Polici Henwyn-Tyller

Place-name Policy

Panel Arwodhyow ha Henwyn-Tyller Kernewek
Cornish language Place-name and Signage Panel

v1.14

Contents

Introduction

Following the UK Governments ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in respect of the Cornish Language, the Cornish Language Partnership (CLP), was established in 2005 to oversee the implementation of the Cornish Language Development Strategy.

The Partnership includes language organisations, local authorities and a number of other organisations who have come together with the aim of promoting Cornish and developing it further in Cornish life. The programme of work it is undertaking is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and by Cornwall Council.

As the lead organisation the Partnership advises on recommended standard forms of Cornish place-names. The CLP Place-name and Signage Panel is a group of experts and speakers who provide recommended standard forms on behalf of the Partnership. This policy and guidance document provides the parameters for the Panels work.

The primary aim of this policy is to provide guidance on the recommended standard forms for Cornish place-names so that the 21st century Cornish language is more visible in the community. However, this must be carefully balanced with a requirement to respect the historic integrity of place-names, and to be sympathetic to current usage, both by current Cornish language users and by the wider community.

Acknowledgments

Much of the method and examples in this document have their origins in the work of Craig Weatherhill and Pol Hodge whose help and support is duly acknowledged. However, the final decisions on the approaches taken here are those of the CLP.

1. **General Principles**

a) The primary purpose of the panel is to support the promotion of the Cornish language.

b) There is a need for consistency of approach and for all decisions to be able to be justified and explained.

c) When asked to provide a recommended place-name form, the Panel should provide a Cornish language form, standardised wherever possible.

d) Cornwall Council policy requires the use of the Standard Written Form (SWF hereafter).

e) Recommended place-name forms should be as close as possible to the SWF, but leave room for occasional exceptions where necessary.

f) It should be ensured that the parish is known in each case, and it is accepted good practice to include the parish in brackets after the name to be translated in correspondence before the Panel.

g) Local knowledge should be drawn on, where appropriate, in order to provide an accurate standardised form.

h) Historical evidence should be researched.

i) Cornish language forms of place-names should be provided as recommendations for public use.

j) A rationale / explanation of the name recommended should be offered to parish councils and any other party that require it.

k) A full file of correspondence and research will be kept on each name in order to satisfactorily answer queries and for future use.

l) A full record (electronic and hard copy) of all translations will be supplied to the Cornwall Record Office on an annual basis.

2. Specific Principles

a) The Panel should build on previous work as far as possible and previous recommended forms and translations should be taken into consideration. In particular, the Panel will be sensitive and pay due regard to Cornish language place-names adopted by local communities.

The following will be taken into consideration:-
- The period of time that local Cornish Language place-name has been in use.
- It's official usage - e.g. signage, Council documents etc.
- Community use - e.g. youth clubs, community groups, singing groups, etc.
- Usage by the Cornish language community - e.g. written and oral
- How closely the local form complies with the CLP Place-name Policy.

The Panel may recommend an alternative where the locally adopted form is incorrect. It may also recommend minor alterations to bring the local form closer to CLP Policy and the SWF.

b) The research work on historic settlement names completed by Gover[1] is recognised as a standard reference.

c) The following works are recognised as standard works of reference:-
- Henderson: *The Cornish Church Guide* (1925)
- Dexter: *Cornish Names* (1926)[2]
- Pawley White: *A Handbook of Cornish Surnames* (1972)
- Pool: *The Place-Names of West Penwith* (1973)
- Padel: *Cornish Place Name Elements* (1985)
- Padel: *A Popular Dictionary of Cornish Place-Names* (1988)
- Pool: *The Field-Names of West Penwith* (1990)
- George et. al.: *Place-Names In Cornwall* (1996)
- Holmes: *1000 Cornish Place Names Explained* (1998)
- Weatherhill: *Place Names in Cornwall and Scilly* (2005)
- Weatherhill: *Cornish Place Names & Language* (2006)
- Williams: *English-Cornish Dictionary* (2006)
- Weatherhill: *The Standard Written Form of Cornish and the Modern Representation of Historic Cornish Place Names* [Report] (2009)
- Weatherhill: *A Concise Dictionary of Cornish Place-Names* (2009)
- George: *An Gerlyver Meur* (2009)
- Hodge: *Place-names in SWF* [Report] (2010)
- Svensson: *Saxon Place-Names in East Cornwall* (1987)

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1   It is acknowledged that there is much work to be completed in order to corroborate Gover's work and it is recommended that a research project be undertaken to firmly establish historical forms of Cornish settlement names.

