base of a rocky hill named from the townland in which it is situated” JS

town of Coinneagan
1  An Staca Mór  Stackamore
    sdoka'mor  M
    stokamor  H237
    Stac Mór: 'Big rock', OB 49
    Stackamore, LB, JMF 'large stack or stook', explanation; Stáca mór 'big stack', OD
    "A large rock rising abruptly at the low water-line. It is situated at the N. base of a towering cliff. The sea washes its North base. It is so called from its resemblance to a stack or stook." JS
    the big stack

2  An Sceir Bheag  Skerbeg
    sg'ær'veg  M
    Sker Beag 'Small rock' OB 49
    Skerbeg, LB, DW; Sceir Bheag 'small sea-rock' OD
    "A small insulated rock, rising in the sea, and standing about 2 chains from the coast line. The sea breaks over it. It is called Skerbeg from its proximity to a larger rock on its west side named 'Skermore'." JS
    the small skerry

3  An Sceir Mhór  Skermore
    sg'ær'veor  M
    Skerrmor; 'Big rock' OB 49
    Skermore, LB, JMF; Skeirvore, Mr. R. Gage Junr.; Sceir Mor 'Large sharp sea rock', pencil; Sceir mhór 'great sea rock', OD
    "A long ledge of rugged rocks running into the sea from the low waterline, with which it is connected. The sea breaks over it in rough weather; it is never covered by the tide. Its surface is rugged and shelving and hence the name. Skermore or the rugged or shelving rock." JS
    "This rock is formed of large irregular basaltic Pillars. It is not shelving." JW
    the big skerry

4  Port na Cúile  Portnacooly
    portna'kli:  M
    Portnacooly, JMF, LB; Port na Cúile 'port of the corner', OD
    "A small port where boats land in calm weather to cut sea weeds and burn kelp. It is formed by the nook or indentation in the coast line, and is named from that circumstance. 'Portnacooly, or the port of the nook.'" JS
    port of the nook

5  Ceann an tSrutháin  Cantruan
    k'an'trúin  M
    k'an trul Canann (an) tSruhtain  H237
    Cantruan, DW, JMF;
    Ceann tSruhtain 'head of the current' OD
    "A bold prominent and precipitous headland overhanging the sea. The name appears to signify the "headland of the current" and is supposed to be derived, or so named, from a powerful current which is continually running at its base." JS
    the headland of the current or stream

6  Loch Allt an Chaonl  Loughaltachuile
    Loughaltachuile, JBF, LB, JMF;
    "A small lough in a mountain district and close to the sea brink. It is so called from its proximity to a steep cliff of this name on its N.W. side." JS
    the lake of Allt' an Chaol

7  Cúil an Chnoic  the back of the hill
    kli'l'jo'ro'k  M

8  Cnoc na nEach  Crocknanagh
    kroknà'njox  M
    Croch an Eich: Steed's hill  OB 49
    Crocknanagh, DW, JMF; Cnoc na n-Each 'hill of the horses', OD
“A small village of farm houses said to have been so called from the circumstance of horses grazing on the mountain around it. The name applies exclusively to the village, and is well known through the island.” JS

**the hill of the horses**

9 Cúl na hÁite
kálm'ha'it' M
**the back of the kiln**

**Mullindress**
mull'ádres M
Mullindress, JMF, MMC;
“A small farm village at the south base of a low rocky hill. It is named from the townland.” JS

**the hill of the brambles**

1 An Droim
drím M
**the ridge**

2 Sróin Eich
stóîn éich M
**the nose of the horse**

**CHURCH QUARTER**

1 Mount Grant
múnt'gráint M

2 Toigh an Aifrinn
toîm'án'afii M
tEis 'nafri M H 242
**the church (lit. the mass house)**

**PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN**

3 An Toigh Seoile
táil'sgal M
tEis koil H 242
**the school (house)**

4 Páirc na nEach
park' na njax M
**the field of the horses**

5 Port na Spáig
portno'sbáig M
**the port of the paws**

6 Leac na Cille
lékna k'ilé M
lak na k'ilé H 209
Leac na Cille: ‘Long, flat stone at church’ OB 48
Lacknakilly, MMC, JMF; ‘rock or flag of the church or burial place’, local explanation; Leac' na Cille ‘flag of the church’, OD
“A low ledge of rock projecting into the sea and underneath the parochial church of Rathlin. It lies about 3 chains south of the church, and this proximity to the church has led the rock being called Lacknakilly or the rock or flag of the church.” JS

