

# FINDING FIELD-NAMES IN BORGUE 2

The inspiration for the project was provided by the realisation that the countryside around Borgue was still evolving with farms merging and numbers commonly used to identify fields. The seeds of the Borgue Field Name project were sown by a PLACE in the Biosphere talk about Borgue by historian Professor Ted Cowan and place name enthusiast Michael Ansell. A plan was hatched by people living locally to gather field-names, map and analyse meanings and share the information to a wider audience.

Much of the field-name evidence was collected from discussions with over 50 landowners, farmers and farm workers who were keen to find out more about their field-names.

With reference to Ordnance Survey maps notes of the discussions were made recording any other information that came to light on why a field had a particular name.

A neat version of the maps and notes were sent to local place-name expert Alan James, whose analysis was collated onto a working spreadsheet and the field-names were recorded on a large base map. The information gathered was uploaded onto a digital map and a painted map was created by a local artist. Luckily in many cases the farms had been in the same family for several generations or the families had only moved from one farm to another nearby. This resulted in a wealth of other information and recommendations on who to go and see next.

Occasionally a treasure would appear from a cupboard or the cellar, such as a wonderful set of diaries from the Mains of Twynholm Farm dating back to 1896 which contained detail on day-to-day farming life.

In 1999 Adam Gray collected many field-names in the Borgue area which were recorded in a booklet held at the Stewarty Museum. Unfortunately there were no maps, although many field-names were referenced to field numbers marked on the

1908 Ordnance Survey maps.

More than 800 fields have now been mapped by volunteers. Some fields have had several name changes, so nearly 1,000 names have been recorded and can be interrogated on an interactive map on the Borgue website:

[www.borgue.org/borguemap/](http://www.borgue.org/borguemap/)



The Borgue website includes the Borgueopedia – a public repository for information about the landscape, history, people, culture and wildlife of Borgue village and parish.

Place-name societies encourage research and understanding of how names contribute to the languages, history and culture of our places:

Scottish Place-name Society: [spns.org.uk](http://spns.org.uk)

English Place-name Society: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns)

Welsh Place-name Society: [www.cymdeithasenwaulleoedd.cymru/en](http://www.cymdeithasenwaulleoedd.cymru/en)

The Society for Name-Studies in Britain and Ireland: [www.snsbi.org.uk](http://www.snsbi.org.uk)



Stackyard is a common field-name in Borgue. Here a haystack is being moved on a 'Tumlin Tam'. From the Adam Gray collection.