2   This work is included for background information only. It is know that there are errors within this work.

d) An historic name of unknown location or identification should not be given to a modern place to which it may not historically belong.

e) Names of Celtic and Biblical saints should be preceded in place-names by the initial "S", where research into historic forms indicates that the inclusion of <Saint> in the name has been common or historic practice[3].

f) Attested Cornish forms of forenames may be used.

However, in the case of non-Celtic names (e.g. the Greco-Turk "Nikolaos of Myra" aka St Nicholas) the following evidence will be considered:-

- Original spelling in the language of origin
- Cornish forms (e.g. Nykka & Nykklys (Hodge 2001) & Ny-cholas; Ny-colas & Nyclys (Williams 2006))
- Comparative analysis with other Brythonic languages (e.g. Nikolaz – Breton; Nicolas, Niclas – Welsh)
- SWF/M spelling conventions
- The Cornish language form and spelling of the forename (e.g. Nikolas) may be utilised in Cornish translations.

g) British personal names.

- In the case of an ancient Cornish forename containing the <au> grapheme, this may be utilised where it is felt appropriate, as an acknowledged derogation to the SWF.
- Gwenn/Gwynn
- <gwynn ~ gwydn> will be used where the meaning *white* is established.
- Where the element <*winda^>/<windos> is identified in a personal name, the appropriate feminine or masculine form will be utilised as appropriate.
- Where there is doubt as to the origin of the element, the more likely <gwynn> spelling will be used.

h) Cornish word order, grammar and mutation should be respected. In respect of mutation the assumption is that elements will be mutated in accordance with the grammar rules of revived Cornish. Specific Cases:-

- Where a personal name follows a feminine generic, it normally does mutate, according to the usual grammar rules.[4]
- Where a place-name follows a feminine generic, it does not normally mutate.

In circumstances where a mutation would be expected but there are no historic examples of mutation ever having taken place these will be fully investigated. A full investigation will include researching historic examples of other place-names including the same element so that a consistent approach can be taken. On a case by case basis consideration may be given to not mutating if the research supports this approach.

i) Where appropriate and where requested, translations may be provided for English language settlement names in Cornwall. A list of Saxon ~ Cornish equivalents is suggested, see Appendix C.

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3 The initial "S" can indicate the Cornish forms "Synt" or "Sen" according to preference.

4 See paper – "Lenition" {unpublished} (George, 2014)

j) Division of Elements - As is common practice, place-names in Cornish will be represented as one word without spaces. With the following exceptions:-

- In cases where the definite article is included in the middle of a place-name spaces will be included. [e.g. **Ros an Grows**]

  However, in cases where a preceding vowel has led to the elements being contracted, the name will be represented as one word without spaces. [e.g. Tre an Yer → Tre'n Yer → **Trenyer**]

- In cases where a preposition is included in the middle of a place-name spaces will be included [e.g. **Tre war Venydh ~ Tre war Venedh**]

- Place-names which contain a number. [e.g. **Peder Bownder**]

- Suffixes[5] following a multi-element place-name. [e.g. **Lannstevan Wartha**] (Examples of other such suffixes include kres; goles; kledh; dyhow; meur; byhan~bian)

- In cases where place-names include a personal name commencing with a vowel or semi-vowel a space will precede the personal name to provide clarity. [e.g. Port Isaac (Port Isaac) - **Porth Ysek**]

- In the case of geographic features, (hills, rivers etc.), spaces will be included between elements[6]. [e.g. Kit Hill (Callington) - **Bre Skowl**]

k) For Cornish language forms of place-names the double consonants[7] will be used in elements such as penn "head, end, chief" and kamm "crooked, bent, step".[8]

l) Compass Points – Where a compass direction occurs as part of a name, they will be rendered in Cornish, in Cornish word order. (i.e. North; Est; Soth; West).