**flag of the church or cemetry**

7 Páirc na nGambnach
park' na'gavna M
**the field of the calves**

8 The Planting
'pléntán M

9 Beirneis na Gaolthe
b'ereína g'gajá M
bErn'ejá na gEis M H 164
**the promontory of the wind**
beirneis ‘bare promontory’ H. cf. Keble 49
10 The Coalyard
ko'djadi  M

11 An Garradh Mór
gara'moor  M
  the big garden or yard

12 Dan’s Hollow
danzhala  M

BAILE CARRAIGH
  Ballycairry
bal’a kari  Baile Caraidh  H 171
  the town of (the) rough ground

1 Rubha an Chait
rù’kait  M
Ruecuit, LB, JMB; Rubha an Chait ‘the cat’s point’, OD
“A rocky headland running into the sea. It is low, not many feet
above the surface of the water. It signifies the Cat’s point, but
nothing is locally known of the origin.” JS
  the point of the cat

2 Uamha Breacán
’brakanz’kev  M
  λο’ br’akan  H 167
According to M., this name is incorrectly positioned on the
Ordnance Survey map. Breacán is associated in Irish tradition with Coire Breacán ‘the
whirpool of Breacán’ from which Altt an Choist, (9) apparently
derives its name.
  the cave of Breacán

3 Leaca Breacán
l’ako’brakan  H 167
  the flagstones of Breacán

4 Port an Mhuillinn
portna’wil’jin  M
parta’wil’in  H 218
Portawillin, LB, JMF; Port a Mhuillinn ‘port of the mill’, OD
“A small port where boats land and are drawn up from storms. A
road leads to the end of it. It has been named from a corn mill
(now in ruins) which stood close to it on the beach on W. side.” JS
  the port of the mill

5 An Port Cam
port’kaum  M
Portcam, LB, JMB, JMF; Port Cam ‘crooked port’, OD
“A small port where boats land and are drawn up from storms. It
is so called from the curvature of the coast line at it.” JS
  the crooked port

6 Port an Chaisitil
parta’xa’t’l  H 170
Portacastel, LB, JMB, JMF; “Port of the Castle”, ‘Castle is
pronounced Castel in the locality.’ JS
Porta Chaisitil ‘port of the castle’, OD
“A small port on the south of Bruce’s Castle and close to it. It is
called from said Castle. Boats land in it only in calm weather.
There is an easy descent to it from the land side” JS
  the port of the castle

7 Leac an Chaisitil
l’ako’xa’t’l  H 170
  the flagstone of the castle

8 Bruce’s Cave
brissas’kev  H 32
Bruce’s Cave, LB, JMB; “A cave into which the sea runs with fearful force. The mouth
only can be seen from the land. It is said to have been frequented
by King Robert Bruce during his sojourn in Rathlin, and to have
been called from him” JS
  Bruce’s Cave
9 Inéann na nUan
Inannanoon
in'jan'klan M
Inannoon, JB, LB, JMF; — na n-uan 'of the lambs', OD
"An inward curve in the cliff at the coastline. It signifies the nook or glen of the lambs, but how it came to be applied is not locally known. It lies a short distance north of Bruce's Castle." JS
the ineán of the lambs

