

UK national report speaker notes [assuming moderator to introduce speaker]

Thank you for the opportunity to present: I will look at the use of minority language place names, focusing on Welsh, on the national mapping agency's products.

Ordnance Survey is the national mapping agency of Great Britain and is responsible for collecting geographical names information for national maps and databases of England, Scotland and Wales.

Names collection and publication is guided primarily by local usage and custom. Ordnance Survey consults appropriate authorities to establish the most suitable name, form, and spelling for all places. Sometimes more than one name is in use at the local level for a single feature and, in cases where the use of two names is sufficiently prevalent locally, it may be necessary to record and/or portray both.

Names are usually captured in English although there are occasions when it is appropriate to capture names in another language and there is supporting legal frameworks for the use of Welsh in Wales and Gaelic in Scotland. Where these languages are in common use (Welsh throughout Wales and Gaelic within the Outer Hebrides and Highlands), Ordnance Survey applies dual names to features when both names are accepted and in local use. There needs to be evidence of active use of all names. It should be noted that, if there is a lack of such evidence, Ordnance Survey will not record translations of English names into alternative languages, or vice-versa. It is worth noting that there are many examples where the name is only shown in Welsh or Gaelic as this is the accepted name. Ordnance Survey has developed underpinning policy documents for Welsh and Gaelic that are available on their website.

[Gaelic Names Policy](#) and [Welsh Names Policy](#).

To focus here on Welsh, it is of interest that this is a growing language, its language revitalisation programmes continue to be very successful. Ordnance Survey is assisted by the Welsh Language Commissioner in its review of appropriate names for Wales. And as can be seen here from the sample of mapping over Wales, there is a mixture of names presented in Welsh only, English only and dual naming. This accords with the policy as I've outlined here.

Thank you for inviting us to present this aspect of UK names work.