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5   Permanently Lenited Suffixes:-

Where this set of words are used adjectively as an integral part of the primary place name, they obey the normal rules of grammar, and are lenited, or not, according to the gender of the preceding noun. e.g. Porthbyghan~Porthbian; Nansbian; Koosbian etc.

Where this set of words are used as a "suffix" to a primary place name, they are used in their permanently lenited form. e.g. Pennardh Wartha. This applied to any settlement, irrespective of the gender of its name.

There are two explanations for this:-

a) Perhaps because the commonest first element was tre, which is feminine, and would therefore be qualified by wartha (rather than gwartha), the lenited forms seem to have been extended to the names of all divided settlements, irrespective of their gender.

b) 'fixed' mutation in wartha, woles, might come from the adverbial form a-woles, a-wartha with the a-omitted.

6   Are exceptions needed here for <Tre> and others.

7   This is done because the preceding vowel needs to be marked as short rather than half-length (two thirds length in reality) even in unstressed syllables. An Outline of the Standard Written Form of Cornish, Bock & Bruch 2008:19 states: "In compound words, an initial element like penn- - pedn- or kamm- - {camm-} - kabm- {cabm-} retains its double (or pre-occluded) consonant because of secondary stress."

8   These may be subject to pre-occlusion in some cases, to be written as <dn> and <bm>. (see para 2(j)(i) below).

m) SWF Late Cornish Variants (SWF(RLC)). The SWF has a number of SWF (RLC) variants which are of equal status to the SWF Revived Middle Cornish (SWF(RMC)) forms. These include the use of pre-occlusion and loss of final consonants[9]. The principle other SWF(RLC) forms are <s/j>; <y/e>; <i/ei>; <o/oa>[10]; <ew/ow>; loss of medial consonants.

- Pre-occlusion and the loss of medial consonants will be utilised for standardised place-names where:
  - These SWF(RLC) form occur in the current map-form.
  - Historic forms show that these SWF(RLC) forms have been incorporated into the place-name.
- There will be a presumption in favour of utilising the <s/j> SWF(RLC) forms for standardised place-names where:
  - The SWF(RLC) forms occurs in the current map-form.
  - Historic forms show that the SWF(RLC) form had been incorporated into the place-name.

  However, each instance will have to be considered on its own particular merit. Not every possible variation will necessarily be appropriate for elements within place-names. The inclusion of the specific variant in the "SWF Specification", SWF Glossary or subsequent Dictionary will be considered a useful guide.

- The <y/e>; <i/ei> and <ew/ow> variants will be the subject of active consideration on a case by case basis. The appropriate variant will be selected with regard to the historic forms found and other principles in this policy.

n) The standardisation of parish names is a special case – set out in Appendix A.

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9   The variant which includes the "loss of final consonants", will not be utilised in place-names.

10 The LCV <o/oa> rarely if ever occurs in Cornish place-names.

3. Method

The provision of a standardised form for a Cornish place-name is a multistage process:-

a) The following should be researched:-
  - Historic forms
  - Dual/parallel Cornish language forms.
  - Cornish language forms currently in use in the community.
  - Cornish language forms previously recommended by researchers and Cornish language bodies.
  - Cornish language forms used in Revived Cornish.

b) If required enquiries should be made with local bodies to obtain any useful information such as pronunciation which may show where stress occurred in the elements of a place-name.

c) Where an historic (pre 1900) dual/parallel Cornish language form of an English or French settlement name is found it should be utilised in a standardised form. (see Appendix B)

d) Where a Cornish language place-names has become established within the community this may be utilised, and appropriate consideration given to standardisation. (see Appendix B)

e) If the current map form and historic forms of a Cornish place-name only exist in English, where appropriate, a standardised Cornish language translation may be recommended. (see Appendix B)

f) Point locations e.g. a roundabout or road junction:-
  - Those locations which have a relatively modern English name but a recorded pre-existing Cornish name – a standardised form of the Cornish name should be used. (see Appendix B)
  - Those locations which have a relatively modern English name but a recorded pre-existing historic English name. These are frequently identified on Tithe Maps. – A Cornish translation of the historic name will be used in order to preserve Cornish heritage.
  - Those locations which have a modern English name but NO recorded pre-existing Name. – A Cornish translation of the English name will be used.

g) Where the current map form of a place-name is sufficiently close to a standardised form, consideration can be given to recommending the unaltered form.

h) Where the Cornish language place-name is not sufficiently close to a standard form:-
  - the elements within the place-name should be determined.
  - If the elements cannot be determined, the phonology should be considered.
  - If the phonology cannot be determined then an appropriate historic spelling should be selected.

i) The formation of a standardised SWF Main Form and SWF utilising Traditional Graphs form of the place-name.

j) A recommended standardised form of the place-name should be produced, in SWF Main Form, balancing the above principles and priorities.