10 Uamha na gColmán
Oweynagolman
laoins'kolman M
Uaimh na gcolmán: 'The dove's cove', OB 49
Oweynagolman, LB, JB; 'Pigeons Cove', explanation; Ulagh na Colm 'Cave of the pigeon', pencil; Umhaidh na gColmán 'cave of the pigeons', OD
"A small cove running under the cliff and into which the sea rushes with great force. It is so called from being the haunt of pigeons (wild)" JS
the cave of the pigeons

11 Gunner's Rock
'gonarz'rack M

12 Altan Choire
Altacorry
alta'xor M
alt a xor's H 192
Altacuirry, LB, JMF; Altahuirry, MMC; 'Cliff of the furnace or boiler', explanation; "Probably it is from Alt a 'a high place', coire, 'caldron', pencil; Alt a Choire 'cliff of the cauldron', OD
"A steep precipitous cliff overhanging the sea. The name signifies the cliff of the caldron (furnace), but nothing is locally known of how it came to be applied to this place. This cliff gave name to the Bay outside of it, and extending between" JS
cliff of the cauldron or whirlpool
The name is probably derived from Coire Brecán. cf. Uamha Brecár (2) above.

13 Altan Choire Head
alta'xor'hed M

14 Flat Rock
flat'rok M

15 An Bealach
belax M
the road

16 Bé Altan Choire
Altacorry Bay
be: alt a 'xor H 177
Altacuirry Bay, LB, JMF; Altahuirry Bay, MMC;
Alt a coire 'a high place', 'caldron', pencil; Alt a Choire 'cliff of the Cauldron', OD
"A bay running the north margin of the townland of Ballycarr. It is bounded on the south side by towering cliffs. There is no descent to it save by climbing. There is no landing place or safety along it. Nothing is locally known of the origin of the name." JS
the bay of Alt an Choire (12)

17 Port Mhic Fhionnlaigh
porta'gınale M
the port of Mac Fhionnlaigh
Mac Fhionnlaigh: McKinley H 5

18 Riabhachán
'riavax 'riavaxan 'riavaxan M
brindled place (land)

19 Baile Carraigh Mountain
bolsa'x'jar(Mount) M

20 Glac an Chairn
Glackacarn
glak's'xarn M
glak' a 'harn' H 201
Glackahairn: 'The hollow of the cairn' OB 49
Glackacharran, LB, JMF; ‘Valley of the carn or heap’, explanation; Glack-ach-arran, local pronunciation, JS

“A small farm village in a hollow and on the south margin of a mountain tract. It is supposed to have derived its name from some stones heaped up at its first occupation, when the soil was being cleared.” JS

21 Loch na Creige

lochna'k'reg’ M

the lake of the rock

22 (The Spring Well)

“Spring Well that rises and falls with the tide” M

“Between Bruce’s Castle and East Light house is a well said to have been blessed by Columcille when he landed on the island during a storm which overtook him on his way to Iona. This well, although above sea-level, rises and falls with the tide” OB 49

According to O’Laverty, stations were formerly made at this well on St. John’s Eve. (Diocese of Down & Connor IV. 378)

The original name of this well no longer survives. Columcille is associated with Coire Bhreadhain, from which Alt an Choire (12) derives its name.

23 Ribhe an Locha

reva’loch M

the pasture of the lake (?)

ribhe ‘a certain kind of land’ H

righe ‘field; bottom of valley; base of mountain; slope, summer residence for herdsmen’ Dwelly.

24 An Carn

‘karn M

the cairn

25 Cnoc na Sacroidhaine

croka'sgriddoln M

kroka na skridolin, (kroka) skridolin, kroka skrexi H 230

Crocknascreidlin: “The hill of the screaming. So called because of the screams of the women who stood here watching the slaughter that was taking place in Lag a-viste-voir (the hollow of the great defeat) during the Campbell War of 1642.” OB 49

Crockascreidlin, LB, MMC; Cnoc na Scredilinne ‘hill of the shrieking’, OD

“A hill tract interspersed with arable patches and forming a subdivision of the townland of Ballycarry. The hilly portion is all rock with a light coat of surface but producing good pasture. Its bare rocky character has suggested the name.” JS