4. **Exonyms**

a) Place-names attested in the historic texts. The attested forms will be used. (see Appendix B)

b) Place-names coined during the early Revival period. Names which have achieved common usage will be used (see Appendix B).

c) Place-names in other P-Celtic countries i.e. Wales & Brittany
   - If there are Cornish language forms these will be used.
   - Where there are no Cornish language forms, consideration will be given to using the Welsh and Breton language forms respectively. (see Appendix B)

d) Place-names in Q-Celtic countries i.e. Scotland, Ireland & Isle of Man
   - English language place-names – case by case basis
   - Brythonic place-names – case by case basis
   - Q-Celtic place-names – case by case basis

e) Place-names in England
   - Place-names where there is a form in another Celtic language e.g. Welsh – case by case basis
   - Place-names in a non-Celtic language e.g. Saxon, Norse, etc. – case by case basis
   - Place-names where the etymology is Celtic, or where a Celtic form is known – case by case basis

f) Place-names in Countries other than the British Isles. – case by case basis

5. **Miscellaneous Provisions**

   a) Ford - <rys> will be used in stressed elements, whilst <res> will be used in unstressed element. e.g. Trerice (Newlyn East) – Trerys; Rosker (Camborne) – Resker

   b) "Enclosed" settlement - <ker> will be used in stressed elements, whilst <kar> will be used in unstressed element.

   c) Court - <lys> will be used where the meaning is clearly "court". <les> will be used when the meaning is "step".

   d) The English suffix –stow is best translated as <log>. This is masculine, not feminine as in GM 09 c.f. Breton Loktudi, Lokmaria etc.

   e) Analysis of the various Cornish terms for "hill" - There are four words, in two pairs; (1) and (2) are related, and (3) and (4) are related, though a very long time ago (at the Indo-European stage).

No.	Cornish	Notes	Recommend
1	bern 'heap'	B bern 'heap', (possibly W bern obscure) < Celt *berg-en	Bern
2	bre 'prominent hill'	W bre 'hill', B bre 'hill' < Celt *briga^ (cognate with German Berg 'mountain')	Bre
3	bronn 'breast'	W bron 'breast', B bronn 'breast' < Celt *brusna^	Bronn
4	brynn > brenn 'hill'	W bryn 'hill', B bren 'nipple' (only in place-names), OIr bruinne 'breast' < IE *brusnjo-	Brenn

APPENDIX A – The Standardisation of Parishes Names in Cornish

CLASS 1   Those where the name of the saint in the church dedication also appears in the Cornish form of the place name.

The name of both the ecclesiastic parish and the civil parish should be in the form <pluw> + personal name, with no space. e.g. Advent = Pluwadwyn. This follows the presedent of the Cornish historic forms with <pluw> e.g. Plugolom

However, when there is a dual church dedication there should be a gap between <pluw> and the first personal name. The first personal name is still lenited. e.g. Mevagissey = Pluw Veven hag Yji

CLASS 2   In respect of an ancient/historic parish where where the name of the saint in the church dedication does NOT appear in the Cornish form of the place name.

The name of the ecclesiastic parish should be in the form <pluw> + personal name, with no space. e.g. Anthony (church = St Jacob) = Pluwjago.

This follows the precedent of the Cornish historic forms with <pluw> e.g. Plugolom

The name of the civil parish should be in the form <pluw> + place name, WITH a space. e.g. Anthony (church = St Jacob) = Pluw Anton. Not lenited.

CLASS 3   Where the Cornish form of the place name is <tre> + ????

Following Breton precedent the parish name should be in the form Tre???? without a <pluw> prefix.

If it is desired, in a piece of writing to specifically indicate that one was refering to the ecclesiastic or civil parish the place name could be preceded by "pluw eglosek" or "pluw civil" respectively.