“Local tradition makes this the site of a camp, the soldiers of which had gone out to meet an enemy and the news of their being defeated having reached the camp, the women and children rent the air with their shrieks and lamentation” JW

the hill of the screaming

26 Cethramh an Chaistil

Castlequarter

Castlequarter, LB, MMC;

“A rough tract interspersed with arable and forming a subdivision of the townland of Ballycarry. It is named from Bruce’s Castle which (ruins of) stands on the brink of the sea on the east side of it” JS

the quarter of the castle

AN BAILE NUA

buls’no: M

bul’sno: H 220, bel’sno: H 42

the new town
1. Carraig an Ghaill  Carrickagile
   karík’s’yáil  M
   karík’ na g’ Gill  H 172, 199, karík’ o yáil  H 37 Carraic na(n)
   Goill/an Ghoill
   *the rock of the foreigner*

2. Port Ri Dhonnchaidh  Portadonaghy
   portrí donaxí  M
   pícirt Ri Dhonnchaídhi Port Rígh Dhonnchaídh  H 187
   Port Riogh Dhonnchaídh: ‘King Donaghy’s port’ OD 47
   Portadonaghy, MMC, LMK; Port Ree Donagh (in pencil);
   “Duncan’s port, this scotch name is thus hibernicized in this
   island—is called Donaghy”, explanation; Port Uí Duineachadh
   ‘O Donaghy’s port’, OD
   “A small port where boats land and are drawn up from storms. It
   is said to have been called after a man named Duncan who lived
   near it. Said name—Duncan—is rendered Donaghy in the Irish
   of this Island.” JS
   *the port of King Donachadh*
   According to Morrison this name is incorrectly positioned on
   Ordnance Survey Map.

3. Cúl na gCnoc  Coolnaacroch
   kòl na’krak  M
   Coolnaacroch, JMF, MMC; Cúl na gCroc ‘back of the hills’, OD
   “A tract of undulating upland with patches of arable along its
   sides and bases. It is all good pasture ground, and is so called
   from the number of hollows along it” JS
   *the back of the hills*

4. Achadh Mór  Bigfield
   óx’am’or  M
   óx’ag’mor  H 156
   *big field*

5. Baile an Chabail  the town of the chapel (?)
   baló’hábol  M
PLACE-NAMES OF RATHLIN

3 Lahourer's Cottage Ground
leborarz/kated3,groun M

4 Port an Draiúin
pərt an draiúin H 187
Portandrine, JMF, MMC;
'Is now seldom applied', RG

"A large safety port and landing place forming the N.E. termination of Church Bay. There are two quays at it, and the principal traffic from the island to the mainland is carried on through this port. It is the principal port of the Island. Rathlin Ho. the residence of Rev. R. Gage, stands on the beach at its north margin" JS

5 The Station
'sdei:yon M

6 Na Sceiri
'sg'ez rz M

7 Rubha na Rón
ranar:ran M
ranar:ran; ranar:ran' H 227
Ranar:ran LASID iv. 18
Rue na Rón: 'where seals often come to bask' QB 48
Ruenaruan, MMC, JMF; 'Seals Point', explanation; Rubha na Rón 'point of the seals', OD

"A low ledge of rocks running into the sea, and nearly covered at high water. They are said to have been formerly frequented by seals, and the place has got this name "Ruenaruan" or Seals point from this circumstance."

8 The Store
stoa M
9 An Poll Gorm

poll’goram M
pol gorm H 223
Poll Gorm: ‘Blue inlet’ OB 48
Pollgorm, MMC, JMK; Poll Gorm ‘blue hole’, OD
“A small creek with clear gravelly bottom which causes the water to look always bluish. It is named from the color of the water and is popularly known as pollgorm i.e. the blue hole”

blue pool

10 An Úig

‘a’n’iog H 246, era’n’iog H 216, na’h’iog’a (gen) H 80
Quig ‘from uig, a grave’ OB 48
Quig, JMF, MMC; Uaig ‘a grave’, OD
Uagh, a grave, See O’Reillys Dict. JW
“A small scattered farm village on either side of a road that runs north and south through the aforenamed townlands (Glebe, Demesne) -- several graves and human remains have been found in the vicinity of this village when cultivating the soil, and it is said that the village has been named from these circumstances.” JS

the bay or inlet
Possibly derives its name from Úig an Mhuilinn (16).