This follows Breton place name evidence.

CLASS 4   Where none of the above apply.

The name of the ecclesiastic parish should be in the form <pluw> + place name, with no space. The place name should be lenited.

This follows the precedent of Breton <pluw> type names where there are many more. Analisys found that the names were usually written together with no gaps between the elements. (The exception being where an intervening adjective comes after pluw, and then it is hyphenated e.g. Plounevez-Quintin = Plounevez-Kintin).

The name of the civil parish should be in the form <pluw> + place name, WITH a space. e.g. Anthony (church = St Jacob) = Pluw Anton. Not lenited.

APPENDIX B – Practical examples

- **Dual / Parallel Cornish Language Forms**
  St Ives (St Ives) – *Porthia 1291* – **Porth Ia**
  St Just (St Just in Roseland) – *Lansioch 1204* – **Lannsiek**
  St Germans (St Germans) – *Lannaledensis c.950* – **Lannaled**

- **Cornish Language Form Established in the Community**
  Carbis Bay (Lelant) – **Porthrepter**[11]
  Falmouth (Falmouth) – **Aberfala**[12]
  Saltash (St Stephen in Saltash) – *Esse 1201* – **Essa**

- **Translation of English Language Place-names in Cornwall**
  Four Lanes (Wendron) – *fiber* 'four' + *lanes* 'lanes' – **Peder Bownder**
  Whitemoor (St Dennis) – *hwit* 'white' + *mór* 'moor' – **Hal Wynn** (geographic feature)
  Whitstone (Whitstone) – *hwit* 'white' + *stán* 'stone' – **Mengwynn** (settlement)

- **Point Location** e.g. Roundabout
  Mount Misery (A30) – **Pedn Grelynn**[13]

- **Exonym – Form Attested in Historic Texts**
  London (England) – **Loundres**[14]

- **Exonym – Form Coined During Early Cornish Revival**
  York (England) – **Evrek**[15]

- **Exonym – Brythonic Celtic Countries – Existing Cornish Form**
  Cardiff (Wales) – **Kardydh**[16]

- **Exonym – Brythonic Celtic Country – No Cornish Form**
  Swansea (Wales) – **Abertawe**

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11 Note: Porthrepter relates to the part of the settlement around the cove. The upper part of the settlement also has an established Cornish form.

12 Note: The form established in the community is Aberfal. The Panel recommend the form Aberfala since this more closely represents the historical name of the River Fal.

13 From Trereife House estate map

14 *Loundrez* (William Gwavas, c.1750)

15 Coined by A.S.D. Smith c.1940

16 Coined by Graham Sandercock c.1990

APPENDIX C – Saxon / Cornish Place-name Equivalents

OE	Definition	Kernewek
At(ta)	At	Tre[17]
Bake	OE 'bæc' – 'back', 'ridge'.	Keyn[18]
Barton	A common name, nearly always go back to 'Bereton', where 'bere' is 'barley', 'corn'. Old English (OE) 'bereton' is recorded in the sense of 'threshing floor', but a meaning of 'corn farm' must also have existed in OE. From 'corn farm' developed the later recorded meanings 'demesne farm' and 'outlying grange'. The last is probably the meaning of Barton in most cases.	Heydhlan[19]
Coombe	OE 'cumb' – 'valley'.	Komm[20]
Cot, cote	'Cottage' and also 'a shelter, as for sheep'. Sometimes found as 'cott'.	Bos
Down	OE 'dun' – 'hill'.	Goon
Moor	OE 'mor' – moor, waste upland; fen'. The usual meaning is 'fen'.	Hal[21]
Fenton	'Tun' by a fen.	N/A in Cornwall
Ham (1)	'Village', 'estate', 'manor', 'homestead'. The most common meaning is probably 'village'. It is never used alone and is rarely found as the first element. It is often difficult to distinguish it from (2) below.	Tre[22]
Ham(m) (2)	'Meadow', especially a flat, low-lying meadow on a stream.' Also an enclosed plot', 'a close'. It is difficult to differentiate from (1) unless the spellings 'hamm' or 'homm' occur.	Pras
Hay	OE 'gahæg' – 'enclosure'.	Hay[23] ?Kew; ?Lann
Lake	OE 'lacu' - 'Stream', 'watercourse'. Found variously as '-lock', '-lake'.	Dowr[24]; Lynn; Logh[25]

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17 Whilst it is an acknowledged hyper-correction <tre> was traditionally used as the translation for OE <at> in what are coomonly referred to as "false tre" names. Other possibilities are <Ar-> or <Orth>.