11 An Bhadóg

‘badak M
eg’o’vogog An Bhadog “a small point resembling a tuft” H 161
Badoog: “Reef running out to sea” OB 48
Baddog, MMC, JMK; Badog ‘little boat’, OD
“A bare ledge of white limestone rocks which is mostly all covered at high water. It bounds Mill Bay on the N. side. Origin of name unknown.” JS

the tuft

12 The Store Field
STORE field M

13 Robert’s Field

robertz field M

14 Cottage Ground

kated;’graun M
Cottage, MMC, JMK, JMF
“A small cottage—as its name implies—and present residence of Revd. Gordon Curate of Rathlin” JS

15 Be na Mhuilinn Dm 9

Mill Bay

be; a’ valin H 163
Mill Bay, MMC, JMK.
“A small bay where boats land and are drawn up from storms. It is named from a corn mill at its S.E. end.”

the bay of the mill

16 Úig an Mhuilinn

‘a’valin H 65, 246
the inlet of the mill
H. equates this name with Mill Bay (15)

17 Be na hEaglaise

or An Locha

Church Bay

bei na ’heglI I, bei na ’heglI I H 189
“usually called An Locha” H 12
an lox(a), era loxo H 211
bmshegI I LASID iv.18

the bay of the church or the lough

18 The Rectory

’rektarí M

CREAG MHIC AGÁIN

Craigmacagan

krama’k’agan M
kregmc’kagon H 180
the rock of Mac Agáin
1 Na Macan Tire  Macateery or the Two Wolves
mak'tʃiːri  M
na makɑ'tʃiːra, də makɑ'tʃiːriz  H 212
əʃəsi na makɑ(n)tʃiːra (to the Macan Tire)  H 206
‘Name of two big erratic rocks’  H
Marcateery: ‘Two large boulders sitting side by side on top of
Craigmacagan Hill. They are in such a conspicuous position that
they formed a good landmark for the old sailing vessels coming
to anchor of Arkill...’ OB 48
Macateery or The Two Wolves, MMC, JMK;
Mic Tire ‘wolves’, OD
“Two large detached rocks standing near to each other and in a
mountain district. Legendary tradition will have it that they were
flung across the sea from Fair Head by some Giant. They are
commonly called the Macateery i.e. The Wolves—they are also
called the two Wolves. As Irish is principally spoken in the
locality both names should appear as in second column.” JS

2 Aircill  Arkill Point
‘arkal’pint  M
(lag)ənar’k’il  Aircill  H 157*.
Aircill Point, MMC, LMK; Farail, ‘a pillar’, OD
“A small low rocky headland jutting into the sea—Origin
unknown.” JS

the stump?
cf Faircill ‘cover or lid’, Dinn., Dwelly.
Faireadlaich ‘a stump, a lump’, Dinn. FGB

3 Bé an Aircill  Arkill Bay
‘arkal’beː  M
Arkill Bay (and near it Arkill Point): ‘Aircill, anchor. So called
because in this bay the old sailing vessels used often to anchor’
OB 48
Arkill Bay, LMK, JMK;
“A small bay bounded on west side by a low rocky shore. It is
named from Arkill point at its north end. There is no landing
place of safety for boats along this bay.” JS

PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN

4 Lag an Aircill
lagənar’k’il  H 157
the hollow of Aircill

5 Loch Chreag Mhic Àgáin  Craigmacagan Lough
krímək’agən’loxs  M
Craigmacagan Lough, MMC, LMK;
“A large freshwater lough, with an inlet in south side and an
outlet in north side. It is named from the townland. It supplies a
mill near the shore at Mill Bay with water” JS
the lake of Creag Mhic Àgáin

6 Port na Scarbh  Portnascarrive
portnə’sgarv  M
Portnascarrive: ‘Port of the cormorants’ OB
Portnascarrive, MMC, LMK; ‘Port of the scarfs or cormorants’,
explanation;
“A small narrow port which no boat can enter except in very
calm weather. It is formed by an indentation in the coast line and
is so named from its being frequented by cormorants called in
Irish Scarfs.” JS

the port of the cormorants

7 Rubha na Scarbh  Ruinascarriave
rənə’sgarv  M
Ruenascarriave (Rún na Sgairbh). ‘Port of the cormorants’. OB
48
Caisdeal Rún an Sgairbh OB 47
Ruenascarriave, MMC, LMK; ‘point or headland of the
cormorants’, explanation;
Rubha na Scarbh ‘point of the cormorants’, OD
“A low rocky headland running into the sea and so called from
the sea fowl called scarfs or cormorants, perching upon it. It is a
favourite resort with them.” JS

the point of the cormorants
8 **An t-áin Cumhang**

Inacooan

injæ'kæ:jæn M
Inán Cuang: ‘Narrow Inán’ OB 47

Inacooan, MMC, LMK; ‘nook of the port or harbour’, explanation;

“A port where boats enter in calm weather to cut sea weeds. There is no landing place of safety in it. It is bounded on the south and west by steep basalt cliffs.” JS

*the narrow ineán*

9 **An t-áin Leathan**

in'æn 'læ:æn H 205
Inán Leathan: ‘Broad inán’ OB 47

*the broad ineán*

10 **Port na Meeannán**

portna'm'mjunæ M
pær na m'mjunæ H 55, 216
Port na Mionán: ‘Kid port’ OB 47

Portnameanan, LMK, MMC; ‘port of the kids’, explanation;
Port na Mionnán *port of the kids* OD

“A small port formed by an inward curve in the coast line. Boats do not land in it except in calm weather when they come to cut seaweeds. The name signifies the “port of the kids” but nothing is further known of its origin.” JS

*the port of the kids*

**AN CEANN CAOL**

k'æn'kælælæ M
ænæn ke:jæl H 171

*the narrow end*

1 **Sornóg**

'sornæk M
Soineog (Sornóg—a kiln). The site of an old kiln. OB 47
Soineog, MMC, JMK;

**PLACE- NAMES OF RATHLIN**

“A large prominent rock at the coast line—origin of name not known.” JS

*kinl*

sornæg ‘little kiln’ Dwelly.

2 **Binneog**

'bInæk M
bin'æk ben'æg H 164
Beanig “Binneog—a hill beside the sea” OB 47

*small cliff*

3 **An t-áin Dorcha**

injan'daræ M
Inán Dorcha: ‘Dark inán’ OB 47

Inandorrha, MMC, JMK; ‘The dark nook or chasm’, explanation;
Adhanán Dorcha ‘dark nook’, OD

“A chasm in the cliff at the coast line and so called because of its being almost always in the shade—the sun seldom shining on it.” JS

*the dark ineán*

4 **Staca na Biorai**

sdæk nɐ'boræ M
stæk nɐ bjæri H 164

Stackanbirragh (Stac Biorach) ‘Point stack’ OB 47

Stackanbirragh, MMC, JMK; ‘Stack or stook of the sharp points’, explanation;
Stackan Biorach ‘pointed stake’ OD

“A rock rising like a stook or stack and situate at the foot of a cliff and within the high water line. There are a number of sharp pointed stones projecting from it and hence its name—‘Stackanbirragh’ or stack of the sharp points” JS

*the stack of the heifer.*
5 Cnoc an Amhaire
Crockanavark
kroc an oíríc H 159

Crockanavrick, Croc(h) an amhaire: ‘A hill looking out to sea, from which coastguards could see east & west’ OB 47