18 Sibleyback (St Cleer) = Keynsybli 17/02/2012

19 Tremorvah Barton (Truro) = Heydhlan Tremorva 23/04/2012

20 Coombe (Callington) = Komm 31/07/2013

21 Twelve Mens Moor = Hal Dhewdhek den 03/10/2013

22 Newham (Truro) = Trenowyth 08/10/2012

23 Heamoor (Madron) = An Hay 04/06/2011

24 Gunnislake = Dowrgonna 24/02/2012

25 Note: Logh normally applies to coastal situations.

OE	Definition	Kernewek
Lea	OE 'leah'. The original meaning was 'an open place in a wood, glade', probably really not really a cleared place, but a naturally open space. If the rendering 'clearing' is used, it should be taken in the sense 'glade'. As the exact meaning of leah is generally doubtful in place names, it is mostly left un-translated in etymologies.	**Lannergh**[26]
Start	OE 'steort' – 'tail', 'promontory'.	**Lost**[27]
Stoc	Original meaning 'place'. It is also found having a specialised meaning of 'monastery', 'cell'. In place names, a meaning such as this often obvious, Tavistock being one example because a monastery was founded there in the 10th Century.

A meaning of 'meeting place' is also plausible occasionally, but cannot be assumed for the bulk of places.

'Stoke' alone is a very common place name, and many names now consisting of 'stoc' were originally 'stoke'. The fact that Stoke is such a common name indicates that the places so names were once dependent on some village or manor. Calstock is a good example of this, meaning 'Stoc' belonging to Callington.

The exact meaning of stoc may have varied, but the probability is that it was generally 'cattle-farm', 'dairy-farm', which is indicated in 'Poundstock' which has as the first element the word 'pound' – 'fold'.

The form of the element is mostly Stoke, -stoke, but the uninflected form would give Stock, -stock, a form sometimes found.

'Stoc' is etymologically related to 'stow', 'styde'. | **stok**[28] |
Stocc	Meaning 'stock' or 'stump of a tree' is rare as a place name element and can normally be easily distinguished from 'stoc'.	**stokk**
Stow	This is recorded in senses such as 'place', 'inhabited place', 'holy place', 'hermitage', and probably 'church'. It is not often found on its own, but when it is, it certainly meant in some cases, 'holy place', 'hermitage', 'monastery'.	**Log**[29]
Thorne	OE 'þorn' – 'thorn-bush'.	**Spernen**[30]

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26 Landrake = Lannergh 18/01/2013

27 Note: Often refers to a tapering feature e.g. a tapering woodland.

28 Note: the use of one "k" where the vowel is long in names such as "stoke".

29 Michaelstow = Logmihal 18/05/2012

30 Hawthorns (Saltash) = Spern Gwynn 10/09/2012

OE	Definition	Kernewek
Tor	OE 'torr' – 'hill'.	**Torr**[31]
Tun	Originally denoted 'fence' or 'enclosure', but must at an early date have developed the meaning, 'enclosure round a house, toft', whence 'homestead', 'village', 'town'. The meaning is doubtless as a rule, 'homestead' or 'village'. In names such as Barton, Shepton, Swinton, the original meaning of tun may well have been 'outlying, dependant farm, dairy-farm'.	**Tre**[32]
-wick	OE 'wic' – 'dwelling, dwelling place; village, hamlet, town; farm especially a dairy farm'. Probably the most common meaning is 'dairy-farm'. 'Wic' alone is the source of the place name 'Week'.	**Gwig**
Worthy	OE 'worþig'. Meanings such as 'enclosure, yard about a house, open place in a village or town, homestead' seem to be recorded.	**Kar**[33]

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31 Rough Tor (St Breward) = Torr Garow 03/10/2013

32 Upton (Gwithian) = An Dre Wartha 26/01/2013

33 Clubworthy (North Petherwin) = Karlonk 28/10/2013