Crockanavirk, MMC, JMF; Cnoc an Amhaire ‘Hill of the prospect’, OD
“A small rocky hill commanding an extensive view of the sea and of the coast of the mainland as far west as Bengore, The Giant’s Causeway, and Inishowen. The extensive prospect that it thus commands has given rise to the name.” JS

hill of the view

6 Staca na Deilge
Stackanadellig
sdakná’dálég M
Staca na Diallye: ‘Stack of the saddle. Because shaped like a saddle. OB 47

Stackanadellig, MMC, JMK; ‘Stack of the thorn’, explanation; Staca na nDealg ‘stack of the thorns’, OD

“A large rock with sharp pointed projections, situate at the foot of a cliff and within the high water line. On the summit is a sharp pointed stone which has been likened to a thorn and from which it has derived its name—‘Stackanadellig’ or stack of the thorn.” JS

the stack of the thorn
Possibly Staca na nDealg ‘stack of the thorns’ or Staca na nDuilleog ‘stack of the leaves.’

7 Camaltán
Camaltin
’kumbolein M

Camaltin, MMC, JMK; ‘Crooked cliff’, explanation; from Cam ‘crooked’ Aill ‘a cliff’, penel; Cam-altin ‘crooked little cliff’

“A crooked cliff, formed by indentations of the coastline and so named from its crooked or curving character” JS

crooked cliff

8 Loch an Chinn Chaoil
Kinkeel Lough
k’l’n’khd, k’n’khd M

Kinkeel Lough, JMF, JMK;
“A small lough formed chiefly by cutting away bog for fuel. There is now some depth of water in it; but it has a marshy appearance, being overgrown with bulrushes and other aquatic plants. It is named from the townland and is popularly known as Kinkeel Lough.” JS

the lake of Ceann Caol

CEATHRAMH AN DÚIN
Carrivindocn
the quarter of the fort

No trace of the fort remains, but see Bé an Dúin (3) and Pointe an Dúin (4) below.

1 An Madadh Alla
Maddygalla
mada’yala M
ó mada’yala, mada’yali H 213
madsgráib H 37

Madagalla, JMK, DMC; ‘The stone dogs’, explanation; Madadhái Geala ‘white dogs’, OD

“A low ledge of rocks running into the sea, and covered at high water. After passing Ushet point they form the first prominent projection. Nothing is locally known of the origin of the name.” JS

the wolf
madadh-allaidh ‘wolf’ Dwelly.

2 Port an Bhata
porta’vata M

the port of the boat

3 Bé an Dúin
Doon Bay
dún’be M

Doon Bay, MMC;
"A small bay named from the point which forms the North end of it." JW

4 Pointe an Dùin
Donn Point

dàn point M

the point of the fort

5 An tOileán Carrach
Illancarragh

eljen'karax M
e'lan karax H 171
Oileán Carrach: 'Rocky headland out to sea' OB 46
Illancarragh, DMCk, JMK;
Oileán Carrach 'rugged island', OD

"A rocky point running into the sea and pointing southward. At the outside point and near the low water line it rises to a considerable height. Said part is connected with the main land by a lowledge of rocks over which the sea washes and the outside point is thus insulated at high tides. The rugged character of the place has given rise to the name." JS

the rugged island

6 Béan Oileáin Charraigh
Illancarragh Bay

eljen'karax b'cé M
Illancarragh Bay, JMC, DMCk, AW;

"A small bay situate between Doon point and Illandcarragh and named from the latter. Boats enter it to cut seaweeds but there is no place of landing along it. It is bounded on N.W. and S. by steep cliffs." JS

the bay of Oileán Carrach (5)

7 Cill an Bhruain
Kilvoruan

(Old Grave Yard)
k'lo'vr'an M

Kilbron: 'An old graveyard. Two grey stones which once marked the entrance to the graveyard may still be seen.' OB 45

the church or graveyard of the fragment (?)

The same name is found in Knockans.

8 Moine Rodger
mlí rodgro M
món'a rodgro H 226

the bag of Rodger

9 Lorg na Bó
'Cow's foot in the rock' M
c'long na bò: Lorg na Bó, The Cowstrack H 165, 212

the (foot) print of the cow (?)

AN EALAIĐH
or CEATHRAMH NA hEALAIĐH
Carrafinally

s'n'ill, era'n'ali na caílag H 190

The meaning of this place-name is uncertain. The longer form is seldom used. There are two subdivisions of the townland marked on the Ordnance Survey Map, Ally Lower and Ally Upper neither of which is in common currency.

1 Na Clocha Dubha
Cloghadoo

kloa'd M
na kloa'd H 80, 175
Clocha Dubha: 'Black stones at shore—a good landmark' OB 47

Clocha Dubha 'black stones', OD

"A cluster of prominent rocks at the low-water line. They serve as landmarks for boatmen and are so called from their aspect which is black. The sea washes over them." JS

the black stones
2 An Port Críonna
Portcríonna

Portcríonna, DA, AA; Port Críonna 'round port' OD

"A small port where boats land in calm weather to cut sea weeds and burn kelp. It is not a safety place of landing. It is round in outline and has been so named from this circumstance—the Irish word críonna signifying round or compact" JS

the round port

3 Port an tSónais
Portantonnish

Port an tSónais 'The port of good luck' OB 46

Portantonnish, DM, AM; 'The port of fortune or good-luck', explanation; Port an tSónais, OD;

"A small open port without any shelter, being bounded by low ledges of rock. Boats can only enter it in very calm weather. It signifies the fortunate port but nothing is known of the circumstance that led to its application" JS

the port of the luck

4 Uamh an Dubhthaigh
Oweydoo

Uamh an Dubhthaigh H 188

cf. Lagadoey: Lag a Dubhthaigh? 'A hollow inhabited by a clan named Dooey? driven from the mainland because, during Penal Days, they allowed a priest to say Mass in their barn.' OB 45

Oweydooey, DM, AM, JMK; 'The dark or blackish cove', explanation; Uamhaidh Dubh 'black cove', OD

"A small port or cove at the west base of a steep precipitous cliff. It signifies the dark cove and is so called from the blackish aspect of the rocks along it." JS

the cave of Dubhthaigh

5 Cnoc na Fiadhraich

krack na fìagráich Cnoc na Fiadhraich H 195

"The old name of it (Ally Lower) was Cnocknaféeragh but it is now popularly known as Ally Lower. It stands on the E. side of a rugged hill, which is interspersed with arable patches and close to the N.W. margin of Ushet Lough" JS

the hill of the lea land

fiadhraigh gen. fiadhraich 'lea land' 2. 'green sward' Dwelly
fìagráich 'lea (land which has not been plowed for many years)' H

6 An Ealaidh Thios

Ally Lower

Ally Lower, AM, DM;

"A small farm village named from the townland, but in a contracted form. The old name of it was Cnocknaféeragh but it is now popularly known as Ally Lower. It stands on the E. side of a rugged hill, which is interspersed with arable patches and close to the N.W. margin of Ushet Lough." JS

7 An Ealaidh Thoas
Ally Upper

Ally Upper, AM, DM;

"A small farm village on elevated ground and close to the W. margin of Ally Lough. The name is a contracted form of the townland. It is called Upper to distinguish it from another village called Ally Lower in same townland" JS

8 Loch na hEaladh
Ally Lough

cleòr i M
loch na cóileag H 54, 68, 90
loch an na cóileag H 190

Ally Lough, JMK, DMCK, AM; Loch Aille 'lake of the cliff' OD

"A small fresh water lough north of Ushet Lough from which it receives an inlet. It is named from the townland of Carravinally but is contracted and only called Ally Lough. Locally and in ordinary conversation the townland is only named Ally also." JS

the lake of Ealaidh